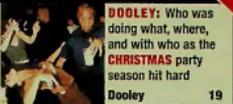




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# musicweek

## Christmas delivers the goods

by Paul Williams  
Retailers are reaping the benefits of one of the strongest Christmas release line-ups of recent years with chart album sales rising last week by around 20% on the same week last year.  
More than 1.5m Top 40 albums had passed over the counter by the end of business last Thursday, representing a 20.2% hike on a year ago, while Top 40 singles sales had shot up by nearly 25% to pass 1.2m units.  
PolyGram, whose director Nigel Hayward, sales company was yesterday (Sunday) on course to land four albums in the Top 10,

says PolyGram's sales are substantially up on Christmas 1997. "I can't think of a schedule as strong as this for PolyGram and if you look across the industry it's very, very strong," he says.  
The significant rise in sales last week follows a series of encouraging increases in album sales across the previous four weeks with sales rising year-on-year by between 2.4% and 11.8% during that period. The last-minute surge comes as album unit sales for the year to date are already more than 10% higher than the same period in 1997, according to Millward Brown data.



**Robbie: strong sales**  
The Top 10 alone by last Thursday had surpassed 745,000 sales, 72,000 more than the

equivalent week 12 months ago, with retailers reporting particular interest in albums by George Michael, Robbie Williams, M People and The Corrs and newly-released singles by the Spice Girls and Chef.  
"We've been very optimistic about Christmas in terms of releases," says HMV's senior marketing manager Cormack Loughran. "We've had the right albums on TV and our poster advertising has been strong."  
Simon Dornan, Virgin Retail's music marketing controller, is confident the sales lift will continue into the final week. "It's been slow-

er coming than last year but this week has really seen it kick in and with the extra day next week compared with last year it will be our most successful Christmas ever," he says.  
Non-traditional outlets in particular have been experiencing a healthy pickup in sales with Asda buying manager for entertainment Andy Spofforth reporting a 25% rise over last Christmas.  
Indie retailers are equally delighted with business: this Christmas, "It's been a really good week," says Lerryn Bry, owner of Music Box in St Budeaux, Plymouth.

### Societies meet to resolve AP2 row

Representatives of the MCPS-PRS, BPI and the Association of Independent Music are due to meet in London today (Monday) to discuss a framework agreement which has been struck to resolve the long-running AP1/AP2 mechanical royalty payment dispute.  
Around six members from the respective organisations are set to attend the meeting at the MCPS-PRS offices in London's Beers Street. It is understood the aim of the meeting is to draft the wording of a letter which will be sent out to the members of each organisation explaining the proposed mechanical royalty arrangements.



In the week that Rob Dickins took the post of running Warner's UK operation in June 1993, the company scored a number one single with Rod Stewart's Baby Jane. As he prepares to leave the company that he has led for 15 years, the UK's longest-serving major chairman can celebrate another achievement - *Char's Believe* last week became the biggest-selling record in the UK of 1998. To mark 15 years of hits *AW* editor Ajax Scott (right) presented Dickins with a special commemorative disc. Dickins says he plans to remain in music and expects to announce details of a new label in the New Year.

"It's a win-win solution for both the recording and the publishing industries," says one source.  
The long-simmering dispute over mechanical royalty payments arose following complaints by smaller companies that they are penalised under the current AP2 scheme whereby they have to pay royalties on units manufactured rather than units sold.

### 'Gutted' Steve Jackson exits in Kiss 100 shake up

Kiss 100's Sony Radio Award-winning breakfast presenter Steve Jackson and most of his team were fired just minutes after finishing last Friday's show as part of an extensive shake up at the Emap-owned station.  
The sackings coincided with Magic 105.4 managing director

Mark Story extending his duties to include the same position at Kiss 100, taking over from acting managing director Don Ford.  
Meanwhile, programme director Mark Matthews and his equivalent at Emap's Rock FM station in Preston, Andy Roberts, are to swap posts.

Emap Radio chief executive Tim Schoonmaker says, "We want to be brand market leader of that [age 15-24] demographic in London and it requires a number of redundancies for efficiency."  
Jackson, who has been with the station since its pirate days, says he is "gutted" by the move.

### Sally challenges Spice for Christmas hit

Chef's Chocolate Sally Balis was putting in a strong challenge last week to try to prevent the Spice Girls becoming only the second act in chart history to score three successive Christmas number ones.  
Goodbye had clocked up sales of around 230,000 by the end of business last Thursday (December 17) to head its near-

est challenger Chocolate Sally Balis by Chef, although its lead at this stage had been narrowed by a third from the previous day. Only The Beatles have previously scored a back-to-back hat-trick of festive number ones.  
Goodbye this week debuted at 11 in the States, giving the group their best US start since 2 Become 1 in August 1997.

### Eurythmics reunite for Brits gong

Eurythmics are to make their first public performance in London for seven years at next year's Brits, where they will be honoured with the outstanding contribution award.  
Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart, whose last studio album together was released by RCA in 1989, will maintain the event's tradition by closing the ceremony, due to take place at the London Arena, Docklands on February 16, with a set made up of some of their most successful hits.  
"It's wonderful to have them together again as Eurythmics," says Brits committee chairman Paul Corby, who adds the duo have long been considered for the award by the event's committee. "They're the classic out-of-town band," he says.



**Eurythmics: back for the Brits**  
award on three occasions, although Eurythmics as a duo have never won a Brit award.  
BMG chairman Richard Griffiths says the win will be marked by his company highlighting the duo's back catalogue, although there are no plans for any new recordings or releases.

The honour will further establish Lennox as the most decorated Brits winner with a record seven previous awards - six as best British female solo artist and one for best British album for her solo debut *Diva* in 1993. Stewart has also been honoured previously winning the best British producer

The rest of the contenders for the MasterCard-sponsored event will be unveiled at London's Cafe de Paris on January 11, when one of the best British newcomer nominees will perform. Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that Sony will handle the Brits double compilation album for the fourth successive year.

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音樂是環球的語言

Music Is Universal

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polygram

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A MÚSICA É UNIVERSAL

We Proudly Welcome PolyGram To The Universal Music Group



MUSIK IST UNIVERSAL

音樂は宇宙

The line-up for the Best British evening at Middles has been expanded, with eight bands now due to play in two sessions. The acoustic showcase in the Salon Estérel at the Martinez Hotel in Cannes at 6.30pm on January 25 will feature Squeeze's Chris Difford and Glen Tibbcock (signed to Quivotic), former BMG act Ezio (now unsigned), Nick Harper (Quivotic) and Harriet Roberts (Hornall Roberts Music Publishing). Later the same evening at the Martinez ballroom the electric bill will comprise Squeeze, Maroon Town (Township), Mike (Dorset) and HeadbounD (Cruisin' Music). Pictured are front row (from left): HeadbounD's Chad Dacey, Tibbcock, Difford, Roberts, Squeeze's Hilarie Penda and Maroon Town's Deuan German. Back row (from left): organisers Alan McGowan, Maroon Town's Val Brown, HeadbounD's Big Louie and Barry B, Squeeze's Ashley Soan and Chris Holland, Harper and PR Judy Totton.



## Worldwide industry initiative to secure delivery on net

by Tracey Snel

The international record industry has unveiled an ambitious online music delivery initiative in a bid to combat the growing problem of internet piracy and to encourage the business to embrace digital delivery.

The Secure Digital Music initiative was unveiled last Tuesday in New York by the worldwide music heads of the five major record companies and industry trade bodies the RIAA and IFPI. It is seeking to establish an open specification for the secure delivery of music over the internet by next autumn, with deliverable solutions to follow before Christmas. It will see the music industry working alongside technology companies including IBM, AT&T and Microsoft.

"The only major label product you

see now on the web is pirate," says BMG Entertainment president and coo Strauss Zelnick. With SDMI "consumers will be the first time see major record product on the web."

Jay Berman, incoming chairman and chief executive of the IFPI, says, "This is a critically important initiative as we as an industry look forward to seeing what kinds of delivery systems there are going to be in the future."

The SDMI Forum will draw up specifications for technologies including encryption, embedded signalling and watermarking. Berman dismisses the suggestion that simply licensing technologies such as MP3 would have been an option. "Under current circumstances there are no measures of security in MP3," he says.



Berman: "critically important" plan Berman concedes the initiative is late - the IFPI estimates there could be as many as 80,000 illegal MP3 files on the internet already - but remains confident that it will meet the tight timescales that have been set. "There has already been a lot of work done in working groups connected with technologies such

## London plays down All Saints disputes

All Saint Nicole Appleton was close to smoothing over her differences with the rest of the group last week after a series of bust-ups within the band.

The act's record label London denies Appleton ever walked out of the group, although managing director Laurie Cockell concedes there was a row. He denies the disputes were exclusively between Shaznay Lewis and Appleton and centred on writing credits.

"The girls just need a break," he says. "Given time, I am sure they will hold together."

Nicole was meeting Appleton on Friday to discuss her and the band's future and is confident all four All Saints will honour next year's tour commitments.

## newsfile

### HW PUBLISHING DATES

Music Week will be dropping one issue during the Christmas period. The next issue to appear will be cover-dated January 9 and will contain the albums and singles charts that would have appeared in the January 2 issue, as well as those for the following week.

### WISBY MOVES UP AT FIVE

Jive Records has promoted senior label manager Tina Wisby to the newly-created position of general manager. Meanwhile, sales coordinator Hans Griffiths is being promoted to Zomba sales manager and Sam Fleming has joined the group from Universal as sales and marketing assistant.

### RICE SLAMS PLAGIARISM CLAIMS

Tim Rice has hit out at the growing number of "spurious plagiarism" claims being brought by unknown songwriters against successful composers in a letter published in the Daily Telegraph. The letter was endorsed and supported by other composers including Barry Gibb and Phil Collins. It followed Lloyd Webber winning a plagiarism case last week against Ray Rayner over the theme to Phantom Of The Opera.

### BORDERS TO LAUNCH OXFORD STORE

Borders has secured a 2,500 sq m site in Oxford for a new store which is planned to open before Christmas 2000. The retailer already operates three stores in the UK, while stores are also due to open in Leeds, York and London's Charing Cross Road next year.

### SIXTH PLATINUM FOR THE CORRS

The Corrs' Talk On Corners won its sixth platinum award from the BPI last week as George Michael's Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best Of achieved its fifth platinum honour. Boyzone's Where We Belong became a quadruple platinum album, while platinum awards went to the Cher album Believe, Paul Weller's Modern Classics and the single Goodbye by the Spice Girls.

## Bronfman predicts growth in music industry profits

PolyGram's value to the newly-created Universal Music Group was reflected in figures issued by the group last week forecasting a 16% increase in music earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation to \$850m for the year ending June 30, 1999.

The forecast assumes Universal had owned PolyGram for the entire year and compares with \$708m the group would have earned the previous year on the same basis.

Speaking to analysts in New York last Monday, Seagram president and coo Edgar Bronfman Jr confirmed that he expects the integration of PolyGram, which Seagram finally acquired on December 20, to provide the group with annual cost savings of around \$300m, with \$200m set to be achieved by the year ending June 30, 2000.

"We sought to acquire a music company with complementary strengths," he told the conference. "The new Universal Music Group is now the premier music company in the world. Our music operations will



Bronfman: strong cash flow generate strong cash flow with minimal capital requirements."

