



NEWS: A huge shipout has seen the **SPICE GIRLS** go odds on for the Christmas number one
The festive track 4



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FOR EVERYONE IN THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC 10 DECEMBER 1998 £3.50

musicweek

Morris unveils global blueprint

by Ajax Scott & Tracey Snell
Universal Music Group worldwide chief Doug Morris has vowed to create a global company that will transform the face of the record business following the completion of Seagram's acquisition of PolyGram last week.

Speaking hours after the deal was completed last Thursday Morris said, "What we're really trying to do is to create something special. The artists are going to be number one, two and three in this company. We have a unique opportunity to create something that is very artist-friendly, backed by the most brilliant entrepreneurial executives we can put in place."

And he pledged to create a company that will set the benchmark against which competitors will have to be measured. "When you take a look at this company you're going to have much more repertoire and much less expense," he said. "Regardless of what happens in different world economies, we're going to do well. Our margins are going to be exceptional - it'll be hard for competitors to deal with the kind of financial results we're going to have."

The completion of the deal means the combined management team can proceed with the tough job of creating a new structure seven months after Seagram first bid for PolyGram. In a series of



Morris: 'exceptional margins'

press statements issued last week, Universal confirmed the senior management team that will run the renamed Universal Music Group in most of the world (see box). In the US the merged labels will mainly be run by Universal executives while in Europe and Latin America most of the named chiefs are drawn from PolyGram. Two key PolyGram executives who were not mentioned anywhere in the new structure were PolyGram music chief Roger Ames and international pop marketing senior VP David Munn.

Finer details of individual company structures in each territory will only be finalised during the next few weeks. In the UK, this means the 1,400 staff at the combined Universal Music Cost



Larsen: international restructure

face a further period of uncertainty. Details of the shape of the combined PolyGram/Universal UK operation were expected to be unveiled last week, but this is now unlikely to happen until early next year because of the consultation process required by EU law.

UMG UK chairman John Kennedy says, "We would like to have done this before Christmas. We had been investigating European law to see if we could make it a less drawn-out procedure."

As part of the consultation process, which will be mirrored across Europe, nine employees from the UK will be elected to sit on a staff committee. Kennedy says, "HR will sit down with the elected representatives and outline what we'd like to do. We will absolutely

KEY PLAYERS IN THE NEW UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

WORLDWIDE TEAM
Doug Morris - chairman and ceo UMG; Bruce Hack - vice chairman UMG; Zach Horowitz - president and chief operating officer UMG; Jorgen Larsen - chairman and ceo UMI

KEY INTERNATIONAL POSTS
John Kennedy - chairman, UK Wolf-D Gramatke - chairman and ceo, Germany; Pascal Negre - president, France; Kel Ishizaka - president, Japan; Marcelo Castello Branco -

managing director, Brazil
NORTH AMERICAN POSTS
Jim Caparo - chairman, Island/Mercury; Mel Lwiner - chairman, Universal/Motown; Russell Simmons - chairman, Def Jam; Tommy LiPuma - chairman, Verve/JRP; Jimmy Iovine and Ted Field - co-chairmen, Interscope/Geffen/A&M; Jay Boberg - president, MCA; Bruce Hinton - chairman, MCA Nashville; Luke Lewis - president, Mercury Nashville; Ross Reynolds - chairman, Canis3

take on board what they say."
He says implementation of the new structure is still on target for early in the new year. In a memo issued to staff last week, he estimated that around 80 jobs would be cut. It is not yet clear precisely where the job losses will fall though Britannia Music and the Milton Keynes distribution operation will not be affected. PolyGram employs 1,320 staff in the UK and Universal 80. "This is a cruel time of year for this to happen but there is no good time," said Kennedy in the memo.

It has been estimated that worldwide Universal will seek to lose more than 3,000 staff to achieve the \$300m annual savings sought by Seagram ceo Edgar Bronfman Jr. However,

Universal International chairman and ceo Jorgen Larsen says that total is based on over-simplistic calculations. He suggests that outside North America the number of job losses will run into the "high hundreds". Morris said that the \$300m target is "completely realistic" and should be achieved within "two to three years".

Larsen adds the company is on target to complete "98% of its restructuring by April 1 next year when BMG's international distribution deal with Universal expires.

Universal International staff will move from their Broadwick Street base to PolyGram International's office, Kennedy denies speculation that staff at Universal's UK HQ will move to the main PolyGram building at the end of the year.

ARTISTS' MANAGERS WEIGH UP THE HUMAN COST OF THE MERGER

Managers of some of the world's biggest acts have greeted the new Universal Group global structure with cautious optimism.

Elton John's manager Colin Bell concedes the seven months it took to put it in place has been "traumatic". He says executives that he and John valued and had good relationships with, such as Island Records chairman Davitt Sigerson, PolyGram Music Publishing worldwide chief David Hockman and his UK MD Richard Manners have left the company.

"As far as we can see this is a takeover of PolyGram and some people have not been kept on in merit. There are people in this scenario who are leaving who we had good relationships with," he says.

Paul McGuinness, manager of U2, also says he is sad that PolyGram lost its continental Europe president Rick Dobbs and Hock-



John: key album release

man and Manners. "The human cost in a transaction like this is very large," he says.

But now the deal is over, both say they are relatively happy with the structure, adding that the group ensured they were both consulted throughout. U2 will remain with Island in the UK and are moving from Island to Interscope

in the US largely at McGuinness's instigation.

Bell says that outside the US there are no changes to how John's forthcoming album will be handled. He adds that he and John already have good relationships with Jim Caparo and John Reid, the new bosses of John's US company, Island/Mercury.

John Asgaard, at Aqua's management company TQ Management, says he does not believe the changes will radically affect his band because their key supporters - Doug Morris, Zach Horowitz and Jorgen Larsen - are in charge. The first John's album, highlighted by Morris as one of the records he is most looking forward to when it is released next March, is one of a number of key Universal albums next year. Others scheduled for the first half of 1999 are by Sting, The Cranberries, Blackstreet, No Doubt, Andrea Bocelli, Aqua and Dixie.



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Lloyd Webber urges inquiry into Boyzone chart dispute

by Paul Williams

Andrew Lloyd Webber claims he is pressing for an independent investigation into the UK singles chart after accusing record companies of destroying its credibility through marketing tactics.

The composer's call comes after a letter written by him and former collaborator Tim Rice in *The Times* last week provoked a blaze of damaging media publicity with London's *Evening Standard* running a front-page story under the headline "Scandal of pop chart 'fixers'".

"What I want to see now is some kind of independent inquiry by people not necessarily connected with the business but who happen to love music," says Webber, whose attack on the chart follows a decision by Polydor to cut the dealer price of his co-written hit No Matter What to below the minimum level allowed for chart qualification.

In *The Times* letter, the two composers claim the decision by



Polydor and other record company tactics have turned the UK Top 40 into "little more than a guide to the most successful record company marketing departments" whom they add regard singles as nothing more than album trailers. The letter added new life to a row that had been simmering for the past two weeks since Lloyd Webber first heard about Polydor's move.

Polydor reduced No Matter What's dealer price because the

subsequent Boyzone single contained a live version of the song which would have disqualified it from the chart if the original version was still present. In a statement, Polydor noted that the original single was still available in the shops and for retailers to order.

Despite Webber's dispute with Polydor, both songwriters confirm to *MW* that the letter was Rice's idea and was primarily written by him. "That's his letter. That's not

my letter," says Webber. "It makes a number of points that are very Tim. The honesty of the charts means everything to him."

Rice says, "I'm not disputing the accuracy of the charts. I'm stating the charts are frighteningly accurate and the problem is they're so accurate they're so easily manipulable."

Lloyd Webber, who is trying to win back the 30% share Polydor bought in the Really Useful Group in 1991, denies his dispute with the record company has anything to do with his attack on the charts. "The letter is about a far bigger issue than that," he says.

However, some industry figures have questioned Webber's motives. Telstar chairman Sean O'Brien suggests the letter is a chance for him to criticize PolyGram. "The whole thing has been blown out of proportion and it doesn't help the standing of the chart in terms of public perception," says O'Brien.

ISLAND RAISES U2 TARGET
Island Records managing director Marc Marot says his company has set a target of 10m worldwide sales for U2's *The Best* of 1980-1990 and its double set companion by Christmas after already clocking up sales of more than 6m units. It has topped the chart so far in 23 countries. "Marc Marot and Island have done an amazing job," says U2 singer Bono. "They're the best in the world," says U2 singer Bono.

SONY CORP PROMOTES STRINGER
The British-born president of Sony Corp of America, Howard Stringer, is being promoted to chairman and ceo of the group in a move that streamlines the reporting structure and bridges the gap between the technological and software areas of Sony's US operations. As part of the move, Sony Pictures Entertainment head John Calley and Sony Music Entertainment chief Tommy Motzulla will both be given chairman and ceo titles at their respective companies, reporting directly to Stringer. Stringer will continue to report to Tokyo-based Sony Corp chairman Nobuyuki Ieda.

ATLANTIC 252 UNVEILS NEW LINE-UP
Atlantic 252 introduces a new programme schedule today (Monday) which sees the launch of several new dance and specialist shows. The line-up includes DJ Live!, the station's first masthead show. Presented by DJ magazine editor Chris Melior and Atlantic 252 director of programming David Durrant, it goes out from 10pm to 11pm on Mondays.

PRS LAUNCHES VENUE RESEARCH
Around 200 researchers will start visiting venues around the country in the new year to create a record of the music being played as part of the PRS's data collection and distribution review. "Hopefully, this will give us a more accurate picture of what is going on," says a PRS spokesman. The first income distribution to be affected by the review will take place next April.

VIRGIN LINKS WITH MISS SELFRIEGE
Virgin Retail and Miss Selfridge are teaming up in a deal which will see the music retailer supplying five different CDs each week to 20 selected Miss Selfridge stores for use on its listening posts. Virgin Retail music marketing controller Simon Dorman says the link will enable it to promote releases "while reinforcing the message that a Virgin Megastore is the obvious destination to get holds of the CD they've been listening to."

FRESH AIR LICENCE BID FAILS
Edinburgh's student radio station Fresh Air 106.4FM has failed in its bid to secure a temporary broadcasting licence for February. The station, which first went on air in 1992, will reapply to the Radio Authority to begin broadcasts in March.

DURAN DURAN SET FOR WEBCAST
Duran Duran will broadcast their sell-out Manchester Apollo gig live on the Internet on December 19. The gig, which has been sold out in its bid to secure a temporary broadcasting licence for February, the station, which first went on air in 1992, will reapply to the Radio Authority to begin broadcasts in March.



Channel Five has commissioned a new series of *The Pepsi Chart*, which last week recorded its highest viewing figures yet. The station has agreed to another 25-week run of the Initial/Broadcast Innovations programme starting on January 6 next year. It will again be hosted by Capital FM presenter Nell Fox. "It's brilliant news," says *The Pepsi Chart*'s producer Lisa Chapman. "The show's been getting bigger and better acts, more live performances and been building up a loyal group of viewers." A total of 1.2m viewers tuned into last Wednesday's programme which included performances from B*Witched and Honeyz (pictured).

Smash Hits party leak fuels media exposure

Smash Hits has dropped one of its mailing houses after the results of this year's *Smash Hits* Poll Winners Party were sent out to the press five days early.

The results from yesterday's (Sunday) event at London's Docklands Arena were published in full in both *The Mirror* and *The Star* last week after the mailing house posted 120 issues of the magazine's awards special to the media ahead of the schedule. *Smash Hits* publishing director Margaret Heffernan refuses to name the mailing house, though she confirms, "They won't be doing our mailing lists after this."

However, she adds the publicity caused by the leak has helped to raise the profile of the event. "We've been inundated with people wanting to come to the show," she said ahead of the event.

At the awards Polydor's *Boxzone* and *Ronan Keating* played *Smash Hits* Five. Three awards went to RCA signings Five.

Springsteen copyright judgment sends warning signal to PRs

Bruce Springsteen's court victory against two record companies last week will send a tough signal to potential pirates after the judge made what is thought to be the first punitive damages claim in a breach of copyright case.

The New Jersey singer won costs of £500,000 against EMI-led-based Mascotte Music, which imported around 75 copies of a CD of early Springsteen tracks called *Before the Fame*. He is also seeking damages of up to £2m against Robert Tringham, the boss of Rute International, which released two Springsteen albums, *Unearthed* and *Unearthed II* in 1996.

Laurence Gilmore, managing partner at solicitors Hamlin Slowe, who acted for Springsteen, says in addition to the normal damages claim for loss of profit on units sold, Mr Justice Ferris also ruled



Springsteen: punitive damages
That additional punitive damages should be awarded because Tringham had been in "flagrant breach" of Springsteen's copyright. "This is the first case I have heard of where the judge has used his additional powers to make such an

Cher sets new record on fono Euro Hit 100

WEA's Cher single *Believe* is on the verge of becoming 1998's biggest airport hit across Europe.

In addition to topping nine official airplay charts across Europe last week, the single was also gathering 50% more audience than any other record in Europe. *Believe* was the number one track in the Euro Hit 100 airplay chart published by *MW* sister title *fono*.

In the chart - which is based on airplay at the 100 biggest radio stations across Europe to create the industry's most accurate snapshot of continental airplay - it beat Alanis Morissette's *Thank U* comfortably into second place with the highest level of airplay recorded to date this year.

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WHISTLING IN THE WIND

Andrew Lloyd Webber's talent at courting publicity matches only his ability to write hits. And he really excelled himself last week.

Three weeks after Boyzone's No Matter What first left the charts and two weeks after the story of his reaction to it had first broken, he managed to stir it up again with a letter to *The Times*. It certainly shows the power of the Establishment's journal – within hours the phones at *Music Week* were ringing with seemingly every paper, radio and TV station seeking a soundbite. Lloyd Webber's letter, cleverly drafted by Tim Rice (who, don't forget, had no involvement in the song at all), didn't actually accuse the charts of being hyped. The problem was that the only question that everyone wanted to ask was precisely along those lines.

Subtlety was the first thing to suffer. You try explaining how Polydor's move was actually provoked by a change to the chart rules originally instigated to clamp down on precisely the sort of "cynical" tactics that messrs Lloyd Webber and Rice were complaining of, namely deleting a single in the middle of its chart run and adding it as a B-side to the next single.

Of course the singles chart remains of huge concern to the industry. But launching a publicity stunt that can only destabilise the charts in the eye of the public is not a way to solve the issue. It is hard to believe Lloyd Webber's claim that he was not remotely motivated by his row with PolyGram over ownership of his Really Useful Group. Meanwhile Rice's assertion to *MW* that the charts are "highly accurate" will never be seen to record buyers whose enduring memory from last week's episode will be of "chart fixing". Lloyd Webber says he wants an independent inquiry. What a waste of time – the only thing this could achieve would be to establish the fact that the chart reflects sales.

Changing the situation requires something different altogether – for labels to decide that they want to stop losing money on singles. That will be one of the toughest decisions of 1999. *Ajax Scott*

WEBBO

(LUCINDA) WILLIAMS STEALS THE YEAR

I don't often nail my colours to the mast about particular albums, but we're coming up to Christmas so here goes. You may have seen Lucinda Williams recently on Later. I picked up on her after Mojo banged on about her latest Mercury album for months, describing it as essential listening.

Well they were right – and in spades. Great songs, excellent playing in that modern idiom that can only be described as bits of country/rock/blues, plus a dash of plain and simple quality.

I then went to see her play a wonderful show at London's Shepherd's Bush Empire on a cold Sunday night. It was sold out with a crowd who had obviously come from all over (the country and not just London). Joy, performed at the end, was a tour-de-force slice of Texas blues that would not have disgraced Beefheart's Stripped Personal and brought to mind Zep's When The Levee Breaks. Yes, it was that good.

So why hadn't I heard this music before? In Trevor Dann's day, GLR in London would have embraced a record like this and played it to death, but the station is now so busy trying to emulate Xfm and become young and trendy that records like this sadly pass it by.

Radio Two is now climbing on board and so it should. Maybe not to play the live version of Joy – although that might rid the station of its old audience which, according to leaked BBC internal documents, is not dying off fast enough to enable the station to speed up change. But certainly the rest of the album admirably fits that older audience which doesn't want ILR hits or Radio One yof music.

Indie retailers, please play this record when you store is full in the run-up to Christmas. Or in January when you are looking for something to listen those dark quiet days. The sweet shops won't have it yet but if Mercury continues to do its job, they soon will.

My album of the year.
Jon Webster's column is a personal view



Huge shipout puts Spice Girls on festive track

The Spice Girls' bid for a third successive Christmas number one is gaining momentum as Goodybe registered the joint biggest shipout in Virgin Records' history.

Initial orders for the single, released today (Monday), are around 700,000, mirroring the company's previous biggest shipout which was achieved by the group's first festive chart topper 2 Become 1 in December 1996.

The level of demand for the single is being reflected in the latest betting for the Christmas number one spot – which will be revealed this Sunday (December 20) – where the group improved on their standing of 4-7 favourite from four weeks ago. "The Spice Girls are now 6-1 on, which is probably the hottest a favourite has been at



Spice Girls: hat-trick beckons this stage," says Graham Sharpe, spokesman for bookmaker William Hill.

There are two new arrivals as the main challengers to the Virgin act, with the Columbia-issued Chocolate Salty Balls by Chef,

released today with a 380,000 ship out, now second favourite at 7-1, and Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen's cover of Especially For You, third favourite at 9-1. Retailers have initially ordered around 300,000 copies of this single, which is being rush-released today by RCA.

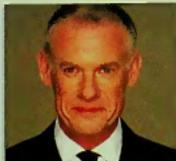
Two other favourites, also out today, have drifted down in the running. Focus Music International's The McDonalds, previously 3-1 second favourite, is now 10-1. Around 425,000 units of her single Cruising To Christmas have already been shipped. Meanwhile, Alberta has dropped back from 12-1 to 25-1, despite high expectations, her RCA-released Yo Yo Song, has generated only 50,000 retail orders so far.

Waits out in force as Mideem gets dancing

by Tracey Seall
Dance music and new media are set to take centre stage at next month's Mideem event in Cannes which organiser Peter Reichardt says has again attracted strong UK representation.

Around 80 UK companies have booked exhibition space so far for the event, which takes place between January 24-25. Among the 18 companies exhibiting for the first time are Abbey Road Interactive, Platipus Records and Tower Records.

"It's about the same number of UK exhibitors as last year which is great as it has not been an easy year," says Mideem sales manager Emma Dallas. The UK usually has the second largest number of companies at the event after the US. EMI Music Publishing will have 26 executives from Europe and the US attending next month, its biggest representation for two years. Peter Reichardt, UK managing director and president of continental Europe, says "I look upon Mideem as a networking fest. It is



Reichardt: networking

unique in that respect and something always comes out of it."

Dallas says this year's Mideem will have an enlarged focus on dance music, with a number of UK labels including London-based Cyclo Records hosting parties. Philippe Marchal, who formed the US house/electronic label in July, says, "We hope to secure licence and distribution deals for the label and our releases." The label represents artists including Derrick Carter and Gemini, who will both be attending.

"Dance is becoming such a big part of the industry and we can't

ignore that," says Dallas. "We also had quite a lot of feedback last year with people saying they had met people they wouldn't during their normal working day."

Music on the internet will be a central conference theme, with the keynote speech presented by Hilary Rosen, president of US industry trade body the RIAA. "The recording industry has been one of the first beneficiaries of new digital technology and, at the same time, one of its first victims," says Rosen, whose organisation is currently in a bitter legal fight with Diamond Multimedia, the US manufacturer of the Rio MP3 player.

Among the topics being discussed in the online conference programme are digital distribution, anti-piracy and the balance of power between collection societies and the majors.

UK-based executives speaking at Mideem 1999 include IPI director of operations Mike Edwards, who will be participating in a special two-day session focusing on central and Eastern Europe.

Appearing expands with regional push

Scott Pierling's Appearing is undergoing the biggest expansion in its 15-year history with the launch of a regional promotion service.

The expansion will enable the promotions company to offer clients a one-stop shop plugging service encompassing both national and local plugging. It is also hoped that it will enable it to add pop, crossover dance and R&B artists to its client list, traditionally featuring indie acts such as The Verve, Prodigy and Gomez.

Pierling has poached former Island regional radio promotions manager Roger Jacobs, who has recently worked on acts from UK to Pulp, to head the regional department and run the operation in the South. He is currently recruiting someone to cover the North, who will be based in Scotland. Appearing general manager Catherine O'Rourke will handle the administrative end of the new operation.

NME film tackles EMI saga

The takeover speculation that has dogged EMI this year and the closure of A&M's UK operation form part of a documentary being put together for the NME Premier Awards.

NME Premier Review, which will be broadcast on Channel Four in late January, will also take a look at the state of the festival circuit, including the cancellation of this year's Phoenix Festival. Creation Records' president Alan McGee, Mean Fiddler proprietor Vince Power, Radio One presenter Steve Lamacq and artists Jarvis Cocker and Cerys Matthews all feature in the film, which replaces the usual awards evening and will be previewed on January 26 and 27 at a selected number of Virgin cinemas around the country.

NME editor Steve Sutherland says, "The film is the logical evolution of the annual Best Awards which were set up to help open up mainstream access of new, innovative and exciting musical talent."



McGee: NME's silver screen star

The film, which will be followed on Channel Four by four highlight programmes from the NME Premier Shows at the Astoria, will also look at the effect of the internet on record companies and the takeovers of alternative stations Crash FM and Xfm.

Hole and REM feature in the programme, alongside Gomez, Massive Attack and the Manic Street Preachers, who will be filmed and interviewed in Cardiff at their final concert of 1999.

Emap joins Capital in bid for digital licence

Emap and Capital Radio are pooling their resources to bid for the first three local digital multiplexes.

