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NEWS: Stevie Wonder mentor **KEITH HARRIS** faces the challenge of steering the IMF into the new millennium



NEWS: The stars have lined-up with Robbie and **S CLUB 7** leading the way in the BBC's TV schedules



NEWS: As it prepares for its 10th anniversary, **TALKIN LOUD** is set to embark on its busiest year to date



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musicweek

Branson: back retail or we'll drop music

by Paul Williams

Virgin group chairman Richard Branson has issued a stark ultimatum to record companies: tell us your retail plans or we will focus our business elsewhere.

Branson is pressing for a top-level summit on the future of music retailing, saying that his company and other music dealers urgently need to know the direction in which the music industry believes retailing is heading – or he will switch investment to other "more profitable" retail areas.

"All these record companies are meeting behind closed doors working out the future as they see it, whether it's the internet, cutting out record shops, downloading or whatever, but without involving music retailers in the discussions," says Branson, who wants to see the key retail and record company players meet around a table as soon as possible to discuss the subject.

The entrepreneur made his dramatic call last Wednesday after he had flown in from Japan to launch a 2,500 sq m Megastore in Glas-



Branson: stunned audience

gow's city centre with Melanie C, the biggest entertainment store in Scotland and Virgin's second largest in the UK. Addressing a stunned audience of senior record company executives, other suppliers and staff inside the new £2.5m store, he warned, "Unless the music industry – both record companies and retailers – get together quickly, stores like this won't exist in the future."

Branson, who is also calling for record companies to cut their dealer prices, said the music industry

has to decide now whether it wants to support retailers who stock a wide range of titles. Otherwise it would be "stupid" of Virgin and others to invest money in projects like the new Glasgow store.

"If the industry doesn't want music stores in the future we need to know," he told Music Week after his speech. "We can and will turn these stores over to selling other products if it's the only way to survive. If the music industry wants to work with us it should be telling us."

Virgin has already started stocking more non-music product with the introduction of mobile telephones in both Our Price and the Megastores. The move into the mobile phone market was cited as a key reason for Virgin abandoning the planned Our Price management buyout. "At the moment we're devoting a small proportion of our stores to mobile phones," says Branson. "If we don't get the support of the record industry either we turn them over completely to mobile phones or at least devote more space to them," he says.



Parlophone act Supergrass are the focus of a new Radio One advertising campaign set to run on BBC1, BBC2 and BBC Choice through December. The promotion stresses the network's public service remit as a creative showcase for new music and is the second element of the station's 1999 marketing strategy, which began earlier this year with the One Love theme. The film has been created by Fallon McElligott and features Supergrass rehearsing their song Moving in Abbey Road Studios. Suddenly they begin to show lapses of musical taste and the band members decide to use inappropriate instruments including a tuba and a kazoo (pictured with singer Gaz Coombes) to finish the song. The ad then fades to the strapline: "If Radio One didn't have a mission to play good music, neither would the hundreds of bands that grew up listening to it". Parlophone marketing director Terry Felgate says, "Radio One approached us because Supergrass are a core act for the station, and this was a great opportunity to get the act on TV in the run-up to Christmas." Radio One's marketing manager Gall Nuttrey says different versions of the ad will be shown in time slots when the maximum number of 15- to 24-year-olds are viewing.

Heneghan to head expanding Play It Again Sam

Mike Heneghan has been appointed president of the UK operations of expanding European indie Play It Again Sam, three months after his departure from Independent.

His appointment is part of a broader restructuring at Plas in the UK. Vital Group managing director Mike Chadwick is moving to launch a UK arm of Plas's publishing company Strictly Confidential from January 1, while Peter Thompson and Richard Arning are promoted to the roles of managing directors of the distributor's London and Bristol offices respectively. Chadwick will remain a non-executive director of Vital.

The moves come as the distributor prepares to close a £4.7m deal to buy a new warehouse in Bristol and to launch a new state-of-the-art computer system.

Meanwhile, Plas is finalising its first key internet investments with deals set to be announced early in the new year.

The initiatives are the first moves



Gates (l) and Heneghan: new team by Plas since fellow European indie Edel bought a 75% stake in the group in July. At the time, one of the main motivations cited for the deal was to enable Plas to boost its investment in its A&R and distribution activities around Europe.

In his new role Heneghan will oversee all Plas's UK operations, which include Vital as well as its record division. "We're looking to

MIKE HENEGHAN: CV
 1979-1980: EMI salesman for east Scotland
 1980-1982: PolyGram salesman for east of Scotland
 1983-1986: strikeforce manager at London Records
 1986-1990: co-founder of Platinum Promotions
 1990-1992: co-founder of 3mv
 1993-1996: general manager Go! Discs
 1997-1999: managing director Independent
 1999: appointed UK president at Plas

federate some Independents through a series of creative alliances, whether it be partnerships, acquisitions or licensing or distribution deals," he says, adding that the company will also beef up its artist roster.

"Repertoire is definitely an area where we want to increase our presence," says Plas co-founder Kenry Gates, who was introduced to

Heneghan by former A&M UK managing director Osman Eralp in September. "Mike is a musician man who has a background in record companies and distribution. Moreover his reputation in the business is a match of credibility and hits. In my eyes, it's the ideal combination for being able to grow both Vital and our repertoire side in the UK."

Gates says he expects the UK company to increase its sales from local signings by about 30% annually. Current signings through the UK include Inner City, Campag Velocet, Public Enemy and Jurassic 5. Continental signings who have enjoyed success during the past year include Mr Oizo and Laurent Garnier.

Chadwick says he is looking forward to working more closely with artists in his publishing role after 16 years in distribution. "It's a whole new area and an exciting move for me," he adds, noting that he will still liaise closely with Plas's record and distribution operations.

Brits 2000 goes for weekend TV special

The Brit Awards is to become a weekend television spectacular for the first time next year with LWT planning to screen the show in a peak-time Saturday slot.

The broadcaster is lining up a two-hour highlights programme to be screened in a time-slot still to be confirmed on March 4, one day after the first Brits of the new century is staged at London's Earl's Court. Initial, headed by executive producer Malcolm Gerrie, has again been appointed to produce the TV show.

Meanwhile, the Sugar Reef restaurant in London's Soho has been secured as the venue for the MasterCard-sponsored event's nominations launch party, which starts at 6pm on January 31. Among the categories featured is best British newcomer, the voting procedure for which has been changed following concerns over the manner in which it was conducted this year.

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Choosing next year's Song For Europe came a step nearer last Wednesday when a panel of music industry figures selected a "longlist" of 24 songs. Nearly 500 entries had already been whittled down to 48 by the MPA and British Academy before the team met at London's Savoy Hotel to choose the songs which the BBC will consider at a judging session this Wednesday. The BBC will then choose eight finalists for the Song For Europe event early next year. Pictured are (l-r): British Academy board member Gary Osborne; MPA president Tom Bradley; British Academy head of membership Jason Bandy; Songlink International's David Starik; singer-songwriter Kim Appleby; The Levellers manager Phil Nelson; Chelsea Music's Eddie Levy; producer Ray Hedges; MPA communications manager Alex Webb; producer Gus Dudgeon; Music Week A&R editor Stephen Jones; and writer-producer Steve Robson.

Christmas effect kicks in as high street sales rise

by Paul Williams

Christmas has finally kicked in on the High Street with week-over-week album sales at the end of November leaping by a hefty 30.8%.

Apparently contradicting ongoing concerns in many quarters about the state of the market, more than 3.7m albums passed over the counter in the closing week of last month – a 26.7% hike on the equivalent week last year – as the trade began to feel the full impact of aggressive CD discounting and consumers starting their Christmas shopping.

Though still expressing caution at this stage, Virgin Entertainment chief operating officer Simon Wright says he is pleased with his own company's figures and predicts a busy time ahead. "I would expect a frenetic week before Christmas and I suspect a frenetic week between Christmas

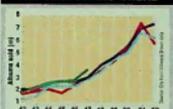
and New Year. Those two weeks could be unbelievable," he says.

The healthy increase in sales a week ago was the second successive week that album sales this year have beaten their equivalent 1998 figure, helping year-on-year sales to date to rise by 5.9% on artist albums and 1.3% on compilations. Singles, though, are slightly down on the year.

However, despite the upturn, many observers remain concerned about the effects of price discounting. In the last week in November ASDA cut its single CD chart albums by £1 to £11.99, while Boots is understood to have more than doubled its market share to around 4% after cutting its own album chart prices to £3.99.

ASDA general manager for entertainment David Inglis says his chain's price move is going "fantastically well" with around a 50% rise in sales

THE CHRISTMAS TREND



week on week during its introductory week. "That's much higher than the seasonal uplift we expected so it has had a big effect," says Inglis, whose company is spending around £1m between now and Christmas on its first TV campaign for music.

Michael Hind, who manages indie retailer Moondance in Ruislip, says he too has experienced a notable uplift in sales. "It really started at the

Marsh plans first-ever conference at Telstar

Telstar will become the first record company in the UK to hold a conference in the new millennium as it plans an event early next year.

The gathering has been prompted by Jeremy Marsh, who joined the group in July in the newly-created role of managing director of its record labels, overseeing day-to-day control of both Telstar Records and Wildstar.

No date has yet been fixed for the one-day event, which will be held in a London venue and is the first such conference held by the Independent. However, it is expected to take place around the end of January or beginning of February with several acts performing during the daytime presentations and others in an evening session.

newsfile

EMI SIGNS WEB VIDEO DEAL

EMI Recorded Music has signed a deal granting California-based company Launch Media Inc the rights to stream its videos over the internet. Under the deal, EMI will take a small equity stake – understood to be around 1% – in the Nasdaq-quoted company, which already has deals with Sony Music and Road Runner. Meanwhile, EMI has offloaded its 13.3% stake in the GWR group. The holding of 14.8m shares was placed on the market last week at 550p and the expected £80m proceeds will be used to repay EMI borrowings.

DUTMUSIC WEBCASTS AMIRROQUI

Jazz Recorded Music has signed a homeless charity Shelter was due to be webcast live on MW sister website dutmusic this Sunday (December 5). The gig coincided with the chart entry of the band's new single, King For A Day.

INTERACTIVE CITY EXPANDS

Interactive City II, Glasgow's e-commerce conference for the music and creative industries, is being expanded this summer to include the public. The June 9-13 event will be held in two marquee in the city's George Square and organisers are anticipating more than double last year's 250 delegates and around 15,000 members of the public.

JAZZ LABELS HEAD FOR MIDEM

Jazz is expected to make its biggest splash at Midem for more than a decade after a group of leading independent British jazz labels have cooperated to stage a group stand called BritJazz. Already eight labels, including Audio 8, Dubs, Provacator and Flat 5 have signed up to the stand and more are expected by the time the December 16 deadline expires.

MUSIC 365 SHARES CORP

Music and football internet content provider 365 Corporation made a spectacular debut on the stock market last Thursday with its 160p offer price shares trading at a peak of 290p during the first day.

Harris set to lead IMF into new millennium

Stevie Wonder mentor and former Motown UK general manager Keith Harris faces the challenge of steering the International Managers Forum (IMF) into the new millennium after being elected chairman of the organisation last week.

Harris, whose Berkshire-based KMF Harris Music management company looks after Omar, Jonz and the interests of Wonder in Europe, replaces Jeff Hanlon.

Also voted into management positions at Thursday's AGM were former IMF chairman and Blueprint director John Glover, who takes over from Harris in the role of deputy chairman, and Yellocoo Music's Charlie Carne, who replaces David Stopps as treasurer. Clive Banks and Chris Parry were also elected onto the 20-strong council and replace Moksha Management's Charles Cosh and Zomba's Tim Smith.

IMF general secretary James Fisher says that the new chairman, who is also a consultant to the University of Westminster having designed the music business sec-



Harris' strong industry contacts in the college's degree in Commercial Music is a vastly experienced operator with good contacts within the business. The IMF has become part of the music industry infrastructure. Keith's experience will help us to continue that function," he says.

Harris says he has already identified three issues to tackle. These include ensuring that the focus of the IMF becomes more international, that education of managers remains a priority, and that the organisation as a whole becomes more effective in dealing with issues thrown up by the industry.

Mick Fleetwood to host UK showcase at Midem

Mick Fleetwood is to host a BPI event for the first time since the 1989 Brits Fiasco after agreeing to host next year's British music showcase at Midem.

The Fleetwood Mac drummer and co-founder will present the new annual show at the Cannes festival on January 24 under the new banner of The British. Previously known as the Best Of British, the show will again be staged in two parts with an early evening singer-songwriter section in the Salon Estere and a bands showcase following at 9.30pm.

Culture secretary Chris Smith is lined up to attend the showcase, presented by Dr Martens in association with the BPI and British Music Rights, which will feature The Stranglers, Superstar, The Peter Dinklage Band, Violent Circle, J Stone, Bag Kennedy and Martin Taylor. The government minister will also visit the stands of UK companies attending the trade show, including the BPI stand in the Palais des Festivals.

MIDEM 2000

The Midem message is that nothing beats meeting your overseas customers face to face and cutting deals on a personal basis. Nevertheless, whether it's on the floor of the exhibition hall or in the bar at the Martinez, two words will dominate delegate thinking and conversation at Midem 2000 - they are Online and Download.

Music Week's January 22 issue will contain our Brits at Midem special.

Focusing on everything from Distribution & Import/Export to Publishing, Manufacturing and Licensing we highlight the big issues likely to shape the music industry over the next few years.

Distributed in Music Week prior to the start of Midem, the guide will prove indispensable to anyone planning to exhibit or attend the first Midem of the 21st Century!

To find out more, contact the Music Week Sales Team on 0171 940 8500

BRANSON: BLUFF OR BUSINESS?

Should we believe a word that Richard Branson says? His knack for headline-grabbing publicity stunts sometimes makes it hard to take him seriously. But he meant every word of his speech in Glasgow last week, by all accounts.

What is bothering him is his ongoing investment in a retail business which is in a state of flux. Now that he has threatened to quit it altogether, what is the correct reaction?

It is worth remembering that Branson's music retail business is different from that of rivals such as HMV. It is just one part of a portfolio that stretches from planes and trains to clothes and financial services. Although music was the foundation on which his empire was built, it is no longer at his heart.

Moreover Branson, who was trying to sell the Our Price chain not so long ago, has a reputation not only for flipping from business to business but also for smelling a business opportunity a mile off. And he no doubt smells one now. Mobile telephony is sexy. Music retailing is not. How better to raise your investor profile than by switching from one business to the other, possibly with a flotation for good measure? But there is more behind his words than opportunism. Pricing and concerns about the Internet are worrying every retailer in the land, not to mention record companies. And the pain is compounded by the fact that there simply isn't a broad enough sweep of big sellers at the moment to guarantee a steady flow of people into record stores.

Branson's idea of a summit for retailers and their key suppliers is neat. It would not produce a solution — after all, most of the decisions that Branson wants to know about are being made on the other side of the Atlantic. But it might go some way to clearing the air — and ensuring Virgin's ongoing commitment to music retailing in the UK.

Retail rivals might welcome a tactical retreat by Virgin. But the business as a whole needs it like a hole in the head.

Ajax Scott



Heller signs up for Peoplesound

Stefan Heller is joining online music site peoplesound.com in the new role of director of programming. Five months after leaving a similar role at Music Choice Europe.

Heller will be responsible for developing programming strategy on peoplesound.com, which was launched in June to provide a springboard for new and emerging artists by creating individual web pages for acts.

A spokesman for Peoplesound.com says Heller, who spent six years at Music Choice before his sudden departure and had previously worked at MCA, Decca and EMI, has the ideal mix of expertise to take charge of programming. "He's got a record label background and also has experience of



Heller: programming role programming for the digital jukebox Music Choice," he says.

Heller will assume some of the responsibilities of Ormer Karacan, peoplesound.com's original consulting vice president for content, who is quitting to pursue new interests.

Charity steps in to take on pirate CDs

The BPI's anti-piracy unit (APU) expects to save itself thousands of pounds every year destroying pirated and bootlegged CDs recovered from raids after switching to a policy of recycling seized goods.

The APU has previously incinerated or crushed illicit product. Now, the BPI has signed a deal with The Birth Defects Foundation, which will dismantle and shred the paper lining notes of CDs, crush cases and scrub discs to resell as hi-grade reusable plastic.

"Police forces and trading standards use the same charity, which has very good security and ensures the goods are neutralised," says BPI technical advisor David Varnals.

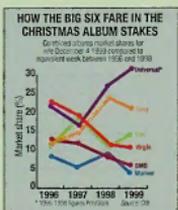
Sony and Universal vie for Brit's share of festive sales

by Paul Williams
Universal and Sony Music are running away with the key pre-Christmas market for a second successive year by taking more than 50% of all chart album sales between them.

The two companies were last week responsible for 65% of the artist albums Top 10 between them and had a presence on six of the 10 biggest compilations to give them an aggregate 53.4% market share against a combined Top 75 album chart.

Their dominance in the crucial run-up to Christmas means that history is repeating itself; in the equivalent week in 1998 Sony and Universal — then PolyGram — captured 48.8% of chart album sales with PolyGram leading the way on 27.3%. This year Universal on 32.3% reigned supreme last week, aided most strongly by its Universal TV division, which took an unbeatatable 15.7% on the combined albums countdown.

In fact, it is in compilations that Universal is most dominant with Now! 44, Abbanania and Music Of The Millennium helping it to a market-leading 32.0% in this sector last



week. Here Sony finished in fourth place, beaten by EMI (24.7%) and Virgin (22.1%).