He also confirmed that Seagram will take a \$700m charge related to the PolyGram integration and revealed that up to \$1bn in non-strategic assets will be disposed of.

Meanwhile, EMI says it is dismayed by a report in the Financial Times suggesting Bertelsmann's chairman and chief executive Thomas Middelhoff would be interested in striking a deal with the UK group if his share price falls low enough. EMI held informal talks with Bertelsmann in November, but an EMI spokesman says negotiations are not continuing.

## Publishers round up UK Eurovision entries

Interest in the Eurovision Song Contest from the music industry's publishing community has continued to grow with the Music Publishers Association collecting a record 111 entries for this year's Great British Song Contest.

"The MPA, whose tally of entries is 20% up on last year, says publishers are now taking the competition more seriously. "We had sensed a little bit of reluctance, but that is disappearing," says an MPA spokesman.

Songwriters body Basca received 550 entries - 150 down on last year, though this shortfall was partly expected because of the added interest generated in the event when it was held in the UK last year.

Judges waded through the Basca and MPA entries last week and around 40 have been selected for a celebrity panel sitting at the Savoy on January 24. This will choose up to 25 songs for the BBC to whittle down to a final shortlist of eight, which will be played on Radio Two from February 1 for the public to vote on.

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## RAISING NET STANDARDS

It takes something out of the ordinary to get the heads of the five major record companies to stage a stage, but then the internet is just that. That Messrs Mottola, Morris, Zelnic, Berry and Samet & Daly all attended last week's press conference in New York unveiling the initiative to find an open standard for digital music delivery illustrates their concern over the online future — and concern that the global record industry, not to mention publicly listed companies, is seen to do something about it. The initiative is to be welcomed, even though the deadlines for implementing it look impossibly tight. Technological standards always take a long time to agree — look at how the process of agreeing a DVD Audio Standard has dragged on.

At least this time the record industry is acting as one. And it is also being smart by seeking to get technology giants such as IBM to underwrite many of the costs. In order to participate, the latter must pay a \$50,000 fee, but this is chickenshed compared with the millions they could earn if their technology were to become the online standard. The danger is that now the initiative has been launched, the industry breathes a sigh of relief and neglects the challenges still ahead. At a time when everyone is thinking about corporate shake-ups, jobs, and in some cases even closing a couple of artist deals before the end of the year, it is tempting to forget the bigger picture. But this would be a mistake. In the last column of the year it is traditional to talk about music rather than issues, but 1999 has been a year dominated by issues rather than artists. And the issues won't go away. I hope that the year-end column next year will be about music. But however good that music is, its longevity depends on the industry sorting out its approach to the internet.

The IFFT's internet boffins have got their work cut out if they are to deliver us a Christmas present next year. *Alex Scott*

## TILLY

## LET'S BE SENSIBLE ABOUT SINGLES

Lord Lloyd-Webber's letter to *The Times* has received such an incredible amount of media exposure already that I don't wish to add to it.

However, the whole furore has once again highlighted a problem that is crying out to be resolved. The suicidal practice of £1.99 CDs and 99p cassettes and the incredible discounts being offered are bad enough, without a long list of dealer prices just to assist a marketing idea. I know I'm only one of the many who have been banging on about sensible single prices for years, but let's try in 1999 to see singles as profit making product, not just exposure for albums. I suggest pushing the two-track CD single in a wallet with a pricing structure to match.

Q verdose as we do on reflections of the year gone by at this time, I can't resist commenting on what a real up turn this year brought in the fortunes of country music.

Lee Ann Rimes, The Mavericks and Shania Twain all had hit singles, albums and sell-out concerts. My old mate Chris Hill once told me "Country music is the Sixties soul music of the Nineties," and having given it a serious listen this year, Hill was right — move over Marvin, here comes Garth, so to speak. Now along with reflections go predictions, so here goes:

Westside are going to be massive; Dixie Chicks will be the next country stars to break here; in rock, Go Go Dolls will have a very big album; and, finally, a bit off the wall, but the Axel Boys Quartet version of Barbie Doll could be massive. Incidentally, it's early days, but I hear Kylie could be making a move in the right direction after my comments about returning to one's roots. Can't wait to hear something, old pal. As for the major record company merry-go-round — who really cares any more who's running what? — they're only as good as their A&R departments, the money the marketing boys spend and a bit of luck thrown in.

A happy, prosperous New Year to you all and especially to Liz and Vince from The Box — you'll be back.

Tilly Rutherford's column is a personal view

Dealers welcome  
Creation price cut

Indie retailers have welcomed a dealer price cutting initiative by Creation Records which could slash at least £2 off the retail price of the label's catalogue CDs. From January 1, 1999 Creation is pegging its dealer prices for back catalogue albums at £8.18 rather than the previous range of £8.60-£9.05. New releases are not included in the initiative, although Creation says they will be treated on an individual basis and some may be offered at the lower dealer price.

Creation head of communications Andy Saunders says the move follows the label's recent web site launch, where albums will be on sale to UK buyers for £12.99 including postage and packing. "This got us thinking that CDs are too expensive. We are seeing some of our CDs on sale for £16.99 and we hope this will enable retailers to generate sales by lowering prices," he says.



Andy Saunders

## Library music goes online

A revolutionary system that allows users to download library music from a catalogue of 60,000 titles on the internet will be launched next month.

The subscription-based online library, developed by Multimedia Archive & Retrieval Systems (Mars), aims to provide an easy way of sourcing and using library music, while offering publishers a means of securing electronic distribution. Three years in development, it includes repertoire from libraries such as EMI's KPM Music, BMG Production Music, J.W. Media Music, Zomba Production Music and the Not Stop Music Library.

Mars says publishers and users, who are often "inundated" with CDs from libraries, could potentially



Hill: revolutionary system

make significant savings. "While the CDs are free, the real cost of managing these libraries is around £12 per CD per year," says Mars managing director Andy Hill. Peter Cox, managing director of KPM Music, whose 19,000 song titles have been used in programmes as diverse as *The Bill* and *News At Ten*, says: "It's the first time you have the ability to download master-quality transfers and the ability to access such a large database of libraries with single cross-reference searching."

Emap to develop new  
after Box founders' exit

by Tracey Snel

Emap last week vowed to extend the profile of interactive music TV channel The Box outside of the music industry following the sudden departure of founders Vince Monsey and Liz Laskowski.

Monsey and Laskowski, who launched the music channel in 1991 under licence from the UK service and sold it to Emap in 1996 for £8m, left their west London offices two Fridays ago with no warning. Both Emap and Monsey say the parting was amicable and mutually agreed.

"It's obviously very sad as we started The Box. It was our baby. But it doesn't fit so well into the Emap family with Liz and I running it," says Monsey. "It also limits us entrepreneurially."

The pair have been replaced by Stuart Pinches, who has been appointed acting managing director. Pinches has previously been involved in developing and launching music TV channels including VH1 in Europe and Arc in Australia. A permanent replacement is



Monsey and Laskowski: moving on

expected to be announced next summer.

Since its acquisition by Emap, The Box has become one of the fastest-growing cable and satellite music channels in the UK. It is currently ranked 12th in a list of the most-watched channels among all viewers in Box-receiving cable homes compared to 17th in June, according to audience research firm RSMB. It is also widely credited with helping to launch acts including the Spice Girls and Blimee and has this year enjoyed success with its *Telstar* hits compilations *Tea*.

Emap Radio chief executive Tim

Schoonmaker says the channel is now poised for the next stage of its development. "We made a decision over the summer to go into the Sky Digital package. We now need to make The Box as famous outside the music industry as it is inside."

Schoonmaker declines to go into detail about the plans but obvious next steps could include masthead programming tie-ups with Emap's publishing titles and video-on-demand digital TV services.

News of Monsey and Laskowski's departure has shocked some of their closest associates. Nicki Chapman, a partner at plugging company Brilliant, says, "They have contributed to my breaking some of the biggest acts. I have worked over the past five years from Take That and M People to the Spice Girls."

Hugh Goldsmith, MD of Billie's record company Innocent, says "They were huge supporters of Billie. I'm sure they'll bounce back. Monsey says, "We're leaving a bit of time off. But I've got one or two ideas that I think will mediate, which I think will fly."

## Asda speeds up music trading with live stock

Asda is planning to stock "live" music product across all its 225 stores selling music next year in a bid to speed up trading in stores.

The retailer, which currently displays only empty CD and cassette boxes on its shelves, is currently trialling the move in five branches and is aiming to bring the remaining stores on board in time for the first quarter of next year.

Buying manager for entertainment Andy Spofforth says the switch will make it quicker for people to pay for music product, although the retailer is having to come up with ways of making the stock secure. In the trial stores, all product carries a security tag which is then removed at the counter.

"We don't want to put up barriers

## ASDA'S SHARE OF MUSIC

SINGLES	All releases	8%
Top 40 sales only		11%

ALBUMS	All releases	6%
Top 40 sales only		9%

Figures cover Jan to June 1998  
Source: Asda

in the department. We want to make it customer friendly," says Spofforth, whose company last Thursday announced an 18% year-on-year rise in music and video sales for the 28 weeks to November 14.

The move is the latest initiative developed by Asda's music depart-

ment, which introduced the Epos ordering system in August to replace a system whereby staff had physically to count how much product was in store before re-ordering.

Spofforth believes Epos has helped to lift music and video sales even further, with the latest increase following a pattern of around 20% rises during the past five years for the supermarket.

Spofforth adds that the chain has enjoyed even better sales in the closing quarter of this year. "Though these figures are for the six months to November 14, if you look at the market since then it's probably the most Asda-friendly Christmas chart ever. There's hardly any non-mainstream stuff in the Top 40," he says.

## SINGLE of the fortnight

**FATBOY SLIM: Praise You (Skint SKINT42).** The evangelical tone of this third single from Norman Cook's number two album *You've Come A Long Way Baby* is powerful enough to convert even



the strongest of doubters. Based around a gospel-style keyboard groove evocative of the Rolling Stones or Primal Scream, it should have an even wider appeal than Rockafeller Skank and Gangster Trippin', which reached number six and three respectively. Giving airplay, including a Radio One A-listing, could be enough to give Slim his first number one — in this guise. (Released January 4)



## SINGLE reviews

**PRINCE: 1999 (Warner W467CD).** WEA is wasting no time in reissuing this funky 1991 classic with its killer chorus. Whatever the Artist — who is recording several new versions himself for a rumoured January release — may make of this reissue, everyone might need need a copy this year. (December 28)



**LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY: Postcards From Heaven (Wildcard/Polydor 563 395-2).** This re-recorded version of the title track of the Lighthouse Family's second album highlights their gift for writing well-crafted pop. Focusing less on the torch-song feel of the original, it adopts a more rhythmic approach. A Top 10 placing seems unlikely, though it should further boost album sales. (December 28)

**JULIET ROBERTS: Bad Girls/1 Like (Delirious DELICD11).** Despite a string of Top 20 hits in 1993-94 and a number 15 with *So Good* early in 1998, dance diva Roberts has never really crossed over into the mainstream. However, this upbeat disco

double-header, including a cover of the Donna Summer classic, looks set to change all that — it has a Radio One A-listing and boosted the biggest increase in audience on the UK airplay chart last week. (January 4)

**STRAW: The Aeroplane Song (WEA 196CD).** Drawing heavily on The Beatles' Sgt Pepper, Straw's second single is all piano chords and infectious melodies. It is remarkably accomplished for a band only two releases old, and full of promise.