The two radio operators, who signalled their interest in local licences earlier in the year, are forming a 50:50 joint venture consortium to apply for and operate multiplexes in the Birmingham, Manchester and London areas.

If successful, Capital and Emap will simulcast their existing stations, which will allow their analogue licences to be automatically renewed for a further six to eight years. Capital Radio chief executive David Mansfield says they will also invite other radio operators to join the partnership, which is likely to transmit seven or eight services on each multiplex.

Mansfield says the alliance provides a neat fit because Emap is strong in the North and Capital has a presence in Birmingham with BRMB. "Although it will take time, digital radio will be an important and exciting broadcast medium in the future and we intend to be at the forefront of developing local digital radio," he says.

The venture is for the first three licences only, although it may be extended to cover further regions.

The move mirrors the Digital One consortium set up by OWR Radio, NTL Digital Radio and Talk Radio to broadcast 10 services on the national commercial digital multiplex awarded on October 12.

MP3 set to make its UK High Street debut

The first MP3 player is due to hit the UK High Street this week, with its US manufacturer Diamond Multimedia claiming it has secured pre-order sales of 5,000 units.

The Rio will go on sale initially at around 400 independent electrical and computer retail stores, chains including Dixons and PC World are expected to follow after Christmas. Diamond is currently involved in a bitter legal fight with US industry trade body the RIAA, whose attempts to stop the device going on sale in the US have so far failed.

The Rio is equipped with a Serial Copy Management System which alerts users to any illegal MP3 file, although it will not prevent illegal MP3 files from being played. Diamond European spokesman Neil Mansfield says this capability is likely to be added to the device once industry standards have been agreed.

BMG breaks mould with Granada deal

by Paul Williams

BMG has pulled off a ground-breaking deal with Granada Media, giving it exclusive rights to music related to the TV broadcaster's programmes.

The three-year agreement, which comes into effect immediately, will see the major linking with Granada on a series of projects including tie-in compilations and records being put out by performers on the broadcaster's shows.

BMG A&R consultant Simon Cowell, who brokered the deal, says, "What it does is give us exclusive rights to any musical spin-offs from Granada. If an actor signed to Granada makes a record, we will have the rights to release it."

The deal, which was secured in competition with other record companies, follows several BMG successes with Yorkshire TV, which is now part of Granada Media. The major has released a series of Heartbeat-brand-ed compilations and scored chart successes with the Woolpackers, a spin-off from Yorkshire TV's soap opera Emmerdale that was overseen by Cowell.

Cowell and BMG have also enjoyed success with TV stars



Toasting the deal: BMG signs up with Granada Media

Robson & Jerome, including selling 1.84m copies of the duo's Unchained Melody/White Cliffs Of Dover, the biggest-selling single in the company's history.

Although a number of publishers have previously struck deals with UK broadcasters, Cowell says the deal is the first of its kind between a record company and TV broadcaster. Around five projects are already being worked on, including an attempt to emulate the BMG chart success of Steven Houghton with another actor in next autumn's series of London's Burning.

Granada Media is also planning a 22-part Millennium series leading up to the end of next year which is expected to involve spin-off compilations. Pictured celebrating the deal are (from left) BMG music division president Jeremy Marsh, Granada Media head of development Sarah Doole, RCA marketing manager Gavin Reeve, Granada Media consumer products controller Tony Greenwood, Cowell, Granada Media controller of business affairs Norma Acland and RCA marketing manager Sonya Takhar.



The Moby Allstars geared up for the release of their Christmas charity single, 'Ain't No Stopping Us Now, with a surprise live performance of the track on Steve Jackson's award-winning breakfast show on London station Kiss 100. The single, which features 37 British R&B artists including Another Level, Shola Ama, Honeyz and Mica Paris, is released today

(Monday) through PolyGram TV. Moby Organisation founder Kanya King says, "Steve (pictured top left) heard the single and thought it would be great to get some of the artists in the studio to perform it live."

The BBC says a live performance of the single will also be included in its December 19 broadcast of the National Lottery programme. Four days later Channel Four will screen a repeat of the Moby Awards ceremony which took place in October and attracted a TV audience of 1.1m.

Celine special is jewel in BBC's Christmas schedule

The BBC is preparing a Celine Dion festive double-header with Christmas specials set to be broadcast on BBC TV and radio.

BBC1 is broadcasting These Are Special Times, a 40-minute show recorded at the CBS Studios in Hollywood, at 11pm on December 22, followed on Christmas Day by a Radio Two interview with the five-time signed star conducted by Richard Allinson.

The programme, which will be broadcast at 5pm, is one of several superstar interviews planned by Radio Two for the holiday period. A Paul Gambaccini Interview with Luciano Pavarotti will be broadcast on Christmas Day at 6pm. The



Celine Dion: festive fun broadcaster is also in conversation with Neil Diamond for a New Year's Day special, while other station highlights include Meat Loaf

fronting his own show at 8pm on Boxing Day.

On Radio One Steve Lamacq will be hosting a Christmas special from 8pm on December 21 featuring a performance by the Stereophonics, while Zoe Ball's Christmas Day special will be broadcast directly from her north London home.

The reformed New Order play an exclusive session as part of John Peel's 10pm show on December 30. Radio One will then begin the New Year with a six-hour Essential Mix Live special from Leeds Town Hall featuring Pete Tong, Judge Jules and Sasha.

Several "all-time" charts of lis-

teners' favourite records will be broadcast this Christmas, including Radio One's National Anthems being broadcast all day on December 28 and Virgin Radio's rundown of a Top 500 chart between Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

BBC1's National Lottery programme has unspliced by hand Touching performed on December 19 as well as the Moby Allstars who will perform their charity single, to be followed on Boxing Day by Michael Crawford. ITV, meanwhile, will screen a Charlotte Church special, Charlotte in Her Own Words, at 1.30pm on Christmas Eve.

STARS LINE UP FOR MITCH IE
Massive Attack, 808 State and Roni Size are among 10 acts donating new tracks or remixes for a double CD charity album being released on January 28 to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Mitch. The record, which also features UD, Bentley Rhythm Ace and the Chemical Brothers, is being released on the ELF label of the Earth Love Fund, through Pinnacle.

MORE RADIO LICENCES AWARDED

Four of the 14 applicants for the new Solent M8 Horsham area small-scale Independent Local Radio licence have been successful. Demos and soul music station The NRX (Bournemouth), mainstream music and local news station Southampton City Radio, popular and easy listening Victory FM and Winchester-based Win 107 FM, which is promising local news and information for the surrounding area, will receive licences as soon as they are ready to start broadcasting.

SONY QUIET ON NET RIGHTS STORY

Sony Music has refused to comment on reports it has instructed its labels to ensure comprehensive online rights are included in artists' contracts.

According to the Financial Times, the major has told record labels and affiliated companies to add additional categories of rights to contracts, notably those to the domain names of artists' promotional websites, forcing it to renegotiate agreements with existing acts, as well as adding extra clauses to contracts with new signings.

HICKS STEPS UP AT GALAXY

Chrissy Rial's Galaxy 102 programme director Jim Hicks is being promoted to run Galaxy's new radio station in the north east. Hicks, currently based in Manchester, will oversee the recruitment of up to 70 staff to the new 20m sports centre which is expected to begin broadcasting from offices in Newcastle next summer. Galaxy FM won the north east regional radio licence in October.

FEENEY QUITS WARNER CHAPPELL

Stewart Feeney, senior A&R manager at Warner Chappell, has left the company only a week after signing producer/writer Steve Levine. The publishing company declined to comment on the reasons for his departure.

MORE PLATINUM FOR GEORGE

George Michael's *adies & Gentlemen - The Best Of* was certified four-times platinum by the BPI last week with double platinum awards going to *Michael's* self-titled debut, *M People's* The Best Of *M People* and *Steps' Step One*. Culture Club's *Crucial Moments* and *Great Lost's* The Very Best Of *Meat Loaf* became platinum albums, while gold awards went to Celine Dion's *These Are Special Times*, the self-titled *Another Level* and Lesley Garrett album, *Levetters' One Way Of Life - Best Of* and Paul Weller's *Modern Classics*.

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Entry packs and seat reservation forms for the Music Week Awards 1999 will be available shortly.

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For any other information about the Music Week Awards 1999, please contact Louise Stevens on 0171 940 8502.



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1998: a year of titanic change

At the start of 1998 many predicted that this year would be one of change, but the extent of that transformation would shock even the most ambitious soothsayer. Whether it was music, technology, corporate structures – no area was untouched.

On a musical level this was the year of pop, whether of a mainstream variety or in the form of quality R&B. The downside was that most of the rock scene failed to emerge from its post-Britpop slumber, while US guitar music failed even more.

But it was corporate machinations that dominated the headlines for much of the year. Contrary to expectations it was not EMI that was sold. Instead PolyGram fell prey to a dawn raid by Seagram boss Edgar Bronfman Jr.

Since then he and his team have been working out how to unlock the value of the takeover by cutting costs and raising sales. And they are not alone – rivals have long been asking exactly the same questions. Just think of Warner and Sony's distribution merger.

Meanwhile, consolidation among the majors has raised hopes in the indie sector that indie companies' prospects will flourish as they offer an alternative approach. Such hopes were given a boost with the official launch of AIM, an organisation to represent their interests.

This was good news in a year when some did not have much to celebrate. There is no doubt that 1998 has been tough. Reality has bitten. If nothing else, this means that everyone is approaching 1999 with a renewed sense of realism. Roll on the music.



JANUARY

Elton John becomes the third artist in consecutive years to be awarded a knighthood following record-breaking sales of *Candle in the Wind 1997*. EMI Group confirms it is in preliminary talks with WH Smith about acquiring Waterstones. Producer Mike Peden joins WEA as senior A&R manager. *Music Week* publisher Miller Freeman unveils plans to launch fans, a pan-European titles magazine. Sony wins international rights to Skint Records' releases after striking a deal with the indie... McKenzie Group, a consortium headed by former B&W for The Border chief Ian Howard, buys London venues the Brixton Academy and Shepherd's Bush Empire... BMG announces John Preston is to leave as chairman after 10 years, making way for Richard Griffiths in a newly-expanded European role... *TOTP Magazine* editor Peter Lorraine leaves to become Polydor artist development manager. PolyGram heads the Brits nomination list. Speculation circulates that EMI chairman Sir Colin Cullinan is to take a non-executive role, handing control to co-president Jim Field. *MCR* unveils plans to test a system for identifying and licensing sound recordings for use on the internet. Attendance figures at Midsom are up on the previous year, with culture secretary Chris Smith among the speakers. The Spice Girls' worldwide success is to be honoured with a special Brit Award. Clive Black quits M&M Life, the label he set up with Mark Morrison... Capital is given the go-ahead to broadcast Capital Gold as its AM operations.

FEBRUARY

Channel Five broadcasts The Pepsi Chart for the first time... PolyGram becomes the first major to start selling music via the internet... Border Radio Holdings wins the second North West regional FM licence... 4th & Broadway co-founder Julian Palmer teams up with Sony to launch his Disc Volante label... Telstar and The Box unveil a new compilation series... An attack by Chumbawamba's Nigel Hunter on deputy prime minister John Prescott sends the headlines at the Brit Awards where The Verve and All Saints win two prizes apiece... *TOTP Magazine* passes half a million sales... EMI announces it is "business as usual" regarding the future of its senior management... Capital Radio unveils Fun Radio, a new station concept primarily aimed at children... Industry concerns are raised over the government's *Welfare To Work* programme for the young unemployed... James Horner's Titanic ends a six-week run at number one by The Verve's Urban Hymns on its way to becoming the most successful film score in history... EMI and Music Boulevard launch separate internet mail order music stores... Rob Dickins takes over the day-to-day running of East West after managing director Max Hole



Executives play musical chairs amid restructuring and merger

"You won't be short of stories next year...
I predicted one of the most senior UK record company executives to MW during the closing days of 1997. But not even he could have anticipated the intensity of the game of executive musical chairs that has been played ever since.



The statistics speak for themselves: of the five major chairmen at the start of the year, only two will be in the same position at the beginning of 1999, while eight major label managing directors are now in different jobs. The new year had hardly had time to catch its breath when John Preston (pictured above left), chairman of BMG for the past 10 years, announced his departure, making way for the UK return of Richard Griffiths in a newly extended European role. Griffiths subsequently hired Harry Magyes to head RCA. Over at Warner, East West managing director Max Hole left after 15 years at the parent company to join Universal. Still to be replaced, his role was temporarily filled by Rob Dickins. However, seven months later it was confirmed that the UK's longest-serving chairman was also leaving in December following a corporate decision not to renew his contract.



EMI president/CEO Jean-Francois Cecillon lost his job in April, making way for Tony Wadsworth and a new label structure which saw the departure of EMI UK managing director Neil Ferris. There were even more changes at PolyGram. Osman Erlep resigned as A&M managing director in May. A month later it emerged that the label's UK operation would be closed. Within a fortnight it was disclosed London Records managing director Colin Bell was leaving to join Elton John's management team. Subsequently the Universal merger started to prompt other changes. In October Nick Phillips (pictured above right) quit his post as managing director of Universal when it became clear John Kennedy would run the combined PolyGram/Universal. Five weeks later it was finally confirmed he would be replacing Dickins at Warner. Meanwhile Phillips' former BMA Music colleague Paul Cooney was given the task of running the two companies' combined publishing operations across Europe. Sadly this meant the departure of Richard Manners from PolyGram/Island Music.

moves to Universal. Andy Parfitt is promoted to Radio One controller... HMV Media Group is formed, conditionally agreeing to pay WH Smith £300m for Waterstones... Jamiroquai, Radiohead and the Chemical Brothers win Grammy Awards.

MARCH

Mercury Records finds its seven Music Week Awards... Spice Girls' Stop hats at two, ending their perfect run of number ones... Mercury marketing director Jonathan Green is promoted to general manager... An Ian McCulloch and Johnny Marr song is selected as the England team's official World Cup anthem... Paul Gambaccini, Johnnie Walker and Jools Holland are given new Radio Two shows... WH Smith buys the Johnnie Walker chain for £58m... Celine Dion's (pictured) My Heart Will Go On reaches number one a second time on its way to becoming the year's biggest single... The Innuity where Are You? is named Britain's Eurovision entry... HMV scales down its HMV Direct home shopping service... ZTT signs a distribution deal with 3m/Finemac... Former Kiss 100 programme director Lorna Clarke becomes editor of Radio One... New singles chart rules are announced which will cut the number of tracks, playing time, dealer price and number of mixes from July... PolyGram issues a profits warning ahead of first quarter figures... Capital Radio unveils a summer music festival in Hyde Park... Sony and Warner agree to combine their distribution facilities in a new company, The Entertainment Network... EMI describes reports Jim Field is to gain a £12m goodwill payment as inaccurate.

APRIL

Jim Field leaves EMI after 10 years with a £12m goodwill payment... BMG restructures its sales force... The first CoFs awards event takes place, but the organisers forget to tell much of the industry... TOTP acquires a new theme and logo... MW editor Selma Webb is named Polydor's director of press... Sir Cliff Richard sets up his own label... U2, Blue Mountain Music and PolyGram International Music Publishing drop legal proceedings against PRS over live performance payments... Robbie Williams' *Life Through A Lens* climbs to number one for the first time, 28 weeks after release... Publisher Famous Music announces it is to open a UK office... PolyGram links with TOTP for a new compilation series... CD manufacturer PGWise found guilty of producing £50m worth of bootlegs, goes into administration... Channel Four starts broadcasting the Je Whaley Show... Spice Girls are named 1997's highest UK music stars... Radio Two plans to increase its support of playlisted tracks... The Total Record Company goes into liquidation... Seagram insists that it is making a bid for EMI or PolyGram is "speculation"... WH Wadsworth takes over from Jean-Francois Cecillon as EMI Records president/ceo.

in the headlines

...Elton John receives a

knighthood...Jim Fifield leaves EMI...Seagram announces

PolyGram takeover...Richard Griffiths restructures

BMG...Geri Halliwell leaves Spice Girls...John Kennedy

heads the new Universal Music Group in UK...



England have yet to win a football tournament in which a version of Three Lions has been released. But when it came to World Cup '98, football's loss turned into the singles market's gain. Led by a year recording of the *Baddiel/Shirley/Lighthouse Seeds* (pictured) chart-topping, football-related records look over the fall's *Vladimir Luxuria* linking runners-up spot and other contributions lumping up from the likes of *Chatterbox*, *Mr. O. Del Amint*, *Jean Rochely*, *Jeune et Grosse*, *4th*, *Janetka* and even the *Wimbledon* *Crani Society*. *Colombino*, *mezzobello*, scored a Top 10 domination with the official World Cup album. At least it was all some compensation for retailers who had to battle against a nation stuck in front of the TV and a weak album release schedule. They responded with a sweeping range of in-store promotions. Overall the industry suffered less than during Euro '96. Until, that is, those penalties.

NAI

A&M managing director **Osman Erak** leaves suddenly. **Capital Radio** battles a £15.5m bid for **Xfm**. **Chris Blackwell** begins an executive recruitment drive for new label and entertainment group **Palm**. **Picturehouse**. **Caroline Lewis** becomes **Q Records** MD. New figures show UK music industry units sales growth fell by 3% in 1997. **Chris Evans** wins the **Sony Radio Awards' Gold Award**. **Jarvis's DNA** International wins the **Eurovision Song Contest** with **Dina**. EMI reveals that it has halted takeover talks from an unnamed buyer for £18.2m. **MCPG** and **PRS** both report record year-end results... **The BPI** issues a new **Brits** sponsor... **Castle Communications** is to be sold at auction as its owner **Alliance Entertainment** renegotiates its way out of Chapter 11 US bankruptcy protection... **London Records** managing director **Colin Bell** announces he is to work in **Elton John's** new management team following the artist's split with **John Reid**. **Seagram** announces a \$10.6bn cash-and-stock acquisition of **UK MD** from **Philips Electronics**. **Neil Ferris** loses his job at **EMI** **UK MD** as part of a far-reaching EMI shake-up with **EMI/Physikal** combined under **Mark Doherty** and **Keith Wainwright** named **Parlophone MD**. **Creation** president **Alan McGe** concludes the music industry is "on its edge and tingling". **Candle in the Wind 1997** wins three **Ivor Novello** awards. **Geri Halliwell** leaves the **Spice Girls** (pictured below)... **Warner Music** claims the top four of the albums chart for the first time.

BMG

BMG's Richard Griffiths unveils a widespread restructuring of the company... **Three Lions '98** becomes the top World Cup song as music sales are hit by the football tournament... **Ajax Sport** named **Music Week** editor... **MTV** teams up with **Planet Hollywood** from **South Republic**, a new music venue in **London's Leicester Square**... **Doug Morris** is confirmed as head of the combined **Universal/PolyGram** worldwide music company... **WH Smith** puts in a £3.4m offer for internet retailer **bookshop.co.uk**... **Miles Leonard** becomes **ASR** director as part of **MD Keith Wainwright's** **Parlophone** restructuring... **The World Cup** kicks off amid a rash of football records and **High Street** music retail activity to tackle a fierce downturn in sales during the tournament... **EMI** UK operation is to close with its artists and some staff being folded into **Polygram**, **Mercury** and **Island**... **London-based Rutland Trust** acquires **Castle Communications** for £17m... **ITV** unveils plans for new children's **Salutary** morning music and entertainment show **SM-TV Live**, which will replace **The Chart Show**... **Record companies** reach a landmark deal with **PRS** over the distribution of TV and radio performance royalties... **A GWR** led consortium is named sole bidder for the **national digital radio licence**.

BTI

BTI International and **Harvey Goldsmith** entertainment announce a £8.3m reverse takeover deal aimed at creating a promotion



New technology poses more questions than answers

As most music executives a year ago about the biggest challenge facing the music industry - other than developing new talent - and chances are they would have said the internet. Twelve months on, the answer is the same, though few are much clearer as to how to approach the issue.

The confusion was reflected in the range of responses to **MP3**, the compression technology which enables the easy transfer of music online, most of which is currently pirate. US trade body the **RIAA** attempted - and failed - to injunct the manufacturer of an **MP3** player. Tactically some labels are increasingly suggesting that the way to deal with **MP3** is to harness its potential rather than attempting to crush it.

The majors remain as cautious as ever about digital distribution, though Sony took a lead in November with the

the extraordinary structural shake-up of the major record companies during the past 12 months has sometimes overshadowed a year of dramatic developments at retail. Central to the changes has been the **WH Smith** group, which completed a far-reaching reorganisation of its interests in the year, starting with the offloading of its US music chain **The Wall** for £220m to **Camelot Music** in March, the sale of book chain **Waterstones** to **HMV Media Group** for £300m and the £68m purchase of the **John Menzies** chain from the **John Menzies** group.

Smiths' sale of **Waterstones** led to the formation of the **HMV Media Group**, comprising the **HMV**, **Dillons** and **Waterstones** chain, and chaired by **Waterstones** founder **Tim Waterstone**. **EMI** took a 42.5% stake in the new group, matching the contribution of private equity group **Advent International Corporation** with 9% owned by management and the remaining 6% held for management incentives.

Waterstones' sale of **Waterstones** led to the formation of the **HMV Media Group**, comprising the **HMV**, **Dillons** and **Waterstones** chain, and chaired by **Waterstones** founder **Tim Waterstone**. **EMI** took a 42.5% stake in the new group, matching the contribution of private equity group **Advent International Corporation** with 9% owned by management and the remaining 6% held for management incentives.

