

THE MAGIC NUMBERS

Those the Brokes

77%



CAPITOL

The Magic Numbers are an unorthodox proposition in the year 2007: Two hirsute brother-sister pairs writing '60s-inflected pop tunes that would be the perfect soundtrack for a Summer of Love folk festival. Their eponymous 2005 debut was feted by the press and earned them a fanclub that claimed Brian Wilson and Noel Gallagher as members, but now it's time for the foursome to prove they're more than a one trick pony. *Those the Brokes* opens promisingly with the chiming mini anthem "This Is a Song," all aflutter with delicate melodies and toe-tapping rhythms. It's the closest thing to rocking out that the quartet allow themselves, though "Take A Chance" is a chipper ditty that gives power poppers like Fountains of Wayne and Ted Leo a run for their money. There are slow songs aplenty here, like the gentle ballad "Boy" and the Nick Drake-esque "Take Me or Leave Me," but that's the problem: there are just too many frickin' snoozers. So, about halfway through, the LP runs out of steam and drifts into Slumbersville. The closing song "Goodnight" is appropriately titled, because you're already asleep by then. It seems hateful to diss the Magic Numbers as they seem so damn cuddly and friendly, but that's never stopped anyone from clubbing baby seals before. It's too bad that the proverbial cudgel had to get bloody this time around, but, and you knew it was coming, those the brokes. NEVIN MARTELL