Sony in contrast is particularly strong on the artist albums chart where it accounted for half of last week's Top 10 thanks to Ceeline Dion, Travis, Macy Gray, Charlotte Church and Will Smith. Its 28.4% share puts it ahead of Universal in second place with 26.0%. Universal chairman John Kennedy is currently two albums short of his annual conference production that the group would have three-and-a-half albums in the

Christmas Top 10 (the half being Herk). However, the major did have five albums in positions 11 to 20 vying for Top 10 glory last week.

Compared with exactly 12 months ago, EMI and Virgin have swapped places across all chart album sales with Sony Todsword's compilation-dominated operation gaining the upper hand in third spot with 15.7% (11.0% in 1998). Virgin's fourth-placed 11.3% compares with 11.5% a year ago and 19.3% in 1997, although it is expected to improve its position between now and Christmas following the release today (Monday) of George Michael's *Songs From The Last Century*.

Like Virgin, Warner's share is also down year-on-year, although more sharply, with its combined 4.0% total last week more than half that of a year ago. BMG's share is also down, falling from 8.5% to 5.9%, with its artists showing dominated by two albums: Westlife's self-titled debut and Five's *Invincible*. Last week it was beaten by Zomba — responsible for the week's number one artist album *Steph Curran* by Steps — whose combined showing was 6.9%.

Stack returns to fray with reissue venture

Former Music Collection International managing director Peter Stack is returning to the reissue sector with plans to launch a new catalogue marketing business.

Union Square Music will cut across a wide range of single and multi-artists packages covering soul, jazz, blues, world and reggae music and will feature four labels covering the spectrum from UK to lowlands.

Stack, who established and ran MCI for nine years before its acquisition by Kingfisher earlier this year, declines to reveal any of the acts or where the new venture is likely to derive its repertoire, but says the west London operation expects to launch more than 50 releases next year.

Three former members of the MCI management team, Steve Bryman, Darren Rigwell and Steve Funn, are joining Stack in the roles of director of marketing, director of UK sales and director of international sales respectively. Martin Morales joins as product manager from Bath's Jumi Music label.

LSO launches low-price series

The London Symphony Orchestra has launched a range of own-brand recordings, LSO Live, for sale online and by direct mail, the first such initiative by a British orchestra.

Releases in the series will retail for £4.99, with the cost of packaging and postage included in the price. The low mark-up is supported by sponsorship deals and a profit-sharing agreement with the LSO's players.

The first two LSO Live discs feature performances of Dvorak's Symphony No.8 and New World Symphony recorded live at London's Barbican Centre last September and October and conducted by Sir Colin Davis. The marketing support involves a mail-shot to 20,000 LSO followers, editorial coverage and offer forms in the January issue of the orchestra's *Living Music* magazine and online promotion via the LSO's website.

"We'll develop the marketing strategy to account for changes in online technology," says the orchestra's marketing director, Karen Cardy. "We eventually want to offer



Sir Colin: conducting the new range downloadable discs from our website.

She adds that the albums are not intended to compete with releases from established record companies; rather, LSO Live is part of the orchestra's campaign to extend its audience reach and attract newcomers to its concerts. "This is a new departure for the LSO, but it links in with our existing approach to reach people with live music and communicate the orchestra's brand strengths of quality and access," she says.

TILLY

TRACKS OF MY YEARS

Now Millennium fever is here, I can't resist taking a look back over the years rather than just the past 12 months. Life really changed when Haley recorded Rock Around The Clock and the movie *Blackboard Jungle* hit our shores in the mid-Fifties. This was closely followed by Elvis who, despite never visiting the UK, changed the whole music scene.

The Sixties brought us the world's top band, that amazing British export, The Beatles, and the Bad Boys of Rock, The Rolling Stones. If rock or pop wasn't your bag, hitting our earholes from the US at this time were the sounds of young America — Berry Gordie's Motown magic, with the Four Tops, Supremes, Marvin Gaye and so forth, and the soul sounds of Stax and Atlantic.

Blue beat and ska from Jamaica started to influence us in the Seventies, which was the big reggae period, alongside the disco boom and Abbanania. The UK started the punk revolution, when we all pogoed and spitting became fashionable. Of course America didn't care for this, preferring the soft rock of The Eagles, the rejuvenated Fleetwood Mac, and many more West Coast-influenced groups.

The Eighties began with the new romantic movement. There was the American girl revolution led by Debbie Harry and followed by Madonna. Culture Club and Boy George were loved by all and by the end of the decade we were Killed and Jansoned out as soap stars became big business.

During the past decade dance music has made probably the greatest impact, together with, in the UK, the rise and rise of boy bands and the biggest selling girl group, Spice Girls. So what's next? However much we like to think the industry is about new trends, the revival of Abbanania, Culture Club, and the number of new bands releasing covers of old songs proves that, whether new or old, people buy music which entertains. Since rock'n'roll first exploded, we've produced a huge variety of excellent music. The way forward is always to acknowledge what's gone before, so may the new and the old continue to provide fun for everyone — have a wonderful Millennium.

Tilly Rutherford's column is a personal view

Record Of The Year organiser Jonathan King (pictured right) was due to go on Capital FM's breakfast programme as show host Denise Van Outen appeared on GMTV this morning (Monday) to announce the 10 records which will be competing for the title on December 11 when the grand final is screened live in two parts on ITV. The 10 finalists were selected from 20 nominees in a public phone vote last Saturday, held on the back of a half-hour preview programme also aired on ITV. Among those in the running were the year's biggest-selling single, Britney Spears' *Baby One More Time*, and Shania Twain's *That Don't Impress Me Much*, taken from 1999's top-selling album *Come On Over*. King believes the 20 nominees, heavily weighted towards pop and big dance hits, show that this year record buyers have wanted "a sound, rather than an artist". The winner of the Britanna-sponsored event will be announced on next Saturday's second show, which is set to be broadcast between 10.05pm and 10.30pm.



Robbie Williams and S Club 7 to star in BBC's Christmas TV schedule

by Steve Hemsley

A 50-minute fly on the wall documentary following Robbie Williams' attempts to break the US market and S Club 7 special are two of the highlights of BBC's Christmas schedule.

EMI Group UK and Ireland president and CEO Tony Wadsworth, group A&R executive Chris Briggs and Capitol Records US president Roy Lotz are among the music industry figures who appear in the Robbie Williams show, which is called *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and will be broadcast on Sunday January 2 at 11pm.

The programme is being described by the BBC as the centrepiece of its Christmas week schedule and features interviews and acoustic performances from the artist's US tour as well as a Stateside version of the video for *Argyle*.

The S Club 7 special *Boyfriends & Birthdays*, which is set in the US and includes the band's singles *Two In A*

Million, *You're My Number One* and a new song *Reach*, is set for broadcast on December 12. The band's first BBC TV special *Miami 7* has now been shown in more than 40 countries.

BBC One will broadcast the traditional one-hour *TOTP* on Christmas Day featuring the best-selling singles of the year and the Christmas number one, but has decided not to produce a show for New Year's Eve. The usual half-hour format returns in the first week of January.

The *Ozone* will be seen for the last time this year on December 14 with a 15-minute review of the videos featuring interviews and clips from past programmes.

ITV has yet to confirm a slot for the Christmas *Des O'Connor Tonight* with Celine Dion, Charlotte Church and Robson Green, while TF1 Friday's music booker Susan Masters says *The Lightning Seeds* are the only act so far confirmed for its last show of



S Club 7: seasonal TV special

1999 on Christmas Eve.

Meanwhile, Videotech producer Diana Smith is concerned that the decision to reschedule her December 30 show at 5.30pm rather than 11.30pm will give viewers a wrong impression of the programme. "We are pleased to have a relatively peak slot on a day when people traditionally watch TV but the music will have a

Discovery loses out in name court case

Dundee radio station Discovery 102 must change its name and logo by February after losing a court battle brought by satellite TV's Discovery Channel.

The radio station, owned by IRG Scotland, has only been broadcasting since August and chose the name as Dundee is known in Scotland as the city of discovery. However, the Discovery Channel took legal action, claiming the term Discovery was its brand name and must be protected.

The first hearing in Edinburgh was won by IRG but the appeal judges have ruled in favour of the Discovery Channel and refused the radio group permission to appeal further to the House of Lords.

Discovery 102 managing director Gus Mackenzie says he expects to confirm a new name and logo within the next few weeks. "In the meantime we must ask permission to use the logo in any publicity material," he adds.

newsfile

LEIGHTON GETS WALL-MART ROLE

Asda chief executive Allan Leighton has been promoted to the newly-created role of president and chief executive of Wall-Mart Europe. The US retail giant already owns stores in the UK and Germany and is planning a move into France. Leighton originally joined Asda as marketing director in 1992.

BORDERS IN HO HOAT

Expanding music and books retailer Borders is looking to hire a new managing director from outside the book trade following the decision by John Monk to leave the retail job at the end of April 2000. Monk, who joined Books etc in 1987, will continue to be a non-executive director of Borders following his departure. Meanwhile, Christine Bacheler has been appointed managing director of Books etc and Philip Downard managing director of Borders Books Music Cafe.

CAPITAL HOLDS WELSH LICENCE

Capital Radio Digital, which was conditionally awarded the digital multiplex licence for Cardiff and Newport on November 4, was confirmed as the holder of the southeast Wales multiplex licence last week. The radio operator accepted the RA's condition that it should modify transmission to reduce overspill to surrounding areas.

PILOT FOR MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

Yamaha/Kemble Music and Alive Management have joined forces to launch a pilot scheme aimed at encouraging more school children to play musical instruments. For one day, Yamaha is providing a selection of instruments for a school in Chesterfield and one in Middlesbrough, while Alive Management will host a lecture session where children can learn about the music industry. Manchester rock band Alive, who are handled by the management company, will perform at each school.

STAFF REJOICE AT ITV

The publishing team at *Attio* magazine, TV channel 5's first magazine, rejoiced. *Attio* Alval takes over day-to-day responsibility after being made associate publisher reporting to Bridget Morrison, who becomes group publisher overseeing *TV Hits* and the bi-monthly *Boyzone* magazine.

TRAVIS CLOCK UP PLATINUMS

The Travis album *The Man Who Now 44* became four-times platinum albums last week when Steps' *Spectacular* won its third BPI platinum award. There were platinum awards for all the January albums. The Millennium Fades, Will Smith's *Wild Wildromantic* and the compilations *The Number One Dance Party Album* and *The Ultimate Christmas Collection*.

Previous week	This week	% change on 0000s	1998
Top Of The Pops*	4,355	-19.3	
Top Of The Pops #	2,588	-1.8	
TF1*	1,741	+27.0	
CD:UK*	1,810	+21.5	
SMTV	1,675	+31.9	
Live & Kicking	1,533	+20.3	
O Zone	1,289	+145.5	
Planet Pop	743	+31.3	
The Popul Chart	665	+23.3	
The Mag	160	+23.1	

* includes weekly figures
Source: MusicScan/IBIS/BPI (p15 p15)

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Select takes on Petridis as new editor

Former *Mixmag* deputy editor Alexis Petridis has been appointed as editor of *Select* magazine following the resignation of John Harris last month.

Petridis, who joined *Mixmag* in January 1995 and who has been freelancing since quitting as deputy editor two years ago, says he plans to broaden *Select*'s music policy. "We will be exploring a bit deeper," he says. "The magazine title will be looking more into genres such as hip-hop, which are more alternative than what is generally considered 'indie'."

However, Petridis, who takes up his new position from December 13, stresses that, despite his *Mixmag* background, he will not be making dance-related music a priority.

"The last thing I want is people thinking Ravey Davey Gray has turned up and is going to put Judge Jules on the cover. Broadening the music policy should hopefully broaden the readership, but I don't want to alienate standard *Select*



Petridis: In the hotseat

base readers," he says.

He adds that he plans to reaffirm *Select*'s commitment to discovering new acts.

Enap Metro editor in chief Mark Ellen says he expects the magazine to pick up "faster on interesting new music", adding that he hopes *Select* will stake out its own territory through its coverage of fresh and inventive groups.

Our Price giveaway to promote website

Our Price is giving away 1,000 of the top albums of the millennium online as part of a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the fully-transactive internet site. It plans to launch in the spring.

Throughout December users accessing www.ourprice.co.uk, which went live last Wednesday, will be linked to Carlton Communications' Jamba gaming site (www.jamba.co.uk). They must enter a pop and general knowledge quiz to win the titles, which include artist albums across different music genres selected by Our Price product managers.

Each week the person with the highest score will win 100 albums and at the end of the campaign the overall winner will receive the first prize of 1,000 titles.

The 220-strong chain is spending

more than £2m promoting the internet site in-store and on branded advertising. Commercial director Neil Boote says the campaign will act as a teaser for consumers.

"We are relatively late into the e-commerce field so can avoid mistakes made by our competitors by launching too early. This promotion acts as an incentive for people to find out more about our website, allowing us to create an e-mail database," he says.

He adds that a number of companies have pitched to fulfil orders from the site when it begins selling albums online early next year. He expects to announce within the next two weeks who has won the contract. The retailer is also considering offering digital downloads from the site next year, but has so far made no final decision.

Pop acts have as Universal and Sony fight it out for most awards

● Melanie C appears to be having the biggest overseas reception for her solo material in Scandinavia. The Virgin-issued single Northern Star is the highest new entry at nine on Sweden's sales chart, while on airplay it progresses 9-5. On Norway's airplay chart it moves 21-13 and 6-4 in Denmark, helping to make it the only record this week to break into the Top 10 of fono's countdown of the biggest UK-suicided tracks on European radio.

● Aided by Tina Turner's When The Heartbeats Is Over at one for a fourth consecutive week, EMI heads the corporate honours with five tracks, while Universal has four representatives on the fono list of UK radio hits. BMG, Virgin and Warner have three tracks each with the indie sector present twice.

● Metallica, signed to Mercury UK for the world outside Japan and North America, are underlining the appeal of S&M with the band's double live album debuting at one in Australia, Germany, Norway, Portugal and Sweden. Its other debuts include two in Finland, five in the Netherlands, six in Denmark and Spain, and seven in Austria, France and Switzerland.

● Polydor's S Club 7 are getting ever closer in Australia to repeating their New Zealand chart-topping feat with Bring It All Back this week climbing 5-3. The two tracks standing in its way are Eiffel 65's Blue (Da Ba Dee) and Madison Avenue's Don't Call Me Baby. Lower down the chart, Five's Keep On Movin' makes a sixplace hike to 20.

● Cher's The Greatest Hits may have lost the top spot to another female superstar best of, Celine Dion's All The Way, but it is continuing to fly elsewhere in Europe and beyond. It takes the highest new entry at seven in Denmark, remains at five in Sweden, climbs 11-10 in Norway, 23-13 in Finland and 28-15 in Australia, while entering at 21 in Canada.

● Ronan Keating is on the verge of landing a number one single in Italy with his debut solo release When You Say Nothing At All, climbing seven weeks to three. He replaces Five as the highest-placed UK signed act as Five's Keep On Movin' drops 4-5.

● Germany cannot get enough of Phil Collins — nor his son Simon. Either Collins senior was at five in the albums chart last week or the Genesis best of, Turn It On Again — The Hits, while the Tarzan soundtrack featuring several of his songs leapt 43 places to six. The tracks include Stranger Like Me, which moves 52-31 on the singles sales chart and re-enters at 47 on airplay. Moving down 40 places to finish one notch below him on the airplay survey is son Simon's Pride.

● David Bowie's 22-year-old survey of offering with Crosby, Peaches on Earth-Little Drummer Boy, is being kept company on Canada's Top 20 singles chart by the arrival at 16 of Erny's Christmas EP.

by Paul Williams
 Sony and Universal are battling it out to be crowned kings of UK-suicided repertoire in Europe after boosting their million-selling tallies in the latest IFPI honours.

Independently-signed Travis, handed on the continent by Sony's Sine operation, took the major's total to six million-selling albums in Europe after boosting their million-selling tally of The Man Who Invented. In the same round of recent awards, Mercury act Texas reached IFPI platinum status with the Hush, while Universal also registered with Cher's The Greatest Hits — released jointly with Warner.

Entering the all-important final month of the year, Universal is ahead of Sony with seven albums released during the past two years Yusuf Islam, who abandoned his musical career as Cat Stevens in 1979, is undertaking rare promotional work for Remember — The Ultimate Collection, the current Stevens best of, which — prior to its release in Japan and North America — has already shipped more than 500,000 units worldwide. Islam, who has helped to compile the retrospective, has already conducted interviews with the Times and Mojo in the UK with Universal-Island director of international Steve Matthews pointing to the possibility of him carrying out international promotion as well. The album, set for release in North America and Japan in February, was the highest new entry last week at seven in Portugal, entered at 11 in Austria and has moved 28-8 in Norway, 15-11 in Sweden, 31-20 in Germany and 98-36 in Australia. Matthews believes Islam's involvement in the project has brought it "authenticity". "With the involvement of the artist there's a certain reality to it. We're not just dealing with 'catalogue'. It makes it more of a current record," he says.

IFPI PLATINUM AWARDS

	total albums	total awards
Universal	7	6
Sony	6	6
BMG	4	4
Warner	3	4
EMI	1	1
Zomba	1	1

Figures show corporate breakdown of UK selected albums released in the past five years and showing IFPI Platinum Europe Awards status between January and November this year. The awards total accounts for awards presented this year so far only.

having won IFPI Platinum Europe Awards in 1999. Its shipping was boosted by U2's The Best of 1990-1990, which won its fifth award in March, with Lighthouse Family's Ocean Drive, Boyzone's By Request and Dire Straits' Sultans of Swing — The

Very Best Of at the 2m mark. Metallica, who have a new album in the Christmas market, reached the 1m level this year with their previous album.