Virgin Records' **Innocent** label celebrates its first hit with **Billie's** (pictured right) debut single **Because We Want To... A Which?** report claiming **British** music buyers are paying over the odds for CDs is slammed as "wishy-washy"... **Polygram** splits into two divisions as it absorbs the **A&M** list roster... **Virgin** group secures a £145m deal to buy **WH Smith's** 75% stake in **Virgin Our Price**, giving it full control of the chain for the first time... **The BPI** and **Bard** form **Music Industry Club Services** to oversee the official UK sales charts... **BPI** chairman **Bob Dickins** attacks the industry "doo merchants" at the **BPI AGM**... **EMI Music Publishing** finance director **Tom Bradley** is appointed president of the **Music Publishers' Association**... Plans for a **Brits-style** summer music festival are revealed... **Raymond Gubbay** joins the **Tring/HGE** group... The industry banks on a busy fourth quarter after a poor summer... **India** retailers increase their share of total UK album sales for the first time in at least five years... **PRS** plans swinging changes to the way it distributes royalties to its members... US research firm **Jupiter Communications** predicts that **UK online** sales will double in value every year to hit \$114.6m by 2002... **Polygram** posts 2% improvement in second quarter music sales to £659m but income from music almost halved to £50m.

AUGUST

The prospect of a new music format emerges with the arrival of the **MPMan**, a Walkman-like device which plays music downloaded from the internet using **MP3** compression technology... **HMV** unveils its sponsorship deals with **Capital** following the station's announcement that it is to start selling CDs online in a joint venture with **Telstar**... **MTV Networks Europe** announces plans for three genre-based UK music channels next year available via digital TV... **The Mobo Awards** secure Channel 4 coverage as the **Gramophone Awards** loses its TV slot... The **BBC** confirms plans for a German version of **TOTP**... **Creation Records** sheds almost a third of its workforce... **Tower Records** launches its European online music store... **Inkies** lose out to specialist music titles in **ABC** circulation figures.

Introduction of a pay-per-play digital jukebox allowing users to listen to complete songs for as little as 20 cents. Most of the largest labels are currently also involved in testing a secret online delivery system with **IBM**.

Less secret was the **MusicTrial.com** project launched in September by the **MCPG-PRS Music Alliance** with technology firm **Liquid Audio**. Seeking to solve the thorny problem of licensing the downloading of music, those taking part include **Beggars Banquet**, **Wijaya Music** and **Zomba**

Retail faces major shake-ups



HMV's new ownership structure began taking shape some four months before that of **Virgin Our Price**, which, since 1994, had been 75% owned by **Smiths** with the **Virgin** group holding the remaining share. In July, after months of negotiation, **Virgin** finally bought the remaining 75% stake in a £24.4m deal, marking the first time the chain had been fully owned by **Virgin**.

Under the control of **Simon Burke**, the chain's staff was split into two with each section responsible for one brand. Then in September it was confirmed that a management buyout plan was being developed for **Our Price**. That move has since been delayed, though it is expected to be completed in the new year.

Such was the extent of the changes at the multiples that they overshadowed the growing inroads being made by the supermarkets. Often the losers were the indie stores, though they at least ended the year in more cheerful mood than they by July ringing sounds from their tills.



covering the first six months of 1998... **Universal** boosts **Seagram's** fourth quarter on the back of the success of European acts such as **Aqua**... **Capital Radio** axes **Xi'm's** entire line-up of specialist shows as part of a major shake-up of **London's** erstwhile only alternative station... **German** industry convention **PopKomm** attracts its strongest British support to date with a record 22 UK companies attending.

OCTOBER

PolyGram chairman **John Kennedy** leads the job of running **Universal Music Group** in the UK... **Virgin Retail** and **Virgin Our Price** split into two separate staff divisions following the group's £145m purchase of **WH Smith's** 75% VOP stake... **HMV** kicks off its biggest autumn sale to date... Changes to the **Radio One** and **Two** playlists are hailed as boosting radio exposure of new music... **Our Price** undertakes what it claims is the most radical overhaul of its brand in its history with the introduction of a "two-speed" store concept... **Gary Gittins**' manager **Jeff Johnson** takes over as chairman of the **International Managers Forum** from **John Gower**... **Hyperion Records** scoops the top prize at the

Former **Spice Girl** **Geri Halliwell** wins **Brits** executive producer **Lisa Anderson** as her manager... **HMV** follows **Tower** with the launch of an online music store... **New-look Xfm** receives a cautious industry welcome... **RCA's** newly-installed managing director **Harry Magee** announces a wave of senior appointments and new signings... **Island** scores a coup by securing a deal to release the first **U2** 'best of' album... **MCPG-PRS** launches its ground-breaking project for licensing the download of music from the web... **EMI**, **Virgin**, **Universal** and **PolyGram** plan to launch the **Now!** compilation brand in the US... First details emerge of the **Association of Independent Music**, which leading companies including **Beggars Banquet** and **Chis Records** are planning to champion their sector's interests... **HMV** Europe managing director **Brian McLaughlin** returns as chairman of retail association **Bard**... **News International** completes its acquisition of **Mushroom** following 14 months of negotiation concluded by its music chief **James Murdoch**, **Kingsley and Scotfield Media Group** enter a bidding war for **VCI** and its **Music Collection International** subsidiary... **Warner Music's** **Rob Dickins**, the UK's longest-serving major record company chairman, confirms he is to leave on December 31... **Gomez** scoop the **Mercury Music Prize**... **Jonathan King** teams up with **ITV** for **The Record Of The Year 1998** Christmas music spectacular... The proposed **PolyGram/Universal** merger receives the green light from the European Commission... **Robbie Williams** reaches an out-of-court settlement with his former manager **Tim Abbott**... **EMI's** share price tumbles to a five-year low of £3.20... A public row over who appointed which first breaks out in radio land following the appointments of **Roger Wright** and **Roger Lewis** as controllers of **Radio Three** and **Classic FM** respectively... **Virgin Our Price** managing director **Mike McGinley** fronts a proposed management buyout of the 229-store chain.

FAT BOY SLIM

WELL DONE YOU FAT KNACKER

TOTAL UK ALBUM SALES IN EXCESS OF

250,000

AND RISING

MORE AWARDS
THAN YOU
CAN SHAKE A
STICK AT

2

SMASH HIT SINGLES

'GANGSTER TRIPPIN' &

'THE ROCKAFELLER SKANK'

AND ANOTHER ONE IN THE OVEN 'PRAISE YOU'

THE BIGGEST DANCE ALBUM OF THE YEAR

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY

THAT WAS THE YEAR

in the headlines



Nikes of Des'ree (pictured), Poly and Mando Street Preachers secured the biggest overseas sales of their careers so far, while newer acts including Another Level, B*Witched, Boyzone, the Lighthouse Family, Propellerheads and Steps enjoyed success across Europe and beyond.

Gramophone Awards...**Spice Girls** emerge as bookies' favourite for the Christmas number one spot...US online music retailers **N2K** and **CNow** confirm plans to merge...US record industry body the **RIAA** seeks injunction to stop the release of the **Rilo**, an MP3 player...**Universal Music** confirms the sudden departure of managing director **Nick Phillips**, prompting speculation that he will replace **Rob Dickins** at **Warner**...The **Brit Awards** strikes a multi-million pound, three-year sponsorship deal with **MasterCard**...The **Spice Girls** and their co-writers swoop the board at the annual **Acap Awards**...Speculation mounts that **Mo Wax** is on the verge of striking a new partnership outside of the **PolyGram** group...**PolyGram**, meanwhile, sells the film archive of its **Filmed Entertainment** division to **MGM** for \$250m and announces buoyant third quarter results.

NOVEMBER

Retailers confidently predict that a busy Christmas will more than make up for what has been a disappointing year so far...The **BBC** backs dance music with plans to launch a festive-style series dedicated to the genre next year...**REM** pay tribute to outgoing **Warner** chairman **Rob Dickins** as they collect the lifetime achievement award at the **Q Awards**. **VH1** links with budget label **Music Collection International** to produce a series of themed mid-price compilations next year...The **RIAA** loses its legal fight to prevent release of the **Rilo** and immediately calls for a legal discussion on the digital distribution of music...Former **BMG** Center managing director **Alison Venham** is appointed chief executive of new independent trade body **Aim**...In the US the **Securities Exchange Commission** approves **Seagram's** takeover of **PolyGram**...**Infectious** managing director **Korda Marshall** negotiates to sell his 45% stake in the label to **News Corp.** **VCI** and its **Music Collection International** subsidiary become a division of **Entertainment UK**

following their purchase by **EUK's** parent **Kingfisher**...Culture secretary **Chris Smith** challenges the industry to support the government's music education policies...**Mo Wax** strikes a long-term partnership deal with **Beggars Banquet** subsidiary **XL Recordings**...UK chairman **John Kennedy** starts privately mapping out the structure of the combined UK operations of **PolyGram** and **Universal** with key executives...UK and

Music loses leading lights

Sadly the industry lost many well-known and much-loved artists and executives in 1998. In January singer/songwriter **Sonny Bono** died tragically in a skiing accident. Two weeks later he was followed by singer, songwriter and guitarist **Carl Perkins**, who wrote the lyrics to the **Fifties** classic **Blue Suede Shoes**. **Carl Wilson**, one of the founding members of the **Beach Boys**, also died in February. Then in April the industry mourned the loss of two talents from the worlds of rock and country: **Cozy Powell** and **Tammy Wynette**. Perhaps the most significant figure to die was **Frank Sinatra**, who passes away in May aged 82 after a long battle against illness.

Among the executives lost to the industry during the year were **Sean Bye**, V2's head of marketing, and **Columbia A&R** manager **Miles Kemp**. They were followed two months later by **Manion Back**, one of **EMI's** of longest-serving employees. **Producer Dennis Pop** - the man behind hits by **Ace of Base**, **Robyn** and **Backstreet Boys** - lost his battle against stomach cancer in September. He was 35. Then in October, **Elton John** and **John Reid** led the tributes to former **Rocket Records** managing director **David Croker**, who died suddenly aged 49.

The demise in August of the **Chart Show** after more than 12 years on TV reduced industry attention on music television. But fears that its disappearance would spell the demise of the promo were quickly dismissed. Hosts in to play a key part in new digital TV services such as **UK Play** on Sky Digital (pictured), not to mention the existing **MTV**. The **Box set** and **TV-1** services. Elsewhere, **Boyz II Men** broadcast the UK's first pay-per-view live pop concert featuring **Boyz II Men**, the **Spice Girls** and **Ron**



Boyz II Men. On **Interstitial**, Channel Five began broadcasting the **Pepsi Chart** in February while two months later **Jo Whalley** launched her own **Channel 4** show. **Planetwin**, the **Chart Show's** replacement - **SNK TV** this - features on new-look chart segment, **CDUK**. Next year consumer choice will be extended even further with **MTV's** planned launch of three new genre-specific UK music channels.

UK-signed acts triumph at the **MTV European Music Awards**. Former **Universal** managing director **Nick Phillips** is confirmed as **Rob Dickins's** replacement as chairman of **Warner UK**. **Capital Radio** reveals plans to stage **Party in the Park** concerts all around the country next year. **Tring** collapses into administrative receivership after **Raymond Gubbay** and **HGE** pull out of reverse takeover deals...**PolyGram Music Publishing's** UK managing director **Richard Manners** and worldwide chief **David Hockman** become the latest casualties of the proposed **Universal/PolyGram** merger...The **Dur** price management buyout deal is delayed until next year...**EMI** profits slump following tough six months.

DECEMBER

Seagram completes its \$10.4bn acquisition of **PolyGram** and outlines its global operation structure...Managers of the companies' acts, meanwhile, are bracing themselves for an anticipated culling of rosters...**Radio One** confirms plans to turn over some of its schedule to regional programming...**dotmusic**, **MA's** sister internet site, launches with a raft of new features targeted at the consumer market...The **Radio Authority** vows to take its culture of openness a stage further following two singing attacks on its licensing policy...Pop hits lead shortlist for **Jonathan King's Record Of The Year** show...**Sony** and **PolyGram**



dominate the pre-Christmas market after capturing around half of all chart album sales between them...**Kiss 100** managing director **Mike Soutar** is given the job of developing **Empag Radio's** three radio brands...**Asda** aims to stock every music release currently available following the launch of a mail-order service...**Virgin Retail** finally reveals plans to launch its online music store next March, more than a year later than originally envisaged.



Rock Hard This Christmas



AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CHRISTMAS CARDS WE WILL BE MAKING DONATIONS TO THE CASA GUATEMALA ORPHANAGE, RIO DULCE & NATIONAL CHILDREN'S SAFETY BOOKS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

ANSWERPHONE	DEC 21	DEC 22	DEC 23	DEC 24	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 30	DEC 31	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	
ARABESQUE	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-12:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-12:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:30-18:00	
AVID	09:00-17:30	09:00-19:00	09:00-19:00	09:00-13:00	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	
BMG	08:30-19:00	08:30-19:00	08:30-17:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-17:30	08:30-17:30	08:30-17:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-17:30	
CARLTON HOME ENTERTAINMENT	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-12:00	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30									
CM DISTRIBUTION	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-13:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-18:00	
COMPLETE RECORD COMPANY	TO ORDER DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD, CONTACT PINNACLE DURING TIMES SHOWN															
DA TAPE & RECORD DISTRIBUTION	08:30-17:30	08:30-17:30	08:30-17:30	08:30-12:00	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	08:30-17:30	08:30-14:00	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	
DISC DISTRIBUTION	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-14:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-18:00	
EMI	08:30-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	FAX/VOICE MAIL	FAX/VOICE MAIL	FAX/VOICE MAIL	FAX/VOICE MAIL	08:30-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-15:00	FAX/VOICE MAIL	FAX/VOICE MAIL	FAX/VOICE MAIL	08:30-17:30	
EUK	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-14:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	CLOSED	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	08:30-18:00	
GREYHOUND RECORDS	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	09:30-17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:30-17:00	
HARMONIA MUNDI	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-12:00	FAX/VOICE MAIL	09:00-17:30										
JET STAR	09:00-19:30	09:00-19:30	09:00-19:30	09:00-14:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-14:00	09:00-19:30	09:00-19:30	09:00-19:30	09:00-14:00	CLOSED	09:00-14:00	08:30-14:00	09:00-19:30	
KOCH	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-13:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-13:00	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-17:30	
PINNACLE	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-17:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-17:30	
PLASTIC HEAD	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-17:30	
POLYGRAM	OPEN 24 HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD															
PRISM LEISURE	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	
RMG DISTRIBUTION	OPEN 24 HOURS VIA POLYGRAM'S ORDER DEPARTMENT															
SELECT	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	FAX/☉	09:00-17:30	
S GOLD	09:00-20:00	09:00-19:00	09:00-19:00	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	CLOSED	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	09:00-17:00	
SONY MUSIC OPERATIONS	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	08:00-16:00	VOICE MAIL	VOICE MAIL	12:00-16:00	12:00-16:00	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	VOICE MAIL	10:00-18:00	10:00-16:00	08:00-18:00	
SOUND & MEDIA	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-13:00	☉	☉	☉	☉	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-16:30	☉	09:00-17:30	☉	09:00-17:30	
SRD	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	09:30-18:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:30-18:00	
TECHNICOLOUR	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-17:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-16:30	08:30-16:30	08:30-16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30-17:30	
TELSTAR	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	11:00-15:00	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-14:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	
THE	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-13:00	CLOSED	14:00-18:00	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	
3MV	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	09:00-18:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	09:00-18:00	
TRING INTERNATIONAL	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-17:30	09:00-17:30	FAX	FAX	FAX	FAX	09:00-17:30	
VITAL	08:30-18:30	08:30-18:30	08:30-18:30	08:30-13:00	☉	☉	☉	☉	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	09:00-14:00	☉	☉	☉	09:00-18:00	
WARNER MUSIC UK	08:00-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-13:00	☉	☉	☉	☉	08:00-18:00	08:30-18:00	08:30-18:00	☉	☉	☉	09:00-17:30	
Compiled by Karen Faux	DEC 21	DEC 22	DEC 23	DEC 24	DEC 25	DEC 26	DEC 27	DEC 28	DEC 29	DEC 30	DEC 31	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



The Spice Girls are in the wings waiting to stake their claim but Girl Power is already a potent force in the chart this week, with each of the top five records performed by a female act. Cher's seven week run atop the list is over, and she slips to number two, while B*Witched, Billie, Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston and Honeyz occupy the remainder of the top five with new entries. Women have filled only the top three positions previously, doing so on five occasions, most recently on March 14 this year, when Ceeline Dion topped ahead of Natalie Imbruglia and Madonna.

A remarkable 56 years after it was recorded, Bing Crosby's classic recording of White Christmas makes a seasonal return to chart duty. The Irving Berlin composition has charted over the years for no fewer than seven other acts including comedians Freddie Starr and Jim Davidson and Keith Harris and Orville, but none has topped the number five peak Bing climbed in 1977.

MARKET REPORT



SALES UPDATE



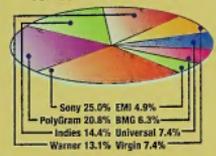
though the laidback crooner was in no position to appreciate his success, having laid back for the last time a few weeks

SINGLE FACTFILE

B*Witched succeed where George Michael, Boyzone and many others have failed by knocking Cher off the top of the singles chart this week. It's the Irish girls' third hit - and their third number one, their previous chart toppers being C'est La Vie In June and Rollercoaster in October. They are the seventh act in chart history to open their account with a hat trick of number ones, following Gerry & The Pacemakers, Frankie Goes

To Hollywood, Jive Bunny & The New Generation, Robson & Jerome, the Spice Girls and Aqua. B*Witched have sold more singles than All Saints and the Spice Girls this year, with only Boyzone and Celine Dion outranking their tally of 1.4m. singles sales. Their singles chart success is beginning to rub off on their self-titled debut album too - it has sold more than 320,000 copies since it was released nine weeks ago.

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS

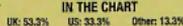


estimated to have sold at least 1,500,000 copies.

UB40 achieve a unique distinction this week. Though the number 31 debut of their latest hit Holly Holy is a modest one by their standards, it does mean that they have now charted with remakes of both sides of an obscure 1970 reggae single. The B-side was Lord Creator's ode to Kingston Town, which was a number four hit for the group in 1990. Holly Holy by the Fabulous Flames was the A-side, although it was written and originally recorded by American singer-songwriter Neil Diamond in 1969. Diamond also penned UB40's first number one single, Red Red Wine, which topped the chart in 1983.

The ballad Every Time Is the Right Time lifted from Janet Jackson's current album The Velvet Rope, and looks like being the smallest by some distance. Got It! It's Gone peaked at six. Together Again at four, I Get Lonely at five and Go Deep at 13. Every Time debuts at number 46.

PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



earlier. Bing's recording returned to the chart briefly in 1985, reaching number 69. Since it was first released in the UK, it is

THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 SINGLES

1 MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	EPIC
2 BELIEVE	CHER	WEA
3 IT'S LIKE THAT	RJMC DMC & JASON NEVINS	SM&E COMMUNICATIONS
4 NO MATTER WHAT	BOYZONE	POLYGRAM
5 C'EST LA VIE	B*WITCHED	GLOW WORKS/EPIC
6 HOW DO I LIVE	LEANN RIMES	CURB/THE HIT LABEL
7 GHETTO SUPASTAR (THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE)	PHARMCHEM feat. ODB & MYA	INTERSCOPE
8 TRULY MADLY DEEPLY	SAVAGE GARDEN	COLUMBIA
9 MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU	STARBUCK	VIRGIN
10 VIVA FOREVER	SPICE GIRLS	VIRGIN
11 2 LIPS '98	BADDELL/SCANNER/LIGHTNING SEEDS	EPIC
12 DOCTOR JONES	AQUA	UNIVERSAL
13 NEVER EVER	ALL SAINTS	LONDON
14 THE BOY IS MINE	BRANDY & MONICA	ATLANTIC
15 FEEL IT	TAMPERER feat. MAYA	PEPPER
16 I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	ADRIAN SMITH	COLUMBIA
17 BRIMFUL OF ASIA	CORNINGRIP	MULLA
18 FROZEN	MADONNA	MAVERICK
19 ROLLERCOASTER	B*WITCHED	GLOW WORKS/EPIC
20 HORNBY	MOUSSE T VS HOTN JUICY	AMP&M

Label	Title	Artist
1	TO YOU I BELONG	B*Witched
2	BELIEVE	CHER
3	SHE WANTS YOU	Sheila
4	WHEN YOU... Mania	Carey/Melrose Place
5	END OF THE LINE	Hoopie
6	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams with Melanie C
7	HARD KNOCK LIFE... 2nd	Jay-Z
8	HEARTBEAT/TAKEOFF	Stacy
9	BIG BIG WORLD	Destiny
10	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Enrique
11	NO REGRETS/IN MY SOUL	Robba Williams
12	SO YOUNG	The Cars
13	DUMB	The Notorious B.I.G.
14	SWEETEST THING	U2
15	MIAMI	Hot Search
16	OUTSIDE	George Michael
17	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE...	Madonna
18	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	Adrian Smith
19	I WANT YOU	Savage Garden
20	ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL	Ace of Base

