

picks of the week

MAXINE NIGHTINGALE (UA-XW865-Y)

(I Think I Wanna) Possess You (2:40) (Andustin/Ackee — ASCAP) (T. Moore)

Maxine really belts this one out, backed by a terrific band. The chorus, primarily a repetition of the title, draws the listener into the center of the song. A fine song by Tim Moore, this should get a lot of pop and R&B play; the singer's reading is effectively biting. Excellent guitar work throughout.

THE OSMONDS (Polydor PD14348)

I Can't Live A Dream (2:52) (Silver Blue/Arnold Joy — ASCAP) (A. Capitanelli)

A slick pop presentation from the Osmonds. There are no real surprises here — the production is tight, the vocals are securely placed in a commercial backing. A good bet for Top 40 radio; this is destined to reap plenty of teen coin.

TOWER OF POWER (Columbia 3-10409)

You Ought To Be Havin' Fun (3:05) (Kuptillo — ASCAP) (H. Tubbs, E. Castillo, S. Kupka)

From the recently released "Ain't Nothin' Stoppin' Us Now" LP, this is the one that should re-establish Tower of Power as a group to be reckoned with. There are more than a couple good lines going in this complicated, brilliantly arranged song. Terrific vocal break will help this happy tune onto the pop charts in short order. Key modulation gives the number some extra excitement.

DRAMATICS (ABC-12220)

Finger Fever (2:43) (Groovesville — BMI) (T. Hester)

A funk-styled bass line gives this one a classy introduction, and unison horn riffs lead straight into these famous slick vocals. The melody is fascinating, the lead plays off the harmony with syle, providing counterpoint and syncopation. A must for R&B play.

BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS (Island IS-072-A)

Who The Cap Fit (3:15) (Tuff Gong — ASCAP) (B. Marley)

A languorous reggae ballad from one of the masters of the genre. This is already getting considerable play as an album cut from "Rastaman Vibration," and, with the single release, it will get tons more. Just right for FM progressive play, and smart AM programmers will check this one out immediately. Could cross to AM with right push.

VICKI SUE ROBINSON (RCA JH-10775)

Daylight (3:20) (B. Womack — BMI) (B. Womack, H. Payne)

Vicki Sue Robinson has one of the best disco voices around, and she really pushes it to the limit on this one. An infectious rhythm track concentrating heavily on percussion, will help the tune on to every single disco playlist, and will get more than a few spins at R&B outlets. There's a great half-spoken half-sung verse that gives the tune an extra punch.

BLUE MAGIC (Atco/Atlantic 45-7061)

Teach Me (It's Something About Love) (4:15) (Miss Thang — BMI) (K. Barrow)

A tender love ballad, complete with artful harmonies and instrumental backing. Those high sweet voices are in full force. Should get play on R&B radio right out of the box. Drums accentuate the fine melody, really push the tune along.

MICHEL POLNAREFF (Atlantic 45-3327)

Come On Lady Blue (2:27) (Oxygen, Blue Guitar — ASCAP) (M. Polnareff, T. Stern)

The second single from his debut American LP, Frenchman Polnareff has come up with a pleasant pop tune that's sure to make some radio waves. The arrangement is brisk, the playing top-notch. And it's got a melody you can hold on to. FM progressive.

YVONNE ELLIMAN (RSO RS 858)

Love Me (3:19) (Stigwood/Brothers/Unichappell — BMI) (B. Gibb, R. Gibb)

A cover from the upcoming Bee Gees LP, Yvonne Elliman makes this unmistakably her own. A strong ballad, this backup singer turned lead vocalist explores every detail of melody with a decidedly sensuous outlook. A smart add for any progressive FM programmer, and it's got a good shot at R&B listings.



NEIL SEDAKA (Rocket/MCA PIG-40614)

You Gotta Make Your Own Sunshine (3:21) (Don Kirshner — BMI) (Neil Sedaka, H. Greenfield)

Sedaka is right in the groove with this one; it seems headed straight for the top. Like many of his songs, there are more hooks than a person can count, and the Robert Appere production is terrific. Couple this with an upcoming television special by the artist, and you come up with a top ten single.

BARRY MANILOW (Arista AS 0206)

This One's For You (3:25) (Kamakazi — BMI) (B. Manilow, M. Panzer)

The title song of the most recent LP, this tune, like all his others, is perfectly constructed with a commercial feeling in mind. A lovely ballad, with touching lyrics, "This One's For You" should make some immediate and serious chart noise. The chorus builds naturally out of the verses, and the change in intensity is quite powerful. A definite add on all pop and MOR outlets.

AEROSMITH (Columbia 3-10407)

Home Tonight (3:15) (Daksel/Song and Dance/Vindaloo — BMI) (S. Tyler)

Hard rockers and big-sellers Aerosmith have come up with a song that has a couple of unusual shifts in it. The soft, almost ballad-like vocal holds a lot of appeal, and the harsher rock 'n' roll bridge seems to fit just right. The vocal is reminiscent of some of McCartney's hard blues numbers. The record should chart strong off of FM progressive play.

DAVID CROSBY/GRAHAM NASH (ABC-12217)

Spotlight (2:49) (Kortchmar — ASCAP) (D. Kootch, G. Nash)

Co-written by guitarist Danny Kootch and Graham Nash, this is a driving rocker with an instantly recognizable melody. Nash sings the song with flair, backed by the excellent band, and he throws in a good harp fill. Backed by Crosby's "Foolish Man," this is a natural single that will do much better than their recent efforts. The tune is getting plenty of support on the current tour.