While trailing Universal overall on albums, Sony so far this year has proved more successful with UK-signed Nineties acts. Only two of Universal's seven Platinum Europe awards started their chart lives this decade, compared with five of Sony's six artists. As with Travis, Fatboy Slim's IFPI awards success for Sony came through Sine, while its other Nineties acts to have reached European platinum this year are B*Witched, Fatboy Slim and Jamiroquai. Its only non-Nineties act hitting the target is now no longer part of the company —

George Michael, whose Ladies & Gentlemen best of won its fifth IFPI award in June.

BMG, which has seen the return of Eurhythms plus the international growth of Five and Westlife, has to date this year appeared on the IFPI Platinum list with only pre-1999 releases — through Another Level, Five, Natalie Imbruglia and M People. Warner's tally is dominated by Cher with the Believe album and The Greatest Hits, though Catatonia made their IFPI awards debut in October with International Velvet.

Two Indies, Zomba and Mushroom, have gone platinum this year with Steps' Step One and Garbage's Version 2.0, respectively. EMI has yet to hit the million-selling grade in 1999 with a UK-signed act.



UK TOP 20 AIRPLAY HITS IN EUROPE

UK AIR	DATE/ARTIST (UK version)	EUROPE
1	When The Heartbeats Is Over The Turner (Parlophone)	1
2	I Saved The World Today Eurhythms (S&A)	2
3	She's The One Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)	3
4	Summer Sun Texas (Mercury)	4
5	All I Want Is Love The Dave Navro (East West)	5
6	Keep On Movin' Five (RCA)	6
7	When You Say Nothing At All Ronan Keating (Polydor)	7
8	Let Me Up Get Up Get Down (V2)	8
9	Northern Star Cher (WEA)	9
10	New York City Boy Post Shop Boys (Parlophone)	10
11	When We Are Together Texas (Mercury)	11
12	Don't Leave Her This Way (RCA)	12
13	Burning Down The House Tom Jones & The Coalmen (Zet)	13
14	The World Is Not Your Garage (D-Heaven)	14
15	14 She Believe Sober Area (WEA)	15
16	Bring Me On The Wings (RCA)	16
17	What! Am I The Outcast, Evane Baster (UK Recording)	17
18	— Different Roads Go Together (Parlophone)	18
19	— Sing It Right Back Me (Epic)	19
20	— Remember George Michael (EMI)	20

Chart shows top 20 most played European tracks on fono. Euro Airplay Top 200 set of 100 stations in Europe. Data for week ending 11 Nov. UK version. Source: GfK Chart & Media

fono

GAVIN US URBAN TOP 20

UK AIR	DATE/ARTIST (UK version)	US URBAN
1	U Know What's Up? Dead & Company (LaFace/A&M)	1
2	Tonight Never Ends Jordan (RCA)	2
3	24/7 Revere Edwards (RCA)	3
4	Back At One Brian McKnight (Motown)	4
5	Deep Inside My Mind (J&R)	5
6	Get The Hell On (Get Gone) Ideal (Vivgro)	6
7	Got To Put It Down (Mercury)	7
8	Satisfy You Full Daddy feat. R Kelly (Bad Boy/Arista)	8
9	Hot Boyz Missy Elliott (East West)	9
10	15 Minutes Mariah Carey (A&M)	10
11	Non Stop Mase (Business Group/Epit)	11
12	Don't Say (J&R)	12
13	If You Love Me (Wendy & Adria) (Elektron)	13
14	No More Rain (In This Club) Angie Stone & Devo (Arista)	14
15	Got Your Money Old Dirty Back (Elektron)	15
16	Back To The Top Upstate (Universal)	16
17	We Can't Be Friends Deborah Cox (Arista)	17
18	— The Block Is Hot Lil' Wayne (Universal)	18
19	— The Greatest Romantic Ever Sold The Artist (Arista)	19
20	Big & Dirty Bustling's Child (Columbia)	20

Chart shows top 20 most played urban pop/hip-hop tracks in the US. Source: GfK Chart & Media

TOP UK AND UK-SIGNED SALES CHART PERFORMERS ABROAD

UK AIR	DATE/ARTIST (UK version)	EUROPE	US URBAN
1	When The Heartbeats Is Over The Turner (Parlophone)	1	1
2	I Saved The World Today Eurhythms (S&A)	2	2
3	She's The One Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)	3	3
4	Summer Sun Texas (Mercury)	4	4
5	All I Want Is Love The Dave Navro (East West)	5	5
6	Keep On Movin' Five (RCA)	6	6
7	When You Say Nothing At All Ronan Keating (Polydor)	7	7
8	Let Me Up Get Up Get Down (V2)	8	8
9	Northern Star Cher (WEA)	9	9
10	New York City Boy Post Shop Boys (Parlophone)	10	10
11	When We Are Together Texas (Mercury)	11	11
12	Don't Leave Her This Way (RCA)	12	12
13	Burning Down The House Tom Jones & The Coalmen (Zet)	13	13
14	The World Is Not Your Garage (D-Heaven)	14	14
15	14 She Believe Sober Area (WEA)	15	15
16	Bring Me On The Wings (RCA)	16	16
17	What! Am I The Outcast, Evane Baster (UK Recording)	17	17
18	— Different Roads Go Together (Parlophone)	18	18
19	— Sing It Right Back Me (Epic)	19	19
20	— Remember George Michael (EMI)	20	20

Chart shows top 20 most played UK signed acts in Europe. Source: GfK Chart & Media

AMERICAN CHARTWATCH

by ALAN JONES

A week ago, Bush had the highest-charting record by a UK act in both the singles and albums chart. Now, they have neither. On the Hot 100 singles chart, where Smooth by Santana (pictured) registers an impressive eighth week at number one, Bush's The Chemicals Between Us makes a modest decline, slipping 67-75. The two other Brits in the chart are both non-movers, with Fatboy Slim stuck at number 77 and Robbie Williams, the new singles standard bearer, holding at number 69. Williams's album The Echo Has Landed has had a mixed week, declining 145-164 on its 19th appearance while earning a RIAA gold award for topping 500,000 sales. Bush's The Science of Things album surmises 55-76, allowing a Charlotte Church's self-titled second album to emerge as the UK's top album, as it improves from its debut position of 62 to 54. Sting's Brand New Day falls 69-73. Also declining are Eric Clapton (71-91), Michael Crawford (112-116), Eurhythms (98-149), Fatboy Slim (132-155), The Beatles (178-187) and Aerosmith (154-159).

There are 20 new entries — the second highest tally of the year — but only one by a UK act is Led Zepellin's Early Days — The Best of Volume One, which enters at number 87. Metallica's symphonic S&M debuts at

number two, getting a sound pushing from Celine Dion, who registers her third number one album with All The Way — A Decade In Soling easily into pole position with sales of 394,000 last week, compared with Metallica's 300,000 debut. Dion's previous number ones are 1996's Falling Into You and 1997's Let's Talk About Love. Her most recent album, the festive These Are Special Times, peaked at number two a year ago, but this time it's not an Arc Special Times, peaked at number two, currently holding 37th place on the chart. Dion aside, the Top 10's only other newcomer is Nastradam, the second album this year from rapper Nas. Nastradamus total 232,000 last week, a far cry from the 471,000 which earned him a number one debut with I Am... In April.

Sales generally were up more than a third, as the Thanksgiving holiday generated increased traffic. As a result, some albums managed to increase sales significantly while falling in remaining state even as its weekly sales climbed from 83,000 to 127,000. The album to make the biggest improvement was Shania Twain's Come On Over. The album has already sold more than 72,000 in America, and release of the international edition of the album, which brings America the first with much of the rest of the world, where singles mixes of key tracks were added some time ago.

Pepper snaps up folky hip hop act Downs for worldwide record deal



Pepper Records chief Scott MacLachlan has finished his year with the signing of American singer/songwriter Jason Downs to the Jive-backed label.

Of part-Cherokee descent and blessed with Johnny Deppesque looks, 20-something Downs (pictured) has been developing his material for the past two years with New York hip-hop veteran M1k.

The latter, who is non-exclusively signed to Rick Rubin's American Records label, has worked with artists from Janet Jackson to Mike D and was previously a founder member of rap duo Audio Two, whose classic single 'Top Billin' has been heavily sampled by acts such as Puff Daddy and Mary J Blige.

Downs' laconic, self-deprecating folk-meets-hip hop style has already elicited comparisons with Everlast and Beck - MacLachlan jokingly describes him as "John Denver-meets-Eminem". Typical of his material is 'White Boy With The Feather (in His Hair)', a cautionary tale of his adventures as a New York innocent, getting mugged and led astray, but ultimately signed by label moguls, convinced his antics signify an ascendant star.

MacLachlan was introduced to Downs by Hugo Bedford at Universal Music, who publishes both him and Tom Findlay (half of Groove Armada, another Pepper signing). The Jive head of A&R then set up a meeting three months ago in New York with Downs and his manager Nat Robinson and has been in negotiations ever since.

Pepper plans to launch Downs in the UK's less genre-orientated climate before attempting to break him in his native US.

Big year ahead for Talkin Loud's 10th

by Simon Abbott
Talkin Loud Records is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary with its busiest year since its inception.

The label, which was founded in 1990 by DJ Gilles Peterson and has launched the careers of artists such as Mercury Music Prize winner Roni Size and Reprazent, is currently preparing debut albums by two 1999 signings - acclaimed UK garage producer MJ Cole (who is published by BMG Music) and funky drum & bass outfit Raw Deal. It also plans to release new albums by 4 Hero, Nu-Yorkian Soul and Incognito during the next 12 months, as well as the follow-up to Reprazent's Mercury Music Prize-winning debut, plus Incognito's Future Remixed, which will include remixes by Masters At Work, Carl Craig, Spacek and Jazzanova.

In March the company will issue a Greatest Hits album, followed a month later by the first of two GP Worldwide albums, which will refect Peterson's free-form Radio One shows.

Meanwhile a series of six "generic" albums will appear during the year, beginning with house and working through soul/R&B, hip hop, drum & bass, jazz and rare tracks from the imprint's archives. The year will end with a Talkin Loud "influences" collection featuring a dozen artists that Peterson says have had a "profound influence on the label during the years, such as Kruder & Dorfmeister and The Roots".

The increased level of activity at Talkin Loud points towards a rejuvenation and re-focus of energy from Peterson, whose extracurricular activities have at times seemed to have



Peterson (left) and Cole: big year ahead eclipsed his label interest. He admits that it has not always been easy to weather the decade's charges at parent label Mercury. "We're older and wiser, Paul [Martin, co-A&R at Talkin Loud] and I are fortunate to work inside and outside of Mercury, which allows us to retain our enthusiasm and vision."

"As a DJ it's been an exciting year with loads of strong independent singles, while on the record company side it's been interesting in a different way. Great to see Basement Jaxx coming through and UK underground acts like Y Tribe, Artful Dodger and Dream Team on mainstream radio."

The line-up of releases is completed with the augmented re-release of 'Young Disciples' classic Talkin Loud debut and a double album version of Terry Callier's 'What Colour Is Love' - originally an edited single album on Cadet Records in 1970 and one of Peterson's all-time favourites.

● Simon Abbott is editor of MW sister A&R title, The Green Sheet

news file

ALL SAINTS TO RETURN WITH ORBIT'S AID
London Records is set to release All Saints' first single since 1998's 'War Of Nerves' on February 8. The track, 'Pure Shores', has been co-written by band member (and Universal Music writer) Shaznay Lewis and Rondor Music's William Orbit, produced by the latter and mixed by Mark 'Spike' Stent. It will be the first single from forthcoming *The Beach 051* - which will feature Laffell, New Order, Orbital and Faithless - and will appear on All Saints' second album, provisionally titled *I Need The Mic*.

WARNER/CHAPPELL INKS ANDERSON DEAL
Warner/Chappell Music has signed Jade Anderson, daughter of former Yes frontman Jon Anderson. Managed by Lizzie Francis at ENC, Anderson has co-written with Martin Brummer and Ben Barson, though much of her debut album has been co-written with Eg White, who cowrote the majority of Emiliania Torrini's debut. Both White and Torrini are also Warner/Chappell writers, the latter being one of managing director Richard Manners' first signings.

JAY SIGNS TO ROSS'S ARCHAIC
Matthew Jay, a recent addition to the roster at Food Records, has signed his publishing to Andy Ross' Archaic Music, which is administered by EMI Music Publishing. Managed by former Atista Records A&R executive Martin Watson, Welsh-born Jay has been recording in Nottingham with, among others, former Candy Flip member and Six By Seven associate Ric Peet at Square Centre Studios.

DAVID MORGAN
Last week's issue incorrectly referred to David Morgan as Bobby Womack's former manager. We would like to point out that Morgan still manages Womack.

warner music uk & east west records



Warner Music UK

From Monday December 6th Warner Music UK switchboard number will change to 020 7368 2500. The current Direct Dial lines will be active for a short time but please speak to your contacts regarding the new numbers if you haven't already been advised.

East West Records

East West Records will be temporarily moving to the Warner Building at 28 Kensington Church Street W8 4EP (020 7368 2500) from 10th December 1999 until April 2000 while the Electric Lighting Station is renovated, refurbished, refitted and re-fit for the new millennium.

Warner Classics

Warner Classics will be moving to the Hoover building for the same period. (020 8601 3300)

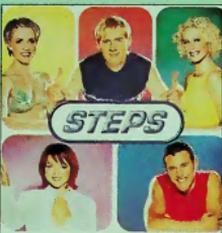
020 7368 2500

020 7368 2500

020 8601 3300

NAME: STEPS

TITLE: Steptacular (Jive)
RELEASED: 23.10.99
SINGLES: Better Best Forgotten — Released: 08.03.99; Highest Chart Position: 2. Love's Got A Hold On My Heart — Released: 12.07.99; HCP: 2. After The Love Has Gone — Released: 11.10.99; HCP: 3. Say You'll Be Mine — Released: 13.12.99
PRODUCERS: Pete Waterman, Mark Topham, Carl Twigg, Dan Frampton, Dan Sanders, Work In Progress
STUDIOS: PVL, London; PVL, Manchester; The Workhouse, London; Sarm East, London
PROJECT A&R: Pete Waterman
 "It's much more difficult to make pop music than most people think. When you're following an album that's sold 4m worldwide, you invariably face a dilemma. The band may have been hard at it for two years but the general public has only really been on board for the last nine or 10 months. Consequently you find yourself trying to lead the producers and artists back slightly so that the public can catch up. This doesn't always sit well with creative people, but in my A&R capacity, I have to keep that in mind all the time." — Pete Waterman



NAME: LEFTFIELD
TITLE: Rhythm And Stealth (Hard Hands/Higher)
RELEASED: 19.09.99

SINGLES: Afrika Shox — Released: 06.09.99; Highest Chart Position: 6. Dusted — Released: 29.11.99
PRODUCERS: Leftfield and Nick Rappaccioni
STUDIOS: Rollover, London; Sarm West, London
PROJECT A&R: Mick Clarke
 "It's fair to say that this was the difficult second album, and the band was very aware of what they had to follow up. As a result there are several versions of many of the tracks which ended up on the album. Leftfield have a very small set-up at Paul Daley's house but it's not sufficient for anything other than laying down very basic tracks. But even though they did all the extra recording at Rollover and Sarm, they carried a lot of their own equipment around with them — including ProTools which played a very crucial role in the making of this record." — Mick Clarke

NAME: STEREOPHONICS
TITLE: Performance And Cocktails (V2)
RELEASED: 08.03.99
SINGLES: The Bartender And The Thief — Released: 09.11.98; Highest Chart Position: 3. Just Looking — Released: 22.02.99; HCP: 4. Pick A Part That's New — Released: 03.05.99; HCP: 4. I Wouldn't Believe Your Radio — Released: 23.08.99; HCP: 11. Hurry Up And Wait — Released: 08.11.99; HCP: 11
PRODUCERS: Marshall Bird and Steve Bush
STUDIOS: Real World, Bath; Courtyard, Oxford; Parkgate, Sussex; Rockfield, Monmouth
PROJECT A&R: Dave Wibberley (now at Zomba)

"We went to Real World to record Performance And Cocktails mainly because of the vocal sound in the small stone live room. Most people try and screen vocals off to kill sound, but that room made Kelly bassist Stuart Zender left so the guys decided to start again. The project weren't tremendously excited about what we had. But then Kelly announced that he had written another five songs which we demoed at the Courtyard in Oxford. At that point we knew we had something. Roll Up And Shine from that session even made it unchanged to the final cut." — Steve Bush



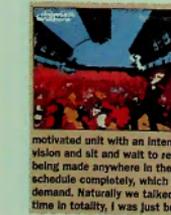
NAME: BOYZONE

TITLE: By Request (Polydor)
RELEASED: 31.05.99
SINGLES: When The Going Gets Tough — Released: 01.13.99; Highest Chart Position: 1. You Needed Me — Released: 10.05.99; HCP: 1. When You Say Nothing At All (Roman Keating solo track) — Released: 26.07.99; HCP: 1
PRODUCERS: Steve Mac, Steve Lipson, Jim Steinman, Carl Sturken, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Nigel Wright, Evan Rogers, Ray Hedges, Phil Harding, Ian Curson and Michael Mangini
STUDIOS: The Loft, New York; Metropolis, London; Sarm West, London; Landsdowne, London; Skratich, Surrey
PROJECT A&R: Colin Barlow
 "Although the list of producers on this album reads like a UK Who's Who, we wanted to move on somewhat and to test the waters a bit with the new material. Steve Lipson and Steve Mac proved to be perfect for Boyzone. We gave them a brief to work to Roman and Steve's strengths. The idea was to move Boyzone on towards an adult audience on this record and as a result I think we've created an instantly recognisable brand" — Colin Barlow



NAME: THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS

TITLE: Surrender (Freestyle Dust/Virgin)
RELEASED: 21.03.99
SINGLES: Hey Boy Hey Girl — Released: 31.05.99; Highest Chart Position: 3. Let Forever Be — Released: 02.08.99; HCP: 10. Out Of Control — Released: 11.10.99; HCP: 21
PRODUCERS: The Chemical Brothers
STUDIO: Dillcock, London
PROJECT A&R: Steve Brown
 "The Chemical Brothers are a very self-contained and self-motivated unit with an intense personal vision. As a company we just invest in that vision and all we want to receive what we believe is some of the most exciting music being made anywhere in the world. They work at their own speed and dictate the schedule completely, which is important because nobody can be that creative on demand. Naturally we talked on a regular basis but when I heard it played for the first time in total, I was just burning up with excitement." — Steve Brown



VARIETY OF TECHNIQUE FOR STUDIO

Home studios and professional set-ups, new and old producers — all

Once again this year's crop of UK number one albums has proved a very mixed bag. With the exception of Blur, Suede and Travis, most acts chose to play it safe and return to familiar ground both in their choice of studios and their choice of producers.