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19 DECEMBER 1998

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist (Producer)	Publisher (Writer)	Label CD/Cass (Distributor)	75%
1	NEW	TO YOU I BELONG	Blow Worm/Epic 667712/67714 (SM)	B'Witched (B'Witched) Sugar Free Buckle/B'Witched/Wedgco/Brazilian		
2	1	BELIEVE 'A	WEA WEA 175CD/WEA 175C (W)	Cher (Taylor/Randall) Riva DeRosa/WG (Higgins/Berry/Tracy)/Sly Stone (Linnell/Townes)		
3	NEW	SHE WANTS YOU	Impromat SINDOX 6/SINC 6 (E)	Billy Martin/Polly/PolyGram/Hi & Run (Lowe/Sheyne)		
4	NEW	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	Columbia 66672/66674/54 (SM)	Menekh Eshari & Wally Poppert (RabyChay) Chrissy Linnell/Gibson/Schwartz/Chapman		
5	NEW	END OF THE LINE	1st Avenue/Mercury 4202 ZHN/C2 (F)	Honey/Linnell (MCA/Begaud)		
6	NEW	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	ABM/Mercury 50282/12582/181A (F)	Bryan Adams (Adams) Melodie (Adams/Rock) Budamansky/ATV (Adams/Kennedy)		
7	2	HARD ROCK LIFE (GHETO ANTHEM)	Nonesuch 74267/74267/475/74268 (BMG)	John Z. Young (John Z. Young/Warner-Chappell) Carter/James/Chapman		
8	5	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Live/Epic 05194/05191/44 (F)	Steps (Stephens/Warman/Sophan/Teague/Warman) All Stars/Bomb/Global/Schwartz/Gibson/Gibson		
9	3	BIG BIG WORLD	Universal UMD 1719/UAC 1719 (BMG)	Enika (Hart/John) PolyGram (Enika/John)		
10	6	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Polydor 565199/565198 (F)	Joe Bonomo (Med Musitz/Snow/Cannata)		
11	3	MIAMI	Columbia 66672/66674/54 (SM)	Will Smith/LLJ/Pink Aot/Tony Tanaka/ATV/ATV/CW/Smiley/Billy/Barnes/Deuby/Sheelley/Silver/LLJ		
12	NEW	ALWAYS HAVE ALWAYS HAD	LONDON AECED 5/ACED 5 (E)	Paul Oakenfold (Oakenfold) Missy/Missy/PolyGram (Oakenfold)		
13	4	UP AND DOWN	Positive CD/TV 105/CTV 105 (F)	Vengaboia (Danakil/DJ Deundroit) Peter (Danakil/DJ Deundroit)		
14	7	NO REGRETS	Chrysalis CDCH5-10/0/CHCS 5100 (E)	Robbie Williams (Chamberlain/Powell) EWING (Williams/Chamberlain)		
15	2	TAKE ME THERE	Inter-logic IND 9543/IND 9543 (BMG)	Enrique Iglesias (Iglesias) Steve & Billy Bidlo (John Valasek) Blue/Orange/Red/Parade		
16	NEW	DUMB	Go!Discs/Mercury 56522/56524 (F)	The Beautiful South (Kath/Elizabeth) Robert (Hoskins)		
17	NEW	THE GREATEST LOVE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW	Widow CWLD 11/CWLD 11 (W)	Michael McDonald (Pfeiffer/John/Parsons/Cassini) EWING (McDonald/Halfon)		
18	4	I'M YOUR ANGEL	Epic 66682/66684 (SM)	Christina Aguilera (Lynch) Zomba (Zeljko)		
19	2	I WANT YOU '98	Columbia 66673/66673 (SM)	Savage Garden (Fisher) EMI (Hayes/Lynch)		
20	5	WAR OF NERVES	LONDON LONCD 42/LONCD 42 (F)	All Stars (McKenzie) Mercury/MCA/Westwood/WC (McKenzie) PolyGram (McKenzie)		
21	NEW	NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS (GOBBLIN IN THE SKY)	Inter-logic IND 9543/IND 9543 (BMG)	Paul Lee (Lee) Linnell/Rock/Decca (Lee/Linnell)		
22	1	HAVE YOU EVER?	Atlantic AT 0590/AT 0590 (W)	Brendy (Fosari) EMI (Warren)		
23	1	UNTIL THE TIME IS THROUGH	BMG 742183/202/142183/204 (BMG)	Paul McCartney (McCartney) PolyGram (McCartney)		
24	1	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	Columbia 66649/62 (SM)	Alicia Keys (D'Arango) EMI (Warren)		
25	1	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE/LITTLE STAR	Maverick MV 432/CD 432 (W)	Madonna (Madonna/D'Adda) conard Warner-Chappell/EMI (Madonna/Conard)		
26	NEW	LOTUS	Warner Brothers W 466C/W 466C (W)	Alan McGarvey (Rimmer) Warner-Chappell (Buck/McGee/Song)		
27	1	THE EVERLASTING	Epic 66682/66684 (SM)	Manic Street Preachers (McGearty) Sony/ATV (Linnell/McGearty/McGearty)		
28	1	MOVE MANIA	Multiply CD/MLTY 45/CA/MLTY 45 (W)	Sasha (Leatherman) Shasta/Tokipai Step By Step (Alison/Wagman/Leporello)		
29	1	WHITE CHRISTMAS	MCA MCSTD 48165/MCSTD 48165 (SM)	Greg Kihn (Kihn) Warner-Chappell (Bertie)		
30	1	IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD YOU WILL BE LUCKY	Epic 66673/66673 (SM)	The Temperance (Temperance) EMI (Warren)		
31	NEW	HOLY HOLY	Dep International DEPO 51/DEPO 51 (F)	U2 (Lynch/Holmes) Carraisi/Sony/ATV (Dempsey)		
32	2	SO YOUNG	Atlantic AT 0570/AT 0570 (W)	The Corrs (Horsfield) PolyGram (Corr/Corr/Corr/Corr)		
33	3	BLUE	Carbu/Hi Label/LONDON C8/3/CRUC 8 (E)	LeAnn Rimes (WCC/Rimed Carter) Mackay		
34	1	BIG PANTY WOMAN	Phaze PZACD 08/PZAC 08 (RMG/F)	The Brotherhood (Hovav) Columbia (Novotny)		
35	1	SEARCHING MY SOUL	Epic 66683/33/66683/34 (SM)	Wendy Shepherd (Shepherd) as confirmed (Shepherd)		
36	NEW	IT'S ALL YOURS	East West WE 3780/CD 3780/EV 3780 (F)	Myke Dog (Petersen) Jive/Brain/Brown/Decca (Petersen) Jive/Brain/Brown/Decca (Petersen)		
37	2	OUTSIDE	Epic 66626/66626 (SM)	George Michael (Michael/Doughlas) Dick Lauby (Michael)		

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist (Producer)	Publisher (Writer)	Label CD/Cass (Distributor)	TITLES A-Z
38	20	WOULD YOU...?	One/WV WVR 50033R/WVR 50032S (SM/V)	One/WV WVR 50033R/WVR 50032S (SM/V)		11
39	NEW	TROPICALIA	Geffin GFSTD 22385/GFSC 22386 (BMG)	Black (Gocher/Johnson) Cyndee (Breathnach/McGee)		12
40	1	THIS KISS	Worner Brothers W 463C/W 463C (W)	Paul Kelly (Kelly) Warner/Broadway (Kelly)		13
41	5	DREAMING	Inferno CPERN 11/MC/PERN 11 (SM/SM)	Ruff Dredd Presents Aurala (Carter/Brown) Peter (Carter/Brown/Elli)		14
42	10	MY FAVOURITE GAME	Stockholm 56791/56798/84 (F)	Loose (Linnell) PolyGram (Linnell/Person)		15
43	1	FROM THIS MOMENT ON	Mercury 56653/56654 (SM/V)	Shania Twain (Lange) PolyGram/Zomba (Twain/Lange)		16
44	3	TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME	Cherry CHEKCD 109/CHEK 101 (BMG/V)	Fedriz (Ribeiro) Blue/Decca/Warner-Chappell (Lynch) (Ribeiro)		17
45	3	SENSUALITY	French FRSKD 717/FRSC 71 (SM/V)	Loose (Linnell) PolyGram (Linnell/Person)		18
46	NEW	EVERY TIME	Virgin VYSGT 120/VSC 120 (E)	Janet Jackson (Lynch/Lewis/Jackson) EMI (Lackson/Warris) (Lynch/Lewis/Jackson)		19
47	6	EACH TIME	Telstar CD/STAS 3017/CASTAS 3017 (W)	Dillon (Beecher/Reid) PolyGram/Decca (Beecher/Reid)		20
48	NEW	WALK... (THE DOG) LIKE AN EGYPTIAN	Topic 74294/202/14294/203 (F)	Joe Raposo (Joe Raposo) Peter (Beecher)		21
49	3	THE BARTENDER AND THE THIEF	V2 VVR 900433/VVR 900465 (SM/V)	Stearns (Bibi & Bush) PolyGram (Linnell/Jones/Cat)		22
50	3	SIT DOWN (REMIX)	Fontana JIMCD 21/JIMCD 21 (F)	Janet Jackson (Lynch/Lewis/Jackson) EMI (Lackson/Warris) (Lynch/Lewis/Jackson)		23
51	3	THERE GOES THE NEIGHBOURHOOD	ABM/Polydor 56230/56230/64 (F)	Sheryl Crow (Crow) Warner-Chappell (Crow)		24
52	NEW	WALTZ #2 (XO)	DreamWorks DMDW 22347/47 (SM)	Eileen Smith (Hoskins/Schmagg/Smith) Carver/Beg/Buller (Smith) (Hoskins/Schmagg/Smith)		25
53	NEW	TEARS IN THE RAIN (All Around the World) CD/DIGI	Virgin VYSGT 186/VSC 186 (F)	Enrique Iglesias (Iglesias) Steve & Billy Bidlo (John Valasek) Blue/Orange/Red/Parade		26
54	1	FUNKY LOVE	Virgin VYSGT 171/VSC 171 (E)	Kavina (Abelstein) BMG/EMI (Kavana/Warlock/Warlock)		27
55	2	GETTING GIRL	East West EW 191C/WV 191C (W)	Simply Red (Hutchins/Bauman) (Brown)		28
56	3	TELL ME	Live 062230/062234 (SM)	Space Rock (Hoskins/Lynch) Skin-Rover/Lesony/Zomba (Lynch) (Hoskins/Lynch)		29
57	4	THE BAD DAYS EP	GG CD/UT 22/CA/UT 22 (V)	Space (Whitney) Galt/N & R (EMI) (Scott/Space/Mann/Well)		30
58	1	JUST WHAT I NEED TO BE LOVED	Virgin VYSGT 171/VSC 171 (E)	Christina Aguilera (Lynch) Zomba (Zeljko)		31
59	4	PERFECT TO	Go!Discs/Mercury 56643/56644/04 (F)	The Beautiful South (Kath/Elizabeth) Robert (Hoskins)		32
60	1	SWEETEST THING	Island CD 7212/7212 (F)	U2 (Lynch/Holmes/Linnell) EMI (Lynch)		33
61	2	ALARM CALL	Chrysalis Little Indian 232/TPICD 21 (F)	Shine (Hoskins/Pink) PolyGram (Beecher)		34
62	7	GUESS I WAS A FOOL	Northwestside 742183/202/142183/204 (BMG)	Another Level (Hudson) Zomba/The Bolshoi House Y&Y (Lynch) (Hudson/Bolshoi)		35
63	7	BLUE ANGELS	Ruffhouse 666215/666214 (SM)	Pati (Patt/Bassari) Sony/ATV/Na San Kar/Gib Bros/Carraisi (Pati/Bass/McGee/Cat/Dempsey)		36
64	1	ROLLERCOASTER	Glow Worm/Epic 66673/66674/54 (SM)	Blondie (Koppe) Warner/Broadway (Kelly)		37
65	4	BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE	MCA MCSTD 41918/MCSTD 41918 (BMG)	Duck (Alamy/Potzard) Global/Lockwood-Dark/Lynch/Rich/Walton/Amptsch/Reid		38
66	4	GIRLFRIEND	Impromat SINDOX 6/SINC 6 (E)	Bibi (Marr/Polly) Lyve (Ribeiro/Richmond)		39
67	5	FALLING IN LOVE	Polydor 56302/56302/64 (F)	Cher (Taylor/Randall) Riva DeRosa/WG (Higgins/Berry/Tracy)/Sly Stone (Linnell/Townes)		40
68	1	STAND UP (BANGOR)	Virgin VYSGT 171/VSC 171 (E)	Sheryl Crow (Crow) Warner-Chappell (Crow)		41
69	2	IF I WANT TO FAURE'S PAVANE	BBC Worldwide Music VMMS 6026 (F)	Maestro/Warlock (Warlock) Society (BBC Worldwide) (Warlock)		42
70	2	IT FEELS SO GOOD	Sony SER 042/04 (F)	Sheryl Crow (Crow) Warner-Chappell (Crow)		43
71	5	THANK U	Maverick W 463C/WV 463C (W)	Alvin Ailes (Ailes) (Bard/Morissette) MCA (Morissette/Bard)		44
72	4	MILLENNIUM	Chrysalis CDCHS 5099/CTCHS 5099 (E)	Robbie Williams (Chamberlain/Powell) EWING (Williams/Chamberlain)		45
73	6	MORE THAN A WOMAN	Virgin VYSGT 1707/VSC 1707 (E)	811 (Hoskins/Garwood) BMG (Gibson/Gibba)		46
74	5	ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	Decca/DWMS 22347/CD 22347 (BMG)	Queen (May/John) PolyGram (Linnell/Jones/Cat)		47
75	8	SOOTHY (DRAUGHT) FROM THE HEART	Chocolate Boy/London LON 1042C/1042 (W)	Society (Draught) MCA (Langmead/Reid)		48

As used by Top of the Pops and Radio One

#1 BUSA RHYMES
EXCLUSIVE LEVEL 1 EVENT
 IMPACTS DECEMBER 14th. CO. 21P. MC 7534-2225-14

Prince
1999
 OUT 28.12.98
 WMSD / W4SC / W4GT
 13

ALL THE CHARTS EXPOSURE



19 DECEMBER 1998

THE BOX

Pos	Title Artist	Label
1	MIAMI VIXI Smith	Columbia
2	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE Madonna	Maverick
3	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME Boyzone	Polydor
4	WHEN YOU'RE GONE Bryan Adams with Mel C	A&M/Mercury
5	BELIEVE Cher	WEA
6	SO YOUNG The Corrs	Miscel
7	NO REGRETS Robbie Williams	Chrysalis
8	WAR OF NERVES All Saints	London
9	GOODBYE Spice Girls	Virgin
10	UP AND DOWN Vengaboys	Positive

Most played videos on MTV UK/Media Research UK w/e 11/12/98
Source: MTV UK

THE BOX

Pos	Title Artist	Label
1	BELIEVE Cher	WEA
2	TRAGEDY Steps	Jive/Epic
3	WHEN YOU'RE GONE Bryan Adams with Mel C	A&M/Mercury
4	MIAMI VIXI Smith	Virgin
5	UP AND DOWN Vengaboys	Positive
6	SHE WANTS YOU Ellie	Innocent
7	MY HEART WILL GO ON Céline Dion	Epic
8	OUTSIDE George Michael	Epic
9	HARD KNOCK LIFE Jay-Z	Northwestside

Most played videos on the Box, w/e 6/12/98
Source: The Box

BOX BREAKERS

Pos	Title Artist	Label
1	PRETTY FLY (FOR A WHITE GUY) Gipsyking	Columbia
2	NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS Fes	Turtlecreek
3	YO YO BOY Alberta	RCA
4	A LITTLE BIT MORE 911	Virgin
5	TO YOU I BELONG B'Witched	Glow Worm/Epic
6	GET ON THE BUS D'Neen's Child feat. Timbaland	East West
7	SHE WANTS YOU Ellie	Innocent
8	END OF THE LINE Honey	1st Avenue/Mercury
9	DANCING BABY (GOGA CHAKA) Trubbia	Island
10	WHEN YOU BELIEVE Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston	Columbia

Highest climbing videos on the Box in advance of single release w/e 6/12/98
Source: The Box

TOP OF THE POPS

TOP OF THE POPS
To You I Belong B'Witched; She Wants You Ellie; End Of The Line Honey; Always Have Always Will Ace Of Base; Dumb The Beautiful South; The Greatest Love You'll Ever Give Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston; Never Knew Love Like This Before Naughty Children (Goblin In The Office) Fat Les; Letas REM; Tragedy Steps; Holy Holy UB40
Draft line-up for 18/12/98

CD:UK

CD:UK
Studio performances: Naughty Christmas (A Goblin In The Office) Fat Les; Walk The Dred (Like An Egyptian) Jodeci; She Wants You Ellie; Good Morning Sunshine Ace; To You I Belong B'Witched; End Of The Line Honey; Weave; Dumb The Beautiful South; When You Believe Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston; Archive video: Jumping Jack Flash Rolling Stones interview; Another Level
Draft line-up 12/12/98

THE PEPSI CHART

THE PEPSI CHART
Performances: Goodbye Spice Girls; Dumb The Beautiful South; She Wants You Ellie; To You I Belong B'Witched; Fat Les; Naughty Christmas (A Goblin In The Office)
Draft line-up date 16/12/98

RADIO ONE PLAYLISTS

RADIO 1
When You're Gone Bryan Adams feat. Mel C; To You I Belong B'Witched; Dumb The Beautiful South; She Wants You Ellie; You Should Be Dancing Blockbuster; So Young (K'Nikk Mix) The Corrs; Big World Enters: More Than This En Vogue; Prank Your Family Slim; The End Of The Line Honey; The Power Of Good-BYE Madonna; The Everlasting Man; Street Preachers; Mad World Jai Rodriguez; I Want You '98 Savage Garden; Miami Vixi Smith; Goodbye Spice Girls; Up And Down Vengaboys; No Regrets Robbie Williams; Beautiful Day 3 Colours Red

B-LIST
Always Have, Always Will Ace Of Base; Girls Against Hope; Walk Like A Panther All Seeing 1; I Want You Myself Another Level feat. Ghoshaika Kinger; Take Me There Blockbuster; Next: Ayra; I Love The Way You Love Me Boyzone; Believe Cher; National Express The Divine Comedy; Good Life (Buena Vista) Inner City; Hard Knock Life (Shaboo Anthony); 21: Portrait From Heaven Lighthouse Family; Letas REM; Gimme Some More Shazam Rhythms; Naughty Steps; Tequila Transformation; Westside 70

RADIO TWO PLAYLISTS

RADIO 2
To You I Belong B'Witched; Always Have Always Will Ace Of Base; I'm Your Angel Céline Dion; Holy Holy UB40; Goodbye Spice Girls; Dumb The Beautiful South; End Of The Line Honey; Big Red World Enters; So Young (K'Nikk Mix) The Corrs; Heartbeat Steps; I Love The Way You Love Me Boyzone; Postcards From Heaven Lighthouse Family; Especially For You Denise & Johnny
B-LIST
I Want You '98 Savage Garden; The Power Of Good-BYE Madonna; Shaboo Gift Stampy Red; Believe Cher; The Greatest Love You'll Never Know/When A Child Is Born Lucinda McNeel; I Wish I Were You All Saints; When You Believe Mariah Carey &

RADIO 101

RADIO 101
You Don't Know Me Amanda Van Holden
As Featured
A Little Bit More 911; God Bless Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston; Casualty 99 Cussive; Chocolate Satisfy Balls Choc; Especially For You Denise & Johnny; "The Lawn Desert Edge Disco"; High I Go In To Gehring; "The Earth With Love Guy Dool"; "When Rise Town The Lantiers"; "Sheila Signa The Academy; All No Stopping Us New Mobo Artists"; "Pretty Fly For A White Guy" Gipsyking; "Tequila Superstar"

Sleigh List
Last Christmas; Stay Another Year; Naughty Christmas (A Goblin In The Office) Fat Les; FairyTale Of New York The Pappas feat. Arty McCol; 2:000 Miles The Presidents; Christmas Wrapping Spice Girls; I Was Born On Christmas Day St Elton; Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) U2; Christmas Wandering The Walkers; Last Christmas Wham!

C-LIST
The Kiss Fifth Hit; Tropicalia Back; My Love My Love My Love My Love My Love My Love My Love; Have You Ever Before; Inside Out Bryan Lewis; Holy Holy UB40; Can't Let Go Lucinda Williams; Each Time E7: Across The Bridge Of Gold (album); A Heartbeat Away From The Moment; Waste #2 (CD) Eliot Smith; Don't Let The Moment End Gloria Estefan; I Can See Clearly Now Neil Finn; Goodtime Ian Dury; These Are Special Times (album) Céline Dion

MTV UK PLAYLISTS

Heavy
Falling In Love Agnès Brel; Good-Bye Madonna; Miami Vixi Smith; So Young The Corrs; War Of Nerves All Saints; To You I Belong B'Witched; No Regrets Robbie Williams
Hot
I Love The Way You Love Me Boyzone; Until The Time Is Over Sus; Sweetest Thing '92; Hard Knock Life Jay-Z; Move Mariah Carey; Shannon: How You Ever Before; Believe Cher; Big Red World Enters; She Wants You Ellie; I Want You '98 Savage Garden; Heartbeat/Tragedy Steps; Goodbye Spice Girls;
Buzz Bin
The Bartender And The Thief; Sinerophonia; Take The Long Way Home Fat Les; The End Of The Line Honey; Preachers; When You're Gone Bryan Adams with Mel C; Pretty Fly (For A White Guy) Gipsyking

Breakers
Thank U Alicia Keys; Offing; Angela Pask; Move Mariah Carey feat. Shannon; Outside George Michael; Dashing Red; Dancers; A Little Bit More 911; The Neighborhood Sheryl Crow; Up And Down Vengaboys; I Wish I Was You All Saints; Dumb The Beautiful South; When You Believe Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston; The Greatest Love You'll Never Know Lucinda McNeel; Letas REM; Chocolate Satisfy Balls Choc

AMERICAN CHARTWATCH

by ALAN JONES

While its UK sales continue to soar, George Michael's Ladies & Gentlemen... album has been a major disappointment in America. With Sony apparently unable to turn Outside into a hit single there, and media reaction to his arrest and subsequent "coming out" still cool, it's an uphill struggle for Ladies & Gentlemen... After debuting at number 24, the album slipped first to 39, then to 58. It seems its decline is late this week, slipping a further notch to number 59, which is enough to make it the highest-ranking album by a Brit this week, but its sales of less than 200,000 must be seen as disappointing. Several other UK artists are ranked just below George in the album chart, with All Saints' self-titled LP moving 61-62. Seal's Human Being down 46-65 and Phil Collins'... Hits off 65-66. The Christmas gift buying season has, for the second year in a row, helped the Spice Girls, however. Sales of both Spiceworld and Spice have jumped by almost 60% in the past fortnight, well above the market average, with the result that Spiceworld has moved 81-77-67 while Spice has advanced 94-84-74. Five are still the solitary act on the Hot

100 singles chart, which means they move down 94-95, and their enormous debut album is also in decline, sliding 141-150. Meanwhile, Sarah Brightman's year old Time To Say Goodbye album, which peaked at number 71 last spring, re-enters the list to number 192, simultaneously passing half a million sales to win Sarah her first gold disc in America. At the sharp end of the chart, Garth Brooks' Double Live album continues to do goodbye business and has sold 2,158,000 copies after a mere three weeks in the shops, though it is in real danger of losing its chart-topping status to Céline Dion, whose seasonal album These Are Special Times climbs into runners-up slot. Americans just can't get enough of Christmas, hence the appearance of 'N Sync's Home For Christmas at number nine, Mannheim Steamroller's Christmas Angel at number 27, Vince Gill's Breath Of Heaven at number 29, Mariah McBride's White Christmas at number 68, the multi-artist Ultimate Christmas at 71, and Michael W Smith's Christmagine at 101, to mention just those in the top half of the chart.

