

# ROGUES

## GALLERY

**He's had sex in the sea! He likes Whitney Houston but he doesn't like Carol Decker! He'd like to meet the Fab Four and Peter Sellers! He's STEVE HOGARTH of MARILLION**

### Full name and nicknames

I'm never gonna live this down! Ronald Stephen Hogarth, I was called Ronald when my father got the names the wrong way around because he drank too much before he registered me! He did the same thing with my sister! Nicknames? The road crew call me 'H', and the band call me Thimblefull because when I first joined I wasn't as accomplished a drinker as they were. One thimble full and I was anybody's!

### Date and place of birth

14th May, 1959 in Kendall, Cumbria. Two years after I was born the family moved to Doncaster in Yorkshire.

### Current home

Englefield Green in Surrey. A little village. A nice place to escape the rigours of the music business.

### Three adjectives to describe yourself

Affable, talkative... drunk? No, that makes me sound like a member of Marillion! And gregarious, I'm very outward-going.

### What car do you drive?

None at the moment, but I drive my wife's Fiesta XR2.

### Do you have any pets?

No, only my garden! I think of my garden as a pet because I spend quite a lot of time out there pruning.



Whitney: Marillion's singer would like to get next to her

**If your house were to catch fire, which possession would you save first?**  
It would probably have to be my wardrobe. Certainly this waistcoat I'm wearing. My clothes are probably the only things I couldn't replace.

### Do you get on with your parents?

It's very un-Rock 'n' Roll but, yeah, we get on famously. They always supported me being in bands and still come to Marillion shows when we're up in Yorkshire.

### If you gave up the music business, what would you do?

(Without hesitation): I'd probably be a milkman. I nearly became one when, just before I joined Marillion, I decided I'd had enough of the music business. I just wanted a quiet life. (Interrogator enquires what it's like to be out of bed at dawn). Not too bad. Sometimes I think it would be a relief to have a job where you don't have to think a lot. Doing this there's always someone who wants an opinion or a creative idea and it'd be nice to do something automatic. It would also mean you'd finish work by lunchtime, so I could spend the afternoons gardening!

### What film would you most like to be in, and why?

A bit part in one of the Pink Panther films, so that I could meet Peter Sellers, who was a bit of a hero of mine. Or maybe in The Yellow Submarine, so that I could meet the Fab Four.

### What's the last thing you do before you go onstage?

I tie these little rags around my fingers. I've always worn them since years ago I cut one of my hands very badly and a year or so later I started wearing bandages around my fingers. It's become a superstition and whenever I don't terrible things happen. Once at The Ritz in New York I didn't wear them and the PA blew up, the bass gear went down and so did the keyboards. The band had to go onstage and we couldn't come back on again for ages because nothing worked!

### Have Marillion buried the legacy of Fish yet?

I've just been doing my own thing. If I'd been trying to copy him then it'd be a different story. The new LP ('Holidays In Eden') is another step away from the old sound of Marillion and it's becoming harder to compare the old band's material with the new material. I don't realistically think I'm not going to be talking about him in ten year's time because I'm sure I will. Mike Rutherford (Genesis guitarist) told me recently people still ask him about Peter Gabriel leaving, and that was 16 years ago!

### Would you shave your head for charity?

I daren't say yes because someone'll ask me to! Let's just say that I might, but not this year.

### What's the best thing about being in Marillion?

The fans. And the other members of the band.

### Who's the most arrogant dickhead you've met in Rock 'n' Roll?

I was going to say Carol Decker from T'Pau (Carol Decker, who slagged Steve personally on Radio 1's Round Table), but I'm sure being Carol Decker gives her enough problems, without me slagging her off...

### Where do your clothes come from?

They seem to come from The King's Road. I still like shopping in Chelsea, especially in shops like Workers For Freedom and Paul Smith's.

### What are your views on groupies?

I'm looking forward to us getting some, just so I can have the pleasure of turning them down! No, we've never had any.

### Where, when and at what age did you lose your virginity?

Gosh. It was in Doncaster. I think I was about 16. It was dreadful. I was thinking about all the wrong things at the time.

### What's the worst thing about being in Marillion?

Not getting my own way all the time. No, that sounds petty, probably the amount of time we spend away from home.

### If you were a woman, who would you most like to be?

Whitney Houston's girlfriend!

### If you could meet anyone in history, who would you choose?

Either Mozart or Albert Einstein.

### What's the most peculiar place you've ever had a bonk?

In the sea. It's so unusual and I really wouldn't advise anyone to do it. A very peculiar experience.

### What is your most embarrassing moment?

I popped into EMI one day to have a shower. I'd been working at Air Studios, just around the corner in Oxford Street, and deliberately hadn't had a shower that morning because I was in a hurry. But they had no facilities at Air. Anyway, I had a shower at EMI and realised I'd not brought a clean shirt with me, so I wandered around the building in a bathrobe trying to cadge a promotional T-shirt from one of the departments. It caused a stir that's become almost legendary here!

### What's the most embarrassing record in your collection?

Some of my early ones would qualify! But probably The Ivy League's 'Tossing And Turning'. If anyone remembers that I'll send 'em a flyer!

### Proudest moment of your life?

The birth of my little girl.

### Would you go to Heaven if you died today?

I don't think they'd let me in. And I'm not sure I'd join any club that would have me as a member. I'd be very lonely because most of my friends won't be there, so if they let me in I'm not sure that I'd want to go!

Interrogation: Dave Ling