Thus Stereophonics continued their successful relationship with New Zealand partnership Bird and Bush. Catatonia went back to Monnow Valley in Wales with Tommy D. Texas invited Johnny Mac to contribute more this time around than on their previous hit White On Blonde while Leftfield, The Chemical Brothers and Jamiroquai — in the shape of frontman Jay Kay and his regular working partner, engineer and co-producer Al Stone — continued to produce themselves.

The combination of home studios and Digidesign's ubiquitous ProTools software once again proved to be the recording medium of choice for many of the bands. Texas, The Chemical Brothers and Jamiroquai all made full use of their own studio set-ups, while Leftfield enjoyed the best of both worlds by taking their own equipment with them to Rollover Studios where they recorded with engineer Adam Wren.

While many of the tracks on the Leftfield, Blur and The Chemical Brothers albums were conceived in the studio, Catatonia preferred to spend quality time in rehearsals, allowing them to work quickly once they entered the studio. At the other

NAME: JAMIROQUAI

TITLE: Synkronized (Sony/S2)
RELEASED: 14.06.99
SINGLES: Deeper Underground (CD and MiniDisc bonus track) — Released: 13.07.98; Highest Chart Position: 1. Ganned Heat — Released: 24.05.99; HCP: 4. Supernova — Released: 13.09.99; HCP: 22. King For A Day — Released: 29.11.99
PRODUCERS: Al Stone and Jay Kay
STUDIO: Chillingham, Jay's home studio in Bucks
PROJECT A&R: Lincoln Elias
 "I've done three albums with Jay now and the only really big difference this time around was that Travelling Without Moving was recorded on a Neve at Linford Manor, while Synkronized was mostly done in Jay's own studio on an SSL. Also about two months and five tracks into the recording, bassist Stuart Zender left so the guys decided to start again. Five months later all 10 tunes were written, recorded and mixed." — Al Stone



NAME: CATATONIA

TITLE: Equally Cursed And Blessed (Blanco Y Negro)
RELEASED: 12.04.99
SINGLES: Dead From The Waist Down — Released: 28.03.99; Highest Chart Position: 7. Liondium — Released: 12.07.99; Highest Chart Position: 12. Karaoke Queen — Released: 01.11.99; HCP: 36
PRODUCERS: Tommy D and Catatonia
STUDIOS: Monnow Valley, Monmouth; Whitfield Street, London; Konk, London
PROJECT A&R: Geoff Travis
 "We recorded all the basic tracks at Monnow Valley. Cerys loves it there because it's so quiet. But before going in, we did as much pre-production as possible, like finding keys and tempos and carving up the arrangements. I know it's a cliché, but if a song sounds good just played on an acoustic guitar, the chances are it will sound good whatever you do to it. I really can't see why people take a year to make a record. If the band are sounding good then what else do you do but put them in the studio, put some mikes on 'em, tape it, mix it and put it out. It's not hard is it?" — Tommy D

NAME: SUEDÉ

TITLE: Suede
RELEASED: 12.04.99
SINGLES: Electricity — Released: 12.04.99; Highest Chart Position: 5. She's In Fashion — Released: 21.06.99; HCP: 13. Everything Will Flow — Released: 06.09.99; HCP: 24. Can't Get Enough — Released: 08.11.99; HCP: 23
PRODUCERS: Steve Osborne
STUDIOS: Sarm West, London; Master Rock, London; Eden, London; Eastcote, London
PROJECT A&R: Saul Galperin
 "I've always thought Suede's records needed more bottom end, so when Brett said he didn't want an album with the drums recorded in a standard studio way, I was a right with him. The focal point of the album was recording Savoir Faire. It was a bit of an experiment because they wanted it to have beats, but they definitely didn't want to make a record that sounded like Suede with loops. We put it all together in a couple of days, and when I asked Brett to pop a guide vocal on it, he sang fantastically. That was the only vocal take we did." — Steve Osborne



NAME: CATATONIA

TITLE: Equally Cursed And Blessed



QUESTIONS RECIPE SUCCESS

were utilised for the year's most successful albums. By Andy Basire

end of the scale, Stereophonics and Travis had to fit their recording sessions in and around their extensive touring and promotional commitments. As a result Travis split their tracks between two night-profile producers, Mike Hedges and Nigel Godrich, and then ensured consistency by persuading Godrich to stay on to mix the entire album. Pete Waterman, on the other hand, kept everything in-house by acting as both executive producer and A&R manager on the Steps project and directing his own team of producers, who carried out most of the work in Waterman's PWL studios.

Overall the stories behind most of the year's top albums would indicate that A&R departments have relaxed their grip on the

production process and are no longer quite so insistent that every track must be a potential hit single.

"You have to trust the artist," says Letfield A&R and Higher Ground managing director Mick Clark. "You have to be prepared to give them artistic licence and let them do what they do best."

Food managing director Andy Ross, who personally A&R'd Blur's experimental 13 album, takes the point further.

"It's important to look at albums as an overall piece of work," he says. "Albums may have flaws but it's often the flaws that give them character."

NAME: BLUR

TITLE: 13 (Food)
RELEASED: 15.03.99
SINGLES: Tender - Released 22.02.99; **Highest Chart Position: 2. Coffee & TV** - Released; **28.06.99; HCP: 11. No Distance Left To Run** - Released: **15.11.99; HCP: 14**

PRODUCERS: William Orbit and Blur
STUDIOS: Mayfair, London; Sarm West, London; Studio Stryland, Reykjavik
PROJECT A&R: Andy Ross
 "By the sixth album a band should really know what they're up to and Blur are way past the stage of submitting demos. The principal risk this time around was going with William Orbit

instead of Stephen Street. But the band wanted to work with someone else in order to get a different point of view. William would record everything, including people having tea

breaks, and then go home at the weekends and chop it all about with ProTools" - Andy Ross



NAME: TEXAS

TITLE: The Hush (Mercury)
RELEASED: 10.05.99
SINGLES: In Our Lifetime - Released: **19.04.99; Highest Chart Position: 5. Summer Sun** - Released: **16.08.99; HCP: 5. When We Are Together** - Released: **15.11.99; HCP: 12**

PRODUCERS: Johnny Mac, Boilerhouse Boys, Rae & Christian
STUDIO: Park Lane, Glasgow; Sharpen Spiten's home studio in Glasgow

PROJECT A&R: Alan Peil

"White On Blonde was put together during a fairly long period of time. By comparison The Hush was done in short bursts. The band had much more of an idea of what they wanted and so Johnny Mac produced it all apart from one track. Most of the album was done in Sharpen's home studio, but the strings and some of the vocals were recorded at Park Lane in Scotland. When it was finished, I got Mark 'Spike' Stent to mix it all because I think he's the best in the world and I knew he'd do a brilliant job." - Alan Peil

NAME: TRAVIS

TITLE: The Man Who (Independents)
RELEASED: 24.05.99
SINGLES: Writing To Reach You - Released: **08.03.99; Highest Chart Position: 14. Driftwood** - Released: **17.05.99; HCP: 13. Why Does It Always Rain On Me?** - Released: **02.08.99; HCP: 10. Turn** - Released: **15.11.99; HCP 8**

PRODUCERS: Nigel Godrich and Mike Hedges
STUDIOS: RAK, London; Mayfair, London; Abbey Road, London; Chateau De La Rouge Motte (Mike Hedges' studio in Normandy)



PROJECT A&R: Andy Macdonald

"The first album was a pretty quick affair recorded in Bearsville in New York. This time around the band wanted to follow a few more experimental paths. It was recorded in a couple of blocks, four weeks with Mike Hedges in France and then a few short five- and six-day stints with Nigel Godrich at Mayfair and RAK in London. Our stated aim with this album was to move on nicely from the last one and reach as many people as possible. We had no idea it would turn into a million seller." - Andy Macdonald

NEWSFILES

NEW RESTORATION SUITE AT ABBEY

A new remastering and audio restoration suite is now up and running at Abbey Road Studios. The suite is a further development of ART (Abbey Road Technology), a concept created in 1996 to promote artistic and technical excellence in reissuing past recordings. All EMI Classics' major reissues bear the ART logo to show they have been remastered to the highest possible standards. Award-winning engineers Simon Gibson and Andrew Walter are working in the new room, which is installed with 5.1 surround sound monitoring to enable the remastering of multi-channel recordings for DVD.

NEW EDIT SUITE FOR SOHO'S TORRINGTON PLACE

Soho Recording Studios has installed a new digital editing and album compilation suite in Torrington Place, comprising a Yamaha 02R digital mixing console, an Apple G3 computer running ProTools and Power Mac with Cubase and Recycle, plus a selection of DAT and CD players, keyboards and modules.

WHITE LIGHTNING ORDERS SEVEN DPC-11'S

White Lightning, which owns London post-production facilities The Bridge, Silk Sound and Space, has placed an order for seven DPC11 digital production consoles from Soundtracs. The purchase is the largest single refit to be carried out in Soho's post community for several years, and the largest European order for Soundtracs' DPC-11 consoles.

PWL INSTALLS SECOND AMS NEVE LIBRA

Pete Waterman is to install a second AMS Neve Libra fully-automated, all-digital music console into a new facility at PWL's studios in south London. The Libra console will be used primarily for production and is due for completion in December 1999. The Waterman empire already includes a

production company, mastering rooms, a publishing company and additional recording facilities in Manchester.

AMS STUDIO INSTALLS TL AUDIO PROCESSING

Tori Amos' private UK studio has invested in a package of TL Audio valve signal processing equipment including a C-1 compressor, EQ-2 equaliser and 5081 voice processor. Based around a 60-channel Neve VR Legend mixing console and Sony 3324 digital multitrack tape machine, the studio is run by Mark Howley and Marcel van Limbeek, who chose the TL Audio package to mix Amos' latest album *To Venus And Back*, released in October.

MUSIC ROOM IN DYNACORD/ELECTRO-VOICE DRIVE

London-based live sound specialist Music Room plans to target lottery-assisted venues with the Telex/Shutesound distributed brands of Dynacord and Electro-Voice. The company has already installed front-of-house systems at The Bubble Theatre and Emergency Exit Arts fringe theatre in London. Both sites have been fitted with Electro-Voice's Sx300 enclosure. "We have had an extremely successful year with Electro-Voice, and we have given quotes for Shutesound products to several other outstanding lottery bidders," says Music Room partner Gordon Gapper.

SARM WEST OPTS FOR QUESTED MONITORING

Sarm West, producer Trevor Horn's London studio, has chosen a 5.1 Quedast surround sound monitoring system for its studio three. The studio's new control rooms will house a 72-channel SSL 9000 J Series desk and Quedast's 5.1 surround system, equipping the facility for surround soundtrack and DVD work.

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11 DECEMBER 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



SINGLE FACTFILE

In an unseasonably static singles market and with pitifully little airplay, Cliff Richard somehow manages to raise the stakes again with The Millennium Prayer enjoying its second week at number one while increasing its sales to a new high of more than 158,000. That's in excess of 10,000 more than the previous week and brings total sales of the record to more than 390,000 in 20 days. Its auspicious start

and increasing topicality as we near the end of the millennium suggest it will sell many more before it's finished – possibly even matching the 900,000 sales which made his 1979 chart-topper We Don't Talk Anymore his biggest-selling hit to date. Although Richard has had 14 number ones in his career, it's interesting to note that only one has debuted at number one – that being The Young Ones way back in 1962.

Though falling by more than 50,000 sales to unseat Cliff Richard's The Millennium Prayer, garage gods Artful Dodger make an impressive debut at number two with Rewind, which sold upwards of 107,000 copies last week. While most of their peers are London-based, Artful Dodger – Mark Hill and Pete Dinklage – are inhabitants of the unfashionable city of Southampton, not previously known as a stronghold for garage. With Italy's novelty/dance hit Communication by Mario Pia debuting at number five and new girl trio Atomic Kitten in at 10 with Right Now, all three new entries to the Top 10 are by artists making their chart debuts, an occurrence of great rarity if not unique.

Among the records moving aside to accommodate these newcomers is Macy Gray's I Try, which finally loosens its grip on the Top 10 after nine weeks, during which time it peaked at number six. Gray never maintained her impressive run – I Try sold just 74 copies fewer than Atomic Kitten's

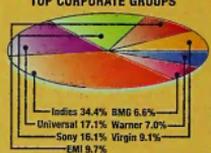
MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES



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

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE
VERSUS LAST WEEK: +0.1%
YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: -0.2%

PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART
UK: 36.8% US: 21.1% Other: 42.1%

single last week. Her fall means that the new Top 10 staple is R Kelly's If I Could Turn Back The Hands Of Time, which faces 8-7 on its

seventh week in the Top 10. Kelly's single has sold nearly 200,000 copies, while Gray's single has sold more than 383,000.

One of only two female solo artists to top a million singles sales this year – the other is Britney Spears – Whitney Houston returns to the chart with I Learned From The Best, the fourth hit from her album My Love Is Your Love. While its predecessors have all made the Top 5, I Learned From The Best is a much more modest success, debuting at 19.

It is another hit written by the Nineties' most successful songwriter, Diane Warren. Since launching her career with the DeBarges hit Rhythm Of The Night in 1985, Warren has penned exactly 60 UK hits. Though the recent failure of Eric Clapton's recording of her song Blue Eyes Love Mine is after all a mere mortal, Warren can look forward to several hits in the early part of 2000. Those who have recorded her songs tentatively scheduled for singles release include Enrique Iglesias & Whitney Houston, N'Sync & Gloria Estefan, Trace Sproston, Kristine W, TLC, Ricky Martin, Traci Braxton, Mya and Christine Aguilera, to name but a few.

INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This	Title	Artist	Label
1	THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER	Cliff Richard	Papillon PROMISED (I) (P)
2	IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME	R Kelly	Jive 022132 (P)
3	HEADS HIGH	Mic Vegas	Greenleafs GREED 180 (S)
4	I SEE YOU BABY	Groove Armada feat. Grant-N-Funk	Papper 923002 (P)
5	EVERYTIME	Lustral	Hot Chants HOJ3 RICH (V)
6	ANOTHER WAY/AVENUE	Paul Van Dyk	Devious DVNT32CS (V)
7	LARGER THAN LIFE	Backstreet Boys	Jive 055962 (P)
8	MUSCLE MUSEUM	Musa	Mushroom MUSH 660CS (MV) (P)
9	(YOU DRIVE ME) CRAZY	Britney Spears	Jive 055932 (P)
10	BLUEBOTTLE FLY	Pub Heat, DJ Patrick Reid	Philippus PLAT 520 (S)
11	MY FEELING	Junior Jack	Pias Recordings PIASS 012CS (V)
12	HURRY UP AND WAIT	Stereophonics	V2 VFR050028 (MV) (P)
13	BULLET IN THE GUN	Planet Perfecto	Perfecto PERF 30CS (MV) (P)
14	BLAXTRAXX 3 (FRUNKY NASSAU)	Mr. Spring Presents	V2 00919692R (P)
15	KINETIC 99	Golden Girls	Distinctive DISCNO 59 (P)
16	BUDDY X 99	Dreams Team Vs Neneh Cherry	4 Liberty LIBT3033 (P)
17	OPEN YOUR EYES	Nalin & Kane	Melodion (V)
18	SUN IS SHINING	Bob Marley vs Funkstar De Luxe	Club Tools 0060650 (CU) (P)
19	DON'T BE AFRAID '99	Moonman	Heart Recordings HEART0202 (V)
20	JUMP 'N' SHOUT	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XL 116CS (V)

All charts © CML

To hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0851 905290. Calls cost 50p/min

PEPSI Chart

This	Title	Artist	Label
1	THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER	Cliff Richard	Papillon
2	RE-REWIND	Artful Dodger	AMF 24
3	KING OF MY CASTLE	Wendie Project	Fortitude
4	BACK IN MY LIFE	Alisa Olay	Incentive
5	COMMUNICATION	Mario Pia	Polygram
6	EVERY DAY I LOVE YOU	Waylon	10
7	IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME	R Kelly	Incentive
8	TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP	Martha McCabean	Virgin
9	NORTHERN STAR	Mariah C	Incentive
10	RIGHT NOW	Azalia Khan	Oxymora
11	SHE'S THE ONLY'S ONLY	Robin Williams	Ice
12	I TRY	Macy Gray	10
13	KEEP ON MOVING	Fit	Atlantic
14	RADIO 105	The Gearing	Columbia
15	WAITING FOR TONIGHT	Jennifer Lopez	Mercury
16	WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER	Tejas	Columbia
17	LIFT ME UP	Earl Sweatshirt	Columbia
18	WELL 2 U	Earl Sweatshirt	Mercury
19	GENIE IN A BOTTLE	Christina Aguilera	Mercury
20	MAN I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN!	Shania Twain	Mercury

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11 DECEMBER 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

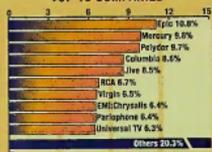


In the top three for the 23rd week in a row, **Shania Twain's** *Come On Over* returns to the summit for its **seventh** week at number one, after narrowly outselling Steps' *Stepacular* last week. The margin of victory was just in excess of 500 units, with both records topping the 40,000 mark. For Steps, that's *Stepacular's* third-highest tally to date, being inferior to the album's opening 111,000 sale and to last week's 108,000 sale, but for Twain it is the **highest one-week** tally achieved by *Come On Over* in the 22 months since it was released, and **sets its** overall sales to 1,618m. It also furthers the album's lead atop the 1999 best-sellers ranking – a list it is sure to top.