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE: BEE GEES

by PAUL WILLIAMS

The Bee Gees' outstanding contribution to the Brits nearly two years ago did not just symbolise their UK renaissance, but signified their return as multi-million sellers around the world. Powered by the lead-off single Alone, the album Still Waters sold more than 3m units worldwide and returned them to the Top 20 of the US albums chart for the first time since the soundtrack of Stayin' Alive in 1983. It was a huge record and the band's biggest album since the 1978 classic Spirits Having Flown, which was released at the height of their disco phase," recalls Polydor's head of international Alastair Farquhar. It is with that background that Polydor this year released One Night Only, capturing the trio performing in Las Vegas in May 1997 and coinciding with the start of their unique world tour of the same name, where they would play one concert on each of the world's continents. "That record (Still Waters) meant we were coming with One Night Only into a market that was more receptive to the Bee Gees than had been the case in recent years," he says.

Though sales of five albums usually fall far short of studio collections, figures so far for One Night Only have been remarkable, currently clocking up 2.25m units, including more than 100,000 in Argentina, where they played the South American leg of their tour. More sales are expected to be added in the run-up to Christmas and beyond, while Polydor is looking to further boost that figure with the two remaining concerts on the tour, which will take place this coming March in New Zealand and in Sydney's Olympic 2000 stadium. "The positioning of this album is a greatest hits live, with some hits that have never been available before by the Bee Gees, including Islands In The Stream, Grease and Heartbreaker," says Farquhar. Backing the special is being sold around the world on the band, including the original concert, the UK-recorded An Audience With... the South Bank Show special and a VHS Storyline programme. Farquhar says television remains the Bee Gees' biggest medium. "If we can get the Bee Gees on television, their audience is huge," he says. MUSIC WEEK 19 DECEMBER 1998

19 DECEMBER 1998

How many weeks in the Top 50
 How many weeks in the Top 10
 How many weeks in the Top 5

Rank	Artist	Title	Label	Weeks in Top 50	Weeks in Top 10	Weeks in Top 5
1	Cher	BELIEVE	WEA	2182	-2	74.88
2	SO YOUNG	The Corrs	Atlantic	1657	-3	72.35
3	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE	Madonna	Maverick	1406	+11	57.10
4	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1595	-2	56.46
5	THE BIG WORLD	Enlia	Universal	1326	+19	56.34
6	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams With Melanie C.	A&M/Mercury	1613	+12	55.98
7	DUMB	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	1065	+73	54.89
8	GOODBYE	Spice Girls	Virgin	1239	+16	54.22
9	NO REGRETS	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	1484	+1	54.16
10	END OF THE LINE	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury	746	+22	46.79
11	SWEETEST THING	U2	Island	1505	-3	44.54
12	I WANT YOU	Savage Garden	Columbia	1219	+41	42.85
13	THE EVERLASTING	Manic Street Preachers	Epice	977	+28	40.90
14	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	907	+10	40.21
15	HARD KNOCK LIFE...	Jay-Z	Northwestside	787	+37	37.41
16	ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL	Ace Of Base	London	675	+48	36.54
17	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor	800	+7	36.47
18	OUTSIDE	George Michael	Epice	1024	-9	35.82
19	THANK U	Alanis Morissette	Maverick/Reprise	599	-42	31.34
20	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	Aerosmith	Columbia	1105	-10	31.21
21	YOU TO YOUNG	B*Witched	Epice	541	+47	29.85
22	UP AND DOWN	Vengaboys	Positive	627	-14	28.77
23	HEARTBEAT	Steps	Jive/Edul	547	-7	27.56
24	FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN	Eagle Eye Cherry	Polydor	1023	-16	26.63
25	MY YOUR ANGEL	Celine Dion & R Kelly	Epice	522	-21	25.89
26	MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU	Stardust	Virgin	566	-8	24.91
27	SIT DOWN	James	Fontana/Mercury	282	-43	24.05

MOST ADDED

28	TAKE ME THERE	Blackstreet & Mya	Interscope	497	+97	22.89
HIGHEST CLIMBER						
29	GHETTO GIRL	Simply Red	East West	231	-15	21.99
30	THIS KISS	Faith Hill	Warner Bros	918	-12	21.32
31	PERFECT 10	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	961	-18	21.09
32	PHRASE YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skint	216	+254	20.95
33	LITTLE BIT OF LOVIN'	Kyle Le Roc	1st Avenue/Polydor	709	-24	19.51
34	WHAT CAN I DO	The Corrs	143/Lava/Atlantic	738	-3	19.18
35	SEARCHIN' MY SOUL	Vonda Shepard	Epice	882	-4	18.85
36	SAVE TONIGHT	Eagle Eye Cherry	Polydor	394	-12	18.63
37	I SHE WANTS YOU	Billie	Innocent	472	+20	18.50
38	I JUST WANNA BE LOVED	Cultura Club	Virgin	484	-26	17.99
39	THE GREATEST LOVE...	Lutricia McNeal	Wildstar	397	+11	17.21
40	IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD...	The Temperers feat. Maya	Pepper	863	-40	17.03
41	THE BARTENDER AND THE THIEF	Stereographics	V2	94	-30	16.52
42	IF YOU GETS THE NEIGHBORHOOD	Shy Boy	A&M/Polydor	428	-18	16.61
43	MILLENNIUM	Robby Williams	Chrysalis	554	-17	15.78

BIGGEST INCREASE IN PLAYS
 BIGGEST INCREASE IN AUDIENCE

44	BAD GIRLS	Juliet Roberts	Delirious	131	+470	15.51
45	LOOKING FOR LOVE	Karen Ramirez	Manifesto/Mercury	395	-18	15.06
46	YOU SHOULD BE...	Blockstar	Sound Of Music	125	+317	14.79
47	WAR OF NERVES	All Saints	London	553	-22	14.02
48	EACH TIME	E-17	Telstar	608	-53	14.02
49	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	Jennifer Paige	Edel	752	-16	13.85
50	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	Mariah Carey/Whitney Houston	Columbia	279	-6	13.17

© Music Control UK. Compiled from data gathered from 94.9 FM (Sat 19) and 58.0 FM (Sun 20) on 19 Dec 1998. Airplay measured by radio airplay figures from 12.00pm till 04.00am. Airplay data. **▲** Audience increase. **▲** Audience increase 20% or more.

Music Control UK notifies these stations 24 hours a week 7am-7pm: 93.7 FM: JCR FM; Air FM; Alpha 103.2 FM; Atlantic 102.5 FM; B93 FM; BBC Radio 2; BBC Radio 3; BBC Radio Scotland; BBC Three London; BBC Radio Ulster; BBC Radio 4; BBC Radio 5; BBC Radio 6; BBC Radio 7; BBC Radio 8; BBC Radio 9; BBC Radio 10; BBC Radio 11; BBC Radio 12; BBC Radio 13; BBC Radio 14; BBC Radio 15; BBC Radio 16; BBC Radio 17; BBC Radio 18; BBC Radio 19; BBC Radio 20; BBC Radio 21; BBC Radio 22; BBC Radio 23; BBC Radio 24; BBC Radio 25; BBC Radio 26; BBC Radio 27; BBC Radio 28; BBC Radio 29; BBC Radio 30; BBC Radio 31; BBC Radio 32; BBC Radio 33; BBC Radio 34; BBC Radio 35; BBC Radio 36; BBC Radio 37; BBC Radio 38; BBC Radio 39; BBC Radio 40; BBC Radio 41; BBC Radio 42; BBC Radio 43; BBC Radio 44; BBC Radio 45; BBC Radio 46; BBC Radio 47; BBC Radio 48; BBC Radio 49; BBC Radio 50; BBC Radio 51; BBC Radio 52; BBC Radio 53; BBC Radio 54; BBC Radio 55; BBC Radio 56; BBC Radio 57; BBC Radio 58; BBC Radio 59; BBC Radio 60; 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19

december
1998

THE OFFICIAL CHARTS

december
1998


 AS USED BY
 


 music week
 


 SINGLES

1 TO YOU I BELONG

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 BELIEVE Cher | WEA |
| 2 | 3 SHE WANTS YOU Billie | Innocent |
| 3 | 4 WHEN YOU BELIEVE Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston | Columbia |
| 4 | 5 END OF THE LINE Honeyz | 1st Avenue/Mercury |
| 5 | 6 WHEN YOU'RE GONE Bryan Adams feat. Melanie C | A&M/Mercury |
| 6 | 7 HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM) Jay Z | Northwestside |
| 7 | 8 HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY Steps | Jive |
| 8 | 9 BIG BIG WORLD Emilia | Universal |
| 9 | 10 I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME Boyzone | Polydor |


1 LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1 | 1 LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF
George Michael | Epic |
| 2 | 2 TALK ON CORNERS The Corrs | Atlantic |
| 3 | 3 THE BEST OF M People | M People/RMG |
| 4 | 4 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU Robbie Williams | Chrysalis |
| 5 | 5 WHERE WE BELONG Boyzone | Polydor |
| 6 | 6 ONE NIGHT ONLY Bee Gees | Polydor |
| 7 | 7 STEP ONE Steps | Jive/Ebu |
| 8 | 8 VOICE OF AN ANGEL Charlotte Church | Sony Classical |
| 9 | 9 THE BEST OF 1980-1990 U2 | Island |
| 10 | 10 QUENCH The Beautiful South | Go!Discs/Mercury |



- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 11 | 11 THE BEST OF - THE STAR AND WISDOM Leahy/Baek Mamba | PolyGram TV |
| 12 | 12 HITS Phil Collins | Virgin |
| 13 | 13 NO 15 Mariah Carey | Columbia |
| 14 | 14 8*WITCHED B*Witched | Epic |
| 15 | 15 BELIEVE Cher | WEA |
| 16 | 16 THE MOVIES Michael Ball | PolyGram TV |
| 17 | 17 HONEY TO THE B Billie | Innocent |
| 18 | 18 FIVE Five | RCA |
| 19 | 19...GREATEST MOMENTS Culture Club | Virgin |

CHEF

THE SINGLE
CHOCOLATE SALTY BALLS

OUT NOW

CD1 WITH EXCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS SONGS
CD2 WITH FREE SOUTH PARK XMAS POSTER
MC INCLUDES COME SAIL AWAY BY ERIC CARTMAN
"SPICEY OR SALTY THIS XMAS - DO YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE?"



19 20 MODERN CLASSICS - THE GREATEST HITS Paul Weller Virgin/Sony TV

21 NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS (GOBBLIN IN THE OFFICE) Fat Les Tullerneck Atlantic

22 HAVE YOU EVER? Brandy Epic

23 UNTIL THE TIME IS THROUGH Five RCA

24 I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING Aerosmith Columbia

25 THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE LITTLE STAR Madonna Maverick

26 LOTUS REM Warner Brothers

27 THE EVERLASTING Mamic Street Preachers Epic

28 MOVE MANIA Sashi featuring Shannon Multiply

29 WHITE CHRISTMAS Bing Crosby MCA

30 IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD YOU WILL BE THE TEMPER FEAT. MEGA Pepper

31 HOLLY HOLY UB40 DEP International

32 SO YOUNG The Corrs Atlantic

33 BLUE LeAnn Rimes Carib/HIT Label/London

34 BIG PANTY WOMAN The Barcroft Man Plaza

35 SEARCHIN' MY SOUL Yonda Shepard Epic

36 IT'S ALL YOURS MC Lyte feat. Gina Thompson East West

37 OUTSIDE George Michael Epic

38 WOULD YOU...? Touch And Go Orna/VZ

39 TROPICALIA Back Geffen

40 THIS KISS Faith Hill Warner Brothers

compilations

1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 41 12 11 THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION PolyGram TV

2 HITS 99 Warner Music Global TV/Sony TV

3 THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVEN THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM Warner Music Global TV/Sony TV

4 CHEF AID - THE SOUTH PARK ALBUM 14 14 MASSIVE DANCES 99 Warner Music Global

5 MUSIC OF THE NIGHT 11 15 THE GREATEST HITS OF 1988 Telestar TV

6 THE ANNUAL IV - JUICE, JULES & BOY GEORGE 18 16 FUNKY DIVAS 2 Global Television

7 WOMAN 13 17 KISS ANTHEMS 98 PolyGram TV/Sony TV

8 THE ALL-TIME GREATEST LOVE SONGS - III 16 18 THE BEST DIS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVEN IV Virgin/EMI

9 THE VERY BEST OF THE LOVE ALBUM 19 19 THE DISNEY EXPERIENCE Walt Disney

10 HEARTBEAT - THE 60s GOLD COLLECTION 20 20 MOST RELAXING CLASSICAL ALBUM...EVEN II Virgin/EMI



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CDs include 4 exclusive tracks, video and the hit color music from the film
Comes with exclusive signed new 12" 45 CD cover

11 11 11 THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION PolyGram TV

12 11 HITS 99 Warner Music Global TV/Sony TV

13 11 THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVEN THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM Warner Music Global TV/Sony TV

14 14 CHEF AID - THE SOUTH PARK ALBUM 14 14 MASSIVE DANCES 99 Warner Music Global

15 15 MUSIC OF THE NIGHT 11 15 THE GREATEST HITS OF 1988 Telestar TV



19 20 MODERN CLASSICS - THE GREATEST HITS Paul Weller Virgin/Sony TV

21 THE VERY BEST OF MEAT LOAF Warner Music Global

22 SUPPOSED FORTNER INFATUATION JONKIE Alanis Morissette Maverick

23 SAVAGE GARDEN SAVAGE GARDEN Columbia

24 THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS Mamic Street Preachers Epic

25 THE BEST OF 1980-1990 & B-SIDES U2 Island

26 RAY OF LIGHT Madonna Maverick

27 THESE ARE SPECIAL TIMES Celine Dion Epic

28 GREATEST Duran Duran EMI

29 THE MASTERPLAN Oasis Creation

30 SONGS FROM 'ALLY McBEAL' Yonda Shepard Epic

31 UP REM Warner Brothers

32 SUITANS OF SWING - THE VERY BEST OF DIRE STRAITS Vertigo

33 BIG WILLEE STYLE Will Smith Columbia

34 LIFE THRU A LENS Robbie Williams Chrysalis

35 LESLEY GARRETT Lesley Garrett BCC/BMG Conifer

36 YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY Fatboy Slim Skint

37 ALL SAINTS All Saints London

38 JANE MCDONALD Jane McDonald Focus Music Int

39 R R Kelly Jive

40 ANOTHER LEVEL Another Level Northwestside

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CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



Newspapers were quick to denounce George Michael's interview with Michael Parkinson as "a flop" after it attracted an audience of "only" 7m viewers, but it certainly had a dramatic effect on sales of his *Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best Of George Michael* album, which, having already sold 550,000 copies in four weeks, saw its sales rise steeply to a new one-week high of 239,000 last week. That's twice as many as any other album, and carries it past last year's Best Of Wham! album, sales of which are approaching 670,000 and which, like all Michael-related albums, saw its sales increase significantly last week.

Celine Dion's album *These Are Special Times* climbs to number 27 this week, the highest position of its four-week chart career. Compensated for the most part of seasonal songs, neither its sales (just more than 40,000) nor its chart position are what one would expect from a Celine Dion album at this stage, but the British public, unlike its

Despite attracting some negative reviews, Cher's album *Believe* has sold solidly since its release five weeks ago. Though it has yet to improve on the number eight peak debut position, it has remained in the Top 20 ever since, and has sold 120,000 copies, with TV ads trailing the next single, as well as the chart-blasting title track, helping to raise its profile. Last week I said there were no new Diane Warren songs on Cher's album.

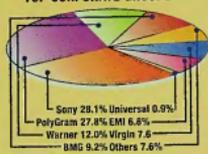
I should qualify that by mentioning that two Warren credits appear on the LP - there's a dance remake of *We All Sleep Alone*, a hit for Cher in 1988, and *Takin' Back My Heart*. Other current Top 75 albums including Warren-penned songs are *The Movies* by Michael Ball, *The Very Best of Meat Loaf*, *These Are Special Times* and *Let's Talk About Love* by Celine Dion, *My Love Is Your Love* by Whitney Houston and *Never Say Never* by Brandy,

MARKET REPORT

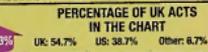


Figure shows top 10 companies by % of total sales, and separate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75 chart albums

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



American counterpart, rarely makes to Christmas albums by individual artists, even though multi-artist compilations are very



popular here. Dion's album has already bettered the peak positions of star acts like Mariah Carey, Diana Ross and Michael Bolton

who have stalled at 32, 37 and 93 with Christmas albums in recent years.

This year, Celine is alone in charting. Only two seasonal albums have reached the Top 10 in the Nineties, with Cliff Richard's *Together With Cliff* reaching number 10 in 1991, and *The Smurfs' Christmas Party* reaching number eight in 1996. In America, *These Are Special Times* has had a much warmer reception - in just five weeks it has sold more than 1m copies, including 366,000 last week, enough to move it up to second place in the chart, just behind Garth Brooks.

One genre missing out on the Christmas sales bonanza is dance music. Though acts like M People, George Michael and Steps include dance tracks on their current hit albums, the only LP currently in the Top 40 by an artist whose primary musical output is dance music is *You've Come A Long Way, Baby* by Fatboy Slim, and even that is barely in there, ranking number 36 this week.

COMPILATIONS

Now *That's What I Call Music!* 41 continues to dominate the compilation market. It sold 181,000 copies last week to take its three-week total to more than 550,000. All told, the *Now!* series has spent 17 weeks at number one thus far in 1998 (*Now!* 40 was top for four weeks, and *Now!* 37, a hangover from 1997, was number one for the first two weeks of the year). The trio are the three biggest-selling compilation albums of the year so far.

The compilation chart will celebrate its 10th birthday in January, and the regular *Now!* series (excluding *Now Dance*, and the like) has topped it for a remarkable 155 weeks, representing more than 30% of the entire period.

The highest new entry to the chart last week, PolyGram *TV's Music Of The Night*,

a compilation of hits from stage and screen, has bedded down in the Top 10. Leaning heavily on Andrew Lloyd Webber's many creations, it also includes such diverse tracks as *Over The Rainbow* by Judy Garland, *How Deep Is Your Love* by the Bee Gees and *If I Were A Rich Man* by Topol.

In the absence of any current blockbuster movie, Christmas has really put the squeeze on soundtrack albums, which have withdrawn from the upper reaches of the chart, unable to compete with the avalanche of TV advertised compilations. For the first time this year, there are no movie titles in the Top 40 and only *Grease*, *Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*, *The Full Monty*, *Blade*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *The Wedding Singer* also manage to cling to places in the Top 100.

MARKET REPORT

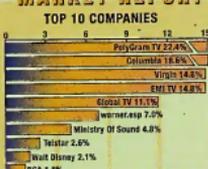
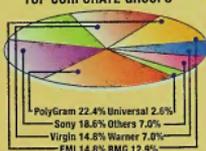


Figure shows top 10 companies by % of total sales, and separate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



THE YEAR SO FAR...

TOP 20 ALBUMS

1 TAKE ON CORNERS	THE CORPS	ATLANTIC
2 LIFE THRU A LENS	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
3 URBAN HYMNS	THE VERVE	HUT
4 LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE	CELINE DION	EPIC
5 WHERE WE BELONG	BOYZ2MEN	POLYDOR
6 ALL SAINTS	ALL SAINTS	VEVA
7 TITANIC - OST	JAMES HORNOR	SONY CLASSICAL
8 LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF	GEORGE MICHAEL	EPIC
9 RAY OF LIGHT	MADONNA	MAVERICK
10 POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN	LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY	WILD CARD
11 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
12 LEFT OF THE MIDDLE	NATALIE MERGULGA	REA
13 INTERNATIONAL VELVET	CANTONIA	BLANCO Y NEGRO
14 SAVING PRIVATE GARDEN	SAVAGE GARDEN	COLUMBIA
15 BLUE	SIMPY RED	EAST WEST
16 GUNCH	BEAUTIFUL SOUTH	GOI DISCS/MERCURY
17 HITS	PHIL COLLINS	VIRGIN
18 STEP ONE	STEPS	JIVE/BUK
19 ONE NIGHT ONLY	BEGLLES	POLYDOR
20 THE STAR AND WISSEMAN - THE BEST OF	LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO	POLYGRAM TV

THE YEAR SO FAR...

