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Celebration

MUSIC

★ We Wanna Rock: Non-fiction and Nonsense from the Heartland

THADDEUS REX

(WWW.THADDEUSREX.COM), CD, \$16.98

Thaddeus Rex gives a rocking beat and catchy refrain to such universal experiences as being grounded, moving to a new town and visiting the library, ultimately crafting a spirited soundtrack to childhood. This particular trip to the library features the goofy nonsense lyrics "I'm goin' to the library/ smellin' of garlic and stinky sox./ Do we know Kazooey Decimal, do we, Dewey?" Attentive young listeners will hear a reference to Dav Pilkey's Captain Underpants in one of the songs (a surprise), and in keeping with the gross-out vibe many kids adore, "I Stepped in Dog Doo" and "You Can Tell a Boy by the Smell" are sure to please. The track "Slimy Green & Kind of Funny" is a song adapted from lyrics co-written by a fifth-grade girl—a process which has inspired a songwriting contest for kids beginning this month (details at the Thaddeus Rex website). Throughout, inviting, folksy vocals and fine guitar playing raise this entry above many in the genre. Ages 5-up. (Nov.)