Thus far in 1999, *Come On Over* has sold 1.439m, compared to the 1.210m tally of runner-up, **Boyzone's** *By Request*. Third-placed **Abba's** *Sold* – Greatest Hits is the most noteworthy of the trio, however, and sold its **millionth** copy of 1999 yesterday (Sunday) – not bad for an album released

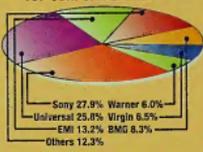
MARKET REPORT

TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show the 10 companies by % of total sales, and corporate group shares by % of labels sales of the Top 25 artist albums

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: **+20.3%**
YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: **+1.7%**

seven years ago and comprising primarily tracks recorded more than 20 years ago. After debuting at number four six weeks

PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

UK: 44.7% US: 35.5% Other: 19.7%

ALBUM FACTFILE

The Fun Lovin' Criminals reached number three with 100% Colombian, their last album of new material, which was released in September last year. Though Mimosa charts much lower – at 37 – it would be unfair to suggest their "loungie" album is a disappointment. First, in the rarefied sales atmosphere that attends the advent season, it sold more than 15,000 copies last week, and second, it comprises primarily previously released tracks, collecting together covers of

10CC's *I'm Not In Love*, the Manhattans' *Shining Star* and Frank Sinatra's *Summer Wind* alongside three new tracks, of which the one getting most attention is a sublime cover of the Climax Blues Band's *Couldn't Get It Right*. The others are Ozzy Osbourne's *Crazy Train* and the Louis Armstrong hit *We Have All The Time In The World*. The group are currently offering the UK, including a chilled-out selection of cuts from Mimosa alongside their usual more high octane material.

fashion this week, however, jumping to 10, with its week-on-week sales up by more than 100% to a new high of more than 44,000. The main reason for its dramatic turnaround is a TV-advertised special offer by WH Smith, where the album is available for just £9.99.

It is one of many recent offers available in chains which the indie sector cannot afford to match. With their little profits, it may earn Smiths a small profit, but indie shops paying the full dealer price of £9.15 for the record are facing a loss of 65p an album, when VAT is added, if they are to match the Smiths deal.

The Boots campaign – with many albums at £9.99 – is damaging too, and there's no comfort for dealers diversifying into MiniDiscs, DVDs or videos, as there are currently on offer at these different multiples which turn them from useful add-ons to unwanted loss-leaders for the poor indies, with as much as £3 having to be written off some items to match the multiples.

COMPILATIONS

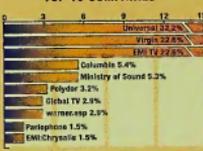
Now that's what I call the fastest-selling compilation ever: after making a massive debut last week with sales of more than 278,000 – the biggest first-week tally in the extremely distinguished history of the *16 Greatest New Singles* – Now That's What I Call Music! 44 somehow raised the stakes even higher, and sold just in excess of 290,000 copies last week. Its sales after two weeks are, therefore, more than 568,000. That's massively ahead of the pace of any other compilation, the previous record being held – naturally – by last Christmas's *Now That's What I Call Music! 41*, which reached to 399,000 sales in two weeks. Now 44 is in a staggering 42% ahead of that pace and more than 76% ahead of the then record 318,000 two-week tally established by *Now That's What I Call Music!* 38 two years ago. Now 44

accounted for more than a fifth of all compilation sales last week, outranked the number two album by a margin of more than five to one, and sold more than the rest of the Top 10 put together. Its runner-up was another EMI/Virgin/Universal collaboration, *MUSIC OF THE Millennium*.

Every year there are more compilations of Christmas songs compelling for attention but the seasonal album making the biggest impact is the same for the third year in a row – *The Best Christmas Album In The World...Ever!* Since released in November 1997, the album has sold in excess of 775,000 copies. It jumps 2246 on the chart this week, leaving rivals like *The Ultimate Christmas Collection* (20-15), *Christmas – The Album* (38-25), *The Christmas Album* (48-36) and *Simply The Best Christmas* (53-50) trailing in its wake.

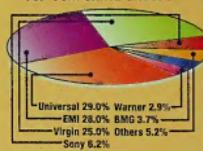
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TOP 10 COMPANIES



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TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: **+18.5%**
YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: **+6.7%**

COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 69.0%
Compilations: 31.0%

INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (caterpillar)
1	1	STEPACULAR	Steps	EMI (50242) (P)
2	2	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VR 100482 (DM/PP)
3	4	RELOAD	Tina Turner	Get (GLTCD 009) (V)
4	3	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 85212 (P)
5	7	R	R Kelly	Jive 951232 (P)
6	6	WWF – THE MUSIC – VOLUME 4	James A Johnson	Koch International 33363 (KOC)
7	5	MILLENNIUM	Backstreet Boys	Jive 852322 (P)
8	8	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	Ry Cooder	World Circuit WC0 156 (P)
9	9	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VR 100368 (DM/PP)
10	10	YOU'RE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Father Slim	Silvert SNTDCL 100 (V)
11	13	A SECRET HISTORY	The Divine Comedy	Mercury CDSUTM 172 (V)
12	12	PLAY	Moby	Santa Records XLCD 128 (V)
13	15	REMEDY	Bisness/Jaxx	Pepper 053032 (P)
14	11	VERTIGO	Groove Armada	Jive 952262 (P)
15	14	GREATEST HITS	Z'pac	Badlike 691812 (P)
16	16	STEP ONE	Steps	Mercury MUSH 2820 (DM/PP)
17	18	VERSION 2.0	The Frigids	XL Recordings INT 464952 (V)
18	17	THE FAT OF THE LAND	Carice	Mercury MUSH 590 (DM/PP)
19	17	SHOWBIZ	Muse	Creation CRECD 241 (DM/PP)
20	20	THE MASTERPLAN	Oasis	

THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	COME ON OVER	Shania Twain	Mercury
2	2	BY REQUEST	Boyzone	Polydor
3	3	GOLD – GREATEST HITS	Abba	Polydor
4	4	TALK ON CORNERS	The Corrs	KALMA/ATLANTIC
5	7	THE MAN WHO	Travis	INDEPENDENT
6	5	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	INDEPENDENT
7	6	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	Robbie Williams	CHRYSALIS
8	8	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Father Slim	SKINT
9	9	STEP ONE	Steps	EBULIVE
10	12	THE HUSH	TEXAS	MERCURY
11	10	STEPACULAR	Steps	EBULIVE
12	10	THE MISCELANEOUS OF	Laurin Hill	RUFFHOUSE/COLUMBIA
13	11	FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN	The Corrs	KALMA/ATLANTIC
14	13	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	Whitney Houston	KALMA/ATLANTIC
15	14	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	CHRYSALIS
16	15	LADIES & GENTLEMEN – THE BEST OF	George Michael	EPIC
17	18	THE PARTY ALBUM	Vengaboons	POSITIVA
18	16	RAY OF LIGHT	Madonna	MAVERICK/WARNER BROS.
19	19	ON HOW LIFE IS	Macy Gray	EPIC
20	17	THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS	Manic Street Preachers	EPIC

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- 5 COMMUNICATION (SOMEBODY ANSWER THE...) Marjo Piu Incentive
6 EVERY DAY I LOVE YOU Boyzone Polydor
7 IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME R Kelly Jive
8 TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP/LOVE ME Marlene McCreecham Innocent
9 NORTHERN STAR Melanie C Virgin
10 RIGHT NOW Atomic Kitten Innocent



- 11 I TRY Macy Gray Atlantic
12 THAT'S THE WAY IT IS Celine Dion Epic
13 BIG BOYS DON'T CRY/ROCKIN' ROBIN Lolly Polydor
14 SHE'S THE ONE/IT'S ONLY US Robbie Williams Chrysalis
15 TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW Bob Marley feat. Lauryn Hill Columbia
16 KEEP ON MOVIN' Five RCA
17 WILL 2K Will Smith Columbia
18 RADIO The Corrs Atlantic
19 I LEARNED FROM THE BEST Whitney Houston Arista



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Featuring Ladysmith Black Mambazo
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- 5 WESTLIFE Westlife RCA
6 ON HOW LIFE IS Macy Gray Epic
7 INVINCIBLE Five RCA
8 CHARLOTTE CHURCH Charlotte Church Sony Classical
9 BY REQUEST Boyzone Polydor
10 TURN IT ON AGAIN - THE HITS Genesis Virgin



- 11 UNPLUGGED The Corrs Atlantic
12 WILLENNIUM Will Smith Columbia
13 THE GREATEST HITS Cher WEA/Universal TV
14 GOLD - GREATEST HITS Abba Polydor
15 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU Robbie Williams Chrysalis
16 GREATEST HITS III Queen Parlophone
17 PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS Stereophonics V2
18 TWENTY FOUR SEVEN Tina Turner Parlophone
19 THE BEST OF ME Bryan Adams Mercury/ASM

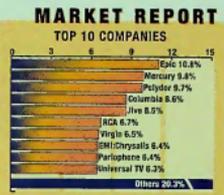
CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



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seven years ago and comprising primarily tracks recorded more than 20 years ago. After debuting at number four six weeks

COMPILATIONS

Now that's what I call the fastest-selling compilation ever: after making a massive debut last week with sales of more than 270,000 – the biggest first-week tally in the extremely distinguished history of the 16-year-old *Now* series – *Now That's What I Call Music! 44* somehow raised the stakes even higher, and sold just in excess of 290,000 copies last week. Its sales after two weeks are, therefore, more than 568,000. That's massively ahead of the pace of any other compilation, the previous record being held – naturally – by last Christmas's *Now That's What I Call Music! 41*, which raced to 399,000 sales in two weeks. *Now 44* is a staggering 42% ahead of that pace and more than 78% ahead of the then record 318,000 two-week tally established by *Now That's What I Call Music! 38* two years ago. *Now 44*

accounted for more than a fifth of all compilation sales last week, outranked the number two album by a margin of more than five to one, and sold more than the rest of the Top 10 put together. Its runner-up was another EMI/Virgin/Universal collaboration, *Music Of The Millennium*.

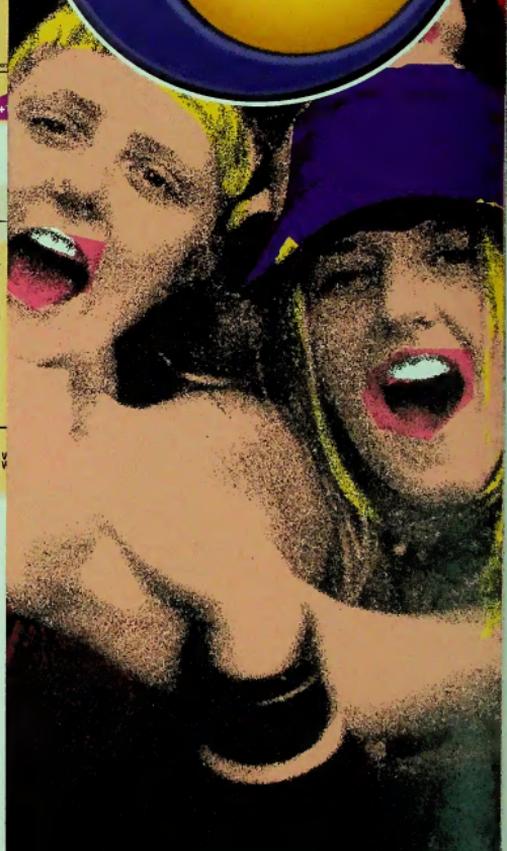
Every year there are more compilations of Christmas songs competing for attention but the seasonal album making the biggest impact is the same for the third year in a row – *The Best Christmas Album In The World...Ever!* Since release in November 1997, the album has sold in excess of 775,000 copies. It jumps 22-6 on the chart this week, leaving rivals like *The Ultimate Christmas Collection* (20-15), *Christmas – The Album* (38-25), *The Christmas Album* (48-36) and *Simply The Best Christmas* (53-50) trailing in its wake.

INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	STEPACULAR	Steps	EastWest 051942 (P)
2	2	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 100482 (DMVP)
3	4	RELOAD	Tom Jones	Cap GUTCD 009 (V)
4	3	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 052172 (P)
5	7	R	R Kelly	Jive 051752 (P)
6	6	WVW – THE MUSIC – VOLUME 4	James A Johnston	Koch International 33362 (XO)
7	5	MILLENNIUM	Backstreet Boys	Jive 052322 (P)
8	8	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	Ry Cooper	World Circuit WCO 150 (P)
9	9	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 100048 (DMVP)
10	10	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	Skintr BRASSIC 1100 (DMVP)
11	13	A SECRET HISTORY	The Divine Comedy	Setsanta SETCD 100 (V)
12	12	PLAY	Moby	Mute COSTUMM 172 (V)
13	15	REMEDY	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLCD 129 (V)
14	11	VERTIGO	Groove Armada	Pepper 053032 (P)
15	14	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 052662 (P)
16	16	STEP ONE	Steps	EastWest 051912 (P)
17	18	VERSION 2.0	Gabrage	Mushroom MUSH 2500 (DMVP)
18	19	THE FAT OF THE LAND	The Prodigy	XL Recordings INT 484852 (V)
19	17	SHOWBIZ	Musa	Mushroom MUSH 5000 (DMVP)
20	20	THE MASTERPLAN	Oasis	Creation CRECD 241 (DMVP)

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11 december 1999

singles

music week

AS USED BY

BIG RADIO 1
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TOP 10
GET THE
POPS!

MTV
MUSIC TELEVISION



1 THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER

Gail Richard
Pop/Rock/Black Knight

- 2 RE-BEYOND THE SOUND BAY BO SELETA, Afta, Dodge feat. Craig David, Nicki, Tenz, Planetes
- 3 KING OF MY CASTLE Wamdue Project
- 4 BACK IN MY LIFE Alice DeeJay
- 5 COMMUNICATION (SOMEBODY ANSWER THE...) Mario Plu, Incozive
- 6 EVERY DAY I LOVE YOU Boyzone
- 7 IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME R Kelly, Jive
- 8 TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP/LOVE ME Marianne McCutcheon
- 9 NORTHERN STAR Melanie C
- 10 RIGHT NOW Atomic Kitten



- 11 I TRY Macy Gray
- 12 THAT'S THE WAY IT IS Celine Dion
- 13 BIG BOYS DON'T CRY/ROCKIN' ROBIN Lolly
- 14 SHE'S THE ONE/IT'S ONLY US Robbie Williams
- 15 TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW Bob Marley feat. Lenny Hill
- 16 KEEP ON MOVIN' Five
- 17 WILL 2K Will Smith
- 18 RADIO The Corrs
- 19 I LEARNED FROM THE BEST Whitney Houston

11 december 1999

albums



1 COME ON OVER

- 2 STEPTACULAR Steps
- 3 ALL THE WAY...A DECADE OF SONG Celine Dion
- 4 THE MAN WHO TRAVIS
- 5 WESTLIFE Westlife
- 6 ON HOW LIFE IS Macy Gray
- 7 INVINCIBLE Five
- 8 CHARLOTTE CHURCH Charlotte Church
- 9 BY REQUEST Boyzone
- 24 TURN IT ON AGAIN - THE HITS Genesis

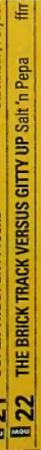


- 11 UNPLUGGED The Corrs
- 12 WILLENNIUM Will Smith
- 13 THE GREATEST HITS Cher
- 14 GOLD - GREATEST HITS Abba
- 15 I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU Robbie Williams
- 16 GREATEST HITS III Queen
- 17 PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS Stereophonics
- 18 TWENTY FOUR SEVEN Tina Turner
- 19 THE BEST OF ME Bryan Adams
- 20 ...