Daytime radio support is deserved for this cracking release. (December 28)

**BLOCKSTER: You Should Be... (Sound Of Ministry MOSCD128).** DJ Brandon Block is on course for his first chart success with this unashamed party anthem based on the Bee Gees' 1976 hit *You Should Be Dancing*. A former number one on both the *RM* club and pop tip charts, it is A-listed on Radio One, and seems likely to give the Ministry its first success of 1999. (January 4)

**DESTINY'S CHILD: Get On The Bus (Elektra 7559-63783-2).** Melanie B's contribution to the Why Do Fools Fall In Love soundtrack debuted at number one in September, but this latest extract is likely to find the going a lot tougher. Like the Mel B track, this was co-written by Missy Elliott.

While its leftfield structure means the odds are against it, the group's last two singles have gone Top 20. (December 28)

**PAUL WELLER: Wild Wood (Island CID734).** Arguably the highlight of the Top 10 album *Modern Classics*, this acoustic better is given a second airing, albeit for a limited run of just a week, coupled with a Portishead remix. A Weller TV special is broadcast tonight (Monday). (December 28)



**MONSTER MAGNET: Powertrip (Polydor 5828232).** Lifted from the recent album of the same name which reached number 65, *Powertrip* is a catchy psychedelic rock tune with gruff vocals and raunchy guitar. The band are co-headlining three dates in December with Rob Zombie, and are being heavily promoted in the rock/metal press and on MTV. (January 4)

**GLORIA ESTEFAN: Don't Let This Moment End (Epic 6667472).** With her previous single *Oye* peaking at number 33, Estefan is looking for a revival and the most radio-friendly cut yet lifted from her current *Glorial* album could provide an upturn. However, it has had problems attracting airplay. The chief problem is that some of her material sounds dated, particularly when compared with the fresh approach taken by artists such as Madonna and Cher. (January 4)

## ALBUM reviews

**VARIOUS: frr Classics 1988 - 1998 (frr 556064-2).** Born out of the club culture of the late Eighties, London Records' dance imprint has released classic tracks such as Salt 'n' Pepa's *Push It*, DJ Bolland's *Sugar Is Sweeter*, Goldie's *Inner City* and *Life and Nails & Kane's Beachball*. For once, a collection that lives up to its title. (December 28)

This week's reviewers: Dugald Baird, Michael Byrne, Simon Harper, Stephen Jones, Sophie Moss, Ric Naylor and Paul Williams.

## ALBUM of the fortnight

**JAY-Z: Volume 2... Hard Knock Life (Northeastside 74321 62555-2).** With the irresistibly infectious *Hard Knock Life* (Ghetto Anthem) still in the Top 10 after a number two entry, this Brooklyn rapper's UK profile has never been higher. This second album should consolidate his standing as a key player in the hip hop world, marking a return to a more hardcore sound. Fresh flavours are brought in by hot producers such as Timbaland, Erick Sermon and Swizz Beats from the Ruff Ryders camp, while guest vocalists include Foxy Brown, Big Jaz, Kid Capri, The Lox, DMX and Jermaine Dupri. It topped the *Billboard* album chart in its first week and sold double platinum 10 weeks after release in the US, though it will have less immediate mainstream appeal here. (January 4)



Entry forms for the judged awards will be sent out next week, but please note the following deadlines for entries:

**PR Award:**  
January 15, 1999

**Best Marketing Campaign (Music Release):**  
January 21, 1999

**Best Marketing Campaign (General):**  
January 21, 1999

To ensure you receive the entry forms, please call Anne Jones on 0171 940 8570

Gold Bonus



PR Award



Best PR



Best Marketing Campaign



Best Marketing Campaign (Music Release)



Best Marketing Campaign (General)



Best Marketing Campaign (General)



Best Marketing Campaign (General)



Best Marketing Campaign (General)



Best Marketing Campaign (General)



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## CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

For the third year in a row, the Spice Girls have the Christmas number one, equalling the record established by the Beatles, who ruled in 1963, 1964 and 1965. If the Spice Girls can top the chart next Christmas, they will beat The Beatles' record – the fab four missed out in 1966, but returned to the summit in time for Christmas 1967. The Spice Girls' overall tally of number ones is no threat yet to the Beatles, who lead the list alongside Elvis Presley with 17 chart-toppers apiece, or to Cliff Richard, who has 13 number ones – but they're one away from sharing fourth place with Abba, having joined The Rolling Stones and Take That in fifth place, with eight number ones.

Another record which should be in the Spice Girls' grasp by the end of the week is that of being the biggest-selling singles act of the Nineties. That record has been held by Elton John since Candle In The Wind 1997/Somebody That The Way You Look Tonight achieved unprecedented sales.



For the eighth time in nine releases, the Spice Girls have a number one single – but they were made to struggle as never before, despite selling more than 380,000 copies of Goodbye last week. That's their second highest first-week sale to date, being bettered only by the 429,000 debut of 2 Become 1 two years ago. Their other first-week tallies are: Wannabe (73,000), Stop (119,000), Viva Forever (178,000), Who Do You Think You Are/Mama (248,000), Too Much

## SINGLE FACTFILE

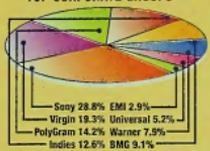
(252,000), Spice Up Your Life (321,000) and Say You'll Be There (348,000). The record which gave Goodbye such a tough time was Salty Chocolate Balls, by Isaac Hayes under his South Park alias Chef. It's his biggest hit ever and, with over 372,000 copies sold last week, it's the highest sale attained by a record not at number one since Wham!'s Last Christmas debuted with sales of half a million in December 1984, when it was denied pole position by Band Aid.

## MARKET REPORT



Figures show Top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 75, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75

## TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



## PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART



Eiton's Nineties total is about 7,028,000, while the Spice Girls tally is currently a little over 6,820,000.

It has been a year of unprecedented success for female artists, with all-female acts taking pole position for more than half

of the year to date. Female soloists, duos and groups have topped the chart for 26 weeks in 1998, with mixed acts such as Aqua also featuring prominent female contributions. Even though the all-female Top Five of the season has been dispersed, the Top 10 is the most female-oriented ever, with three all-girl groups, three female soloists and three male/female acts being joined in the Top 10 by just one male-only act, Chef. A handy perennial in Christmas past, Slade Vs Flash, it's a remix of the original, and debuts at number 30. It's the first time Merry Xmas Everybody has charted since 1986, and its highest placement since 1983. In all its Slade versions, Merry Xmas Everybody has spent 32 weeks in the chart, appearing in the listings in 11 different years.

## THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 SINGLES

1 BELIEVE	CHEF	WEA
2 MY HEART WILL GO ON	CELINE DION	EPIC
3 IT'S LIKE THAT	RUN-DMC VS JASON NEVINS	SM&E COMMUNICATIONS
4 NO MATTER WHAT	BOYZONE	POLYGRAM
5 C'EST LA VIE	B'WITCHED	GLOW WORKMUSIC
6 HOW DO I LIVE	LEANN ROME	CURTIS THE HIT LABEL
7 GHETTO SUPASTAR (THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE)	FRAS MICHEL FEAT. ODB & MVA	INTERSCOPE
8 TRULY MADLY DEEPLY	SAVAGE GARDEN	COLUMBIA
9 MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU	STARBUCK	VIRGIN
10 VIVA FOREVER	SPICE GIRLS	VIRGIN
11 3 LIONS '98	BADDELUCKSKINNER/LIGHTNING SEEDS	EPIC
12 DOCTOR JONES	AQUA	UNIVERSAL
13 NEVER EVER	ALL SAINTS	LONDON
14 THE BOY IS MINE	BRANDY & MONICA	ATLANTIC
15 I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	AEROSMITH	COLUMBIA
16 FEEL IT	TAMARA FEAAT. MAYA	PEPPER
17 BRIMFUL OF ASIA	CURNERSHIP	WALLA
18 ROLLERCOASTER	B'WITCHED	GLOW WORKMUSIC
19 FROZEN	MADONNA	MAVERICK
20 HONEY	MOUSSE T VS HOTN'JUICY	AMP&M

#	Title/Artist	Label	#	Title/Artist	Label
1	GOODBYE Salty Girls	Virgin	21	HARD KNOCK LIFE Jay Z	Northwest
2	CHOCOLATE SALTY BALLS Chef	Columbia	22	I WANT YOU Single Dink	Colony
3	ESPECIALLY FOR YOU Darius & Anthony	RCA	23	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING Aerosmith	Columbia
4	BELIEVE Cher	WEA	24	MY FAVOURITE GAME De'Nique	Stardust
5	TO YOU I BELONG Withheld	Epic	25	THANK U 4 My Music Madonna	Maverick
6	HEARTBEAT/RAGEOUS Supa	Blue	26	UP AND DOWN Newkidds	Parade
7	END OF THE LINE Savage	Mercury	27	THE EVERLASTING Miss Sweet Pleasers	Cap
8	WHEN YOU'RE COME Eton Adams with Mel C	ADM	28	WHEN YOU BELIEVE Jason Gray & Whitney Houston	Columbia
9	SHE WANTS YOU! Iva	Virgin	29	THE GREATEST LOVE Lucinda Williams	Willard
10	CRUISE INTO CHRISTMAS John McVie	Fox	30	YOU GIRLS NIGHT OUT Aja	Wildcat
11	BIG BIG WORLD Chris	Universal	31	WHAT CAN I DO The Cars	Atlantic
12	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME Madonna	Polydor	32	PERFECT 10 The Beautiful South	Cap Data
13	NO REGRETS/AMUSIC Pussycat Villains	Orion	33	MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU Shantel	Virgin
14	SO YOUNG The Cars	ADM	34	TAKE ME THERE Backstreet & Nyla	Interscope
15	OSOMBE Michael	Cap	35	FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN Cyndi Lauper	Raketa
16	MAMI With Supa	Columbia	36	I JUST WANNA BE LOVED Culture Club	Virgin
17	DUMB The Beautiful South	Cap Data	37	THIS KISS Ain't Hot	Warner-Bros
18	SWIEST THING Oz	Intend	38	I'M YOUR ANGEL Culture Club & Kelly	Cap
19	ALWAYS HAVE ALWAYS WILL Ace Of Base	London	39	MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY Spice Girls	Polydor
20	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE Madonna	WEA	40	IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD... Tempest vs. Mike	Parade

To hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 905290. Calls cost 50p/min.

