

JUST A KID

Music and Lyrics: **Marc Twang**..... Engineered by: *Derek Bianchi*

The Musicians:

Vocals, Acoustic and Electric Guitars and Harmonica: Marc Twang

Percussion: Paul Revelli, and (Mark Smith on: *The Car Song*)

Keyboards: David Klotz (Scott Flemming on: *The Car Song*)

Electric Bass: Derek Bianchi, (Lee Elfenbein on: *Hey Mr. Substitute* and *Just a Kid*)

String Bass: Carla Kaufman on *Fish* and *Emily* (Cindy Browne on *Big Vat*) *Recorder:* Judith Linsenburg

Thanks to the *Car Song Community Chorus:*

Suzanne Fox, Brandon Sheffield, Sasha Gottfried, Larry Melnick, Debbie Sarnoff, Charles Norcia, Thelma Lou Meltzer, Michele Kaitner and Wanda Warkentin and Sphe Cooper

And to “**THE KIDZ**” on *Big Vat*

Hanna Kim, Tara Gottfried, Rebecca Sealy, Olivia Beattie, and Alon Yudelevich

*To the students in Cindy Browne's Music class at Los Positas College and Ariel Lechner
Cat's Meow on Goofus: Sasha Gottfried*

Graphic design by: Sue levy / *Illustration:* Zach Michel

Recorded at: Muscletone Studios / Berkeley, California
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Girl on Cover: “*Ceckle*”

Special Thanks to all the young folks, and their parents who contributed their talent, time and energy to make this project a reality, and to the support of family and friends.



JUST A KID

- 1) *Not So Stupid Dog Song...Asher witkin (2:46)*
- 2) *Hey Mr. Substitute...Marc Twang and the Los Positians (3:18)*
- 3) *Jaws...Tara Gottfried (1:15)*
- 4) *our Pa1 A1 (3:29)*
- 5) *Fish...Leia Silveyra (2:26)*
- 6) *Take Your Bitter Heart Away...Marc Twang (2:01)*
- 7) *Goofus...Catrina Kolm (3:04)*
- 8) *The Car Song... Marc Twang and the Car Song Chorus (4:36)*
- 9) *Emily...Parker Menzimer (2:40)*
- 10) *You've Got a Right...Marc Twang (3:11)*
- 11) *Just A Kid...Maya Barak-BaLL (3:30)*
- 12) *Big Vat...Marc Twang and 'the kidz' (4:10)*



Nine year old Asher Witkin (performing *Not So Stupid Dog Song*) made his singing debut at age three while performing at the Great American Music Hall with Lynne Breedlove and Tribe 8. Four years later he recorded “Smiling” with Kristin Lagasse on her CD: *For Those who Still Believe in Unicorns*. Attending Tehiyah Day School and singing with the Kairos Youth Choir make up most of his time. His ambition is to be a teacher and music composer.



Eleven year old Tara Gottfried (performing *Jaws*), who is in the sixth grade at Joaquin Moraga Middle School in Moraga, California, has performed in eleven plays including: "Alice In Wonderland" and "Cinderella." Her favorite roles were: King Duncan in "Macbeth the Musical," Baby Bear in "Character Matters," and Vixen in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." She looks forward to continuing to perform in musical theater.



Thirteen year old Leila Silveyra (performing *Fish*) was born in Berkeley, CA in 1995. She has loved singing since she was two years old. She attends the Oakland School for the Arts, in the vocal program.

So far, her biggest event was singing the National Anthem with two schoolmates at a S. F. Giants game on **Silence the Violence Day** in 2008



Twelve year old Catrina Kolm (performing *Goofus*) is an original California girl, born in San Francisco. An avid reader, her favorite books include *Twilight*, *The Sisters Grimm* series and *Harry Potter*. She also likes creative writing. But Catrina loves to sing and perform - she's a real character. She really enjoys singing pop, such as the Jackson 5, ABC, early Beatles and ABBA. Catrina lives with her mom and dad and has a sister, two brothers, two cats and two hermit crabs.



Eighteen year old Parker Menzimer (performing *Emily*) is an Albany High School student who loves exploring, jamming, and acting. He started singing along to cassette tapes on long road trips when he was a kid and hasn't stopped since! He hopes to pursue a career in music production, composition and recording. His band, The Twittering Machines, plays low-fi psychedelic

folk music in Berkeley, CA. and in his free time he pretends to be a rock star in his bedroom. He's keeping his fingers crossed.



