

Despite its jaunty clarinets and light-hearted dixieland riffs, the basic question posed by *When I'm Sixty-Four* – will you still love me and care for me when I'm old? – is potentially a quite disturbing question. *Will You Still Need Me?* takes several of the distinctive musical characteristics of *Sixty-Four* – the slinky chromaticism, the jazzy harmonies, the minor key melody from the bridge, the timbre of the clarinet – and transforms them into a pensive, restless, uneasy response to the song's question. The clarinet has its jazzy, boppy side, so joyously on display in *Sixty-four*, but it can also embody the dark, autumnal quality of Mozart's and Brahms' clarinet quintets, which inspired the instrumentation. A distorted, shadowy reflection of *Sixty-Four*, the piece reveals darker, more ambiguous possibilities beneath the song's happy-go-lucky surface.