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26 DECEMBER 1998



Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
1	2 4 34	<b>SO YOUNG</b>						
2	8 7 4	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams with Melanie C	A&M/Mercury	1933	420	67.94	420
3	2 6 4	GOODBYE	Spice Girls	Virgin	1559	+26	66.69	+23
4	5 3 13	BIG BIG WORLD	Emilia	Universal	1472	+11	54.99	-2
5	11 14	BELIEVE	Cher	WEA	1833	-19	52.20	-43
6	7 4 34	DUMB	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	1197	+12	52.15	-5
7	10 3 4	END OF THE LINE	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury	1063	+42	51.53	+10
8	4 15 4	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1552	n/c	47.43	-19
9	21 3 3	TO YOU I BELONG	B*Witched	Capitol	967	+979	47.17	+58
10	3 2 3	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE	Madonna	Maverick	1348	-4	46.86	-22
11	3 2 3	NO REGRETS	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	1469	-1	43.12	-16
12	12 12 28	I WANT YOU	Savage Garden	Columbia	1121	-9	42.67	n/c
13	14 11	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	947	+4	42.55	-46
14	11 10 9	SWEETEST THING	UZ	Island	1228	-23	40.95	-9
15	16 16 4	ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL	Ace Of Base	London	1013	+50	39.73	+49
16	18 10 43	OUTSIDE	George Michael	Capitol	1361	+33	39.23	+10
17	17 12 33	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor	696	-15	36.65	-9
18	13 1 37	THE EVERLASTING	Manic Street Preachers	Epit	921	-5	32.67	-25
19	19 13 34	THANK U	Alanis Morissette	Maverick/Repertoire	871	-10	30.94	-1
20	15 1 3	HARD KNOCK LIFE...	Jay-Z	Northwestside	787	n/c	30.70	-22
21	22 2 3	PRaise YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skint	405	+47	27.12	+29
22	23 2 4	MUSIC SOUNDS BETTER WITH YOU	Stardust	Virgin	547	-3	27.04	-9
23	22 4 7	I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING	Aerosmith	Columbia	995	-11	26.85	-16
24	22 3 17	UP AND DOWN	Yengoybang	Positiva/EMI	549	-14	25.26	-14
25	27 2 4	HEARTBEAT	Steps	Jive/EMI	503	-9	25.14	-10

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
26	4 2 2	YOU SHOULD BE...	Blockstarz	Sound Of Ministry	257	+108	24.72	+67
27	26 1 3	ESPECIALLY FOR YOU	Denise & Johnny	RCA	159	+512	24.24	+437

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
28	10 1 1	LAST CHRISTMAS	Wham!	Epit	450	+406	23.82	606
29	2 2 4	SHE WANTS YOU	Billie	Innocent	642	+36	22.19	+20
30	25 2 9	I'M YOUR ANGEL	Celine Dion & R Kelly	Capitol	441	-18	21.63	-20
31	4 1 3	BAD GIRLS	Juliet Roberts	Delirious	217	+66	21.00	+35
32	30 2 24	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston	Columbia	393	+41	20.96	+39
33	34 4 9	WHAT CAN I DO	The Corrs	143/Lava/Atlantic	734	-1	20.85	-9
34	3 4 9	THE GREATEST LOVE	Lutricia McNeal	Wildstar	440	+11	20.20	+17
35	30 1 9	POSTCARD FROM HEAVEN	Lighthouse Family	Wild Card/Polydor	205	+80	19.52	+20
36	3 8 2	TAKE ME THERE	Blackstreet & Mya	Interscope	549	+10	19.12	-20
37	10 1 9	A FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK	The Pogues feat. Kirsty MacColl	WEA	373	+555	18.79	+324
38	37 10 49	PERFECT 10	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	696	-38	17.66	-19
39	35 30 4	LOOKING FOR LOVE	Karen Ramirez	Manifesto/Mercury	405	+3	16.86	+11
40	30 10 37	FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN	Eagle-Eye Cherry	Polydor	915	-12	16.60	-80
41	42 30 13	THIS KISS	Faith Hill	Warner Bros.	956	+4	15.97	-37
42	47 1 30	GIRLS NIGHT OUT	Alda	Wildstar	289	+21	15.55	+29
43	36 2 3	SAVE THOUGHT	Eagle-Eye Cherry	Polydor	370	-6	15.41	-21
44	44 16 1	DO YOU KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?	Band Aid	Polygram	371	+471	14.91	+591
45	38 30 49	I JUST WANNA BE LOVED	Culture Club	Virgin	387	-25	14.88	-21
46	46 1 9	LITTLE BIT MORE	911	Virgin	122	+143	14.47	+407
47	39 3 9	LITTLE BIT OF LOVIN'	Kele Le Roe	1st Avenue/Polydor	624	-14	14.05	-39
48	43 1 5	MORE THAN THIS	Emilie	Manifesto/Mercury	143	+88	13.92	+47
49	49 1 1	CHRISTMAS WRAPPING	Spice Girls	Virgin	323	+202	13.67	+94
50	43 2 35	MILLENNIUM	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	484	-14	13.46	-17

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
51	28 10 1	LAST CHRISTMAS	Wham!	Epit	450	+406	23.82	606
52	29 2 4	SHE WANTS YOU	Billie	Innocent	642	+36	22.19	+20

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
53	31 4 3	BAD GIRLS	Juliet Roberts	Delirious	217	+66	21.00	+35
54	32 30 24	WHEN YOU BELIEVE	Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston	Columbia	393	+41	20.96	+39

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
55	30 1 9	POSTCARD FROM HEAVEN	Lighthouse Family	Wild Card/Polydor	205	+80	19.52	+20
56	3 8 2	TAKE ME THERE	Blackstreet & Mya	Interscope	549	+10	19.12	-20

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
57	10 1 9	A FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK	The Pogues feat. Kirsty MacColl	WEA	373	+555	18.79	+324
58	37 10 49	PERFECT 10	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	696	-38	17.66	-19

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
59	35 30 4	LOOKING FOR LOVE	Karen Ramirez	Manifesto/Mercury	405	+3	16.86	+11
60	30 10 37	FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN	Eagle-Eye Cherry	Polydor	915	-12	16.60	-80

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
61	42 30 13	THIS KISS	Faith Hill	Warner Bros.	956	+4	15.97	-37
62	47 1 30	GIRLS NIGHT OUT	Alda	Wildstar	289	+21	15.55	+29

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
63	36 2 3	SAVE THOUGHT	Eagle-Eye Cherry	Polydor	370	-6	15.41	-21
64	44 16 1	DO YOU KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?	Band Aid	Polygram	371	+471	14.91	+591

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
65	38 30 49	I JUST WANNA BE LOVED	Culture Club	Virgin	387	-25	14.88	-21
66	46 1 9	LITTLE BIT MORE	911	Virgin	122	+143	14.47	+407

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
67	39 3 9	LITTLE BIT OF LOVIN'	Kele Le Roe	1st Avenue/Polydor	624	-14	14.05	-39
68	43 1 5	MORE THAN THIS	Emilie	Manifesto/Mercury	143	+88	13.92	+47

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
69	49 1 1	CHRISTMAS WRAPPING	Spice Girls	Virgin	323	+202	13.67	+94
70	43 2 35	MILLENNIUM	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	484	-14	13.46	-17

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
71	1 1	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	947	+4	42.55	-46
72	1 3	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams with Mel C (A&M/Mercury)	1933	420	67.94	420	

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
73	1 3	PRaise YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skint	405	+47	27.12	+29
74	1 3	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1552	n/c	47.43	-19

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
75	1 3	SO YOUNG						
76	1 3	GOODBYE	Spice Girls	Virgin	1559	+26	66.69	+23

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
77	1 3	BIG BIG WORLD	Emilia	Universal	1472	+11	54.99	-2
78	1 3	BELIEVE	Cher	WEA	1833	-19	52.20	-43

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
79	1 3	DUMB	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	1197	+12	52.15	-5
80	1 3	END OF THE LINE	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury	1063	+42	51.53	+10

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
81	1 3	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1552	n/c	47.43	-19
82	1 3	TO YOU I BELONG	B*Witched	Capitol	967	+979	47.17	+58

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
83	1 3	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE	Madonna	Maverick	1348	-4	46.86	-22
84	1 3	NO REGRETS	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	1469	-1	43.12	-16

RADIO ONE

Pos	Weeks on Chart	Artist	Title	Label	1603	71.52	-1	
1	1	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	947	+4	42.55	-46
2	1	WHEN YOU'RE GONE	Bryan Adams with Mel C (A&M/Mercury)	1933	420	67.94	420	
3	1	PRaise YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skint	405	+47	27.12	+29
4	1	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1552	n/c	47.43	-19
5	1	SO YOUNG						
6	1	GOODBYE	Spice Girls	Virgin	1559	+26	66.69	+23
7	1	BIG BIG WORLD	Emilia	Universal	1472	+11	54.99	-2
8	1	BELIEVE	Cher	WEA	1833	-19	52.20	-43
9	1	DUMB	The Beautiful South	Go/Discs/Mercury	1197	+12	52.15	-5
10	1	END OF THE LINE	Honeyz	1st Avenue/Mercury	1063	+42	51.53	+10
11	1	I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME	Boyzone	Polydor	1552	n/c	47.43	-19
12	1	TO YOU I BELONG	B*Witched	Capitol	967	+979	47.17	+58
13	1	THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE	Madonna	Maverick	1348	-4	46.86	-22
14	1	NO REGRETS	Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	1469	-1	43.12	-16
15	1	I WANT YOU	Savage Garden	Columbia	1121	-9	42.67	n/c
16	1	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia	947	+4	42.55	-46
17	1	SWEETEST THING	UZ	Island	1228	-23	40.95	-9
18	1	ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL	Ace Of Base	London	1013	+50	39.73	+49
19	1	OUTSIDE	George Michael	Capitol	1361	+33	39.23	+10
20	1	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor	696	-15	36.65	-9
21	1	THE EVERLASTING	Manic Street Preachers	Epit	921	-5	32.67	-25
22	1	THANK U	Alanis Morissette	Maverick/Repertoire	871	-10	30.94	-1
23	1	HARD KNOCK LIFE...	Jay-Z	Northwestside	787	n/c	30.70</	

26  
december  
1998

# THE OFFICIAL CHARTS

music week  
AS USED BY



# singles



- 1 **GOODBYE**  
Spice Girls *Virgin*
- 2 CHOCOLATE SALTY BALLS (PS I LOVE YOU) Cher *Columbia*
- 3 ESPECIALLY FOR YOU Denise And Johnny *RCA*
- 4 BELIEVE Cher *WEA*
- 5 TO YOU I BELONG B\*Witched *Glow Worm/Epic*
- 6 HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY Steps *Ebu/Jive*
- 7 END OF THE LINE Honeyz *1st Avenue/Mercury*
- 8 WHEN YOU'RE GONE Bryan Adams feat. Melanie C. *A&M/Mercury*
- 9 SHE WANTS YOU Billie *Innocent*
- 10 CRUISE INTO CHRISTMAS MEDLEY Jane McDonald *Foxtel Music/Int*

- 11 MIAMI Will Smith *Columbia*
- 12 HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM) Jay - Z *Northwestside*
- 13 BIG BIG WORLD Emilla *Universal*
- 14 WHEN YOU BELIEVE Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston *Columbia*
- 15 I ALWAYS BELIEVE YOU LOVE ME Boyzone *Polydor*
- 16 ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL Ace Of Base *London*
- 17 UP AND DOWN Vengaboys *Positive*
- 18 GOOD MORNING SUNSHINE Aqua *Universal*
- 19 NO REGRETS Robbie Williams *Chrysalis*