TOP 20 COMPILATIONS

1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 39	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
2 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 41	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
3 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 40	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
4 FRESH HITS 98	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/VEVA/SOUNDVY
5 THE FULL MONTY	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	REA VICTOR
6 NEW HITS 98	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/VEVA/SOUNDVY
7 HUGO HITS 1998	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/VEVA/SOUNDVY
8 BIG HITS 98	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/VEVA/SOUNDVY
9 THE ANNUAL IV - JUDE QUINN & BOY GEORGE	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
10 THE IBIZA ANNUAL	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
11 GREASE	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	POLYDOR
12 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 38	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
13 FANTASTIC 80!	VARIOUS ARTISTS	COLUMBIA
14 CLUBBER'S GUIDE TO...IBIZA - JULES/TONG	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
15 PETE TONG/BOY GEORGE - DANCE NATION 5	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
16 THE VERY BEST OF THE LOVE ALBUM	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VIRGINEMI
17 DIANA PRINCESS OF WALLS - TRIBUTE	VARIOUS ARTISTS	DIANA MEMORIAL FUND
18 CHEF AD - THE SOUTH PARK ALBUM	VARIOUS ARTISTS	COLUMBIA
19 THE BEST...ANTHEMS...EVER 2	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VIRGINEMI
20 THE BEST SIXTIES SUMMER...EVER!	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VIRGINEMI

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS SPECIALIST

19 DECEMBER 1998

MID-PRICE

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	3	HIMMAM BABY...	Fat Harry White feat. LLQ	Avonix 398425002 (BMG)
2	2	TRACY CHAPMAN	Tracy Chapman	Elektra EK740CD (E)K
3	4	CHRISTMAS WITH DANIEL	Daniel O'Donnell	Rite RITZCD 704 (RMG/P)
4	5	ULTIMATE PARTY MEGAMIX	Various Artists	Cinco CINM001 (E)K
5	6	RING OF SATURN	Goldie	Vertigo 8244921 (E)K
6	6	BROTHERS IN ARMS	Dire Straits	Warner Bros 8247411 (W)
7	11	THE BLUES BROTHERS (OST)	Various Artists	Reprise 506755002 (E)K
8	9	ODDIE	Green Day	Classic FM CMC024 (BMG)
9	10	THE WONDERFUL SOUND...	Various	Cinco CINM017 (E)K
10	10	CHRISTMAS CAROL	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
11	10	BACK TO THE SIXTIES	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
12	12	A TASTE OF IRELAND	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
13	14	HEART & SOUL	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
14	14	GREATEST LOVE	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
15	19	GREATEST HITS	Take That	RCR 742335962 (BMG)
16	16	THE ULTIMATE ROCK 'N' ROLL...	Various	Cinco CINM016 (E)K
17	18	RESERVOIR DOGS	Original Soundtrack	MCA MCD 10783 (BMG)
18	18	THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Neil Diamond	Columbia 4724121 (SM)
19	18	SPECIALLY FOR YOU	Daniel O'Donnell	Rite RITZCD 703 (RMG/P)
20	18	THE BEST OF THE 60'S	Various	EMI CDTESB001 (E)K

© CN

COUNTRY

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	LOVE SONGS	Daniel O'Donnell	Rite RITZCD 715 (RMG/P)
2	2	TRAMPOLINE	The Mavericks	MCA Nashville UMO 8049 (BMG)
3	3	COME ON OVER	Shania Twain	Mercury 314530002 (P)
4	4	SITTIN' ON TOP OF THE WORLD	LeAnn Rimes	Curb/Hit Label (Curb) 025 (RMG/P)
5	5	WIDE OPEN SPACE	Daniel O'Donnell	Epic 489442 (SM)
6	6	SONGS OF INSPIRATION	Mavericks	Rite RITZCD 709 (P)
7	7	MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS	Various	MCA Nashville UMO 8134 (BMG)
8	7	HUNGRY AGAIN	Dorly Parton	MCA Nashville UMO 8252 (BMG)
9	11	BLUE	LeAnn Rimes	Curb/The Hit Label (Curb) 028 (RMG/P)
10	8	WHERE YOUR ROAD LEADS	Trisha Yearwood	MCA Nashville UMO 8053 (BMG)
11	10	FAITH	Faith Hill	Warner Brothers 246792 (Improm)
12	12	SEVENS	Garth Brooks	Capitol 856592 (E)
13	13	YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE	LeAnn Rimes	Curb/The Hit Label (Curb) 026 (RMG/P)
14	15	THE WOMAN IN ME	Shania Twain	Mercury 856592 (E)
15	17	SPYBOY	Emmylou Harris	Grapevine GRACD 241 (RMG/P)
16	16	FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD	Charlie Landsborough	Rite RITZCD 6985 (P)
17	14	STEP INSIDE THIS HOUSE	Lyle Lovett	MCA MCA021181 (BMG)
18	19	WITH YOU IN MIND	Charlie Landsborough	Rite RITZCD 707B (P)
19	20	TIMELESS	Daniel O'Donnell & Mary Don	Rite RITZCD 707 (P)
20	18	I TURN THE PAGE	Don Williams	Glant 742612612 (BMG)

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BUDGET

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	THIS IS JUST A MODERN ROCK SONG	Babe & Sebastian	Jeepster JPRCD 809 (SM/P)
2	1	CHRISTMAS PARTY	Big Bunny & The Masterminters	Cinco CINM014 (E)K
3	2	THE WHITE CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Various	Cinco CINM020 (E)K
4	3	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS...	Various	Cinco CINM020 (E)K
5	4	NON-STOP SING-A-LONG CHRISTMAS...	Various	Cinco CINM020 (E)K
6	5	CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Frank Sinatra	Music For Pleasure CDMFP579 (E)
7	6	THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS ALBUM	Guildford Cathedral Choir	Cinco CINM021 (E)K
8	9	ULTIMATE NON-STOP CHILDREN'S...	Various	Cinco CINM021 (E)K
9	7	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY	Various	Cinco CINM020 (E)K
10	8	CHRISTMAS WITH NAT AND DEAN	Nat King Cole/Dean Martin Music For Pleasure CDMFP596 (E)	

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ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	GARAGE INC.	Meatloaf	Vertigo 538312 (P)
2	5	GREATEST HITS I & II	Queen	EMI CPOSD 161 (E)
3	3	AMERICANA	Tot O'Frisping	Columbia 491652 (SM)
4	2	LIVE - ON TWO LEGS	Pearl Jam	Epic 482692 (SM)
5	6	NEVERMIND	Nirvana	Geffen DGC 2445 (BMG)
6	4	WHO CARES A LOTT...	Faith No More	Sleash 556732 (P)
7	7	A LITTLE SOUTH OF SANITY	Faith No More	Geffen DGC 25221 (BMG)
8	8	WHO CARES A LOTT...	Faith No More	Sleash 556872 (E)
9	9	VERY BEST OF	Deep Purple	EMI 656202 (P)
10	10	OBSOLETE	Fear Factory	Roadrunner RRR1525 (P)

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XFM

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	THE EVERLASTING	Manic Street Preachers	Epic 66682 (S)
2	1	LOTUS	REM	Warner Bros W6662 (P)
3	3	ALARM CALL	Bjork	One Little Indian 2177102 (P)
4	4	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor 967982 (F)
5	2	WOULD YOU...?	Touch And Go	V2 VVR500483 (SM/P)
6	6	TROPICALIA	Beck	Geffen GFST02263 (E)
7	6	THE BARTENDER AND THE THIEF	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 500483 (SM/P)
8	8	CANCER FOR THE CURE	Eels	DeanWoods DRMC02273 (E)
9	9	SWEETEST THING	V2	Island CD727 (F)
10	10	THE BAD DAYS EP	Space	Get CXC072 (V)
11	13	THANK U	Alain Morissette	Maverick WVS80CD (W)
12	11	MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL	Electra	MCA MCST4015 (W)
13	10	SIT DOWN	James	Fonema JIMC021 (F)
14	7	WILD SURF	Ash	Infectious INFECT61CD5 (V)
15	14	WHEN I GROW UP	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH92CD (SM/P)

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	GAME ON	Catatania	Blaqueo Y Negro NEG14CD (W)
2	11	BATTLEFAG	Le Fidelity Alstars/Pigeonhead	Skin SKIN134CD (SM/P)
3	17	WALTZ OF (XOX)	Eliott Smith	DreamWorld DWM022341 (P)
4	17	CHOCOLATE SALTY BALLS	Cher	Columbia XPCD1180 (S)
5	18	SINGING IN MY SLEEP	Seminoe	MCA N/A (BMG)
6	21	WHIPPIN' PICCADILLY	Gomez	Hut HUTCD105 (E)
7	22	PRETTY FLY (FOR A WHITE GUY)	O'Frisping	Columbia N/A (S)
8	23	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	New Recitals	MCA MCA9429 (E)
9	24	LEECH	Eve Six	Capitol 87836172 (E)
10	16	HARVESTYLE	Golf Blade	Ultimate TOPP93CD (E)
11	25	MALIBU	Hole	Geffen DGC65184 (E)
12	26	SLOW GRAPITTI	Belle & Sebastian	Jeepster N/A (SM/P)
13	28	EIGHT TIMES HARDER	Fruff	Rainbow Quarts 807028 (P)
14	27	AEROPLANE SONG	Straw	WEA N/A (W)
15	29	KORLEAN BODEGA	Fun Lovin' Criminals	Chrysalis N/A (E)

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INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	HEARTBEAT/DRAGGEDY	Shepa	Live/Edel 05194 (P)
2	1	NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS...	Fat Leo	Torfunck NECKCD 001 (V)
3	2	THIS IS JUST A MODERN ROCK SONG	Babe & Sebastian	Jeepster JPRCD 809 (SM/P)
4	2	IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD...	The Temperer feat. Maya	Jeepster 050132 (P)
5	7	WOULD YOU...?	Touch & Go	V2 VVR 500383 (SM/P)
6	4	SENSUALITY	Lovestation	Fresh FRSHD 71 (SM/P)
7	10	TEARS IN THE RAIN	N-Trance	All Around The World CDG086 185 (P)
8	5	THE BAD DAYS EP	Space	Get CDG07 22 (V)
9	3	ALARM CALL	Bjork	One Little Indian 227 JCD (P)
10	10	THE BARTENDER AND THE THIEF	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 500483 (SM/P)
11	6	IT FEELS SO GOOD	Sonique	Series SERB 00401 (P)
12	12	IF - READ TO FAURE'S 'PAVANE'	Des Lynan/WCS	BBC Worldwide WMS VMS6 0062 (P)
13	15	TELL ME MA	Shan Rock	Jive 952392 (P)
14	15	SUMMERTIME	Morcheeba feat. Hubert Laws	China WOPCD 2019 (P)
15	9	THE LATHIN THREME	Carl Cox	Edel 09068 CDX (P)
16	17	CRITIQUE '98 MIX	David O'Neil	One World Entertainment DWCD3 3 (P)
17	17	BOOY GAZER (YOU CAN CALL ME AL)	Blaze	Charm CRTCD5 310 (LIS)
18	18	CAFE DEL MAR '98	Energy 52	Honey (Chosen) H004 CD (P)
19	17	IF YOU COULD READ MY MIND	Stars On 54	Tony Bay TB02 7487 (P)
20	18	YOU GOT ME OUT OF MY MIND	Yo-Yo's	Rebound BONG 1CD (SM/P)

All charts © CN

INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	STEP ONE	Jive/Edel 051912 (P)	
2	2	THE MASTERPLAN	Dasis	Creation CRECD 241 (SM/V)
3	3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Faithy Sim	Skin BRASSIC 11CD (SM/V)
4	4	R	R Kelly	Jive 015782 (P)
5	7	JANE McDONALD	Jane McDonald	Focus Mite FMCD 1 (P)
6	5	ONE WAY OF LIFE - BEST OF	Levelers	China/Jive 052752 (P)
7	8	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH 29CD (SM/V)
8	9	BIG CALM	Morcheeba	Indochina ZEN 617CDX (P)
9	6	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 052682 (P)
10	10	WETS GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 100048 (SM/V)
11	13	SONGBIRD	Eve Cassidy	Bliss Street G 21046 (HOT)
12	12	THE SINGLES 86-98	Depatche Mads	Mus. CDMPT (SM/V)
13	13	SHORLEY WALL	Otherman	Tougepost TOUTCD045 (V)
14	15	NU-CLEAR SOUNDS	Ash	V2 VVR 100292 (SM/V)
15	15	DESERTER'S SONGS	Mercy Bar	Creation CRECD 229 (SM/V)
16	11	OUT SPACED	Super Furry Animals	Creation CRECD 180 (SM/V)
17	16	(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY?	Dasis	Creation CRECD 180 (SM/V)
18	16	THE BOY WITH THE ARAB STRAP	Belle & Sebastian	Jeepster JPRCD 003 (SM/V)
19	17	THE SINGLES 81-85	Depatche Mads	Mus. LCMCDMITE (V)
20	18	BOBBY DIGITAL IN STEREO	RZA	Geo StreetV2 GEE 100082 (SM/V)

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19 DECEMBER 1998

BUDGET REPORT

by ALAN JONES

Having made the observation that individual artists rarely strike chart gold with albums of Christmas music (see album chart analysis, page 18), I have to admit the budget market is a different story. A month ago, the number one budget album was Cher's hit collection Gypsies Tramps And Thieves, with several Motown Chartbusters albums, a Hot Chocolate compilation and the Moving Shadow compilation drum & bass sampler 98.2 dominating the listings. Since then, it has changed completely, to the extent that the Top 30 is now made up entirely of seasonal titles, including not one but two different



The Ultimate Non-Stop Party Album

albums called Christmas Karaoke – a chilling combination. The Crimson ball release of that name has a slight lead over the identically titled Compacts For Pleasure (EMI) release. Crimson is also the label for the number one album, Jive Bunny's Christmas Party, and another seven releases from Crimson – a Kingfisher-owned company, whose fast growing catalogue is stocked only by Woolworth and Asda – are crowded into the Top 10, among them multistar efforts like The White Christmas Album, Non-Stop Singalong Christmas Party and Children's Christmas Party and Guildford Cathedral Choir's Christmas Carols, which has sold

more than 60,000 copies to date. The only two albums in the Top 10 not released by Crimson are Christmas Party by Frank Sinatra and Christmas Party by Nat King Cole and Dean Martin, both Music For Pleasure releases. Sinatra, who died six months ago, would have been 83 on Saturday and his Christmas Album is an expanded and re-titled version of his 1957 album Jolly Christmas From Frank Sinatra, with classic arrangements from Nelson Riddle. Among the tracks this year are Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, White Christmas and Adele Fides. In America, it is still available under its original title, and

BUDGET FACTFILE

is also doing well, claiming 30th place in Billboard's tabulation of best-selling Christmas albums for last week, even though it is available there only on cassette, albeit with the remarkably low "suggested list price" of \$2.98. In the UK, Christmas Album has sold more than 40,000 copies, including around 3,000 this week alone. Though it is the most prominent Sinatra budget release at present, it is far from being the only one, his other hits this year on tracks like a major expansion of the sector – dealers can choose from more than 40 Sinatra budget releases to stock.

R&B SINGLES

This List	Title	Artist	Label	Cat No. (Distributor)
1	HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM)	Jay-Z	Northwestside	7432183331 (BMG)
2	END OF THE LINE	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury	8W2CD 2 (F)
3	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	696672 (S&M)
4	TAKE ME THERE	Blackstreet & Mya feat. Maze & Blinky Blink	Interscope (BMG)	
5	HAVE YOU EVERY	Laurica McNeal	Widestar	CD5022 (W)
6	THE GREATER LOVE YOU'LL...	All Saints	London/LONCO 41	(W)
7	WAS OF NEEDS	MC Lyte feat. Gina Thompson	East West	57877 (W)
8	IT'S ALL YOURS	Janet Jackson	Virgin	VST 1720 (E)
9	EVERY TIME	E=1	Telstar	CD2AS 317 (W)
10	EACH TIME	Prost	Ruffhouse	6966215 (S&M)
11	BLUE ANGELS	Ghast	Charm	CRD03 130 (LS)
12	BODY GUARD (YOU CAN CALL ME AL)	Dou Hill	Island	6146 Music 125 729 (F)
13	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE	Nicole Renee	Atlantic	AT 0907 (W)
14	STRAWBERRY	Quonee/Wycle/Jean/Pras/Michael	Free Creanoworks	DRMT 2284 (BMG)
15	ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	Phobias	Meca	Recordings MEGT 1020 (P)
16	DON'T YOUR THING/ONE MAN'S BITCH	Kyle R. Roc	1st Avenue/Wild	Cardinal 567392 (F)
17	LITTLE BIT OF LOVIN'	Keith Sweat feat. Snoop Dogg	Elektra	E 29K2 (W)
18	COME AND GET WITH ME	Another Level	Northwestside	7432183332 (BMG)
19	GUESS I WAS A POOL	Tatyana Al	Atlantic	E 29K2 (W)
20	DAYDREAMIN'	Jungle Brothers	Elektra	665485 (W)
21	BECAUSE I GOT LIKE THAT	Go Stee/9e2/ICE	EEG	500293 (D&W/P)
22	HAPPY HOME	R-Pac feat. Keith Murray	Jive	5522 (S&M)
23	HOME ALONE	Fath Evans	Puff Daddy/Arista	7432182591 (BMG)
24	LOVE LIKE THIS	Frankie & Monica	Atlantic	AT 0937 (W)
25	THE LOVE IS MINE	Kick Murray feat. La Toi Col	Jive	5522 (S&M)
26	INCREDBLE	Pras/Michael feat. OD8	Interscope	IND 5935 (BMG)
27	GHETTO SUPASTAR...	Brandey feat. Maze	Atlantic	AT048C (W)
28	TOP OF THE WORLD	M People	M People/BMG	7432182174 (BMG)
29	TESTIFY	Melanie B feat. Missy Elliot	Virgin	VST1716 (E)
30	I WANT YOU BACK			

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DANCE SINGLES

This List	Title	Artist	Label	Cat No. (Distributor)
1	PLAYIN' WITH MY MIND	House Of Glass	Azul	AZULR 89 (V)
2	FUNK BOMB	Mother	Jackpot	WIN 428 (V)
3	IT'S ALL YOURS	MC Lyte featuring Gina Thompson	East West	E 2987 (W)
4	DREAMING	Ruff Drive Presents Arista	Inferno	TFERN 11 (D&W/S&M)
5	CUT LO	Ed High Optical/Fierce	Prototype	PHO 014 (VWNY)
6	WHAT YA GOT 4 ME	Carl Cox	Edel	EDL 1800 CD (P)
7	WHY YA GOT 4 ME	Sigum	Trax	TYO 1187 (BMG)
8	RABY LET ME LOVE YOU FOR TONIGHT	Karyz	Sidewalk	12WAL212 (BMV/S&M)
9	HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM)	Jay-Z	Northwestside	7432183333 (BMG)
10	STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART	Doobly	Locked On/Citybeat	LOX 1047 (W)
11	THE ULTIMATE DISCO GROOVE	Robby Rivera	Dry Dry	DD 02 (V)
12	THE LATIN TEME	Bruce Finney	Positive	12TV (E)
13	4 UP AND DOWN	Vingbohos	Positive	12TV 105 (E)
14	STRAWBERRY	Nicole Renee	Atlantic	AT 0937 (W)
15	NEVER LOST HIS HARDCORE 98	NRG	Top Banana	TD 040 (V)
16	BODY MOVIN'	Beastie Boys	Grand Royal	12G 83 (E)
17	SO PURE	Subotz	Pow! Pow!	POW 100 (P)
18	DEEP HOUSE	Triple J	Southeast	SE 7032P (ADD)
19	COME AND GET WITH ME	Keith Sweat featuring Snoop Dogg	Elektra	E 2987 (W)
20	GO'S LIKE COME ON THRU	Budsha/Monk/Of Dirty Bassard	Edel	ED02932 (E&P)

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DANCE ALBUMS

This List	Title	Artist	Label	Cat No. (Distributor)
1	It's	Mariah Carey	Columbia	492504/492604 (S&M)
2	DOC'S DA NAME 2000	Redman	Def Jam	589415 (F)
3	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Kelly Rowland	Jive	557931/055793 (F)
4	FLASURE II	Vanity Houston	Arista	470221/0271 (BMG)
5	2 FUTURE 4 U EP	Marcus Andrew	Trax	FLUR4CD (F)
6	BOBBY DIGITAL IN STEREO	Armand Van Helden	London	FK 354 (F)
7	YOUVE GOT A LONG WAY, BABY	RZA	Go Stee/212/EPS	1003301 (S&M/P)
8	TICAL 2000: JOURNEMENT DAY	Fatboy Slim	Sku	BRASSIC 11/BRASSIC 11MC (BMG)
9	ESSENTIAL SELECTION ...	Method Man	Def Jam	589415 (F)
10		Various Artists	Trax	FLUR4 (F)

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MUSIC VIDEO

This List	Artist Title	Label	Cat No.
1	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Co	PolyGram Video	71984
2	ROMAN HADRIAN/Michael Flatley's Feet Of Flames	VWL	696423
3	GEORGE MICHAEL/Anders & Confection-Box Of	SMV EPC	030020
4	CLIFF RICHARD/Ladies in Defence	Video Collection	12140
5	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Who's Your Product?	Video Collection	12146
6	7029ME Live - When We Belong	VWL	598626
7	STEPS/The Edge	Zwo	051975
8	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Andrew Lloyd Webber/Collection	PolyGram Video	523983
9	SPICE GIRLS Live at Wembley Stadium	Virgin	VD274
10	ROBBIE WILLIAMS Live in Your Living Room	Chrysalis	492480
11	FIVE/Five Inside	BMG Video	742180740
12	DANIEL O'DONNELL/My Duffing Lisa A Live	Rec	8207
13	FOSTER & ALLEN/Greatest Hits & Some That Will Be	Telstar	VID 21044
14	CELINE DION Live in Memphis 1997	SMV EPC	203872
15	METALLICA/Coming Sheets	PolyGram Video	045640
16	U2/Payant	102	Payant
17	RADIOHEAD/Meeting People Is Easy	102	Payant
18	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Enron's Inland-Mountain Journey	Telstar	VID 21030
19	THE COORS Live At The Royal Albert Hall	Warner Music Video	796789 (F)
20	REE GEESON Live - One Night Only	Gene Entertainment	021916
21	MICHAEL CRAWFORD/My Way	Warner Music Video	128418322
22	LEVEE CAST RECORDING Live - Miscellaneous in Concert	Video Collection	05078
23	SMILEY RedLine in London	BMI Video	742120250
24	LIMPY GARHET/Teledy Garrett	Video Collection	05127
25	BACKSTREET BOYS/A Night Out With	WML	01880
26	MIAMI SYNDROME/My Way	PolyGram Video	563370
27	MIAMI FLATTERY/End Of The Dance	01881	1
28	ALL SAINTS/All Saints	EMI	837433
29	VARIOUS ARTISTS/Inland-Mountain Show Bands	The Videos	
30	DURAN DURAN/Collection - The Videos		

MUSIC WEEK 19 DECEMBER 1998

VIDEO

This List	Title	Label	Cat No.
1	TITANIC	Fox Video	00195
2	THE SANTA CLAUSE	Walt Disney	007892
3	MATILDA	Columbia	TRIST 075210
4	CASPER	Video	19419192
5	BILLY CONNOLLY - EXERC FOR 20 YEARS	VWL	057380
6	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Co	PolyGram Video	47950
7	THE LITTLE MERMAID	Walt Disney	007892
8	ROMAN HADRIAN/Michael Flatley's Feet Of Flames	VWL	598626
9	GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE	Buena Vista	0012008
10	EVITA	EVI	045225
11	RODDRUP THE RED-NOISED	Cartoon Video	00370622
12	MOUSEHUNT	CD Video	1969302
13	THE VERY BEST...Video Collection	021272	
14	CRUISEY GOES DOWN	PolyGram Video	021959
15	THE BORKWAGS	PolyGram Video	055753

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THAT WAS THE YEAR

in their own words



MADONNA: At the start of 1998, *MV* predicted *Ray Of Light*, the most ambitious and introspective album of Madonna's career, would be her best since 1989's *Like A Prayer*. Twelve months on, she proved her hunch as *Queen Of Pop* with critical and commercial success, having sold close to 10 million copies of the record in the UK. It spawned four Top 10 singles, including a number one for *Frozen*. That track also confirmed the stellar reputation of the director of its video, Chris Cunningham. But another winner was electronic dance pioneer William Orbit, who co-produced all but one of the tracks and co-wrote six of 13 songs on the album. Now one of the most sought after producers in the world, he is currently finishing Blur's forthcoming album. Not bad for someone who posted off his demos on spec to A&R looking for some work.