20 KING FOR A DAY Jamiroquai



21 SUPER TROUPER A Teens



22 THE BRICK TRACK VERSUS GITTY UP Salt 'n' Pepa



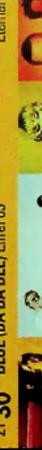
23 LIFT ME UP Geri Halliwell



24 TONITE Phats & Small



25 WHY Giamma Kid



26 WAITING FOR TONIGHT Jennifer Lopez



27 GENIE IN A BOTTLE Christina Aguilera



28 DUSTED Leftfield/Roots Manuwa



29 FLYING WITHOUT WINGS Westlife



30 BLUE (DA BA DEE) Eiffel 65



31 EVERYTIME/READY OR NOT A! Columbia



32 THAT SOUND Michael Moog



33 WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER Texas Mercury



34 BOMB DIGGY Another Level Northwestside/Arista



35 THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH Garbage Pacificoactive



36 MAMI I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN! Shania Twain Mercury



37 TURN Travis Independente



38 HEARTBREAKER Mariah Carey Columbia



39 WHAT I AM Tim Tim Out feat. Emma Bunton VC Recordings



40 2 TIMES Ann Lee Systematic



compilations

- 1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 44
EMI/Virgin/Universal
warrner.esg/Universal TV/Sony TV
- 2 MUSIC OF THE MILLENNIUM 11:12
Universal/Virgin/EMI
Sony TV/Universal TV
- 3 ABGAMANIA 10:3
Polydor/Universal TV
- 4 HUGE HITS 99 14
warrner.esg/Global TV/Sony TV
- 5 THE ANNUAL - MILLENNIUM EDITION 20:15
Mercury 01 Sound
Universal TV
- 6 THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! 16
Virgin
- 7 CREAM ANTHEMS 2000 15:17
Virgin/EMI
- 8 THE BEST OF BOND...JAMES BOND 16:18
Capitol
- 9 BEST AND FRIENDS ALBUM IN THE WORLD... 12:19
Virgin/EMI
- 10 KISS CLUBBIFE 2000 9:20
Universal TV

- 17 20 S CLUB S Club 7 Polydor
- 25 21 YOU, ME & US Marianne McCutcheon Innocent
- 21 22 SCHIZOPHONIC Geri Halliwell EMI
- 23 23 BABY ONE MORE TIME Britney Spears Jive
- 22 24 HEART & SOUL - NEW SONGS FROM ALY MICHAEL Vonda Shepard Epic
- 27 25 THE HUSH Texas Mercury
- 26 26 SACRED ARIAS Andrea Bocelli Philips
- 28 27 RELOAD Tom Jones Guit
- 38 28 NORTHERN STAR Melanie C Virgin
- 29 29 AWAKE AND BREATHE B*Witched Glow Worm/Epic
- 37 30 CLAPTON CHRONICLES - THE BEST OF Eric Clapton Duck

- 35 31 REMEMBER - THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION Cat Stevens Island/Un-Island
- 30 32 THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION Nat 'King' Cole EMI
- 20 33 HERE WE COME A1 Columbia
- 32 34 AFFIRMATION Savage Garden Columbia
- 43 35 LOVE AND THE RUSSIAN WINTER Simply Red East West
- 34 36 FEELING STRANGELY FINE Semisonic MCA/Un-Island
- 43 37 MIMOSA Fun Lovin' Criminals Chrysalis
- 42 38 THE PARTY ALBUM! Vengaboys Positive
- 40 39 IN CONCERT - ROYAL ALBERT HALL CHRISTMAS Michael Ball Universal TV
- 41 40 THE BEST OF The Mavericks Mercury/Universal TV

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 the insider's guide

COUNTRY

Chart	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
NO	1	1	COME ON OVER	Shania Twain	Mercury 170082 (U)
NO	2	2	WIDE OPEN SPACE	Dixie Chicks	Epic 489422 (TEN)
NO	3	5	I AM SHELBY LYBNE	Shelby Lynne	Mercury 546772 (U)
NO	4	3	THE WOMAN IN ME	Shania Twain	Mercury 522982 (U)
NO	5	4	FLY	Dixie Chicks	Epic 06291512 (TEN)
NO	6	4	STILL CAN'T SAY GOODBYE	Charla Landsborough	Ritz RZCD 0002 (RMG/CA)
NO	7	7	LEANN RIMES	LeAnn Rimes	London 85209512 (TEN)
NO	8	8	EMOTION	Martina McBride	RCA 1432169512 (BMG)
NO	9	10	GRASS IS BLUE	Dolly Parton	Sageer Hill SHCD0390 (DGR)
NO	10	9	TRAMPOLINE	The Mavericks	MCA Nashville UMD 8056 (BMG)
NO	11	11	FORGET ABOUT IT	Alison Krauss	Roadster RRCD 9465 (DGR)
NO	12	12	SHANIA TWAIN	Shania Twain	Mercury 514922 (U)
NO	13	13	SO GOOD TOGETHER	Ruba McElroy	MCA Nashville MCD 2050 (U)
NO	14	14	A PLACE IN THE SUN	Tim McGraw	Carli/London 556122 (RMG/TEN)
NO	15	17	SONGS OF INSPIRATION	Daniel O'Donnell	Ritz RT12BCD 709 (RMG/U)
NO	16	20	WESTERN WALL - THE TUCSON SESSIONS	Linda Ronstadt/Emmylou Harris	Asylum 7599624082 (TEN)
NO	17	15	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE	Dominic Kirwan	Ritz RZCD 83 (RMG/CA)
NO	18	16	UNDER THE INFLUENCE	Alan Jackson	Ariola Nashville 0192219832 (BMG)
NO	19	18	THE AUSTIN SESSIONS	Kris Kristofferson	Atlantic 766782082 (TEN)
NO	20	15	SITTHIN' ON TOP OF THE WORLD	L&A/Rimes	Carli/London 5561022 (TEN)

ROCK

Chart	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
NO	1	1	LIVE - ERA 87-89	Guns N' Roses	Geffen 490342 (U)
NO	2	1	AMERICANA	The Offspring	Columbia 491652 (TEN)
NO	3	6	EARLY DAYS - THE BEST OF - VOLUME ONE	Led Zepplin	Atlantic 756702682 (TEN)
NO	4	2	ISSUES	Korn	Epic 490392 (TEN)
NO	5	3	THE BATTLE OF LOS ANGELES	Rage Against The Machine	Epic 490392 (TEN)
NO	6	5	NEVERMIND	Green Day	Geffen 490392 (TEN)
NO	7	7	EXPERIENCE HENDRIX - THE BEST OF	Jim Hendrix	Telstar TV TVCD 2501 (TEN)
NO	8	9	THE MATRIX (OST)	Various	Maverick/Warner Bros 53024912 (TEN)
NO	9	4	THE LAST TOUR ON EARTH	Marilyn Manson	Interscope 490342 (U)
NO	10	8	THE SCIENCE OF THINGS	Bush	Trauma/Polydor 490832 (U)

DANCE SINGLES

Chart	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
NO	1	1	BE-REWINN...	Andi Duggan feat. Craig David	Felic Damar/Believe/In Relief 11 (DMM/TEN)
NO	2	1	COMMUNICATION...	Mario Fox	Incentive CENT 21 (DMM/TEN)
NO	3	2	THAT SOUND	Michael Moog	Mer 49374 (TEN)
NO	4	3	DUSTED	Lethbridge/Manava Higher Ground/Hard Hands 11AND 02BT (TEN)	
NO	5	1	KING OF MY CASTLE	Wandue Project	AMP/PM 12AMP/PM 127 (U)
NO	6	5	BACK IN MY LIFE	Alice Deejay	Positiva 12H1V21 (E)
NO	7	6	CUZ THE HOUSE GETS WARM	UK Gold	Tidy Trax TID11911 (AGD)
NO	8	7	DEEP INSIDE	Mary J Blige	MCA/Uni-Island MCD1 0028 (U)
NO	9	8	ANOTHER WAY/AVENUE	Paul Van Dyk	DeViant 01VNT35 (VI)
NO	10	9	BLUEBOTTLE	Pop feat. DJ Patrick Reid	Philips PLAT 45 (SFRD)
NO	11	10	DON'T CALL ME BABY	Maddison Avenue	VC Recordings VCR156 (E)
NO	12	10	BUDDY X 99	Dream Team Vix & Neneh Cherry	4 Liberty LIB12103R (E)
NO	13	11	MY FEELING	Junior Jack	Plus Recordings P14SB 0121 (VI)
NO	14	12	BULLET IN THE GUN	Planet Perfecto	Incentive PEP1 31 (DMM/VI)
NO	15	15	DON'T BE AFRAID '98	Moonman	Heat Recordings HEAT1902 (VI)
NO	16	6	L'ESPERANZA	Airscape	Xtravaganza XTRAV17 03M/VI (TEN)
NO	17	4	YOU DON'T KNOW	702	Motown/Uni-Island TMG1502 (U)
NO	18	2	EVERYTIME	Lustral	Hotj Choons H0J183 (VI)
NO	19	18	TRIBAL CHURCH	Joe Inferno	Tripple Trax TRXAK255 (U)
NO	20	19	RUNNIN'	Miscera	Z 2 ZED12041 (VI)

DANCE ALBUMS

Chart	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
NO	1	1	NOVA	Blackalicious	Mo Wax MWV112LP- (VI)
NO	2	1	UNLEASH THE DRAGON	Sigga	Del Soul - (U)
NO	3	2	DRUM AND BASS ARMAGEDDON	Various	Renegade Harbours RH200LP- (SFRD)
NO	4	3	2001	Dr Dre	Interscope 85018- (U)
NO	5	1	ANTHOLOGY - THE SOUNDS OF SCIENCE	Beastie Boys	Grand Royal - (S22404 (E)
NO	6	4	99.2	Various	Moving Shadow - (SFRD)
NO	7	2	NASTRADAMUS	Naras	Columbia 495312/495314 (TEN)
NO	8	5	IRREVERSIBILITY	Raekwon	Epic 498361/498362 14 (TEN)
NO	9	5	TRIBE S.I.K. - A NEW DIMENSION	Various	Pure Silk - (PURENSIC 2 (DGR/VI)
NO	10	9	THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL	Destiny's Child	Columbia 494394/494394A (TEN)

C VIDEO

Chart	This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
NO	11	8	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Cats		PolyGram Video 429542
NO	12	13	SHANIA TWAIN: Live		Universal Video 522542
NO	13	14	S CLUB 7: It's As S Club Thing		Warner Music Video 85208903
NO	14	11	CHER: Live In Concert		Warner Music Video 85200173
NO	15	12	VARIOUS ARTISTS: Andrew Lloyd Webber - Celebration		PolyGram Video 527303
NO	16	10	BURN THE FLOOR: Original Cast Recording		WV 125963
NO	17	18	LIVE CAST RECORDING: Les Miserables In Concert		Video Collection 432530
NO	18	7	STEPS: The Video		EastWest 0519175
NO	19	16	THE CORRS: Unplugged		Warner Music Video 85203103
NO	20	15	SLEEPING: Welcome To Our Neighborhood		Roadrunner RV1813

19 LEARNED FROM THE BEST Whitney Houston

20 KING FOR A DAY Jamiroquai



- 21 SUPER TROUPER A Teens Stockholm/Polybor
- 22 THE BRICK TRACK VERSUS GITTY UP Salt 'n' Pepa frr
- 14 23 LIFT ME UP Geri Halliwell EMI
- 11 24 TONITE Phats & Small Multiply
- 15 25 WHY Gamma Kid WEA
- 17 26 WAITING FOR TONIGHT Jennifer Lopez Columbia
- 19 27 GENIE IN A BOTTLE Christina Aguilera RCA
- 28 DUSTED Leftfield/Roots Manuva Higher Ground/Hard Hands
- 18 29 FLYING WITHOUT WINGS Westlife RCA
- 21 30 BLUE (DA BA DEE) Eiffel 65 Eternal



compilations

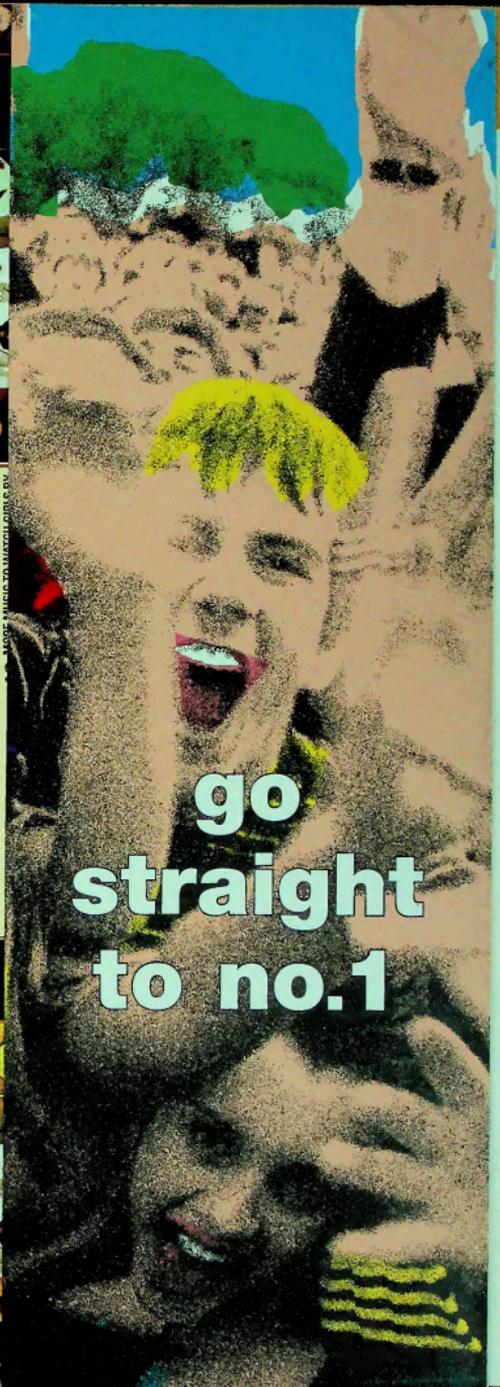
- 1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 44 EMI/Virgin/Universal
warsaw esp/Universal TV/Global TV
- 11 12 MASSIVE DANCE HITS 2000
ALL TIME GREATEST LOVE ALBUM - VOL. 4 Sony TV/Universal TV
- 10 13 WOMAN 2
BEST MUSICALS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER
Virgin/EMI
- 2 4 HUGE HITS 99
warsaw esp/Global TV/Sony TV
- 5 5 THE ANNUAL - MILLENNIUM EDITION
Ministry of Sound
THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER
Virgin
- 6 6 THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER
Virgin/EMI
- 7 7 CREAM ANTHEMS 2000
Virgin/EMI
- 8 8 THE BEST OF BOND...JAMES BOND
Capitol
- 11 11 MASSIVE DANCE HITS 2000
warsaw esp/Universal TV/Global TV
- 11 12 ALL TIME GREATEST LOVE ALBUM - VOL. 4
Sony TV/Universal TV
- 10 13 WOMAN 2
BEST MUSICALS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER
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- 7 7 CREAM ANTHEMS 2000
Virgin/EMI
- 8 8 THE BEST OF BOND...JAMES BOND
Capitol



- 25 21 YOU, ME & US Martine McCutcheon
- 21 22 SCHIZOPONIC Geri Halliwell
- 22 23 BABY ONE MORE TIME Brandy Spears
- 22 24 HEART & SOUL - NEW SONGS FROM ALTY MICHAEL VONDA SIEGARD Epic
- 27 25 THE HUSH Texas Mercury
- 26 26 SACRED ARIAS Andrea Bocelli Philips
- 28 27 RELOAD Tom Jones Galt
- 38 28 NORTHERN STAR Melanie C Virgin
- 29 29 AWAKE AND BREATHE B'Vitched
Glow Worm/Epic
- 37 30 CLAPTON CHRONICLES - THE BEST OF Eric Clapton Duck



go
straight
to no.1



THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS SPECIALIST

11 DECEMBER 1997

MID-PRICE

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Innovator)
1	8	FIVE	Five	RCA 7421588762 (BMG)
2	1	TRACY CHAPMAN	Tracy Chapman	Elektra 8560742 (TEN)
3	3	TRANCE 2000	Various	Beechwood Music 1817CD2 (BMG/BMG)
4	2	THE SCORE	Progress	Columbia 485482 (TEN)
5	6	THE BODYFARM (OST)	Various	Arista 74218392 (BMG)
6	10	THE MASTERPLAN	Oasis	Creation CREC241 (BMG/PI)
7	8	DEFINITELY MAYBE	Oasis	Creation CREC2 189 (MVP/PI)
8	9	DOOKIE	Oasis	Reprise 33625922 (TEN)
9	11	TOGETHER WITH CLIFF RICHARD	Cliff Richard And The Shadows	EMI CDREM1028 (IE)
10	15	ONCE IN A LIFETIME - THE BEST OF...	Talking Heads	EMI FOOD0010 (IE)
11	15	PARKFIVE	Blk	Food FOOD0010 (IE)
12	16	FACE VALUE	Phil Collins	Virgin CDV2185 (IE)
13	10	FOUR SYMBOLS	Led Zeppelin	Atlantic 7567826382 (TEN)
14	14	RESERVER DOGS (OST)	Various	MCA MCD19295 (U)
15	13	OCK OF THE DAY - DEFINITIVE COLLECTION	Cliff Richard	Atlantic 856013362 (TEN)
16	11	BROTHERS IN ARMS	Gun's N Roses	Virgin 504992 (U)
17	17	APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION	Gun's N Roses	Geffen GUN15286 (U)
18	18	GREATEST HITS	Bob Dylan	Columbia 460079 (TEN)
19	4	LONDON CALLING	The Clash	Columbia 495427 (U)
20	20	TARZAN - READING	Original Cast Recording	Walt Disney/EMI W075872 (IP)

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BUDGET

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Innovator)
1	1	98.2	Various	Moving Shadow ASH400002 (SRD)
2	2	THE WHITE CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Various	Capitol CRIMC20 (EUK)
3	3	CHRISTMAS PARTY	Jive Burny & The Masterminds	Capitol CRIMC14 (EUK)
4	4	NON-STOP SING-ALONG CHRISTMAS PARTY	Various	Capitol CRIMC 06 (EUK)
5	5	CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CAROLS & SONGS	Various	Capitol CRIMC 09 (EUK)
6	9	CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Franz Sinatra	Music For Pleasure CDMPF972 (IE)
7	8	MERRY CHRISTMAS	Various	Spectrum 952542 (IE)
8	6	A WINTER ROMANCE	Dean Martin	EMI 498362 (IE)
9	7	CHRISTMAS WITH NAT AND DEAN	Nat King Cole/Dean Martin	Music For Pleasure CDMPF962 (IE)
10	10	ELVIS' CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Elvis Presley	Carden 7432187632 (SRD)