MARIAH CAREY & WHITNEY HOUSTON  
THE HIT SINGLE  
WHEN YOU BELIEVE  
FROM THE PRINCE OF EGYPT

AVAILABLE ON MARIAH CAREY'S ALBUM 'I'S

ARISTA JIVE WEA  
WHITNEY HOUSTON APPEARS COURTESY OF A&M, MERCURY  
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26  
december  
1998

# albums



- 1 **LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF**  
George Michael *Epic*
- 2 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU Robbie Williams *Chrysalis*
- 3 TALK ON CORNERS The Corrs *Atlantic*
- 4 THE BEST OF M People *M People/BMG*
- 5 WHERE WE BELONG Boyzone *Polydor*
- 6 STEP ONE Steps *Jive/Ebu*
- 7 THE BEST OF 1980-1990 U2 *Island*
- 8 QUENCH The Beautiful South *Gold/Discs/Mercury*
- 9 ONE NIGHT ONLY Bee Gees *Polydor*
- 10 HITS Phil Collins *Virgin*

- 11 B\*WITCHED B\*Witched *Glow Worm/Epic*
- 12 VOICE OF AN ANGEL Charliotte Church *Sony Classical*
- 13 THE BEST OF - THE STAR AND WISEMAN Ladysmooth Black Mambazo *PolyGram*
- 14 NO 18 Mariah Carey *Columbia*
- 15 RAY OF LIGHT Madonna *Mercuric*
- 16 BELIEVE Cher *WEA*
- 17 FIVE Five *RCA*
- 18 THE MOVIES Michael Ball *PolyGram TV*
- 19 THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS Manic Street Preachers *Epic*

20 **GIRLS NIGHT OUT** Alda  
Wildstar



21 **DANCING BABY (DUGA - CHAKA)** Trouble  
Island



22 **TAKE ME THERE** Blackstreet & Mya feat. Mase & Blkay Blink  
Intarscope



23 **I'M YOUR ANGEL** Celine Dion & R. Kelly  
Epic



24 **DUMB** The Beautiful South  
Go/Discs/Mercury



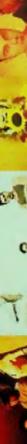
25 **WAR OF NERVES** All Saints  
London



26 **I WANT YOU '98** Savage Garden  
Columbia



27 **I DON'T WANT TO MISS A THING** Aerosmith  
Columbia



28 **THE GREATEST LOVE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW** Lucretia McNeal  
Wildstar



29 **UNTIL THE TIME IS THROUGH** Five  
RCA



30 **MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY '98** REMIX SLADE VS FLUSH  
Polydor



31 **NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS (GOBLIN IN THE OFFICE)** Fat Les  
Turbulence



32 **THE POWER OF GOOD-BYE/LITTLE STAR** Madonna  
Maverick



33 **HAVE YOU EVERY** Brandy  
Atlantic



34 **SO YOUNG** The Corrs  
Atlantic



35 **MOVE MANIA** Sash! feat. Shannon  
Multiply



36 **BLUE** LeAnn Rimes  
Curtis/Ht. Label/London



37 **THE EVERLASTING** Manic Street Preachers  
Epic



38 **BIG PANTY WOMAN** The Barefoot Man  
Plaza

# compilations

1 **HOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC!** 41  
11 11  
EMI/Virgin/PolyGram

2 **HITS '99**  
14 12  
warneresp/Global TV/Sony TV

3 **THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD, EVER!**  
13  
Virgin/EMI

4 **CHEF AID - THE SOUTH PARK ALBUM**  
15 14  
telesar TV

5 **MUSIC OF THE NIGHT**  
12 15  
warneresp/Global TV/Sony TV

6 **THE ANNUAL IV - JUDGE JULIA & BOY GEORGE**  
13 16  
warneresp/Global TV/Sony TV

7 **THE VERY BEST OF THE LOVE ALBUM**  
16 17  
Virgin/EMI

8 **WOMAN**  
20 18  
PolyGram TV/Sony TV

9 **THE ALL TIME GREATEST LOVE SONGS - III**  
17 19  
Virgin/EMI

10 **HEARTBEAT - THE '60S GOLD COLLECTION**  
18 20  
Columbia

11 **MOST RELAXING CLASSICAL ALBUM, EVER!! II**  
18 20  
RCA/Global TV

12 **KISS ANTHEMS '98**  
17 19  
Virgin/EMI

13 **THE BEST IS ALBUM IN THE WORLD, EVER IV**  
18 20  
Virgin/EMI

23 **20 SAVAGE GARDEN** Savage Garden  
Columbia



17 **21 HONEY TO THE B** Billie  
Innocent

22 **22 SUPPOSED FORMER INFATUATION** JUVINIE  
Alicia's Monstarrate  
Maverick

21 **23 THE VERY BEST OF MEAT LOAF**  
Virgin/Sony TV

27 **24 THESE ARE SPECIAL TIMES** Celine Dion  
Epic

20 **25 MODERN CLASSICS - THE GREATEST HITS** PAUL WIELER  
Island

19 **26 GREATEST MOMENTS** Culture Club  
Virgin

33 **27 BIG WILLIE STYLE** Will Smith  
Columbia

28 **28 GREATEST** Duran Duran  
EMI

31 **29 UP REM**  
Warner Brothers

25 **30 THE BEST OF 1980-1990 & B-SIDES** U2  
Island



30 **31 SONGS FROM 'ALLY McBEAL'** Vonda Shepard  
Epic

34 **32 LIFE THRU A LENS** Robbie Williams  
Chrysalis

36 **33 YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY** Fatboy Slim  
Skint

29 **34 THE MASTERPLAN** Oasis  
Creation

38 **35 JANE MCDONALD** Jane McDonald  
Focus Music Int.

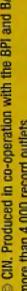
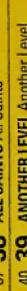
35 **36 LESLEY GARRETT** Lesley Garrett  
BBC/BMG/Comifer

32 **37 SULTANS OF SWING - THE VERY BEST OF** Dire Straits  
Vertigo

37 **38 ALL SAINTS** All Saints  
London

40 **39 ANOTHER LEVEL** Another Level  
Northwestside

43 **40 LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE** Celine Dion  
Epic



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## CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



Ladies & Gentlemen – The Best Of George Michael is the nation's number one album choice for the sixth consecutive week. Its sales were nearly 300,000 in the latest frame proving to be almost as many as the next two albums added together. Running George closest for honours is Robbie Williams, whose I've Been Expecting You sold more than 178,000 copies, a total it exceeded only in its first week in the shops. Robbie's album has sold 787,000 in the past eight weeks and, added to the million-plus sales achieved by his earlier album *Life thru A Lens* so far in 1998, it guarantees that whether it is *The Corrs* or George Michael who has the single biggest-selling album of the year, Robbie will be the biggest-selling artist.

Last week was another bumper one for the UK record industry. According to C.I.N. figures, more than 6,787,000 albums were sold, an increase of 26% over the previous week, a rise of more than 3% on the same

## MARKET REPORT



## SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +28.5%  
YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: +10.3%

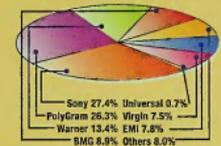
week last year, with artist albums making up nearly 74% of the total, compared with 69% a year ago. At the lowest ebb of 1998, the

## ALBUM FACTFILE

Ladies & Gentlemen – The Best Of George Michael continues to sell at a staggering pace. It glided past the million sales mark on Thursday (December 17), a mere 39 days after its release. Its sales of nearly 310,000 last week represent the highest seven-day figure ever registered by a double album, exceeding previous records set by Frankie Goes to Hollywood's 1984 opener *Welfare To The Pleasurezone* and The Very Best Of Elton John in

1990. Finishing the week with cumulative sales of 1,090,000, Ladies And Gentlemen has a very real chance as emerging as the biggest seller of 1998. If it sells in similar quantities for the next two weeks – a tough but not impossible task – and The Corrs' Talk On Corners continues at its present pace (it sold more than 158,000 last week, its best ever tally) – George will take the title by the narrowest of margins.

## TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



One thing this Christmas is proving is that pop acts are able to sell large numbers of albums as well as singles. B\*Witched's album sold nearly 89,000 copies last week to take its total over 400,000 in 10 weeks, and set it up to top double platinum status (600,000) by the year end. Boyzone's Where We Belong did even better, with more than 138,000 new buyers taking its 30-week tally to just over a million. Steps are proving a formidable sales force too, and a further 136,000 sales of their debut album Step One bring its 14-week total to more than 600,000. Even Billie, whose third single failed to equal the number one success of her first two, has sold nearly 250,000 copies of *Honey To The B*. By the end of next week the album will have been on sale for 10 weeks, and will have sold more copies than any of her singles – both because We Want To and Girlfriend are hovering around the 300,000 mark, while She Wants You's two-week tally is half that.

## COMPILATIONS

The number one compilation for the fourth week in a row, *Now That's What I Call Music!* 41 reversed its decline last week, selling a further 186,000 copies, to bring its overall sales to 767,000, enough to put it ahead of spring's *Now That's What I Call Music!* 39 as the year's biggest-selling compilation. Now 41 should top a million sales before the year is out, and is also likely to remain at number one, even though the margin of its victory over the number two compilation *Hits 99* shrank from 80,000 to 46,000 last week, as the latter album got into its stride.

Another album making a major contribution to the compilation market in these troubled times – the sector as a whole is down 0.2% on 1998, while artist album sales have expanded by more than 10% – is *Chef Aid – The South Park Album*.

Boosted by the popularity of Chef's chocolate Satby Balls single, the album holds at number four this week – scant reward for a 32% increase in week-on-week sales, which totalled more than 64,000 last week, and are over 200,000 in total, just four weeks into the album's life.

The Ministry Of Sound's Annual series is having a tough time this year. After three years establishing the brand with mixes by Pete Tong and Boy George, *The Annual IV* features Judge Jules and Boy George. Whether or not the absence of Tong is a factor is hard to say, but the album is ranked lower in the chart (number six) than any of its predecessors were at this stage of the year. Nevertheless, its current sales of more than 260,000 have put it on schedule to become the number one date-specific compilation of 1998.