'Artists' careers don't seem to have the same length as they used to. There seems to be a more disposable attitude towards music by consumers' - Doug Morris

A year of pop, a year of merger, a year of technological change: 1998 preview

DOUG MORRIS

Chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group
High point of 1998: When Edgar (Bronfman Jr) told me us were buying PolyGram.
Low point: The same thing - no, just joking. There has been no low point. It has just been a fun, hard work and exhilarating job.
Greatest frustration: The lack of loyalty shown to different artists by consumers. Careers don't seem to have the same length as they used to. There seems to be a more disposable attitude towards music.
Executive to watch: Jimmy Iovine
Music tip for 1999: Erykah Badu

CHER

Artist
High point of 1998: Being number one in the UK for seven weeks was truly wonderful.
Low point: Sonny's death.
Greatest frustration: Not being able to get on MTV America again.
Executive to watch: Rob Dickins.
Music tip for 1999: You're never too old to rock.

TONY WADSWORTH

President and CEO of EMI Records Group, UK and Ireland
High point of 1998: Robbie Williams at Glastonbury.
Low point: Being in Spain at the time.
Greatest frustration: Market pressures have given rise to short termism hitting the industry in a big way, leading to a lack of artist development and support for artist development.
Executive to watch: Couldn't possibly say!
Music tip for 1999: The new album and single from Blur, produced by William Orbit - sounds like Blur's greatest hits, but with brand new songs.

MIKE CHADWICK

Managing director, Vilel
High point of 1998: Getting our first number one single with Cornershop.
Low point: Seeing the domination of the charts by manufactured pop music.
Greatest frustration: The inability to deal with the continued devaluation of music in order to attain a higher chart placing.
Executive to watch: Is there one?
Music tip for 1999: Independent record companies completely subverting the existing status quo of the music scene.

DAVID BOYD

Senior director A&R, Virgin Records and managing director, Hut Recordings
High point of 1998: (a) The Verve at Slane Castle and meeting Mo'Nawam and (b) Gomez being heard.

Low point: The Verve at Slane Castle.
Greatest frustration: Big players, playing.
Executive to watch: Paul Collins - genius!
Music tip for 1999: Great songs, played well. Whoever can do that.

ROB DICKINS

Outgoing chairman, Warner Music UK
High point of 1998: Having the best year yet for Warner Music UK, with the Corrs' *Talk On Corners* the best selling album and Cher's *Believe* the best selling single.
Low point: Termination
Greatest frustration: The inability to see that working together will build us a stronger and more secure future.
Executive to watch: Christian Tattersfield
Music tip for 1999: Artistry

ASHLEY NEWTON

Co-president, Virgin Records America and senior VP, A&R Virgin Music Group
Worldwide
High point of 1998: Massive Attack's 3D thumbing his nose at Fergie as she presented him with their MTV award.
Low point: Not being in Milan to see it.
Greatest frustration: Trying to find a cultural heartbeat in Los Angeles.
Executive to watch: Rawkus directors Jared Myer and Brian Brater.
Music tip for 1999: New act: PHD (Melankolic); new albums from Skunk Anansie and D'Angelo (both on Virgin).

DANIEL LYCETT

Managing director, Edel
High point of 1998: The high point of 1998 was definitely having two singles in the top five on the Monday morning. I was appearing on a panel at In The City.
Low point: The low points of the year would be missing out on signing a couple of artists that I'm sure I would have enjoyed working with, and England's World Cup performance.
Greatest frustration: The nature of the singles chart/market is a

MW Writers' Album Of The Year: A

When *Music Week* previewed Air's *Moon Safari* album in November 1997 we stated that the act had the potential to succeed on their own terms, quite apart from the growing hipness of all things French.
It is testament to *Moon Safari's* quality that, despite having been released in January, it still topped our writers' record of the year poll almost 12 months later.

Based on simple Sixties melodies, but boasting open, soundtrack-style song structures, classical instrumentation and the gentle ambience reminiscent of French composer Serge Gainsbourg, the glory of *Moon Safari* is that its songs defy categorisation. Early on it was clearly another winner for Marc Teissier Du Cros, Air's A&R at Virgin France imprint Source. *Moon Safari* sounds nothing like a dance record but that tag earned it early underground respectability; its winning the album of the year award at October's *Musik* with clubbers.

Awards proved its "come-down" popularity with clubbers. But it also earned immediate commercial success, debuting at number six in the albums chart - not bad for a French act who had not then even released a single here.
The intention was both to distance Air from the new wave of club-based, electronic acts emerging from France and to establish them as adult album artists.

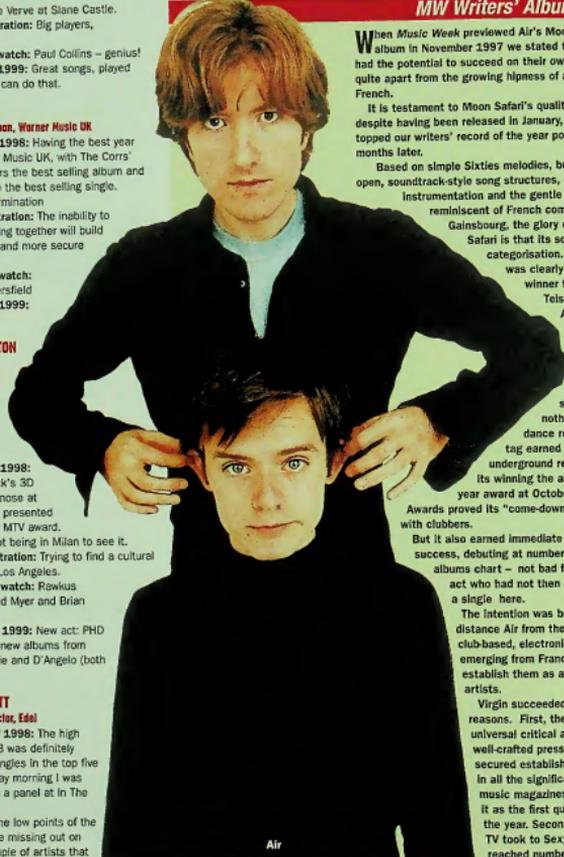
Virgin succeeded for two reasons. First, the record won universal critical acclaim. A well-crafted press campaign secured establishing features in all the significant style and music magazines who pitched it as the first quality album of the year. Second, radio and TV took to *Sexy Boy*, which reached number 13 in

continuing frustration.
Executive to watch: Matt Jagger and Simon Dunmore at Ministry Of Sound.
Music tip for 1999: The Goo Goo Dolls to invade the UK and become as big over here as they are in the States at the moment.

ANDY PARFITT

Controller, Radio One
High point of 1998: 300,000 new Radio One listeners; the Manics' set at Radio One Live Cardiff; Zoe Ball's new breakfast show.

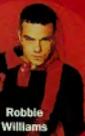
Low point: Telling Kevin Greening he was off the breakfast show.
Greatest frustration: Reports claiming there was a music policy U-turn at Radio One. Our commitment to new music is as strong as ever - don't let anyone tell you different.
Executive to watch: Lorna Croft joined Radio One in the summer of 1998 as editor of production. She has made an enormous difference in a short time, keeping Radio One at the cutting edge and as far as BBC Broadcast and BBC



Air



Tip for '99: Gay Dad



Robbie Williams

THE STARS COME OUT: 1998 was Robbie Williams' year. All the awards and column inches aside, he is the year's best selling albums artist with the five times platinum *Life Thru A Lens* and three times platinum *I've Been Expecting You*. It was all very different 12 months ago, when sales of *Life Thru A Lens* album were so poor that Chrysalis was led to talk sales. But a funny A&R decision to include out releases *Angels* — mostly passed over for an Ivor Novello Award — until Christmas reversed his fortunes, and his Brits performance with Tom Jones made many think he should have won the best male solo award. *Mr Entertainment* then stole the show at Glastonbury, while his



groundbreaking gay-pride gig in June, broadcast on Sky TV, was one of the best live performances *MW* saw in 1998. Other stars who came to the fore this year are all already working on albums for next year. They include London's *All Saints*, who sold 1.5m albums in the UK and 4.8m worldwide, and RCA's Natalie Imbruglia (pictured centre), who enjoyed even more Stateside success, with Tom spending 11 weeks atop the airplay chart and her left off the Middle album selling 2m copies (3.5m worldwide). Meanwhile Blanco 3 Negro's Cantonese record album *International Velvet* netted up 750,000 UK sales, while Gomez's *Mercy* *Pria* win added 140,000 sales to the 60,000 units *Bring It On* had shifted in final print.



Catatonika

Compted suitably varied reactions from the industry players polled by *MW*

Air's Moon Safari



video. It was an airplay Top 40 hit and the video, the animated story of a monkey's trip to space, directed by Mike Mills who also did their artwork, was as memorably kooky.

The Parisian duo of Jean Benoit Dunckel and Nicolas Godin released only two further singles — Kelly Watch the Stars in May and All I Need last month to coincide with their engrossing live dates. However, *Moon Safari* has now passed 150,000 copies in the UK (easily surpassing its 60,000 tally in France).

Its 510,000 sales worldwide include a respectable 100,000 in the US where the band are also regarded as a credible underground act.

This could change with a host of albums of the year awards. In the US, it has already made *Spin* magazine's Top Five records of the year list and is rising *Stone's* electronic album of the year. The duo are now back in the studio recording the soundtrack for Sofia Coppola's forthcoming film, *Virgin Suicides*, before starting work on their follow-up album due for release in autumn 1999.

As aside, our Top 10 contains some both obvious and intriguing inclusions. Madonna's *Ray Of Light* was far behind *Air*, and just beat *Massive Attack's* *Mezzanine*, their fastest seller so far. Pulp's *This Is Hardcore* made it despite lower than expected retail sales, while Mercury Rev + Deserter's *Songs (V2)* *My Truth Tell Me Yours* (Epic) *BECK + Mutations* (Geffen) *BELLE & SEBASTIAN - The Boy With The Arab Strap* (Jozepter) *R KELLY - R (Live)* *GARBAGE - (Version 2.0)* (Mushroom)

Production cooperation is concerned. **MUSIC TIP FOR 1999:** That Jeff Smith will continue to champion the coolest records in UK radio.

MICKEY D
Director of A&R, *Island*
High point of 1998: Setting up their Future Rex label and Warner's success in general.
Low point: Billboard focusing more on airplay than sales.
Greatest frustration: The new formats

for singles.
Executive to watch: Thad Baron — MCA Music.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: More R&B and hip hop crossovers.

PAUL BURGER
Chairman *Sony Music*
High point of 1998: Number one singles for B*Witched, Manic, Jamiroquai, Lightning Seeds and Celine, coupled with number one albums for George Michael, Manic, Celine and Titanic. Des'ree having the summer hit across the UK and Europe was a high point, and of course the Charlotte Church phenomenon has been amazing.

Low point: The continuing difficulty in getting greater global copyright protection. **Greatest frustration:** The fixation with finding and promoting hit records, as opposed to great artists.

Executive to watch: Andy Parfitt and Chris Cowey.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: With records from Leftfield and others coming, watch for a resurging electronica scene.

MW Writers' Top 10

- AIR — *Moon Safari* (Virgin)
- MADONNA — *Ray Of Light* (Maverick)
- MASSIVE ATTACK — *Mezzanine* (Circus/Virgin)
- PULP — *This Is Hardcore* (Island)
- MERCURY REV + DESERTER'S SONGS (V2)
- MANIC STREET PREACHERS — *This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours* (Epic)
- BECK + MUTATIONS (Geffen)
- BELLE & SEBASTIAN — *The Boy With The Arab Strap* (Jozepter)
- R KELLY — *R (Live)*
- GARBAGE — *(Version 2.0)* (Mushroom)

Low point: Impact of merger process on staff morale at both Universal and Polygram.
Greatest frustration: Compatibility of short-term company financial performance and long-term artist development.

Executive to watch: Richard Russell.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: Kilo Le Roc and No Jahoda.

RICHARD PARK
Group director of programmes, *Capital Radio*
High point of 1998: Our first London Party in the Park staged at Hyde Park, London on July 5.
Low point: Pass
Greatest frustration: Pass
Executive to watch: Everybody will be watching Nick Phillips.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: The Dum-Dums.

WILF WALSH
Operations director for *HKY UK* and *Kleand*
High point of 1998: Re-opening our Scottish flagship store in Edinburgh, preceded by a rather jolly night out on the Royal Yacht Britannia.
Low point: "VAT free" deals at supermarkets.
Greatest frustration: Some record companies' Godgiven ability not to

understand elementary shopkeeping.
Executive to watch: Horace McDonald at EMI. Although he may be too pleasant and sincere to make it to the top.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: Gary Dad.

KORDA MARSHALL
Managing director, *Mushroom*
High point of 1998: Celebrating 25 years of Mushroom's musical history perform in one day in front of 72,000 people at the MCG Cricket Ground in Melbourne.

Low point: The frustration of not getting a playlist on the *Dope Smugglaz* record on Radio One.
Greatest frustration: Investing fortunes on great talent and having to give the records ahead to the record shops.
Executive to watch: Mickey D at Warner, probably the best A&R man in the UK at the present time.
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: Asian Dub Foundation, Gomez and The Fatboy Slim album, all of them records ahead of their time — they'll be massive artists this time next year.

RAY HEDGES
Producer
High point of 1998: Continued invasion of the Irish with B*Witched, The Corrs and Boyzone.
Low point: Loss of Dennis Pop.
Greatest frustration: Too many records

released with too little thought.
Executive to watch: Rob Stinger — no one works harder, except me!
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: Look out for more *Glow Worm* hits.

PAUL MCGINNISSE
Director, *Principle Management*
High point of 1998: *Riverdance* and U2 playing Melbourne the same night, February 21.

Low point: David Hockman and Richard Manners being let go from Polygram Music. Not fair.
Greatest frustration: The two U2 Greatest Hits configurations being separated for chart purposes. Mind you, we ended up with both in the Top 10.

Executive to watch: Jimmy Irvine — he of the vertical learning curve. Wait till he gets interested in Europe!
MUSIC TIP FOR 1999: Paddy



Cher

Innovator of the Year: Capital Radio

Capital Radio more than made up for its failure to buy Virgin Radio with one of the group's most active — and controversial — years to date. Among its achievements:

- acquiring two key radio stations;
- staging a huge summer festival in central London; starting to sell CDs online; and helping create sizeable hits for its joint venture record company, Wildstar.

Having received Radio Authority permission back in January to roll out his last big radio format, Capital Gold, across the group's AM services, group programme director Richard Park unveiled his latest big idea in February — Fun Radio.

Aimed primarily at children, the format would seek to fill a gap in the market by playing a pop diet of acts such as Aqua and B'lie — though it fell at the first hurdle by failing to win the second north east regional FM licence.

Instead, the group increased its UK radio presence via acquisition, most notably Xfm. Having offered £15.9m for the London alternative station in May, it totally jiggled the schedule, axing all the specialist shows and drafting in Bob

Geldof to host the weekday afternoon programme. In August, Capital caused further controversy by starting to sell CDs online in a venture with Teslat, its Wildstar partner.

Meanwhile, that partnership continued to raise concerned eyebrows among rival record executives, as Capital gave blanket support to Wildstar's records, sometimes months before release. Capital also turned concert promoter, staging a charity summer concert in London's Hyde Park that was plugged heavily on air and attracted an all-star pop line-up. This will be extended next year into a series of events around the country.

In short, Capital and its charismatic programme director managed to alienate retailers, rival broadcasters, promoters and record companies at different times during the course of the year. But while some might privately criticise its activities, the station once again generated profile, controversy and turnover by tearing up the script and coming up with new ideas. And, in a year when they were in short supply, that was no bad thing.

THAT WAS THE YEAR

in their own words



BOYZONE: Once Boyzone were just another boy band, but 1998 was the year that they grew up. Reuniting the year with a number two record in *Baby Can I Hold You* Tonight, they rose from strength to strength. All that I need was to number one in May, while their third album, *Where We Belong*, debuted at one in June. After an *Ion* Novello Award for *Picture of You*, it was *Lord Alfred* Lloyd Webber's *No Matter What* — originally penned for Noel Coward — that took them to new heights (and subsequent controversy) in the UK and 1.5m worldwide. A greatest hits package is planned for the spring. After presenting last year's MTV Awards, Keanan Reeling came into his own, hosting *Miss World 1998* and entering into management with RCA boy band Westside.

JANE MCDONALD: Nobody but *Out/Focus* Music International's Guy Holmes and Don Reidman seemed to expect this year's surprise breakthrough with *Jane McDonald*. The singer from BBC TV's *Cruise* deep-dug new bar debut covers album not just hit the number one spot in July, but go on to spend 20 weeks in the Top 75. They perfectly judged a latent consumer appetite for solid MOR, which in 1998 stretched from LeAnn Rimes' *How Do I Live* to Aerosmith's *I Don't Want to Miss a Thing*. Last week McDonald was also challenging the *Spice Girls* for this Sunday's coveted Christmas number one spot. Focus having shipped 425,000 copies of her Christmas songs medley.



Casey on S2, Art of Noise on ZTT, Principle's new clients.

TIM BYRNE

Co-managing director, Byrne Blood Management
High point of 1998: Steps entering album charts at number two and then going on to double platinum.

Low point: None — I've had my best year yet.

Greatest frustration: Radio airplay.
Executive to watch: Vicky Blood.
Music tip for 1999: A1 — our latest signing!

PETER REICHARDT

Managing director UK, president continental Europe, EMI Music Publishing
High point of 1998: Seeing Robbie Williams become a major star.

Low point: Seeing our industry figures start to waver.

Greatest frustration: Too many girl and boy bands.

Executive to watch: Tom Bradley — he is my right hand man, has recently become managing director of MPA and is now going ahead as our deputy managing director.
Music tip for 1999: Gay Dad.

JEREMY LANGCELLES

Managing director, Chrissie Collins Music and Echo
High point of 1998: Having three successive number one singles (including four out of the top five one week); hearing the new Skunk Anansie album due for release next year; meeting Nelson Mandela at his 80th birthday tribute concert in Johannesburg.

Low point: Another Andrew Lloyd Webber song in the charts, and hearing it on the radio every five minutes.
Greatest frustration: The lack of exciting new talent, and the paralysis that is gripping the majority of the major record companies.
Executive to watch: Me (only joking). Seriously, can't think of one.

Music tip for 1999: Generally speaking, a new movement that will be the antithesis of cheesy pop. Specific acts: Big Yoga Muffin, Chris Silverman, Dark Flower, Hillman Mixin.

CHRIS BIRCHLEY

Music and marketing controller, MNC
High point of 1998: Signing up the 3,000,000th MNC cardholder.

Low point: The World Cup — we couldn't give records away.

Greatest frustration: No releases during the summer. Too many at Christmas.
Executive to watch: Steve Gallant — he will add a useful retail perspective to Unigram.
Music tip for 1999: Gay Dad.

ALLAN RADFORD

Retail manager, Jays Records in Cambridge and Band councillor
High point of 1998: Celebrating 25 years as a successful independent retailer.

Low point: The changes in the singles chart regulations has had a damaging effect on the attractiveness of the product — people perceive us as giving them less for their money.
Greatest frustration: Lack of releases

HITMAKER OF THE YEAR: ROB DICKINS

It's one thing to leave the company you have worked at for 27 years — the last 15 of them as chairman — after the best 12-month performance in its history. But it's another to top that with the best selling single and album of the year — and to have A&R'd both projects yourself.