ANNE MURRAY (Capitol P-4329)

Things (2:46) (Hudson Bay — BMI) (B. Darin)

Anne Murray is traditionally considered to be primarily a country star, but with this remake of a Bobby Darin hit she's picking up an awful lot of pop adds. No wonder — this has a great pop attraction because of the full range of the singer's voice and the complementary arrangement. Check it out.

LUTHER (Cotillion/Atlantic 45-44205)

Funky Music (Is A Part Of Me) (3:27) (Elvee-Deekay — ASCAP) (L. Vandross)

Luther is well-known for his work with David Bowie, but this single will extend his reputation beyond the backup borders. Immediately, the listener can hear this coming out of any R&B outlet, and it's a natural to cross pop. Superb rhythm track and sensitive backing vocals give the song an added bonus.

DISCO TEX & THE SEX-O-LETTES (Chelsea CH-3054)

We're Havin' A Party (It's Gonna Be Alright) (3:26) (Sound Of Nolan/Chelsea — BMI) (K. Nolan)

"Hey everybody," shouts the lead singer, "we are gathered here together in love." This is an extremely commercial sounding cut, with a fifties pop edge to it, that should hit big across the board. A hot mix gives the tune an added bonus. A natural for AM radio.

GEORGE BENSON (A&M 8395)

Golden Slumbers/You Never Give Me Your Money (Medley) (3:53) (Macien — BMI) (Lennon, McCartney)

Benson's version of these Beatle tunes is interesting, because the backup relies more heavily on implication of melody rather than direct instrumental statement. The guitar work, of course, is terrific. Because of Benson's recent high charting records and touring success, this one will hit radio hard. Nice use of horns.

THE CHI-LITES (Mercury 73844)

Happy Being Lonely (3:41) (Stone Diamond — BMI) (K. Hirsch, K. Wakefield)

The Chi-Lites are back with an affecting ballad that's headed straight for lots of R&B play. Those smooth vocals are right in place, and the lush instrumentation gives the tune an added push. The harmonies are outstanding. Should pick up some super-fast adds.

THELMA JONES (Columbia 3-10403)

Salty Tears (3:34) (Razzle Dazzle — BMI) (T. Randazzo, V. Pike)

Newcomer Thelma Jones has an exciting R&B voice, and she employs it well on this beautiful ballad. She hits all the notes you want to hear, and her lead vocal is couched in an extremely tasteful arrangement. If you're wondering where the new talent is coming from, give this a listen.

DADDY MAXFIELD (UA-XW827-Y)

I've Always Been In Love With You (3:21) (Dunbar/Marbra — BMI) (G. Daddy, L. Maxfield)

Well-charted horns give intro a good touch, and the vocal is a powerhouse. The singer draws out the phrases, accentuating the nuance of a well-crafted tune. A good pop record, this will also get some disco play. AM programmers should check this one out with care.

WEAPONS OF PEACE (Playboy P 6082-A)

Just Can't Be That Way (3:16) (After Dark/Finis — BMI) (C. Franklin, F. Henderson Jr.)

One of the best new groups we've heard in a long time, the Weapons Of Peace churn out some exciting funk sounds on this one. The track just won't quit, the rhythm is infectious, and you'll probably find this one burning up the R&B airwaves in short order. The group plays all its own instruments, and they all play well. A high energy cut.

FAMILY TREE (Anada ADA-101-A)

Family Tree (2:49) (Mesquite/Paul Harvey Music) (S. Brown)

A fine disco outing from this new group. The lead vocal is pitched high, and cuts through the rhythm track without any interference. Good, upbeat lyrics and an interesting melody line will get this played on many R&B outlets as well as dance-clubs. The clearness of the entire track, coupled with an attractive chorus, will get this one considerable pop play too.

PETER FOLDY (Polydor PD 14344)

Roxanne (2:45) (Beechwood of Canada/Bondi — BMI) (P. Foldy)

Peter Foldy is an impressive new singer-songwriter, if this single is any hard evidence. This sounds like a hit, if it gets proper pop exposure. There's a certain bubblegum sound to this that works to its credit. The chorus and backing vocals seem to cry out for AM play. Great for car radio.

SWEENEY TODD (London 5N-244)

Roxy Roller (2:49) (Beechwood — BMI) (J. McCulloch, N. Gilder)

Due to contractual obligations, this is the second version of this song by the same group. It's been re-recorded, and a lot of energy has been put into this one. Cover battles notwithstanding, this one could take off all over again. For AM pop radio.

ROSE ROYCE (MCA-40615)

Car Wash (3:18) (Duchess — BMI) (N. Whitfield)

A handclap rhythm track kicks this one off to a promising start, and the promise is fulfilled. A big step into the R&B market for MCA, this is a cut with tremendous sales potential across the board, due to the high production values and the merchandising tie-in with the popular movie of the same name. A definite add for every R&B playlist.

ANGELO (Fantasy F-775-A)

We're All Going Down Together (3:43) (Colgems — ASCAP) (B. Arvon, P. A. Arvonio)

Angelo made an excellent first LP, and this single is fairly representative of that quality. It's a smart rocker, with strong guitar work behind it, and some Beach Boy backing vocals. An intelligent addition to any FM playlist.

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN (Pye 71076)

Sweet Lady From Georgia (2:43) (Easy Listening — ASCAP) (Hiller, Sheridan, Lee)

The lilting string introduction lays down the basic melody riff, and then the voices take it from there. A sweet, uptempo ballad, this features some fine bass work and a catchy chorus. Just right for MOR programmers and FM progressives. Soulful guitar solo.