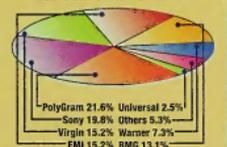
## MARKET REPORT



## SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +20.7%  
YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: -1.2%

## TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



## COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 78.3%  
Compilations: 21.7%

## THE YEAR SO FAR...

## TOP 20 ALBUMS

1 TALK ON CORNERS	THE CORRS	ATLANTIC
2 LIFE THRU A LENS	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
3 LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF	GEORGE MICHAEL	EPIC
4 URBAN MYNAMS	THE VERVE	HUT
5 WHERE WE BELONG	BOYZONE	POLYGRAM
6 LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE	CELINE DION	EPIC
7 ALL SAINTS	ALL SAINTS	LONDON
8 TITANIC - OST	JAMES HORNOR	SONY CLASSICAL
9 RAY OF LIGHT	MADONNA	MAVERICK
10 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	CHRYSALIS
11 POSTCARDS FROM HEAVEN	LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY	WILD CARD
12 SAVAGE GARDEN	SAVAGE GARDEN	COLUMBIA
13 QUENCH	BEAUFURTH SOUTH	GDI DISCS/MERCURY
14 HITS	PHIL COLLINS	VERGIN
15 LEFT OF THE MIDDLE	NATALIE IMBRIUGLIA	RCA
16 THE BEST OF	M PEOPLE	M PEOPLE
17 INTERNATIONAL VELVET	CANADONA	BLANCO Y NEGRO
18 STEP ONE	STEPS	JIVE/BSL
19 ONE NIGHT ONLY	SEE GEE	POLYGRAM
20 THE STAR AND WISEMAN - THE BEST OF	LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZZO	POLYGRAM TV

## THE YEAR SO FAR...

## TOP 20 COMPILATIONS

1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 41	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
2 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 39	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/GLOBAL/SONY TV
5 THE FULL MONTY	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	RCA VICTOR
6 THE ANNUAL IV - JUDGE JULES & BOY GEORGE	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
7 NEW HITS 98	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/GLOBAL/SONY TV
8 HUGE HITS 1998	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/GLOBAL/SONY TV
9 HITS 99	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/GLOBAL/SONY TV
10 BIG HITS 98	VARIOUS ARTISTS	WARNER/GLOBAL/SONY TV
11 GREASE	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK	POLYGRAM
12 THE BIZA ANNUAL	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
13 CHEF AID - THE SOUTH PARK ALBUM	VARIOUS ARTISTS	COLUMBIA
14 THE VERY BEST OF THE LOVE ALBUM	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VERGINE/EMI
15 BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD (EVER)	VARIOUS ARTISTS	VERGINE/EMI
16 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 38	VARIOUS ARTISTS	EMI/VIRGIN/POLYGRAM
17 WOMAN	VARIOUS ARTISTS	SONY TV/POLYGRAM TV
18 FANTASTIC HITS!	VARIOUS ARTISTS	COLUMBIA
19 CLUBBER'S GUIDE TO...JIBZA - JULES/TONG	VARIOUS ARTISTS	MINISTRY OF SOUND
20 THE GREATEST HITS OF 1998	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TELSTAR TV



## CLASSICAL SPECIALIST

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	VOICE OF AN ANGEL	Charlotte Church	Sony Classical SK 85927 (SM)
2	2	THE 3 TENDERS IN PARIS	Carreiras/Domingo/Pavarotti/Levine	Decca 4650202 (F)
3	3	RUTHER FOEUM	King's College Choir/Debury	EMI Classics CDC 569692 (F)
4	4	WORLDES BYSSE	Medieval Babes	Naxos COVE 344 (E)
5	5	THE ORIGINAL FOUR SEASONS	Venezus-Mia	EMI 4808322 (E)
6	7	SAINTE SAENS/CARNIVAL OF ANIMALS	Moroni	Naxos AudioBooks 855463 (S)
7	6	THE PURE VOICE OF...	Emma Kirkby	Decca 4650332 (F)
8	9	VOICES FROM HEAVEN	Sara Calles/Trist AC/D'Orang	Deutsche Grammophon 4591462 (F)
9	11	CAROLS FROM KINGS	KCCCA/McCocks	HMV HMV272412 (E)
10	8	ARIA - THE OPERA ALBUM	Aldona Bocelli	Philips 462332 (F)
11	10	A SOPRANO INSPIRED	Lesley Garrett	Confier Classics 7565051292 (BMG)
12	12	VERDI/PER DUE	Leighy/Per/Dianna/BP/Abbado	EMI Classics CDC 566652 (E)
13	14	CAROLS FROM AMPLEFORTH	Ampleforth Schola Cantorum	Ampleforth AARMC1 (CAC)
14	14	FRELSNER/REQUIEM FOR MY FRIEND	Sinfonia Varsovia/Kasparyk	Estro 398421462 (W)
15	17	SALVA NOS	Medieval Babes	Venezus/Virgin CDVE 535 (E)
16	20	CAROLS FROM KING'S	King's College/McCocks	Classics For Pleasure CDPPF098 (E)
17	13	FANZ/CABINET CONCERTO	Plano/Northern Sinfonia	Naxos 855566 (S)
18	18	AGNUS DEI	OC/D'Orang/Hugobottom	Estro 398421462 (W)
19	19	VIVALDI/FOUR SEASONS	Nigel Kennedy	EMI Classics CDC569322 (E)
20	19	PROKOFIEV: PETER & THE WOLF	Dame Edna/Mac/Lachbury	Naxos 8554110 (S)

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## JAZZ &amp; BLUES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	VERY BEST OF JAZZ AFTER DARK	Various Artists	Global Television RADC011 (BMG)
2	2	BLUE FOR YOU - THE VERY BEST OF	Nina Simone	Global Television RADC0 94 (BMG)
3	3	SWING! ULTIMATE BIG BAND ALBUM	Various Artists	RCA Victor 7432155662 (BMG)
4	4	THE BEST OF LATIN JAZZ	Various	Global Television RADC0 96 (BMG)
5	5	BLUES ON THE BAYOU	BB King	MCA MCD1749 (BMG)
6	5	ANYWAY THE WIND BLOWS	Elii Wiyannen's Rhythm Kings	RCA Victor 7432155662 (BMG)
7	7	ESSENTIAL LILA	Vanessa PolyGram TV 523992 (F)	
8	10	THE BEST OF FRIENDS	John Lee Hooker	Piretelli/Virgin VPP0424 (E)
9	6	RITES	Jan Garbarek	ECM 550662 (E)
10	16	KIND OF BLUE	Miles Davis	Columbia CK 64335 (SM)

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## XFM

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	19	CHOCOLATE SILLY BALLS	REM	Columbia 6700180 (S)
2	2	LOTUS	REM	Warner Bros 546620 (S)
3	1	THE EVERLASTING	Mancie Street Preachers	Epic 666662 (S)
4	6	TROPICALIA	Beck	Geffen GFST022365 (B)
5	4	MY FAVOURITE GAME	The Cardigans	Stockholm/Polydor 567892 (E)
6	5	WOULD YOU...?	Touch And Go	V2 VPR560383 (SM)/P
7	7	ALARM CALL	Sjork	One Little Indian 2271732 (P)
8	7	THE BATTERED AND THE THIEF	Ella Fitzgerald	V2 VPR560383 (SM)/P
9	10	DRAGULA	Rob Zombie	Geffen GFST022367 (B)
10	18	WALTZ #2 (XO)	Eliot Smith	Drainworks DRMC022343 (E)
11	9	SWEETEST THING	U2	Intend CD127 (F)
12	13	SIT DOWN	James	Fontana JMC021 (F)
13	17	BATTLE LAG	Lo Fidelity Allstars/Pigeonhead	Skin SKINT3430 (SM)/P
14	14	WILD SURF	Josh	Infectious INFCT10125 (V)
15	10	THE BAD DAYS EP	Space	Cap 0XU722 (V)

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## CLASSICAL CROSSOVER

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	LESLEY GARRETT	Lesley Garrett	BBC/BMG Confier 7565051302 (BMG)
2	2	MOST BEAUTIFUL CLASSICAL ALBUM...EVER II	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDC0 207 (E)
3	3	TITANIC (OST)	James Horner	Sony Classical SK 6213 (SM)
4	4	THE ONLY CLASSIC ALBUM YOU'LL EVER NEED	Various	Confier Classics 7565051302 (BMG)
5	6	THE BEST CAROLS IN THE WORLD...EVER I	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDC0 220 (E)
6	5	BACK TO TITANIC	James Horner	Sony Classical SK 60691 (SM)
7	9	DESERT ISLAND DISCS	Various	BBC Worldwide Music VMMR 00057 (P)
8	8	SIMPLY THE BEST CLASSICAL ANTHEMS	Various	warners 298425442 (W)
9	7	A SOPRANO IN LOVE	Lesley Garrett	Silva Screen SILKYCD 4 (K)
10	10	IF I EVER I WOULD LEAVE YOU	Bryn Terfel	Deutsche Grammophon 475382 (E)
11	11	MOST BEAUTIFUL CLASSICAL ALBUM...EVER I	Various	Virgin/EMI VTDC0 155 (E)
12	12	THE ONLY CHRISTMAS ALBUM YOU'LL EVER NEED	Various	BMG Confier 7565051302 (BMG)
13	13	CHRISTMAS III - DANCES OF TIME	Karl Jenkins	Virgin COVE 940 (E)
14	15	GREATEST PUCCINI SHOW ON EARTH	Various Artists	Classic FM CMC074 (BMG)
15	16	10 POPULAR CLASSICS	Various	Decca 4650332 (F)
16	16	BREADED OFF (OST)	Grimechoir Colliery Band	RCA Victor 90953122 (BMG)
17	17	10 ROMANTIC CLASSICS	Various	Castle Music PRBCD 556 (P)
18	17	CLASSIC MOODS COLLECTION	Various	HMV HMV0 37322 (E)
19	20	ULTIMATE CAROL COLLECTION	Wey/Kings Col CH Cambridge	Decca 498832 (E)

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## ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	GARAGE INC.	Metelica	Vertigo 538512 (F)
2	3	AMERICANA	The Offspring	Columbia 491652 (SM)
3	2	GREATEST HITS I & II	Queen	EMI CPMCD 161 (E)
4	5	NEVERMIND	Nirvana	Geffen GDC 2445 (BMG)
5	4	LINE ON TWO LEGS	Epic 420692 (SM)	
6	1	A LITTLE SLOTT OF SANITY	Aerobitch	Geffen GED 2241 (SM)
7	8	WHO CARES A LOT? - THE GREATEST HITS	Faith No More	Slash 556522 (F)
8	9	WHO CARES A LOT? - THE GREATEST HITS	Faith No More	Slash 556522 (F)
9	6	VERY BEST OF	Deep Purple	EMI 4584072 (E)
10	10	ADORE	The Smashing Pumpkins	Har/Virgin CDM0174 51 (E)

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## INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	Steps	Jive 051912 (F)
2	NEW	CRUISE INTO CHRISTMAS MEDLEY	Jane McDonald	Focus Music Inc CFDM 2 (V)
3	2	NAUGHTY CHRISTMAS (GOBLIN IN THE OFFICE)	Fat Les	Turtleneck NEXCD 30 (V)
4	4	IF YOU BUY THIS RECORD YOU WILL BE	The Temposer feat. Maya	Pepper 051032 (P)
5	5	WOULD YOU...?	Touch & Go	V2 VPR 560383 (SM)/P
6	10	THE BATTERED AND THE THIEF	Stereophonics	V2 VPR 560383 (SM)/P
7	12	IF... READ TO FAURE'S 'PAVANE'	Dea/Lyn/Wideman/Deer Stamp	BBC Worldwide Music VM55 0062 (P)
8	11	IT FEELS SO GOOD	Sonny Serin	Seris SRB 94002 (P)
9	1	SENSUALITY	Loveviction	Fresh FRSH171 (SM)/P
10	18	CAFE DE MAR '98	Evie 52	Hoo! Cheems HOO! 6422 (V)
11	8	THE BAD DAYS EP	Space	Cap CDG127 22 (V)
12	13	TELL ME, MA	Shara Rock	Jive 052232 (P)
13	9	ALARM CALL	Björk	One Little Indian 2271732 (P)
14	7	TEARS IN THE RAIN	N-Trance	All Around The World CDGLOBE 185 (P)
15	NEW	SEX ON THE BEACH	T-Spoon	Control/Epic 0042355 CON (P)
16	1	IF YOU COULD READ MY MIND	Stars O5 54	Tenny Boy 78C0 745 (P)
17	NEW	GANGSTER TRIPPIN'	Fatboy Slim	Skin SKINT 3430 (SM)/P
18	17	BODY GUARD (YOU CAN CALL ME AL)	Ghost	Chems CTRC35 310 (LS)
19	15	THE LATIN THEME	Curt Cox	Edel 091865 COX (P)
20	NEW	NEVER LOST HIS HARDCORE '98	NRG	Top Banana TOPO DHO (V)