Yet that is exactly what Warner chairman Rob Dickins looks set to achieve with Cher's *Believe* and *The Corrs' Talk On Corners*.

A year ago, few would have predicted another record would beat the 1.3m copies sold of Celine Dion's *My Heart Will Go On*. But, last week, as Cher celebrated a chart run unequalled since the *Spice Girls' Wannabe*, she also became the fifth female soloist yet to sell 1m copies and is likely to smash Dion's sales tally next week.

Dickins claims not to be an A&R man but "a chairman who likes music and making records". With both records he's proved his maxim: "The album is a product of art and the single is a product of commerce."

He first broached the idea of a high energy pop/dance record with Cher 18 months ago, and she was not keen initially. "I had the idea to do a dance record and she didn't want to. Actually, it was more like she had a hunch that she couldn't do a dance record," says Dickins eventually talked her round with the right tracks — in

Believe's sleeve notes she credits him for inspiring her 'against her will'.

The Believe single came about after Dickins commissioned a separate team to write the verses for an existing chorus. On bumping into Brian Higgins while visiting EMI's A&R director Steve Allen one day, Dickins asked him for two songs and was sent 10.

Believe, co-written with three writers from Higgins' production/publishing company *Nonemania* (Matt Gray, Stuart McLennan and Timothy Powell), stood out, but Dickins sent it back as only the chorus was complete.

Dickins says, "They finished it but I didn't like it. Brian Rawling was going to produce it (with Mark Taylor) and he came up with a verse and I didn't like that. The problem was that they didn't live up to the chorus."

Higgins — who eventually cracked the opening lines and established a melody with Steve Torch — recalls, "Rob was a stickler, but I knew the chorus was a winner for Cher."

Final touches were put to the middle of the verse by Paul Barry who, with Torch, is managed by Rawling.

At this point the song was played to Cher, who loved it, according to Dickins. The aspect that caused him most concern throughout was the producers' toying with her trademark vocals through a vocoder.



"It was an effect that can be pushed too far. But she was the most insistent about keeping it," he says.
 That one track has already reached number one in 12 countries and has sold 2.3m copies worldwide (excluding the US where it has just been released but sits

Makeover of the Year: Radio Two

To the casual observer little has changed at Radio Two during the past few years: Jimmy Young still hosts five shows a week, while *Sing Something Simple* sits defiantly in its traditional Sunday afternoon slot.

But a glance at last week's playlist underlines the quiet revolution overseen by station controller Jim Moll (pictured). Beck was rubbing shoulders with the B-list with B'Witched, Robbie Williams and Sheryl Crow, while elsewhere *The Beautiful South*, Madonna and Boyzone were all playlisted.

Rather than going for a Bannister-style clear-out of the schedule, Moll's skill has been to preserve the network's old favourites, while introducing a core of new music. Moll made his boldest move yet in March when he brought in a wave of new programmes hosted by respected figures such as Paul Gambaccini and Johnnie Walker who, in October, began hosting the *Mondo* Thursday drive-time slot. With Steve Wright, Alan Freeman and Bob Harris also on board, the Saturday line-up was reading like a Radio One Eighties throwback.

The music industry, already seeking ways of breaking new music overlooked by both Radio One and IRL, was further won over when Moll listened to promoters' pleas and announced in April he was planning to increase plays of the station's most-heard tracks.

The subsequent chart success of Radio Two-top supported acts such as The Corrs, LeAnn Rimes, Savage Garden and Aerosmith.

Meanwhile Moll's reward was illustrated in the last set of *Rajar* figures — the station gained 340,000 listeners year-on-year to reach 8.9m as its share of listeners hit a record 13.6%.



Jim Moll

Absentee of the Year

At a time when everyone is doing the same thing, the best way to stand out is by doing things differently. Which explains why not much stood out in 1998.

Above all, it was the year when, in a throwback to the early Nineties, marketing ruled over A&R. Since all things are cyclical, this was perhaps inevitable following the A&R feeding frenzy that seeped over into the start of the year. But it meant that launching records often meant commissioning the standard triple pack of remixes, buying the right singles promotional packages at retail, booking suitable television advertising slots and getting a video into The Box.

Seasoned observers bemoaned this "off-the-shelf" approach but could do little about it. Perhaps significantly it was an old hand, PolyGram TV's Brian Berg, who scored one of the marketing coups of the year when he managed to turn a catalogue album by Ladysmith Black Mambazo into a chart smash on the back of a TV ad tie-in.

Meanwhile, Stardust proved that you



POP - **BILLIE B. VITCHED** AND **STEPS**: Ago's pop sensibility in 1997 opened up a new generation of music fans which objected everything from label signings to radio play practices in 1998. By the year's end, the contest between Billie and B*Witched was really heating up, although the latter, released on Ray Dedges' Glow Worm label through Epic, had sold twice as many albums. Meanwhile, Hugh Goldsmith's Virgin-backed Innocent label drew on his experience with the likes of Take That to launch Billie - discovered in an advertising campaign for Smash Hits - with two number one singles. He shied away from going head-to-head with a host of Christmas, but the test will be in the New Year when her *Henry To The B* album's stand-out title track is released. The year's surprise pop winner, however, was Jive/Bad Steps, who have outsold their rivals with more than 400,000 copies of *Step One* to date - proving that the most experienced pop specialists of them all, Pete Waterman, was the best judge of the marketplace.



'My tip for 1999: generally speaking, a new movement that will be the antithesis of cheesy pop' - **Jeremy Lasselles**



written by Mark Jordan in Canada and Todd Terry in the US, with the pair never having met. And it was Terry's involvement in Cher's record that led to The Corrs' rejuvenation.

When Dickens took over day-to-day running of East West from Max Hole in February, Talk On Corners was already a gold Top 10 album, but its three singles had missed the Top 40 and their crossover potential had not been achieved. Dickens says, "I looked at East West and thought it was one thing trimming the roster, but saw that as a negative way of solving the problem. I'd always thought The Corrs were stars and there had to be a way forward."

Dickens had heard Terry's remix of their

track at radio for six weeks - while a K-Class remix of So Young reached number six in November.

"Knowing that they were the right band, it was about achieving a two-degree shift in perception of how they were perceived. I didn't change them or their music, but captured the younger audience they should have had all along," says Dickens.

All this meant that May 11 saw the start of a Top 10 run (save for one week at number 11) for a re-released Talk On Corners with Dreams - and an A&R credit for Dickens - stripped on to it. Having reached number one six times, Talk On Corners will see six times platinum this week. And the run is not over. A Tin Tin Out remix of Runaway, a favourite track of Dickens' from their debut album *Forgiven Not Forgotten* which he placed on a special edition of Talk On Corners (released last month) will be released as a single for the fourth time on February 15.

Dickens will be remembered for many things during his Warner years. But whatever mixed feelings he has inspired during his time at the company, no one can fault his A&R record. Typically he is still getting his hands dirty right up until his departure, trying to hook Sinead O'Connor up with Madonna's co-producer William Orbit for her new album. It looks unlikely his A&R legacy will be quickly forgotten.

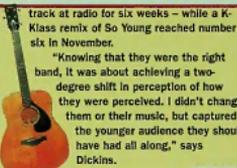
Stephen Jones

'I didn't change The Corrs or their music, but captured the younger audience they should have had all along' - Dickens

Dreams cover and thought it lacklustre. "I told Gary (Salzman, Terry's manager) the mix wasn't very good and it turned out it was not the mix Todd had done. Someone had taken it and weakened it," he says.

When he finally got hold of Terry's original mix he immediately thought it "fantastic" and its release delivered the act - who Dickens says remained only too happy to sign the new direction - their first Top 10 hit on May 4.

What Can I Do, which reached 53 in March, reached number three when it was re-released with a Tin Tin Out remix in August - and was the most played



Cher



JOHNNIE WALKER
DJ, Radio Two
High point of 1998:

Obviously it would have to be both starting my Saturday show on Radio Two in April, then taking over the drive time slot in October. Also being pissed enough to shout "Hello Baldy" at Trevor Dann after a very good lunch with Dave Shack and BMG.

Low point: Realising with the extra wage coming in there was now no more excuse not to write checks to the Irland

Revenue.

Greatest frustration: Trying to figure out the singles chart and not seeing enough people at Western House reception.

Executive to watch: Adrian Williams, head of promotions at Epic.

Music tip for 1999: More and more people realising that the best range of music is to be found between 88 and 91FM.

NICK RAPHAEL
Head of A&R, Northwestside

High point of 1998: Another Level reaching number one, their sell-out tour and forthcoming platinum album.

Low point: Too many greatest hits albums. Where is the new music?

Greatest frustration: Doom and gloom merchants.

Executive to watch: I'm not into executives, I'm into music.

Music tip for 1999: N' Sync

BILLIE
Artist
High point of 1998: Having two number one singles.

Low point: Tabloid harassment.

Greatest frustration: Realising that

Year: Imagination

can deliver a huge club and pop hit with no club mall out, no artwork, no video, no interviews and no promotional appearances.

Ultimately, however, marketing departments can only work with the music that they are delivered. And, when it came to A&R, there was little that really caught the imagination. As smart as anything was Focus Music's launch of former cover cruise singer Jane McDonald on an unsuspecting world. Hip she may not be, but her brand of easy listening took her straight to the top of the charts.

Meanwhile, major labels increasingly sought to "outsource" the task of developing talent to the ever more powerful production houses operated by the likes of First Avenue and Simon Fuller's 19 Management.

It is not all doom and gloom out there, as breakthroughs by acts such as Gomez and Asian Dub Foundation underlined. But there is no doubt that the winners of 1999 will be those who come from a different angle. And that means drawing on imagination.

Gambler of the Year: Edgar Bronfman Jr

Your family owns a hugely successful drinks business but you have dreams of being in entertainment. So you sell the family firm and first buy a film studio and then a record company. There is no doubt that Edgar Bronfman Jr has balls.

But whether he also has the management skills to make his vision of creating the world's largest entertainment powerhouse work remains to be seen.

Having stalked EMI and even entered informal purchase talks - pushing EMI shares to a temporary high in the process - Bronfman quickly shifted tack and made a move on PolyGram that stunned the latter's management (not to mention some of his own lieutenants).

But all the kudoes Bronfman received for this audacious move started to dissipate as completion of the PolyGram deal dragged on and he failed to sell PolyGram Filmed Entertainment as planned. Matters here were compounded by the terrible box office run of Universal's film operations, with flops including *Meet Joe Black* and *Babe: Pig In The City* - last week the division announced it will post a \$65m operating loss for the current quarter and the next fiscal year. Bronfman has also recently fired senior managers including Frank Blondi, the man he hired to head Universal Studios.

With the merger of PolyGram and Universal, Bronfman has transformed the music industry overnight. But now there is renewed talk of different scenarios involving BMG and EMI (and possibly News Corp). The industry may indeed be redrawn again - either way Bronfman's gambling skills will be sorely tested.



Edgar Bronfman

in their own words

'The continued selling of CDs at £1.99 is possibly one of the dumbest things we can do as a business, but unfortunately if you don't do it, you don't compete' — Guy Holmes

everyone in the music industry comes across as really nice, but not everyone is as genuine as they appear.
Executive to watch: Pass
Music tip for 1999: You're never too young to rock.

GUY HOLMES
 Chairman, **Real Records**

High point of 1998: Breaking Space's second album to platinum status — thus proving that they are a career band — and signing Tom Jones.

Low point: Seeing how badly a lot of the artists have been treated with the carnage that has gone on in the major companies this year.

Greatest frustration: The continued selling of CD singles at £1.99. It is possibly one of the dumbest things we can do as a business, but unfortunately if you don't do it, you don't compete. Therefore, we are forced to following everyone else like lemmings.

Executive to watch: Mark Jones at Wall Of Sound. Great taste, great ethics and great marketing.

Music tip for 1999: Our two new artists, Naomi and Sound 5.

Talking Point of the Year 1: The death of the music business

Did it start with Alan McGee? Was it the **NME?** Ultimately it is irrelevant — what matters is that once the idea that the music industry is on the verge of extinction was out, it spread like wildfire. The media lapped it up. There was even an unlikely extended Friday Newnight debate on the subject which pitted Nick Phillips, then still head of Universal, against a number of other pundits such as Edwyn Collins plus comments from Steve Lamacz and the ubiquitous McGee. Unfortunately the facts — that sales were actually up on the year, that some records were spending longer in the charts, that artists as varied as Robbie, Jane McDonald and All Saints were

enjoying huge hits — were not allowed to get in the way of a good story.

The irony is that some of the points raised by the detractors were valid — few would disagree that the Internet will one day start to impact the business significantly — but this was lost in all the polemic. Of course the industry is in flux; but this does not mean it is dying.

While the debate will continue, we suspect that the public has lost interest. Just like the last expose — that "CDs are a rip-off" — founded in the wake of the Britpop explosion, any lingering stories about the death of music are likely to disappear as the next talent wave kicks in. Whenever that is.

Azuli.

JANE McDONALD

Artist (pictured right)
High point of 1998: Marrying Henrik.

Low point: Platinum album, sell-out tour, London Palladium, Royal Variety Show.... Is there a low point? I don't think so.
Greatest frustration: Everyone doubting my ability.

Executive to watch: Henrik Brixen, my manager.
Music tip for 1999: You need to get out more.

JONATHAN KING

Publisher, **The Tip Sheet**
High point of 1998: When David Liddiment confirmed he was going to put the Record Of The Year show on ITV at prime time across the national network on Saturday December 19, with five shopping days to Christmas, and precede it by two half-hour specials the week before.
Low point: The sad confirmation that my Christmas 1997 prediction of major upheavals in the industry was 100% correct.
Greatest frustration: Still the stupid C/N chart — I've been going on about it for seven years.

COLLABORATIONS: Apart from singles which took the shameful sampling of everyone from Dire Straits to Madonna to new levels, 1998 was notable for its collaborations. What began with Texas teaming up with the Wu Yang Clan for re-workings of Guy Lawton's *Heart Was* was followed by a plethora of joint artist releases.

Among the more notable, Sparc and Corys from Catalonia, Press and Aya feat. O'Biby Bostford, Bryan Adams and Mel C, Mel B feat. Missy Elliott, Mariah and Whitney, Brandy and Monica, Billy Bragg and Wilco, Celine Dion and the Bee Gees, Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach. And then there was B Kelly, who seemed to link up with just about everyone. With US rappers and R&B artists particularly gregarious when it comes to joint ventures, there will be no let up in 1999. Our top tip? Tom Jones' album of collaborations on *Go!* following his winning Brits performance with Robbie Williams.



Bryan Adams & Mel C



Missy Elliott

Executive to watch: Paul Burger, who I predict will be head of Sony worldwide within three years.
Music tip for 1999: A huge British superstar band playing guitar-based pop music posing as rock music fronted by pretty boys. Their name — Passion Star.

BRENT HANSEN
 President and chief executive, **MTV Networks Europe**

High point of 1998: No contest: the 1998 MTV Europe Music Awards in Milan. We took a show concept that had worked really well in Rotterdam the previous year, and moved it forward to become even bigger and better. The enthusiasm from both the industry and audience was fantastic.

Low point: Internal confusion and uncertainty in the industry made labels too introspective, making it difficult for them to capitalise on their talent.

Also, a disappointing lack of effective product from the US industry — with the exception of R&B.

Greatest frustration: Pass
Executive to watch: Can't single one out — would have to be Roger Ames and Rob Dickins (with all that talent he'll be back).
Music tip for 1999: Watch out for the rise of the independents.

SIMON WRIGHT

Managing director, **Virgin Retail**
High point of 1998: Megastores returning to Virgin.
Low point: Everton narrowly avoiding relegation (again).

Greatest frustration: The industry's inability to maintain retail prices on quality product so that we can all make money.

Executive to watch: Tony

Wadsworth — he's put the passion back into EMI.

Music tip for 1999: Gay Dad and the new albums from Skunk Anansie and Beth Orton.



Russells wish their clients and friends in the music industry a Happy Christmas

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Talking Point of the Year 2: The Bottom Line

While the music industry is not dying a death, there is little doubt it has been a tough year. Sales may be on the up, but so too are costs, which means all eyes were increasingly trained on the bottom line.

This affected all areas of the business. In the A&R community there was a growing reluctance to enter into bidding wars (although that did not stop some high profile deals that raised rivals' eyebrows). Meanwhile senior executives sought to emphasise to their more junior staff that A&R was not so much about shelling out for buzz bands as it was about developing career artists with international potential.

1998 has been a pop year, and pop is more expensive to develop and market than rock. This meant that achieving a return on investment was more important than ever — and tougher than ever because of external factors such as the strength of the pound which prompted the continued flood of imports into the UK.

A further factor making the subject of the bottom line all the more omnipresent was that many of the financial targets that companies had to meet were set a year earlier when the outlook was more upbeat. Whatever happens musically, this talking point will continue throughout 1999.

APPOINTMENTS

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Pasionate about music, film and entertainment in general, you must be an amusing and prolific writer with a proven editorial track-record spanning at least 3 years, possibly in new media. Experience of the retail sector (ideally music retail) is essential, as are self-motivation, initiative and the ability to work accurately to tight deadlines. You should also be comfortable with advanced technology, although technical training will be given as required.

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EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

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Committed, organised and with a good eye for detail, you will ideally have experience of data entry, matching and cleaning within the music retail business. However, similar data handling abilities gained in another sector would also be appropriate if accompanied by an extensive knowledge of music. Either way, your sound working knowledge of databases should be backed by familiarity with popular PC packages plus strong communication and interpersonal skills.

To apply, please send your CV to Beverley Blain, Retailing General Manager, Capital Radio plc, 30 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LA. Closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 23rd December 1998.

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Please send CV and letter to W. Barris, AIM, Box 9214, London W9 2BR.

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APPOINTMENTS



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The BPI COUNCIL Christmas lunch at Browns Hotel last Wednesday provided one of the best festive season heavyweight photo opportunities with (1) EMI chief RUPERT PERRY extending seasonal greetings to Sony boss PAUL BURGER, Eastern Bloc's PETE WATERMAN also took time off from his train seats to raise a glass with Jammie Music's ANDREW LEARY and new Murdoch mate KORDA MARSHALL (2). First Night's JOHN CRAIG and EG Group's SAM ALDER were also on hand (3) to play flanker to Perry, while Virgin chief PAUL CONROY also made an appearance at the bash with Hydra's consultant supreme JOHN CUMMINGS and BPI chairman/outgoing Warner chairman ROB DICKINS (4).



Remember where you heard it: Talk about adopting a company line – the best word that top UniGram honchos Doug Morris, Jorgen Larsen and even MCA Music's David Renzer could each find to describe the past few months was "interesting"... Universal's commercial department picked an interesting date for their Christmas lunch – last Thursday... But there was one calm figure at PolyGram on the day the Seagram deal was confirmed – outgoing president continental Europe Rick Dobbs, who was calmly packing five enormous bags of garbage. "It's all worked out perfectly," said the urbane New Yorker before heading off to the Big Apple and his new job at Sony... Should make for an interesting family Christmas chez Stringer, what with Rob's older brother Howard newly-promoted to Sony's top US job.

Music worldwide in three years – after all, that would create a handy UK job vacancy... Its dance broadcaster Kiss FM close to making a melodic appointment?... Staff ears were no doubt pressed hard against the walls of Rob Dickins' office last Friday afternoon when the outgoing chief invited the new Warner king Nick Phillips round for a chat... and the good burghers of Notting Hill were seen twitching their curtains last Thursday when John Kennedy and ex-PolyGram publishers David Hockman and Richard Manners tipped up at Paul McGuinness's place for a festive drink and some serious power moves – and we don't mean arm wrestling... Talking of Hockman and Manners, MPA top cheese Tom Bradley had the room at the Royal Lancaster Hotel on their feet last Friday at the organisation's Christmas lunch. Bradley wasn't cracking any mother-in-law jokes, but had just toasted the outgoing PolyGram pair. As one, the whole room rose and erupted in spontaneous applause... Last week's High Court case ensured The Boss is still the boss over his own songs. But word reaches Dooley that Bruce is more than happy not to boss the

stage on his own and is planning to reunite with the East Street Band for a European tour next year... Dooley sends his best to publisher Henry Hadaway, MD of the Henry Hadaway Organisation, 30 years in the business and four weeks in hospital. Unfortunately, Henry has been holed up after major surgery, but is happily well on the way to a speedy recovery... London Records' staff let it all fly at their Christmas party – especially chairman Tracy Bennett who had many a karaoke moment, perhaps unwisely choosing to sing Puppet On A String repeatedly... EMI top man Tony Wadsworth was last Thursday delighting in the prospect of how far Radiohead have come when they followed Page & Plant on the bill of an Amnesty concert in Paris. "I thought 'Led Zepplin, your support act. That can't be bad,'" he figured... HMV's promotions manager Duncan Castle is reveling in one of his best promotions coups yet – getting a £2-off HMV voucher in a Virgin Atlantic leaflet given out on the airline's US to UK flights. "I'm surprised they wanted to do it," says Castle, who is even more puzzled by the non-appearance of Virgin Retail in the same booklet... Which fallen antipodean princess is about to sign a new deal, stepping back in time with familiar face? And could another Perfect relationship be revived... And finally – Virgin Records America's deal with the Manics looks up and running.....

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Whatever it may look like, Dooley can assure readers this is not the CLASSIC FM staff boarding their planes for a getaway Christmas package tour. Instead, it captures top DJ HENRY KELLY and the other fine band

of broadcasters making their final departures from Classic's north London studios which closed down at 3pm last Wednesday with a final news bulletin before linking to presenter JAMIE CRICK in its brand new premises in London's West End. The new state-of-the-art broadcast centre has cost a hefty £2m, comprises seven studios on the sixth floor of a former department store and overlooks Oxford Circus. What more could a DJ ask for?

music week

Incorporating Record Mirror

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