

# THAT'S MATHEMATICS

WORDS AND MUSIC BY TOM LEHRER

F7 Bb D7  
Count - ing sheep When you're try - ing to sleep, Be - ing

G9 Cm7 F7  
fair When there's some thing to share, Be - ing neat When you're

Bb Gm C7 Ebm6/F F7  
fold - ing a sheet, That's math - e - mat - ics! When a

Bb D7 G9  
ball Boun - ces off of a wall, When you cook From a

Cm7 F7 Bb Gm  
rec - i - pe book, When you know How much mon - ey you owe,

C7 F7(b9) Bb Bb7  
That's math - e - mat - ics! How much

Eb6 Ebm6 Bb  
gold can you hold in an el - e - phant's ear? When it's noon on the

Fm6 G7 C7  
moon Then what time is it here? If you could

F7 EbMaj7 Dm7

count for a year Would you get to in - fin - i - ty Or

Cm7 Dm

some where in that vi - cin - i - ty?

F7 Bb D7

When you choose How much post - age to use, When you  
Tap your feet, Keep ing time to the beat Of a

G9 Cm7

know What's the chance it will snow, When you bet,  
song While you're sing - ing a - long, Har - mo - nize

F7 1. Bb G7 C7

and you end up in debt, Oh, try as you may, you just  
with the

Cm7 Gb7/F F7 Bb Bb7

can't get a - way from math - e - mat - - - ics!

2. Bb7 A7 Ab7 G7 C7

rest of the guys, Yes, try as you may, You just  
*rit.* *a tempo*

Cm7 Gb7/F F7 Bb

can't get a - way from math - e - mat - - - ics!

Optional verse, to be inserted before "Tap your feet....."

Andrew Wiles  
Gently smiles,  
Does his thing, and voilà!  
Q.E.D.,  
We agree,  
And we all shout "hurrah!"  
As he confirms what Fermat  
Jotted down in that margin  
(Which could have used some enlargin').

#### AUTHOR'S NOTE:

This song was originally written to and intended to be sung to the tune of "That's Entertainment" (lyrics by Howard Dietz, music by Arthur Schwartz, from the movie *The Bandwagon*). It was written in 1985 as a potential theme song for a Children's Television Workshop series, which was eventually called "Square One TV". However, the owners of the copyright to "That's Entertainment" refused to allow the music to be used, so I wrote an original tune. My words may of course be sung to the tune of "That's Entertainment".

In 1993 the song was used as part of a celebration, presented by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute of Berkeley, California, in honor of Andrew Wiles's proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. The optional verse about Wiles was added for that occasion.