Pop music goes 'mathematics'

Kate Bush *Aerial*, 2CD's Rock/Pop, EMI, Released 07/11/2005



After 12 years Kate Bush released a new album. Actually it is a double cd, called Aerial. And, you may not believe it, but she has a Pi-song on it. The second track on the first cd is called π and tells about a *"Sweet and gentle and sensitive man with an obsessive nature and deep fascination for numbers and a complete infatuation with the calculation of PI"*. The lyrics of the chorus are just the digits of π. *"They run, they run, they run him in a great big circle, in a circle of infinity"*. However, like some of the Kate Bush songs are surreal, also her notion of π is somewhat from another world. In the subsequent sections of the song (6'05), she sings about 118 digits of π that should follow the leading 3. However, although all goes well for the 53 first decimal places, but for the 54th, which should be 'zeeeeroooo', she uses 'oneeeee' instead, but liberal mathematicians could accept that as a slip of the tongue to match the meter of the lyric. She recovers completely for another 24 digits, and everything goes well until she reaches decimal 79, where her mind goes blank for 22 digits, which appear to live in a virtual mathematical world, and obviously not worth mentioning in her song. She pick up the sequence again with decimal 101 for the next 37 digits. However, and we can supposedly blame this again on the meter but, although the lyrics on the web site mention 5058223, the 0 and the 8 are not sung by Kate

So, to make the difference clear between real world pop songs and abstract mathematics:

Mathematical π: 3.
1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510
5820974944 5923078164 0628620899 8628034825 3421170679
8214808651 3282306647 0938446095 5058223172 ...

π sung by Kate Bush: 3.
1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 5028841971 6939937510
5821974944 5923078164 06286208_____
8214808651 3282306647 0938446095 5_5_223...

Note that Kate ends in a correct rounding of the last digit, which is a truncation in this case.

You can find much more info about the album on the site http://www.katebush.com.

This song reminds me of another double album of 1971 *H.M.S. Donovan*, where Donovan Leitch brings a number of poetical songs, some of which referring to Alice in Wonderland. There is also one song called *The Pee Song* (track 2 on side 3), but that was about something completely different, or was it?
See http://www.houseoflyrics.com/d/artists/donovan/songs/the_pee_song.html.

Adhemar Bultheel and Paul Levrie