Twelve year-old Maya Barak-Ball, (performing *Just a Kid*) loves to sing and act whenever she gets

a chance. This is her second children's music CD. Her acting roles have included Grace in "Annie", Ms. Lynch in "Grease," and Hodel and Ensemble in two different productions of "Fiddler on the Roof". She is in 8th grade at Tehiyah Day School. When she is not singing, she enjoys reading, babysitting and hanging out with friends.



The idea of doing a children's CD has always intrigued me. So much of my writing has been geared to the existential issues of our teetering civilization. Returning to the innate optimism of our future generation has been spiritually renewing for me. More than a children's album, I like to think of this project as songs for 'the child in us all.'

It has been a real treat to work with the kids on this project. Their energy, and surprising ability to adjust quickly to the technical demands of modern recording has been empowering for all involved in the process. One can't help but wonder what a young person must think of the world they are growing into today. From the rudiments of the alphabet to the challenges of our own critical condition as a sustainable planet and species, these kids are at the epicenter of the struggle. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with them while they, for the moment, remain children. We all wish them well, hoping that they can carry on the positive work of so many in my generation to transform our ideals into a world truly invested in justice, peace, and environmental sanity.

Marc Twang



LYRICS



Not So Stupid Dog Song

**Bow wow wow wow, Arf arf arf
My name is Sadie and
I'm gonna chew up your scarf**

**A is for Apple
B stands for Bear
C is for Cat and
D stands for dare**

**E is for Elephant
F is for Fred
G is for chewing gum and
H stand for your head**

**I is for ink
J is for Jump
K stands for kink and
Lis for Lump**

**M is for money
N stands for lump
O is for open
And P stands for putt**

**Q is for queen
R is for race
S is for scene and
T stands for trace**

**U is for under
V stands for voice
W is wonder and
X is your choice**

**Y is for yet
Z stands for Zen**

**Hope you don't forget
'Cuz this song's 'bout to end**

HEY MR. SUBSTITUE

Early in the Morning, oh me, oh my, I barely slept at all and I'll tell you why,
The phone's gonna ring any second now,
I've got to get to work and pay my bills some how

**Hey Mr. Substitute, what do you say, We've got a teaching job for you today,
The kids promise to be at their best, (But don't forget to wear that bullet-proof vest)**

Now I slowly rise to conciousness, I shower and I shave, then I get dressed,
Grab a bite to eat then it's off to school, grttin' my teeth, tryin' to keep my cool

Hey, half the kids are hangong in the hall, the other half are doin' nothin' at all

**Hey Mr. Substitute, what do ya' know,
(and who the heck you think is runnin' this here show?)**

I try my best to keep my cool, teach that old golden rule,
I often feel just like a cop, always crying: 'will you please stop!'"

Somehow I manage to regain control, Whip out my pencil and I take the roll,
Distribute the assignment ASAP, when an object comes flyin' straight at me,
Well I run for cover and I cry for help, when the books come tumblin' off the shelves

**Hey Mr. Substitute, you're outta luck
(and what you gonna do to help us clean it up?)**

Well I get myself together and I concentrate, I wonder out loud is this our fate?
If your ever gonna make a living wage'
Ya better open up dem books and study page by page

**Hey Mr. Substitute, we apologize!
(We never had a chance to see it through your eyes?)**

JAWS

I know a cat, his name is Jaws he's a perfect cat

"I got no flaws"

Jaws got claws and Jaws got paws, follows all those kitty cat laws

**Picked him up at the local pound, he did a dance around and round,
Brought him home he tried to die, looked at him and asked him why?**

Jaws says that:

**"The world's gone mad, and moreover it smells quite bad"
I said Jaws that's just because, we don't follow our very own laws!**

Jaws sat back and said:

"Meow"

"I'll say"

He said

"I'll say and how...but being that I'm just a cat, I'll be off to chase the rat!"

Bye Jaws.....hope you catch your rat

OUR PAL AL

Our pal Al is a man about town, a man about town indeed,
He can be found ramblin' 'round, that's his way to be

He keeps his eye on everyone, he knows goin' on
In the shadows of the city streets, and often well beyond

Our Pal Al, a man of the moment, the future and the past,
He knows what's been goin' down, and what's likely not to last

*He'll greet you with an open heart, seeking out your smile
Our Pal Al, he plays his part, and plays it out with style*

*If you need a helping hand, he's always there for you,
He only asks for conversation, whatever's on your mind is cool
He's hip to threats like asteroids, hurricanes and crime,
He reads the daily paper, he's a friend of mine*

Yeah, Our Pal Al, is a man about town, a man about town indeed,
If you see him, stick around, 'hi there' is his creed

He's prone to say: 'how's your day...comin' along,'
He knows almost everyone, but no man will he wrong

