YUKIHIRO TAKAHASHI: Neuromantic (Alfa ALS 85393)/IPPU DO: Radio Fantasy (Epic EPC 85395)

Two albums from Japan which Epic hopes will launch a solid foundation in the UK for its extensive catalogue of Far Eastern product. Of the two Neuromantic, with haunting dance rhythms and skillful melodies, is the most likely to score. Surprisingly, or not perhaps, the music is close to the current sound of the band Japan and its disco appeal is assured. IPPU Du on the other hand is closer to the spirit of western pop, to the extent of playing a version of The Zombies' 'Time Of The Season', which is less easy to take. The multi-instrumental, electronic sound of the trio is undoubtedly clever but the music is ultimately no different from the pop music we already have.

THE CHEATERS Sweat It Out (Revo/Whitehead) Prod: Neil Brock

Cheaters have another potential single to score. Surprisingly, or not perhaps, the album - the band should receive the attention their hard work with the album - the band should after an unhappy spell with EMI is long. The Cheaters' road record makes even the most ardent die hard fan say 'Wow'. The Cheaters are a band on the up and their return to the recording front makes it a fair reflection of the band's work.

MELBA MOORE: What A Woman Needs (EMI America AML 3019)

Producers McFadden/John Whitehead

Ippu Du on the other hand is assured. Ippu Du on the other hand is assured. On the other hand, with 'The Whitehead Sound' which should sound impressive in the discos. For home listening the record could fall uncomfortably between the relaxed late-night melodies and the dance appeal but there is no doubting the quality of Melba Moore's vocals.

VARIOS: A Fresh Selection (Fresh FRESHLP 8) Produced: Various

A well thought out selection comprising a selection of acts who have recorded for the Fresh label over the past two years. This tends means tracks from Family Fodder, Wilko Johnson, Bernie Torme, UK Decay amongst others. The divergence of the music involved is recognised, and the album is split into 'Party Type' and 'Punkier' sides. As with all the albums, the artwork is a good representation of Fresh Records, history to date.

NATALIE COLE: Happy Love (Capitol EST 12165) Prod: George Tobin

Good material is essential to acts like Natalie Cole who rely on songwriters to make it a fair reflection of the band's work.

THE KINKS: Give The People What They Want (Arista SPAR 1171) Prod: Ray Davies

For once an album without Sly, Robbie and the up-tempo R&B from Jamaica, this is ideal. The Kinks: essentially 60s bands who have placed the Kinks beyond musical categories. There are touches here and there which echo sounds of the 60s, but essentially the Kinks remain creative. Their main market today is in the US.

WILLIE NELSON: Greatest Hits (And Some That Will Be) (CBS 85657)

A value-for-money double sampler which concentrates on Nelson's contemporary country music rather than his more recent MOR excursions. Included are such favourites as 'Mama Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys', 'Blues Eyes Crying In The Rain' and 'My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys', while 'Whiskey River', 'Faded Love' and 'Stay A Little Longer' are all from Nelson's early -30s rock fans. The second compilation the album works, being a trusted album material. But 'Georgia On My Mind' is included to please the ballad fans.

MICHAEL PROPHET: Michael Prophet (Greensleeves GREL 27) Prod: Henry 'Junjo' Lawes

For once an album without Sly, Robbie or Angel. The album is dominated by the throb of bass, a clever use of percussion to maintain interest. On the up-tempo numbers such as 'Upside Down' the horns are allowed to weave around the rhythms and the overall result is another success for Greensleeves.

VARIOUS: Commercial Break Volume Two (CBS 60302) Prod: Various

In between the repeats and sparky blockbusters on TV is crammed some of the best music ever written. It comes to you courtesy of Fiat, Heineken, Trusthouse Forte, Guinness and a host of other companies. This is CBS's second collection of music used for advertisements and it contains some really memorable tunes. Fiat, for instance, use Rossini's 'Largo Al Factotum' from The Barber Of Seville for the great "made by robots" advertisement. A piece from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons is used to entice people into HSF hotels and Guinness goes down well with Tchaikovsky's Romeo & Juliet. This is not how big shops sell classical music but for the general audience it is ideal.