© CIN

R&B SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	1	TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW	Bob Marley feat. Lauryn Hill	Columbia (TEN)
2	2	IF YOU'D TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME	R Kelly	Jive 052162 (IP)
3	1	I TRY	Marcy Dya	Epic 6881832 (TEN)
4	2	THE BRICK TRACK VERSUS GETTY UP	Sak'n' Papa	Jive FCD273 (TEN)
5	5	KING FOR A DAY	Jamiroquai	S2 657732 (TEN)
6	1	WILL ZIX	Will Smith	Columbia 664482 (TEN)
7	10	I LEARNED FROM THE BEST	Whitney Houston	Arista 7432172292 (BMG)
8	8	EDUSTED	Unlabeled/Houseman	Higher Ground/H&H Records 152021 (TEN)
9	4	WHY	Clayton Kell	WEA/WEA 229231 (TEN)
10	6	DEEP INSIDE	Mary J Blige	MCA/Uni-Inland M322 AC224 (U)
11	1	BOMB BIGDIE	Another Level	Northwestside/Arista 7432171212 (BMG)
12	7	HEARTBREAKER	Mariah Carey	Columbia 6683012 (U)
13	5	SISTA SISTA	Veronica Knight	Parlophone Rhythm Series CD09VHT528 (IE)
14	8	BEST FRIEND	Puff Daddy feat. Marlo Winans	Puff Daddy/Arista 7432171292 (BMG)
15	9	YOU DONT KNOW	702	Motown/Uni-Inland TM15102 (U)
16	11	BUG A BOO	Destiny's Child	Columbia 6681882 (TEN)
17	10	WHAT YOU THINK OF THAT	Melvin Bleek feat. Jay-Z	Def Jam 870823 (U)
18	12	SUNSHINE	Gabriele	Go Beat G0BC02 (23 U)
19	13	GIVE IT TO YOU	Jordan Knight	Interscope 487177 (U)
20	18	UNPRETTY	TLC	LaFace/Arista 7432189252 (BMG)
21	15	I NEED TO KNOW	Mani Anthony	Columbia 662819 (U)
22	16	NEVER LET YOU DOWN	Harvey	1st Avenue/Mercury 119220 4 (U)
23	22	SWEET LITE CHOCOLATE	Shyheim & Bigfoot	Pleasure 0530350 (U)
24	14	STILL BELIEVING	Shola Ame	WEA/WEA 239231 (TEN)
25	17	SATISFY YOU	Puff Daddy feat. R Kelly	White Label 742622 (Import)
26	20	ALL N MY GRILL	Mary J Blige feat. M. Sade	Elektra 219242 (Import)
27	19	GUILTY CONSCIENCE	Enimem feat. Dr Dre	Interscope 4871292 (U)
28	22	WILD WILD WEST	Will Smith feat. Dr Dre	Columbia 6672995 (TEN)
29	21	WHAT'CHA GONNA DO	Enemem	EMI CDDEM 552 (IE)
30	24	MY LIFE IS YOUR LOVE	Whitney Houston	Arista 7432187632 (SRD)

© CIN. Compiled from data from a panel of independents and specialist multiples.

COUNTRY

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Innovator)
1	1	COME ON OVER	Shania Twain	Mercury 170012 (U)
2	2	WIDE OPEN SPACE	Doie Chicks	Epic 426422 (U)
3	5	I AM SHELBY LYNNE	Shelby Lynne	Mercury 596172 (U)
4	3	THE WOMAN IN ME	Shania Twain	Epic 04951512 (U)
5	6	FLY CANT SAY GOODBYE	Doie Chicks	Ritz RZCD 0828 (BMG/CI)
6	4	STILL CANT SAY GOODBYE	Charle Landsborough	London 85738922 (TEN)
7	7	LEANIN' RIMES	LeAnn Rimes	RCA 742169512 (BMG)
8	8	EMOTION	Martina McBride	Sugar Hill SHC03090 (OR)
9	9	GRASS IS BLUE	Dolly Parton	RCA Nashville UMD 80456 (BMG)
10	11	TRAMPOLINE	The Mavericks	Rounder RRC0 0465 (U)
11	11	FORGET ABOUT IT	Alison Krauss	Mercury 594222 (U)
12	12	SHANIA TWAIN	Shania Twain	MCA Nashville MCD 7093 (U)
13	13	SO GOOD TOGETHER	Reba McEntire	Carla/London 5961122 (U)
14	14	A PLACE IN THE SUN	Tim McGraw	Ritz RZCD 090 (BMG/CI)
15	17	SONGS OF INSPIRATION	Davie Crockett	Aoylan 755962402 (U)
16	20	WESTERN WALL - THE WISDOM SESSIONS	Linda Ronstadt/Vinnycky Harris	Ritz RZCD 83 (BMG/CI)
17	15	UNCONDITIONAL LOVE	Dorrican Kirwan	Arista Nashville 0762218922 (BMG)
18	16	UNDER THE INFLUENCE	Alan Jackson	Arista 76678282 (TEN)
19	18	THE AUSTIN SESSIONS	Kiss Kristofferson	Carla/London 596022 (U)
20	19	SITTHIN ON TOP OF THE WORLD	LeAnn Rimes	

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ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Innovator)
1	1	LIVE - ERA 87.93	Guns N Roses	Geffen 49542 (U)
2	1	AMERICANA	The Offspring	Columbia 491062 (TEN)
3	6	EARLY DAYS - THE BEST OF - VOLUME ONE	Led Zeppelin	Atlantic 7567826382 (TEN)
4	2	ISSUES	Korn	Epic 493352 (U)
5	3	THE BATTLE OF LOS ANGELES	Rage Against The Machine	Epic 491962 (TEN)
6	5	NEVERMIND	Alanis Morissette	Geffen DGC2 52425 (U)
7	9	EXPERIENCE HENDRIX - THE BEST OF	Jim Hendrix	Telstar TV TYVO 250 (TEN)
8	9	THE MATRIX (OST)	Various	Maverick/Warner Bros 338241912 (TEN)
9	4	THE LAST TOUR ON EARTH	Marilyn Manson	Interscope 486342 (U)
10	8	THE SCIENCE OF THINGS	Bush	Trauma/Polydor 486382 (U)

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DANCE SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	1	RE-REWIND... RECONSTRUCTION...	Arto O'Dea feat. Deejay David	Public Enemy/REBEL 11 (30A/TEN)
2	2	THAT SOUND	Michael Moog	Incentive CENT 27 (30A/TEN)
3	3	THAT SOUND	Michael Moog	Jive FX 234 (TEN)
4	4	DUSTED	Wendell Woods Marwa	Higher Ground/H&H HAND 280T (TEN)
5	1	KING OF MY CASTLE	Labladi/Project M	AM:PM 12AMP/PA 121 (U)
6	5	BACK IN MY HOUSE	Alice Deary	Positive 127V191 (U)
7	6	CUT THE LIFE GETS WARM	UK Gig	Tidy Trax T107131 (A40)
8	7	REDEFINE	Mary J Blige	MCA/Uni-Inland M322 AC224 (U)
9	8	ANOTHER WAY/AVENUE	Paul Van Dyk	Deviant DV135X (V)
10	9	BLUEBOTTLE BABY	Feat. Paul D Patrick Reid	Platipus PLAT 65 (SRD)
11	10	DONT CALL ME BABY	Madison Avenue	VC Recordings VC1785 (U)
12	10	BUDY BUDY	Dream Team Vs Nanech Cherry	4 Liberty L18712038 (IP)
13	11	MY FEELING	Junior Jack	Pias Recordings PIAS8 017 (V)
14	12	BULLET IN THE CHEST	Planet Perfecto	Perfecto PERF 27 (30A/PI)
15	15	DO NOT BE AFRAID 99	Mozzma	Heat Recordings HEAT0270 (V)
16	6	LESPEANZA	Airscape	Xtravaganza XTRAV12 (30A/TEN)
17	4	YOU DONT KNOW	702	Motown/Uni-Inland TM15102 (U)
18	2	EVERYTIME	Lustral	Hoop Choons HD04387 (V)
19	20	TRIBAL CHURCH	Joe Inferno	Tripp Trax TTRAX055 (U)
20	20	RUNNIN'	Mistura	2 RECORD 1041 (V)

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DANCE ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No. (Distributor)
1	1	UNLEASH THE DRAGON	Blackalicious	Mo Wax MW1812LP (U)
2	2	DRUM AND BASS ARMAGEDDON	Sigao	Def Soul - (V)
3	4	2001	Dr Dre	Reneegade Hardware RHW020 (SRD)
4	3	ANTHOLOGY - THE BEST OF SCIENCE	Beastie Boys	Interscope 493948 (U)
5	6	99.2	Nas	Gravity GRV2004 (U)
6	7	NASTRADAMUS	Nas	Moving Shadow - (SRD)
7	8	IMMEDIATELY	Various	Columbia 495121/495134 (TEN)
8	5	PURE SILK - A NEW DIMENSION	Rakoon	Epic 496311/496314 (TEN)
9	9	THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL	Destiny's Child	Pure Silk - (PURESMC 2) (CCP/PI)
10	10	SUPAKAT: Welcome To Our Neighborhood		Columbia 494394/494394 (SRD)

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MUSIC VIDEO

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No.
1	1	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor...	Universal Video 1676632 (U)
2	2	TECHN. The Next Big - Live	Epic/Live 021015 (U)
3	3	CLIFF RICHARD: Live In The Park	Video Collection VCI49 (U)
4	4	BOYZONE: Dublin - Live By Request	VLC 02485 (U)
5	5	MICHAEL BALL: Live At The Royal Albert Hall	Universal Video V5823 (U)
6	6	JANE BOWN: In Concert	Video Collection VCI50 (U)
7	7	WESTLIFE: The Story	BMG Video VCD170169 (U)
8	8	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Oklahoma!	Universal Video 1638473 (U)
9	9	MADONNA: The Video Collection	Warner Music Video 752926323 (U)
10	6	DANIEL O'DONNELL: Peaceful Waters	EMI 1239713 (U)
11	9	ORIGINAL CAST RECORDING: Cus	
12	12	SHANIA TWAIN: Live	PolyGram Video 479143 (U)
13	14	SUB 2: It's An S Club Thing	Universal Video 1533043 (U)
14	11	CHER: Live In Concert	Warner Music Video 503332794 (U)
15	12	VARIOUS ARTISTS: Andrew Lloyd Webber - Celebration	PolyGram Video 487330173 (U)
16	10	BURN THE CLOCK: Original Cast Recording	Universal Video V5823 (U)
17	16	CAST RECORDING: Les Misérables in Concert	VAL 632623 (U)
18	7	STEPS: The Video	Video Collection VCI52 (U)
19	10	THE CORRS: Unplugged	Epic/Live 021015 (U)
20	20	SUPAKAT: Welcome To Our Neighborhood	Warner Music Video 503331613 (U)

ALL THE CHARTS EXPOSURE



11 DECEMBER 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES

It dipped to number 14 on the sales chart, but **Robbie Williams' 'She's The One'** retains its wickee grip on the airplay throne, completing its fourth week at number one with a still huge margin of nearly 1.3m over runner-up **May Gray's 'I Try, Airplay'** for **She's The One** actually increased marginally last week and though not matching the 100m audience it registered three weeks ago, the record did manage to top the 96m mark, making it the second highest figure any record has yet recorded.

Mearnie, Cliff Richard's battle for radio recognition continues apace. After three weeks in the singles chart, two of them at number one, **Richard's Millennium Prayer** is still outside the Top 50 of the airplay chart. It was played just 187 times last week, and advances 70-57 on the chart. **Radio Two** made the largest single contribution to the

AIRPLAY FACTSHEET

● Precocious pop moppets **Christina Aguilera** and **Britney Spears** both debuted new tracks on the airwaves last week, amid fears they would cannibalise each other's potential audience. **Spears' Born To Make You Happy** is off to the faster start and debuts at 61, while **Aguilera's What A Girl Wants** is 20 places lower.

● **Alice Deaile's Better Off Alone**

took radio by surprise when it became a hit but eventually reached number two on the airplay chart. Programmers seemed equally impressed for the Dutch trio's new single **Back In My Life**, which debuted at five on the sales chart last week but managed only 49 on airplay. The single finally started getting reasonable play last week, hence its 31-place leap to 18.

AT A GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARES



Figure based on information by the top 100 radio stations in the Top 50 and terrestrial play shares by a total audience of 10.5m

record's audience of 12.44m, delivering 30% of the record's listeners, though it only played the disc four times. **Richard's** record is far from being the only significant sales hit currently struggling for airplay - only two tracks are in both the sales and airplay Top 10s, these being the **Wandee Project's** **King Of My Castle** and **Melanie C's** **Northern Star**. In the six years since **Musical Control** started providing accurate tracking of airplay, that's the lowest tally yet.

The highest new entry to the Top 50 this week is **S Club 7's 'Two In A Million'**, which surges 89-30. The group's upcoming third single, it's off to a much faster start than their previous two, neither of which were nearly so well placed before commercial release, and both of which subsequently peaked only slightly higher. The introductory **Bring It All Back** had reached only number

40 on airplay when it debuted atop the sales chart, and peaked at 20 in a brief airplay chart career. The follow-up **S Club Party** reached two on the sales chart and 23 on airplay, both spending less than a month in the Top 50. **Two In A Million** is clearly much more to radio's liking, even though it has competition from its notional double **Aside**, the similarly numerate **You're My Number One**, which has yet to show up in the chart. **TLC** topped the airplay chart earlier this year with **No Scrubs**, the first single from their **Famfam album**, and reached number two with the second, **Unpretty**. They had the highest new entry last week with the song which will be the third, **Dear U**. It continues its upwards progress this week, climbing to number 21, with heavy support from specialist dance/urban stations and 19 plays from Capital. **Radio One** has yet to

grant the track the same support it gave to its predecessors, playing the song just five times last week, while many **LRJ** stations are continuing to support **Unpretty**, which defies the conventional wisdom that old hits suffer when pitted against new ones, by climbing 32-28 this week in defiance of **Dear Lie**. **No Scrubs** is, of course, one of the airplay hits of the year, and even though it was released eight months ago it still potters around the bottom end of the Top 100 airplay chart. This week it moves 90-70 with a still impressive 285 plays.

Bob Marley has two new entries to the Top 50 this week and one song dropping out - a unique record. **White Sun** is Shining has run its course and dips 44-53, the follow-up **Funkstar DeLuxe remix** debuts at 43, while the **Marley/Lauryn Hill** duet **Turn Your Lights Down Low** moves 69-49.

MTV

THE BOX

Label	Title	Artist
Columbia	1	10 REWIND Artful Dodger
Epic	2	11 I HAVE A DREAM Destiny
Polydor	3	3 BACK IN MY LIFE Alice Deaile
143/Lava/Atlantic	4	1 KEEP ON MOVIN' Five
RCA	5	2 TWO IN A MILLION S Club 7
Mercury	6	4 GETTY UP Salt N' Pepa
Work/Columbia	7	6 SITTIN' ON THE SUN Westlife
Columbia	8	10 BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY Britney Spears
Jive	9	1 BLUE (DA BA DEE EDE) S Club 7
Chrysalis	10	9 GILL ON TV Lya Lya Funksy

Most played videos on the Box, w/9 28/11/99

BOX BREAKERS

Label	Title	Artist
EMI	1	10 KISS (WHEN THE SUN DONT SHINE) Vengaboys
Blue/Jive	2	11 SAY YOU'LL BE MINE Steps
Epic	3	10 MUSIC OF MY HEART Gloria Estefan & N'Sync
Polydor	4	7 SUPER TROUPER A'Teens
Interscope	5	6 BRIGHT NOW Atomic Kitten
EMI	6	11 LEARNED FROM THE BEST Whitney Houston
Capitol	7	5 BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE Tom Jones & Cerys Matthews
Columbia	8	10 TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW Lauryn Hill & Bob Marley
WEA	9	10 STAND TALL Pink
Work/Columbia	10	11 STEAL MY SUNSHINE Lane

Highest climbing video on the Box in advance of single release, w/9 28/11/99

TOP OF THE POPS

Performance: The Millennium Prayer
 Cliff Richard: Rewind Artful Dodger
 Communication (Somebody Answer The Phone) Mani Pac; That's The Way It Is Colton Dean; Right Now Atomic Kitten; Learned From The Best Whitney Houston; King For A Day Jamiroquai; Duh... News 3/12/99

CD:UK

Performances: Kiss (When The Sun Don't Shine)
 Vengaboys: Everyday I Love You (You're); I Got A Girl Love Single; It's About Time You Were Mine Thunderdome; Rhye The Divine Entique Iglesias
 Videos: Roxanne George Michael; My Beautiful Friend The Charlatans; Everybody Project; We're Going To Miss You James; Dear Lie TLC; 1999 Prince; I Shall Be There 4Witched; Love; LucyMott; Black Marzocco; I Want A 2-3-5 Solid Gold Charabambas
 Interviews: S Club 7; Louisa; Tom Jones & Cerys Matthews
 Final line-up 4/12/99

THE PEPSI CHART

Performances: Two In A Million S Club 7
 11: It's About Time You Were Mine Thunderdome; Baby It's Cold Outside Tom Jones & Cerys Matthews
 Videos: Turn Your Lights Down Low Lauryn Hill & Bob Marley; Radio The Cors; The Millennium Prayer Cliff Richard
 Interviews: Tom Jones & Cerys Matthews
 Duh! News 9/12/99