All charts © CN

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	NEW	FIRE ESCAPE	Ferretball	Hit/World 162320 (F)
2	15	WHEN I CROWD UP	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH2D0 2 (SM)/P
3	22	PRETTY FLY FOR A WHITE GUY	Offspring	Columbia 514 (E)
4	NEW	SWING CYMBALS	Properheads	Wall of Sound N/A (V)
5	20	PHRAISE YOU	Fatboy Slim	Skin N/A (SM)/P
6	25	HAIRSYTLE	Gold Blaine	Ultimate TOPP7650 (P)
7	22	SINGING IN MY SLEEP	Sermons	MCA N/A (BMG)
8	23	MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL	Electroly	MCA M530195 (B)
9	24	555	Delakata	Go/Beat N/A (V)
10	25	NEVER THERE	Cake	Capricorn 538922 (E)
11	NEW	DELTA SUN BOTTLE NECK STOMP	Mercury Rev	V2 N/A (SM)/P
12	NEW	LOOKING FOR SPARKS	Sauflaut	Fierce Panda N/A (SHK)
13	26	KOREAN BOODEGA	Five Nailed Criminals	Chrysalis N/A (E)
14	NEW	OH BEEZ	Bane Naked Ladies	Reprise 21774 (W)
15	28	YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE	New Radicals	MCA MCA54226 (B)

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## INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (c/distributor)
1	1	STEP ONE	Steps	Jive 051912 (F)
2	3	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Skin BRASSIC 11CD (SM)/P
3	2	THE MASTERPLAN	Oasis	Creation CRECD 21 (SM)/V
4	4	R	R. Kelly	Jive 0517832 (F)
5	5	JANE MCDONALD	Jane McDonald	Focus Music Inc FMCD 2 (V)
6	6	ONE WAY OF LIFE - BEST OF	Loveliers	Crital/Jive 052752 (F)
7	7	VERSION 2.0	Orange	Machroom MUSU 29CD (SM)/P
8	8	BIG CALM	Morcheeba	Indochina ZEN 01720D (P)
9	9	WORLD D&S	Stereophonics	V2 VPR 100438 (SM)/P
10	10	GREATEST HITS	Z'pac	Jive 0526292 (F)
11	11	SONGBIRD	Eve Cassidy	Blix Street G 21045 (HOT)
12	15	DESETER'S SONGS	Mercury Rev	V2 VPR 103732 (SM)/P
13	12	THE SINGLES '86-'88	Depeche Mode	Mute COMUTLS 5 (V)
14	14	NU-CLEAR SOUNDS	Ash	Infectious INFECT 60CD (V)
15	17	(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY?	Oasis	Creation CRECD 185 CON (P)
16	18	THE BOY WITH THE ARAB STRAP	Bella & Sebastian	Jepson JPRCD 30 (SM)/P
17	17	FIN DE SIECLE	The Divine Comedy	States SETCDL 057 (V)
18	16	OUT SPACED	Super Furry Animals	Creation CRECD 228 (SM)/P
19	NEW	THE COMPLETE	The Stone Roses	Silverline GREGCD 320 (V)
20	NEW	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	Ry Cooder	World Circuit WCD 150 (P)

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26 DECEMBER 1998

## JAZZ & BLUES REPORT

by COLIN IRWIN



Global TV ends 1998 in exactly the same position it has occupied for over 75% of the year – topping the jazz and blues chart. It's an impressive vindication of the label's strategy of high-profile TV and radio niche marketing, concentrating on a small selection of keenly-targeted compilations. Its reward has been a string of successes, all of which have proved to have had legs well beyond their initial promotional campaigns.

The 'definitive' Nina Simone Blue For You collection, heavily TV-promoted earlier this year, will almost certainly end up as 1998's biggest hit, already approaching the 200,000-unit sales only slightly predicted by

Global on release in January. It is enjoying a storming end to the year, with accelerating sales stimulated by Simone's recent live appearances in the UK. In addition, one of the tracks, I Loves You Porgy, has been featured in TV ads for Orange. With Global's lineage running for another two years, expect it to feature in 1999's charts too.

Simone's I Loves You Porgy pops up again alongside other classics such as Billie Holiday's Taste Of Honey and Julie London's Cry Me A River on the album currently denying Blue For You the top spot. The Very Best Of Jazz After Dark. Global was always likely to be an solid ground with this

strongly-marketed Christmas chart-topper, a double CD of populist mood music which retails at around £11.99 and features many of the biggest names in jazz, such as Stan Getz, Miles Davis and Dexter Gordon, as well as crossover tracks by Kenny G, George Benson and George Washington. To complete the stranglehold another former number one, The Best Of Latin Jazz, makes it three out of the top four best-sellers for Global this week. The 40-track collection, featuring Astru Gilberto, Stan Getz, Tito Puente and Sergio Mendes, topped the chart for much of the summer and is still selling around 3,000 a week.

boogie and jazz era. "I love the blues but I don't end up playing a hard rock version these days, which lacks subtlety. Early Chicago and Delta blues had a lot of finesse," says Wyman.

Sales have been boosted by prominent racking resulting from the inclusion of various big-name guests, including Eric Clapton, George Farrow, Peter Frampton, Albert Lee, Gary Brooker, Martin Taylor and his old Stones partner Mick Taylor, who plays side guitar on A True Romance.

Standing in the way of a Global clean sweep is RCA, at third place with its Swing! Ultimate Big Band compilation, another consistent seller offering outstanding value with two hours playing time and 42 tracks, including all the great jazz legends from Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong to Billie Holiday, Jack Teagarden, Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman. The appeal of classic recordings at Christmas is confirmed by Verve's enduring TV collection Essential Ella and the re-entry of Miles Davis's 1959 landmark Kind Of Blue, re-packaged with enhanced masters and reacting by Sony earlier in the year.

## R&B SINGLES

This Last	Title	Artist	Label	Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	2	END OF THE LINE	Novus	1st Avenue/Mercury/HX202 (F)P
2	1	HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM)	Jay-Z	Northwestside 7432165321 (BMG)
3	3	MIAMI	Will Smith	Columbia 6666782 (SM)
4	4	TAKE ME THERE	Blackstreet & Mya feat. Marc & Binky Dini	Interscope (BMG)
5	6	THE GREATEST LOVE YOU'LL NEVER KNOW	Lucy McNeal	Wilderstar CDW0682 (SM)
6	5	HAVE YOU EVER?	Brandy	Atlantic (AT)06842 (F)
7	7	WAR OF NERVES	All Saints	London/London 421 (F)
8	8	IT'S ALL YOURS	MC Lyta feat. Gina Thompson	East West/E 27887 (F)
9	9	AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW	Mobo Allstars	PolyGram TV 363202 (F)
10	10	EACH TIME	E-17	Telstar CD5745 2011 (F)
11	9	EVERY TIME	Janet Jackson	Virgin VST 1708 (F)
12	13	HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE	Pras	Island Backdoor 1925 1275 (F)
13	11	BLUE ANGELS	Pras	Ruffhouse 6862125 (BMG)
14	27	GHETTO SUPASTAR (THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE)	Pras Michael feat. ODB & Mya	Interscope HQ 95183 (BMG)
15	12	BOY GUARD (YOU CAN CALL ME ALL)	Ghost	Cherry CRTCS 3103 (JLS)
16	14	STRAWBERRY	Nicole Renée	Kelco Atlantic AT 05057 (F)
17	9	QUESS' WAS A FOOL	Arnold Rozevel	Northwestside 7432162102 (BMG)
18	17	LITTLE BIT OF LOVIN'	Kane Le Roc	1st Avenue/Wild Card/Polydor 5878 (F)
19	15	ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST	Queenie Welch/Jean Tice/Pras/Michael	Dreamworks DMW 2284 (BMG)
20	25	THE BOY IS MINE	Brandy & Monica	Atlantic AT 03087 (F)
21	24	LOVE LIKE THIS	Faith Evans	Puff Daddy/Arista 7432162591 (BMG)
22	20	DAYDREAM	Yayaya Ai	Epic 6995485 (SM)
23	23	HOME ALONE	Ricky Kelly, Keith Murray	Virgin 022290 (P)
24	22	HAPPY HOME	Z'pac	Eagle Eagle 026 (SM)/JMG (J)
25	26	COME AND GET WITH ME	Kevin Brahen	Elektra E 3902 (F)
26	21	BECAUSE I GOT TIL' I FEEL THAT	Marlaina Brooks	Cee Street/21 GEE 5002550 (JMG/VE)
27	39	I WANT YOU BACK	Michelle B. White	Virgin VST 1716 (F)
28	15	DOIN' OUR THING (ONE MAN'S BITCH)	Phoebe D	Mecca Recordings MECC 1100 (P)
29	28	TOP OF THE WORLD	Brandi Faust/Maze	Atlantic AT01040 (SM)
30	29	TESTIFY	M People	M People/BMG 74321621742 (BMG)

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## JAZZ & BLUES FACTFILE

Five years after quitting the Stones, Wyman goes back to his blues roots, and insists that Anyway The Wind Blows is his most satisfying album of his life. Released last month and at number eight this week, Wyman is thrilled by his impact on the jazz/blues market. He has now sold more solo records than any other Rolling Stone.

Wyman's fifth solo album is the second in a trilogy of low-budget recordings with the rhythm Aces. Anyway The Wind Blows covers the Forties/Fifties blues, swamp

boogie and jazz era. "I love the blues but I don't end up playing a hard rock version these days, which lacks subtlety. Early Chicago and Delta blues had a lot of finesse," says Wyman.

Sales have been boosted by prominent racking resulting from the inclusion of various big-name guests, including Eric Clapton, George Farrow, Peter Frampton, Albert Lee, Gary Brooker, Martin Taylor and his old Stones partner Mick Taylor, who plays side guitar on A True Romance.

Standing in the way of a Global clean sweep is RCA, at third place with its Swing! Ultimate Big Band compilation, another consistent seller offering outstanding value with two hours playing time and 42 tracks, including all the great jazz legends from Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong to Billie Holiday, Jack Teagarden, Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman. The appeal of classic recordings at Christmas is confirmed by Verve's enduring TV collection Essential Ella and the re-entry of Miles Davis's 1959 landmark Kind Of Blue, re-packaged with enhanced masters and reacting by Sony earlier in the year.

