Florida native is poised for teen queendom with this frothy set of pop/dance confessions. Association with publicist along with teen model Gibson—certainly helps, though singer clearly possesses the charm and technical ability to make it on her own. Track title is showing strong pop and club legs, but real tickets up in the air. “Let Me Be” b/w “Amen”/ “Don’t Do It”/ “Baby Goodbye”

In World Party and, once again, he’s united with a clan of musicians who help bring to life his musical vision. And a vivid one it is. From the jangly first single, “Way Down Now,” to the soulful “Ain’t Gonna Come Till I’m Ready: The Dylan-esque “Take It Up,” the diversity never detracts from the high quality. Modern rock and album radio have always been to the party—the smart ones will arrive early and leave late, taking advantage of everything this project has to offer.

Recorded with Black Johnette Napolitano has never sounded more assured, and addition of Roxy Music’s Phil Thornham on drums adds vigor to the revamped group’s sound. Both rockers like title cut and ballad-inflected numbers such as “Darkening Of The Light” (with R.E.M.’s Peter Buck) and “Get Right” with panache. Will grow from modern rock, no reason the right cut can’t hit top 40.

The wedding present—Sean PRODUCER: Chris Atkin

British outfit that has been a longtime feature of Leedse, England’s alternative scene, makes a mighty noise on American major-label debut. Band comes on with guitar wailing and energy to burn, often sounding like a cross between the Buzzcocks and The Velvet Underground. Incessantly rocking tracks like “Brassneck,” “Kennedy,” and “What Have I Said Now?” will knock modern rockers for a loop.

Black

J-8 of a cover of Marvin Gaye’s “Mercy Mercy” and “My World” with, according to producer, “a fresh spin.” Much, much needed.

Country

Kelly Willis

Will Travel Love

Duffie, Tony Brown. John Guest

Willin’ cry-in-the-voice delivery sounds like a Nashville inspired tune, with harmony that here are bereft of inventiveness, depth, and kindred distinctions.

MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Boston Pops Orchestra, Williams

Soulful, broad-shouldered arrangement of a hit for the charging symphony orchestra. It’s a successful attempt to transport the listener from the standard concert hall to the stage of the world’s most famous musicals.

Spotlight: Predicted to hit top 10 on its appropriate genre’s chart or to earn platinum certification.

The Jeff Healey Band

Hard To Be A Hero

For the next half a century of the blues, Healey’s music has been a constant source of inspiration and influence. His playing is a testament to the power of the electric guitar and the blues, and he continues to push the boundaries of what is possible with his instrument. The Jeff Healey Band is a fitting tribute to his talent and legacy.

Classical

Berdino: Roméo Et Juliette

Dorina, Dixie, Floyd, London Radio Symphony Orchestra, Oberhumer

In the hands of the London Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berdino’s Roméo Et Juliette is a stirring and passionate piece that captures the essence of the original work. Oberhumer’s conducting brings out the emotional depth of the music, creating a powerful performance that will leave listeners moved and inspired.

New and noteworthy

Perfect Gentleman

Roots PC

PRODUCER: Maurice Starr

Starr had to look no further than his own back yard, literally, for his newest project—son Maurice. Starr Jr. makes up one third of these little hit makers. Sappy single “Ooh La La (I Can’t Get Over You)” is already all over the radio, catchy “Mama” and snappy jack/rap “Move Me Groove Me” wait in the wings. Remember, this is how New Edition used to sound. Touring with the New Kids On The Block will only accelerate this speeding train.

Ice Cube

American’s Most Wanted

Tupac Shakur, Dre, The Mod Squad

“California Love” is a hit for Cube. Cube has been like a hitmaker in the rap scene. His rap style is very influential and his music is enjoyed all over the world. The song is about his life and his experiences growing up in Compton, Los Angeles. The music video features Cube and his friends hanging out in Compton and showing off their cars and money. The song has been very popular and has sold over 10 million copies worldwide.

New & Noteworthy

Highlights new and noteworthy acts worthy of attention and other releases of special interest.

Spotlight

For the record, predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the format listed. In-coming Chart (CI): New releases, regardless of potential chart action, which the reviewer highly recommends because of their musical merit.

Classical

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