

# New disc by the Who

by Doug Wavrock

**The Who - The Who By Numbers** (MCA - 2161) The Who return to active duty, studiowise that is, with the release of **The Who By Numbers** marking the first release of new material since *Quadrophenia* in 1973. Although an album of previously unreleased material was issued under the title of **Odds and Sods** to fill the gap between *Quadrophenia* and *By Numbers* it just isn't the same as if a new album featuring completely new material was released. A new album shows us that the creative juices of the group are still very much alive and that the members aren't suffering from internal disputes that could split them apart. The Who like so many other of the older and more famous groups often have to face the rumours and rumbblings from a press ever ready to drum up some sort of news to create sensational headlines in the music world.

**The Who By Numbers**, as the title indicates, features a cover (Drawn by John Entwistle) that must be completed by the listener with a pencil to join together the dot picture of the Who (this operation can only be performed as one listens to the album, otherwise your hair falls out and you'll have to listen to a Telly Savalas record). If you wish you can colour the fantastic four to your specifications especially if you have experienced growing pains and have undergone your teenage rebellion.

In addition to the Who members Townsend, Daltry, Moon and Entwistle the album also features the talents of Nicky Hopkins on piano giving a helpful hand to the album's overall effect. **By Numbers** moves away from the *Quadrophenia* and *Tommy* albums and deals with a series of unrelated subjects and not with a central theme. The music reflects as have past Who albums on the teenager's realization of who he really is but not being able to tell anyone how he really feels because no one has the time or patience to listen. It deals with fantasies, Rock and Roll success, getting drunk, falling in love and friendship in the familiar Who style of soft, raunchy then up-tempo r'n'r boogie. The Who play the type of music that most people nowadays don't play because it isn't popular, but in sticking to their familiar style the Who are heads and shoulders above anyone else.

**The Who By Numbers** is a musical gem that won't be equalled by would-be imitators for many years to come. "Slip Kid", which opens the album features the Who's approach to music and after a prolonged absence from recording new material it's relieving to know that they haven't been affected by the bland music that's been forced on the public in the last couple of years. "Slip Kid" deals with a 13 year-old soldier ready to join the civil war against his parents, featuring the frantic vocals and music that ram this whole idea of rebellion home. "However Much I Booze" deals, as the title indicates, with a boozier who worries about his

condition but feels that it is impossible to alter his present condition even though he can see himself undergoing a steady deterioration. "Squeeze Box" deals with a teenage boy's mother who has a squeeze box that 'she wears on her chest' which her husband plays all night long keeping the whole family and even the dog awake. Somehow this particular piece is currently being played on A.M. radio in Halifax in spite of the obvious. "Dreaming from the Waist (down)" logically follows Squeeze box and it deals with the emotions and desires of the normal teenage boy who takes cold showers to improve his health and dreams of the day I can't control myself". "Imagine a Man", a ballad, deals with the insignificance of man in the world and it also reflects on the past that can no longer be and a present that cannot be changed. Yet there is mention by Townsend that the future holds promise where "you will see the end".

"Success Story", John Entwistle's contribution to the album (everything else is written by Townsend) talks about the hoped-for success of a rock'n'roll guitarist who thinks he's over the hill at 21. Entwistle mentions that the guitarist is like a Cinderella character who is saved by his fairy manager and achieves fame and number one hits. In Entwistle's fashion, there is mention of the Who's past with the line, "I may go far if I smash my guitar". For the Who this was the case in days gone by when they were struggling for recognition in the clubs of England. "They Are All In Love" is another reflective ballad that deals with how a person fits into the pristine world while "Blue, Red and Grey" deals with the night people who either work or else play all night and also with a person who lives everyday to the fullest. The banjo accompaniment on this piece gives a special characteristic to this number and heightens the jovial nature of the piece. "How Many Friends", is another reflective ballad that deals with friendship and people who are willing to accept a person as he really is. The album concludes with, "In a Hand or a Face", featuring old fashioned rock and roll done in the Who's unique style with their vocal harmony remembered from their early days while the drum work of Keith Moon and the familiar guitar work of the Who reflect on the past and present of the Who. **By Numbers** features the same constant energy of the Who and in a world that sees major groups in a period of transition, both musically and personnel-wise, it's kind of nice to see a group that you can still depend on to keep alive the magic you've always known them for. After so many years of recording and touring, the Who's music is still as fresh as it ever was, proving that change is not always the best and most necessary thing for a group to undergo to keep its reputation intact.

# Margarita loves Arandas.

**Margarita**  
 1½ oz. Arandas Tequila  
 1 oz. Triple Sec  
 Juice of ½ lime or lemon

Mix in a blender or shaker with crushed ice and strain into a chilled glass that has had the rim moistened with fruit rind and dipped in salt.

## Arandas Tequila.

The Mixable Mexicano.



Save this recipe and watch for others.

## Student Elections

### Nominations

open February 2, 9:00 a.m.

close February 9, 5:00 p.m.

Election day

Wednesday, February 18

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