Global warming, air pollution, are just some of his concerns,
Al reads all about it, he's a man who lives and learns

*Election Day he's on his way, to vote and speak his mind,
That's more than some of us can say, who don't seem to have time
You can hear him ask: "Do I know you have we met,?"
"Twenty years ago, it wasn't like this just yet"*

*He loves to hang out by the lake, the ocean and the bay,
Sometimes he'll wade into the water, that'll make his day*

Our Pal Al got no use for folks in ivory towers, 'It's up to me' he'll say with glee, he's a friend of ours

FISH

I know a fish, that lives in the sea
Saw it today, and it said to me:

When you gonna stop that messin' around,
You guys are killin' me

Hey man, you're over the limit,
Time has come, that you admit it
Can't you see, you've sailed off course,
Forgetting somehow, that *I* am the source

I said, fish....now can't *you* see,
What we are doing's, for humanity,

Fish says: Man, that don't mean me,
Stop yo' messin' around

Hey man, you're out of control,
Your net worth, ain't worth my "Sole,
You've pillaged your land, raped my water,
Leaving a legacy, of slicks and of slaughter

I said, fish...now we've got our right
Don't get angry, don't get uptight,

Fish says: Man you're out of sight,
If you keep messin' with me

Take Your Bitter Heart Away

**I know a girl just about 5, she's is really something, kind of more than alive,
She's got a littel sister juat about 3, they're the cutest kids that you ever will see
Gonna take your bitter heart away....gonna take your bitter heart away**

Bahm Bahm Bahm...etc

**You should see them walk those bars, check them out as they climb those cars
They are really something when they tickle their toes
They are something else when they wiggle their nose
Gonna take your bitter heart away....gonna take your bitter heart away**

**These here kids got a mother you see, she's a takin' a likin' to me
Their dad left home and hit the street, just makes me wanna repeat
Gonna take your bitter heart away....gonna take your bitter heart away**

Bahm Bahm Bahm...etc

**They are revolutionary, they will give you love for free
They're the ones gonna steal the show, drop on by and say hello**

Bahm Bahm Bahm...etc

GOOFUS

Goofus, Goofus, Goofus my pet,
Don't get stoned and he don't smoke no cigarette
He's the finest kitty-cat who I've met yet
Place your bet, on Goofus my pet

Goofus, Goofus so real,
Tell me honestly, how do you feel
Let me in on all those secrets you conceal, please reveal
Goofus so real

Goofus, Goofus so wise
Wonder what's goin' on behind those eyes
Do you tell the truth or do you tell me lies
Please advise, Goofus so wise

Goofus, Goofus, Goofus so fine,
Won't you sup with me and have a little wine
I've got just one life but I know that you've got nine
You're divine, Goofus so fine

You're divine, Goofus so fine

THE CAR SONG

When cars first came upon this land folks thought how wild, how great, how grand
it seemed to us science had no bounds.

But go and take a look today, they've made a joke of our freeway, it's getting hard as hell to get around:
With all these cars here, cars there, cars, cars everywhere...all you've got to do is simply look,
Cars up, cars down, cars all around the town, you'll find them in every cranny and nook.

When I was just a kid I'd dream 'bout what my little life might mean, I wondered what it meant to be alive
I went to school, made the grade, found a job, even got paid and learned the meaning of life was to drive:
All these cars here, cars there, cars, cars everywhere.....

Let's say you're car's in disrepair and it can't take you anywhere, you tow it in to the local shop
They regulate you're regulator, then they say it's the carbeurator, you hit the brakes but somehow it won't stop
They grind your valves work on your rings, you've lost your bearings of all things, time has come to put in a
new clutch, your transmission is 'bout to go, your muffler gets the old heave-ho, but still you figure it won't
cost that much.

Now you're fuel pump won't pump the fuel, your A.C. cannot keep its cool, finally they find the frame is
cracked. And when at last the job's complete, as you're about to hit the street you get the bill and die of a heart
attack! From all these: Cars here, cars there, cars, cars everywhere.....

Now cars will come and cars will go, but somehow they just seem to grow, this I think no one can deny
Over half a billion strong, cars know not from right or wrong, just like germs, they simply multiply:
With all these cars here, cars there, cars, cars everywhere...all you've got to do is simply look,
Cars up, cars down, cars all around the town, you'll find them in every cranny and nook.