## DANCE SINGLES

This Last	Title	Artist	Label	Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	4	DREAMING	Ruff Drezers presents Aerola	Inferno 2728 (F) 12MV/MS2 (P)
2	13	UP AND DOWN	Yengabayo	Positive 12711 105 (F)
3	11	THE ULTIMATE DISCO GROOVE	Robbie Rivera	Duty Free DF 502 (W)
4	1	PLAYIN' WITH MY MIND	Houses Of Glass	Azuli AZUL 89 (W)
5	10	STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART	Deodaly	Locked On/Deedly 104T (W)
6	8	THE LIZARD QUEEN	Peta Wardman	Tipical TTX TTRAX 042 (ADD)
7	15	NEVER LOST HIS HARDCORE '98	NRG	Top Banana TPO 010 (W)
8	7	WHAT YA GOT ME	Signum	Trip Traz TTD 118 (BMG)
9	5	WETS LO	EE Bush/Optical/Fierce	Protopop PRO 014 (W/VE)
10	9	HARD KNOCK LIFE (GHETTO ANTHEM)	Jay-Z	Northwestside 7432165321 (BMG)
11	2	FUNK BOOM	Mother	Jackpot WJ 028 (W)
12	3	IT'S ALL YOURS	MC Lyta feat. Gina Thompson	East West E 37887 (W)
13	14	LA	Marc de Claude	Positive 12719 104 (F)
14	6	BEHIND THE SUN	Trance	Hoak Recordings HK 36 (INTERSCOPE)
15	12	THE BURNING	Simon Finlay	Positive 12717 105 (F)
16	8	THE LATIN THEME	Carl Cox	Epic 0091806 CDX (P)
17	16	UNTIDY DUBS PRESENTS FUNKY GROOVE	Untidy Dubs	Manifesto FESX 51 (F)
18	18	DISCO BABES (FROM OUTER SPACE)	Babe Instruct	Subliminal SUB 010 (import)
19	19	INSTANT MOMENTS (WAITING FOR)	RODS	Slip 1231P 18 (P)
20	20	NEEDIN' U	David Morales presents The Face	Manifesto FESX 48 (F)

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## DANCE SINGLES

This Last	Title	Artist	Label	Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	1	EXTORTION LEVEL (EVEN THE WORLD BOWS)	Busta Rhymes	Elektra 759522111/759522114 (W)
2	1	NO 15	Mariah Carey	Columbia 423041/4230404 (F)
3	2	DOC'S DA NAME 2000	Redman	Def Jam 5508515 (F)
4	10	CHAPTER THREE EP	Ram Trilogy	Ram RAMM 26 (SRD)
5	8	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY	Fabrizio Sim	Skin BRASSIC 111/BRASSIC 112 (MCM/DM)
6	4	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Whitney Houston	Capitol 029232/029234 (MCM)
7	6	BY YOUR SIDE	SWAY 026	WEA 12717 105 (F)
8	7	THE MISSEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL	Lauryn Hill	Maverick 53274041/53274042 (F)
9	3	R	R Kelly	Columbia 489841/489842 (F)
10	9	BELIEVE	Cher	WEA 1294231/1294234 (W)

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## VIDEO

This Last	Artist	Title	Label	Cat. No.
1	1	TITANIC	For Video 26495	16
2	5	BILLY CONNOLLY - ERECT FOR 20 YEARS	WAL 129583	16
3	2	THE SANTA CLAUSE	Walt Disney 202262	17
4	4	HAROLD	Columbia TriStar CT 724521V	17
5	6	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: CARS	PolyGram Video 47950	18
6	4	CASPER	CIC Video 47949	18
7	8	ROMAN HARDIMAN: Michael Flatley's Feet Of Flames	WAL 129582	22
8	11	RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER - MOVIE	Carlton Video 30320202	23
9	13	FATHER TED - THE VERY BEST OF	Video Collection VV0172	24
10	9	THE LITTLE MERMAID	Walt Disney 106182	25
11	9	GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE	Buenos Vista 01068	26
12	10	EVITA	BW 129125	27
13	12	MUSICOUNT	CIC Video 149022	28
14	14	CRUISEY GOES DOWN UNDER & OTHER STICKY...	PolyGram Video 507693	29
15	18	EDGE 22:40 - BRESS TO KILL	WAL 129580	30

This Last	Artist	Title	Label	Cat. No.
1	1	THE FAST SHOW - LIVE	BBC 86040576	16
2	2	JETHRO - GO YOUR OWN WAY	PolyGram Video 50100	16
3	2	STEVIE COCCON - MAN WHO THINKS HE'S IT	WAL 129583	16
4	1	TOMORROW NEVER DIES	MGM/UA 575196	17
5	1	STARSHIP TROOPERS	Touchstone 1010700	17
6	1	THE BOURNERS	PolyGram Video 505120	18
7	1	GEORGE MICHAEL: Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best Of	SWA 026	18
8	1	MEET OUTRAGEOUS JEREMY CLARKSON VIDEO...	Video Collection VV0172	18
9	1	LES ELVES - LIVE IN SCOTLAND	WAL 129580	19
10	1	ANASTASIA	Fox Video 27945	19
11	1	SOUTH PARK - VOLUME 6	Warner Video 12 26442-0533	19
12	1	MEAN RAINING DRINKY - JINGLE *****(S)	Thames Video Collect 121795	19
13	1	ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO	PolyGram Video 48033	19
14	1	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST ENCHANCED CHRISTMAS	Walt Disney CD 1027	19
15	1	CLIFF RICHARD: The 40th Anniversary Concert	Video Collection VV1417	19

## MUSIC VIDEO

This Last	Artist	Title	Label	Cat. No.
1	1	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: CARS	PolyGram Video 47943	17
2	2	ROMAN HARDIMAN: Michael Flatley's Feet Of Flames	WAL 129582	17
3	3	GEORGE MICHAEL: Ladies & Gentlemen - Best Of	SWA 026	17
4	4	CLIFF RICHARD: 40th Anniversary Concert	Video Collection VV1417	17
5	5	ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack	WAL 129580	17
6	6	MUSICOUNT	CIC Video 149022	17
7	7	STEPS: The Video	WAL 129175	17
8	8	SPICE GIRLS: Live At Wembley Stadium	Virgin VV0174	17
9	9	ROBBIE WILLIAMS: Live By Your Side	Capitol 029232/029234 (MCM)	17
10	10	THE LITTLE MERMAID	Walt Disney 106182	17
11	11	FIVE FIVE Inside	BMG Video 12020633	17
12	12	RITZ & JULIE COHEN: Live At The Apollo	WEA 129175 (SR)	17
13	13	DANIEL D'ONOFRELLI: MARY DUFF: Live At The Apollo	WEA 129175 (SR)	17
14	14	DONALD BYRON: Live In Memphis 1970	Capitol 029232/029234 (MCM)	17
15	15	THE CONJURE: Live At The Apollo	WEA 129175 (SR)	17

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After Santa there's probably only one man party dwellers would rather have boogieing on the dancefloor at this time of year. We're speaking of **NODDY HOLDER**, of course, who raised a toast to guests at **POLYDOR's** recent Christmas party at the Tabernacle in Powis Square.

More than most he felt the noise on the dancefloor, taking a brief moment out to be pictured (1, from left) with marketing executive **GEORGE McMANUS** and PolyGram International's VP of pop marketing **DAVID MUNNS**.

Dancing was one of the most popular sports of the night, as club promotions' **WAYNE HEADMAN** and friend show (2). **SOUND REPUBLIC** played host to more than a few industry parties over the festive season including one for the troops over at **CASTLE MUSIC**, where guest **PP ARNOLD** made an impromptu appearance, jumping on stage to perform with legends (3, from left) **CLEM CURTIS**, **CARL DOUGLAS** and **JIMMY JAMES**, and the **FOUNDATIONS** in a nostalgic soul review. Other acts to perform over a whopping eight hours included **Glavog-based band ASTRID**, **Mobo Award winner PHOEBE ONE** and rap pioneer **MELLE MEL** and the **SUGAR HILL GANG**, who made their first London appearance for 18 years. They are pictured (4) with **MEL** (centre front) and **Castle MD JOE COKELL** (back row, third from left) on **TV**, who pops up again in front of the company's new logo (5) with (+) commercial director **ROGER SEMON** and financial director **ED COOK**. If they ever get round to ranking **Carry On Nurse** then **RAY COOPER** (8) is surely the man to fill **Kenneth Williams'** shoes. The **VIRGIN RECORDS** legends made a welcome return to **Lightly** last week for a funky party with friends and colleagues in **Notting Hill** to celebrate half a century on earth. And finally, Sony's party turned out to be a suitably **TITANIC** event, complete with nautical guests as this picture (7) clearly demonstrates. Caught on camera getting his leg over **Sony** mouthpiece **GARY FARROW** (look carefully) is **CHAS**, who runs the company's post room, dressed in a rather fetching sailor boy's uniform.



Remember where you heard it: Sony award winner, Gooner and former Kiss FM DJ **Steve Jackson** is unlikely to be off the airwaves for long. Within four hours of his show being axed on Friday he had already fielded a range of calls including one from **Radio One...** The **Outside Organisation's Claire Hajaj** is breathing a huge sigh of relief since last week she was on board the **USS Enterprise**, now in action in the Gulf. She was there with **Hootie & The Blowfish**, who had been drafted in to entertain the crew. Mind you, Hajaj knew it was a **dangerous mission** when they were all told to sign a form agreeing to

have their **equipment** thrown overboard in the event of an emergency... **Mushroom's** Christmas jaunt in Devon last week was somewhat spoilt by the weather. The troops had gone down there to fly **microlights** but ended up being entertained by a **clairvoyant** instead...Got ten grand going spare? Then you could snap up the ultimate luxury in **Brits** viewing: the **London Arena** in Docklands is for the first time offering **hospitality boxes** including a **butler, fridge and your own loo**. Ring Ticketmaster on 0171-413 3520... **Vince Monsey** and partner **Liz Laskowski** can't move for the bottles of **champagne** that have been arriving at their pad following their departures from **The Box**. "It's going to be a very merry Christmas," says Monsey, who would like to thank everyone who has been in touch to offer their support...**Robbie Williams'** career really is reaching new heights these days. Well, it got as high as the top of a **forklift truck** last Tuesday when the **Robster**

climbed on board as part of a five-song performance and tour at **EMI's** distribution plant in **Leamington Spa...** Good to see **Clive Black** back in the mix and doing deals...Speaking of deals, there seems to be a **rash of last-minute signings** in the run-up to Christmas... Surprise guest at **Younger Younger 28's** gig last week when they signed to **V2** on a car bonnet outside **Camden's Falcon** was **Ben Elton**. He was seen **beaming from ear-to-ear** at the front of the stage and later walks out of the door with three copies of their vinyl single.....

Three decades-worth of **SONY** honchos gathered at **London's Park Lane Hotel** last week to celebrate a century at **Castle** of a century at **CBS/Sony for THE BOSS**. However, for once **The Boss** in question was not our **Bruce** but **PAUL RUSSELL**. As if the **beak** was not enough of a surprise in itself - **Russell** was taken to the hotel on the pretext of inspecting its function room for a future party - the **Sony Europe** chief got an **even bigger surprise** when **SPRINGSTEEN** himself was ushered in. Pictured



posing for the cameras are (1) (left to right) **Springsteen** manager **JON LANDAU**, **RUSSELL**, **SPRINGSTEEN** and **Sony Music** international chairman **MEL ILBERMAN**. Among the others present (2) were **DICK ASHER** (left), **CBS UK's** managing director from 1972 to 1975, **OBIE** (right), who was managing director/chairman from 1975 to 1985.

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