EMILY

Emily is a disguise, with her fantasmological eyes,
She paints her Easter Eggs so fine, sure wish some of them were mine,
She's cool, nobody's fool, plays by the rule,
As she bends left and right, square dancing all night, plays guitar too,

and reads Winnie the Pooh

I met her up in Cambridge town just came by to hang around,
She made me feel quite at home, now I can't leave her alone
She's slick, just like a flick, she moves so quick
As she bends left and right, square dancing all night, plays cello too,

and reads Winnie the Pooh

I'd like to know her better still, and some day I hope that I will,
But time has come I do believe to pack my gear git up and leave
I'm sad, I feel so bad, she drives me mad,
As she bends left and right, square dancing all night, plays recorder too,

and reads Winnie the Pooh

You've Got a Right

**You got a right to be blue, when there's no one around
Just the TV and you, and your lonesome sound
You got a right to complain, when you can't get a start
When you're rackin' your brain, and you're wreckin' your heart**

**You've got a right to belong, where you feel free, and a right to your song, and your liberty
You've got a right to a job, to keep you on your feet, a place to call your home, enough food to eat
You got a duty to be all that you can be, to put up your dukes, fight the tyranny
You got a right to pursue, that elusive dream, and a right to be you, you know what I mean**

**You got a right to return to where you're comin' from, you got a right to keep to keep goin'
when you're on the run
You don't have to conform to the status quo, you got a right to reform, what you think you know
You got a right to conceal what you want to hide, and a right to reveal, what you're feeling inside**

**You got a right to explode the labyrinths of lies, you got a right to hold on, to the light in love's eyes
You got a right to insist, that they hear your voice, and a right to persist, 'til you can rejoice
You got a right to believe that you're gonna win, 'bout time that you see, that you gotta to begin**

JUST A KID

I am disheveled I do confess, my pants are torn my room's a mess
I got chocolate in my hair, my favorite saying is: *'that's not fair!'*

I left my retainer in a pizza box, I made these earrings out of rocks
I can cook up quite a storm, see my appetite's not quite the norm

I tripped and fell on the garden hose, I'm all hung up on funky clothes
Ya know I'm gonna have my say, somehow I'm always in my way

*Ho Ho, Oh my God I'm just a kid, my ego's wrapped up with my id
My heart pounds north, my mind goes south, I just can't keep up with my mouth
Ha Ha Ho Ho Hee Hee Hee, I am way ahead of me,
Hardy Hardy Hardy Har, I am the coolest kid by far*

When I get some time alone, my best friend is the telephone,
Some say that I'm bound to go far, become an American Idol star

I make up stories to suit my mood, I am a junkie for fast food
I watch tv 'bout any time, see havin' fun's the bottom line

My bookbag's always in the hall, I drive my mom right up the wall
Cross me and you best watch out, I pack a mean punch and I can really shout

CHORUS

*Ho Ho, Oh my God I'm just a kid, my ego's wrapped up with my id
My mind goes north, my heart pounds south,
I just can't keep up with my mouth
Ha Ha Ho Ho Hee Hee Hum, of me there is but only one
Tra la-la-la—lalala loo, I love everything I do*

BIG VAT

We all live in a great big vat, take just a moment to think about that,
The vat is filled right to the top, With water that's getting quite hot,

Now the folks at the bottom of the vat are first, to feel the heat where we're immersed,
We cry, we cuss, and we complain, and for a brief while shut down our pain,

But the fires rise so gradually, we barely know we once were free,
Fried, fricaseed and skewered, becoming all the while innured,

And like the bottom dwelling dogs we are, we howl and bark but have no roar,
We sit way back, and observe, but somehow, somewhere lost the nerve,

Those who wait to live and learn, settle for the ol' slow burn,
Waiting for the 'final days' and fairy tales of heaven's ways,

Now the folks at the top of the vat we're in, are scampering up, to the brim,
Believing that they can avoid, being boiled while still alive,

Planning their escape from strife, praying for eternal life,
Building fortresses that float, upon this caldron that they stoke,

What is more they hold the key, to quench the fires of this sea,
They thrive on their extravagance, thinking that they've got a chance,

Rising up from the great heat, seeming to transcend defeat,
Escaping for a brief reprieve, living high, taking their leave

Now the irony is plain to see, had they listened to our plea,
They could of turned the fires down, and kept this world from within its bound,

Instead we all now play the fool, tryin' to look so calm and cool
Forgetting one clear basic fact, we're all living in the same big vat

JUST A KID

MARC TWANG



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- 1) Not so Stupid Dog Song (3:00) 2) Hey Mr. Substitute (3:00) 3) Jaws (3:00)
4) Our Pal Al (3:00) 5) Fish (3:00) 6) Take Your Bitter Heart Away (3:00)
7) Goofus (3:00) 8) The Car Song (3:00) 9) Emily (3:00)
10) You've Got a Right (3:00) 11) Just a Kid (3:00) 12) Big Vat 3:00



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