RADIO ONE PLAYLISTS

- A-LIST** Gentle In A Battle Christina Aguilera; Back In My Life Alice Deaile; Rewind Artful Dodger; Northern Star Melanie C; My Beautiful Friend The Charlatans; Radio The Cors; Baby X '99 Cream Team Vs. Newt Cherry; Why Gheneta Kiki; I Try May Gray; Steel My Lights Down Low Lauryn Hill & Bob Marley; Steel My Sunshine Lane; Waiting For Tonight Jennifer Lopez; Barbara's Adagio For Strings; The Frank Sinatra Connection (Somebody Answer The Phone) Mani Pac; Everybody Project; We'll TLC; When We Are Together Texas; Dear Lie TLC; Turn Your Lights Down Low May Gray; What A Girl Wants Robbie Williams
- B-LIST** 'Bring Bangs Bassment' James; Alie Beatle (You're); A Little Bit Of Luck DJ Luck & MC; I'm In; Learned From The Best Whitney Houston; We're Going To Miss You James; King For A Day Jamiroquai; I Know What's Up Donni Jones feat. Len; Eye; Dusted; Lullaby; Love; Rhythm Nation; The Frank Sinatra Connection; Rainbow Country; Bob Marley Vs. Funkstar DeLuxe; Me Fat

RADIO TWO PLAYLISTS

- A-LIST** Northern Star Melanie C; The Best Of Me Bryan Adams; Love Me/Talking In Your Sleep Marianne McCutcheon; When We Are Together Texas; She's The One Robbie Williams; I Have A Dream Westlife; We're Going Home; I Shall Be There 4Witched; Love; LucyMott; Black Marzocco; Every Day I Love You Boyzone
- B-LIST** The World Is Not Enough Garbage; Say You'll Be There The Spice Girls; I Have A Dream Westlife; Let's Make The Way It Is Colton Dean; 'Hello' John Lennon; Little Me Up Got Halfwits; Cold Shoulder Charlie Rich; If I Could Turn Back The Hands Of Time R. Kelly; I Bowed The World Today Jay's The; 'Smash From The Last Endless (album) George Michael; Two In A Million S Club 7; Baby, It's Cold Outside Tom Jones & Cerys Matthews

MTV UK PLAYLISTS

- A-LIST** It's Only Us/La'Sha The One Robbie Williams; I Try May Gray; Keep On Movin' Five; Every Day I Love You Boyzone; Radio The Cors; If I Could Turn Back The Hands Of Time R. Kelly; King Of My Castle Wandee Project; I Have A Dream/Seasons In The Sun; I'm A Rebel
- B-LIST** UR Me; Get It Right/Halfway There; Turn Your Lights Down Low Bob Marley feat. Lauryn Hill; I Learned From The Best Whitney Houston; Turn Your Lights Down Low; We're Going Home; Northern Star Melanie C; Deep Inside My 3/8; Two In A Million S Club 7; Waiting For Tonight Jennifer Lopez; Steel My Sunshine Lane; Everyday/Ready Or Not At All; Gilly Up Salt 'N' Pepa; When We Are Together Texas; We'll TLC; Westlife; Roxanne George Michael; 'Rewind Artful Dodger'; 'Everybody Project
- B2-LIST** Taking In My Sweet Martinie McCutcheon; It's About Time You Were Mine Thunderdome; Right Now Atomic Kitten; Big Boy Don't Cry (Lyla); I Shall Be There 4Witched; The Phoenix Are You Goin' Down Spiky; I'll Be Back; Black Velvet Lane; I'm A Rebel; I Shall Be There; This One's Just As Nice; My Beautiful Friend The Charlatans; Gentle Ride Paper Plane; The Machine; Gradacadea '99; Cerys Matthews; We're Dancin' To Miss You James; Higher 3/8; From This Day My Sunshine Lane; Natusdomus; Dusted; Let's Make The Way It Is; Hanky The Christmas Pae South; Pina; It's Alright Mos Def; News Michael (The); Blue; Alive; Love; Bob Marley Boys
- * denotes slot rotation in a playlist pack

MUSIC WEEK 11 DECEMBER 1999

11 DECEMBER 1999



Rank	Artist	Title	Label	Wk	Peak	Wk	Points
1	Robbie Williams	She's The One	Chrysalis	2360	-1	96.94	+1
2	Macy Gray	I Try	Epic	2394	+3	84.17	-2
3	Melanie C	Northern Star	Virgin	1924	+34	81.97	+44
4	Texas	When We Are Together	Mercury	1787	-4	78.70	-5
5	Wardrobe Project	King Of My Castle	AM-PM	2010	-9	78.18	-5
6	Jennifer Lopez	Waiting For Tonight	Columbia	2063	+3	67.23	+6
7	The Corrs	Radio	143/Lava/Atlantic	1648	+2	63.83	+1
8	Christina Aguilera	Genie In A Bottle	RCA	1324	-2	62.75	-3
9	Geri Halliwell	Let Me Up On Top	EMI	1858	-13	51.42	-35
10	Five	Keep On Movin'	RCA	2012	+12	50.21	-1
11	Will Smith (feat. K-Ci)	Will 2 K	Columbia	1374	-4	49.21	-14
12	Boyzone	Every Day I Love You	Polydor	1468	+29	48.84	+12
13	Travis	Turn	Independent/10	1021	-9	47.88	-2
14	Work/Columbia	Steal My Sunshine	Work/Columbia	1204	+50	45.80	+23
15	Artful Dodger	Be-Ween The Crowd So Be Selecta	Real Gone Music	801	+40	40.38	+49
16	Phats & Small (Multiply)	TONITE	Multiply	915	+32	35.45	+3
17	Shania Twain	Mank I Feel Like A Woman	Mercury	1476	-14	35.07	-33

HIGHEST TOP 50 CUMBER							
19	Back In My Life	Alfie Boe	Parlova	955	+434	+120	
24	Whyn't You	Gloria Gaynor	WEA	585	+7	34.35	-2
20	The World Is Not Enough	Garbage	Radioactive/MCA	779	+3	32.26	-3
21	Dear Lie	TLC	LaFace/Arista	903	+49	31.24	+42
22	What I Am	Tin Tin Out feat. Emma Bunton	VC Recordings	1259	-30	29.80	-38
23	I Learned From The Best	Whitney Houston	Arista	646	+33	29.64	+30
24	The Best Of Me	Bryan Adams	A&M/Mercury	762	+30	28.56	+67
25	I Knew I Loved You	Savage Garden	Columbia	792	-12	27.40	+3
26	If I Could Turn Back The Hands Of Time	R. Kelly	Jive	921	-12	26.85	-8
27	Buddy X 99	Dreem Team Vs Neneh Cherry	4 Liberty	221	+10	25.65	+10
28	Unpretty	TLC	LaFace/Arista	638	-20	25.58	+7
29	Love Me	Martine McCutcheon	Innocent	441	+53	25.37	+31

BIGGEST INCREASE IN PLAYS							
30	Two In A Million	S Club 7	Polydor	485	+192	25.11	+75
31	Bomb Diggy	Another Level	Northwestside/Arista	819	+1	24.09	+1
32	Communication...	Mario Piu	Incentive	331	+62	23.30	+149
33	2 Times	Ann Lee	Systematic/London	797	-33	23.27	-62
34	Isn't That A Lot Of Love	Simply Red	East West	585	-31	22.98	-30
35	I Saved The World Today	Eurythmics	RCA	519	-24	22.95	-24
36	Everybody	Progress Meets The Boyz Winda	Manifesto/Mercury	393	+43	22.81	+27
37	That's The Way It Is	Celine Dion	Epic	443	+53	21.16	+64
38	You Drive Me Crazy	Brianna Sparks	Jive	578	-30	20.75	-32
39	Right Now	Atomic Kitten	Innocent	782	+37	20.47	+73
40	Sunshine	Gabriele	Go Beat/Polydor	570	-12	20.44	-1
41	Beautiful Stranger	Madonna	Maverick/Warner Bros.	659	-5	19.78	+7
42	Sing It Back	Meloko	Echo	707	+7	19.38	+4

BIGGEST INCREASE IN AUDIENCE							
43	Rainbow Country	Bob Marley Vs Funkstar De Luxe	Club Tools/Edel	183	+177	19.25	+468
44	Barbers Adagio For Strings	William Orbit	WEA	259	+53	18.42	+21
45	When The Heartache Is Over	Tina Turner	Parlophone	528	-80	18.26	-11
46	That Sound	Michael Mee	frr	667	+16	17.89	-11
47	I See You Baby	Groove Armada feat. Gram'ma Funk	Pepper	398	-22	16.95	-59
48	I Shall Be There	'Bitch/ited (Black Mambazo)	Glow Worm/Epic	121	+102	16.91	+49
49	Turn Your Lights Down Low	Laurny Hill & Bob Marley	Columbia	293	+54	15.56	+35
50	King For A Day	Jamiroquai	Sony	52	+65	15.82	+23

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TOP 10 GROWERS							
1	Northern Star	Melanie C	Virgin	1924	489		
2	Steal My Sunshine	Len (Work/Columbia)		1204	389		
3	Rewind Around (Real Gone Music)			801	357		
4	Back In My Life	Alfie Boe (Parlova)		955	342		
5	Every Day I Love You	Boyzone (Polydor)		1468	329		
6	Two In A Million	S Club 7 (Polydor)		485	306		
7	Radio The Corrs (143/Lava/Atlantic)			1648	298		
8	Dear Lie	TLC (LaFace/Arista)		903	297		
9	TONITE	Phats & Small (Multiply)		915	222		
10	Keep On Movin'	Five (RCA)		2012	208		

© Music Control UK. Chart shows tracks heading greatest number in plays

RADIO 10

Rank	Artist	Title	Label	Wk	Peak	Wk	Points
1	Robbie Williams	She's The One	Chrysalis	2360	-1	96.94	+1
2	Macy Gray	I Try	Epic	2394	+3	84.17	-2
3	Melanie C	Northern Star	Virgin	1924	+34	81.97	+44
4	Texas	When We Are Together	Mercury	1787	-4	78.70	-5
5	Wardrobe Project	King Of My Castle	AM-PM	2010	-9	78.18	-5
6	Jennifer Lopez	Waiting For Tonight	Columbia	2063	+3	67.23	+6
7	The Corrs	Radio	143/Lava/Atlantic	1648	+2	63.83	+1
8	Christina Aguilera	Genie In A Bottle	RCA	1324	-2	62.75	-3
9	Geri Halliwell	Let Me Up On Top	EMI	1858	-13	51.42	-35
10	Five	Keep On Movin'	RCA	2012	+12	50.21	-1
11	Will Smith (feat. K-Ci)	Will 2 K	Columbia	1374	-4	49.21	-14
12	Boyzone	Every Day I Love You	Polydor	1468	+29	48.84	+12
13	Travis	Turn	Independent/10	1021	-9	47.88	-2
14	Work/Columbia	Steal My Sunshine	Work/Columbia	1204	+50	45.80	+23
15	Artful Dodger	Be-Ween The Crowd So Be Selecta	Real Gone Music	801	+40	40.38	+49
16	Phats & Small (Multiply)	TONITE	Multiply	915	+32	35.45	+3
17	Shania Twain	Mank I Feel Like A Woman	Mercury	1476	-14	35.07	-33

© Music Control UK. Chart shows tracks heading greatest number of stations

TOP 10 PRE-RELEASE

Rank	Artist	Title	Label	Wk	Peak	Wk	Points
1	Robbie Williams	She's The One	Chrysalis	2360	-1	96.94	+1
2	Macy Gray	I Try	Epic	2394	+3	84.17	-2
3	Melanie C	Northern Star	Virgin	1924	+34	81.97	+44
4	Texas	When We Are Together	Mercury	1787	-4	78.70	-5
5	Wardrobe Project	King Of My Castle	AM-PM	2010	-9	78.18	-5
6	Jennifer Lopez	Waiting For Tonight	Columbia	2063	+3	67.23	+6
7	The Corrs	Radio	143/Lava/Atlantic	1648	+2	63.83	+1
8	Christina Aguilera	Genie In A Bottle	RCA	1324	-2	62.75	-3
9	Geri Halliwell	Let Me Up On Top	EMI	1858	-13	51.42	-35
10	Five	Keep On Movin'	RCA	2012	+12	50.21	-1

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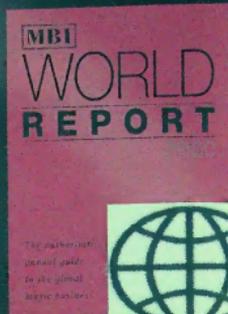
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CLASSICAL news

EMI CLASSICS PAIR HONOURED

Two exclusive EMI Classics artists were individually honoured last week for their work, with composer and pianist Thomas Adès attracting widespread media interest as winner of the \$200,000 Grammy Music Prize and tenor Ian Bostridge (pictured right) scooping the 1999 Time Out Classical Live Performance Award.

The 28-year-old Adès (pictured below left) is the youngest winner of the prestigious Grammy award, administered by the University of Louisville and decided by a panel of 34 judges. His 20-minute orchestral piece *Asyla*, released on EMI Classics last April and shortlisted as the only classical composition for this year's Mercury Music Prize, was chosen as the finest score from more than 200 nominated works.

Meanwhile, Adès' Grammy Award-winning opera, *Powder Her Face*, is set to receive its television premiere on Channel 4 on Christmas Day. The network will also air director Gerald Fox's documentary about the composer's music and life over the Christmas period.

The next EMI Classics Adès release appears in February 2000 and features his work as a solo pianist, while Bostridge is the soloist on a new disc of Bach art songs set for release next March.

ARTE NOVA HEADS FOR SOUTH RELEASE

German independent budget label Arte Nova, distributed by BMG Classics, is set to release its 500th title in the UK on January 17, celebrating the occasion with an evening reception at London's Warehouse rehearsal and recording space.

Although Arte Nova's market share accounts for only a small percentage of the budget classical sector, its list of recordings boasts a range of unusual repertoire and commitment to several fine young artists. Interest in its product has

grown in recent months thanks to positive reviews in Gramophone and confident recommendations in the arts pages of the quality press.

Brian Hopkins, business development director at BMG Classics, points to two milestone

recording projects in Arte Nova's history as examples of the label's firm associations with individual artists. He recalls the label's UK launch in October 1996 with the first release in a much-praised complete cycle of Beethoven's piano sonatas from the Chilean-born artist Alfredo Perl, and cites the critical and commercial success achieved earlier this year with a new survey of Beethoven's symphonies conducted by David Zinman.

The letter has sold 20,000 units in the UK to date, against the odds for such over-exposed repertoires. "That was a labour of love for both David Zinman and Dieter Orms, who is the label's boss and A&R wizard. Arte Nova is clearly led by artists and their ambitions," he says.

The label's 500th release, by chance, boasts a Lucet recital by Perl, coupling potboilers such as the *Mephisto-Waltz* with less familiar repertoire.

"We're operating in a specialist sector with many of our titles and achieving growth in the market," says Hopkins. "Some of our established best-sellers are still doing good business and we're adding to those as new releases roll out."

January's crop of Arte Nova issues includes Rossini's rarely-heard opera *Aïda*, a disc of viola concertos and two additions to the label's Voices series, a refreshing series featuring recitals from young singers. "We're finding our feet now as a competitive label, helped by what the critics have said about us. We'll continue to support Arte Nova's artists and build consumer loyalty for what they have to say," adds Hopkins.

Andrew Stewart can be contacted by e-mail at Andrew.Stewart1@compuserve.com



ALBUM of the week

PHILIP GRANGE: *Dark Labyrinth*, Gemini (Black Box BBM1038). Described by Black Box as one of Britain's best-kept musical secrets, the works of Philip



Grange are strong in character and accessible without being simplistic. Although he is currently professor of composition at Exeter University, there is no hint of ivory-tower detachment in Grange's music. His cause is helped by brilliant playing by contemporary music ensemble Gemini, expressive singing from Nicholas Sears and Alison Wells, and first-class recorded sound. This is backed by ads in the specialist classical press.



REVIEWS

for records released up to December 20, 1999

CLERAMBAULT: La Triomphe d'Isis, Le Concert Spirituel/Niquez (Naxos 8.554455). Louis-Nicholas Clerambault was among the founders of the original Concert Spirituel in Paris in 1725, although he's perhaps best known today for his keyboard compositions. This elegant pastoral reveals the composer's desire to mix elements of French and Italian music. Advertised in January's Gramophone.

HANDEL: Dixit Dominus, Salve Regina, Laudate pueri, Saevitellus. Massé, Koren; Les Musiciens du Louvre/Minkowski (Archiv 459 627-2). Marc Minkowski's previous Handel releases on Deutsche Grammophon's Archiv label have earned strong sales in the UK. Here he looks at the composer's youthful works, crowned by a thrilling account of the *Dixit Dominus*.

Advertised in December's Gramophone.

FOULDS: Piano Music. Kathryn Stott (BIS CD 933). Born in Manchester in 1890, John Foulds played with the Hallé Orchestra before striking out as a composer. His late piano

works, played with imagination and flair by Kathryn Stott, were directly influenced by his study of Indian folk music and culture, while the earlier pieces on this anthology are more passionately romantic in mood.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: The Irish Tenors; Sinfonia Varsovia/McNamara (Point Entertainment MDT 8870-2). Shades of John McCormack and Joseph Locke are recalled by this

act thanks to the natural, expressive singing styles of the Irish tenor, John McDermott, Anthony Kearns and Ronan Ryan. Kearns has the vocal armoury, Ryan the passion and McDermott the charm to bring contrast and colour to a programme of traditional Christmas music. Already a best-seller in the US, Point expects to register five-figure sales in the UK.

WOLF-FERRARI: Sty, Bader, Polaski, etc., Chorus and Orchestra of the Lower Saxon State Opera/Maxym (Archiv 475492). This budget-price reissue restores the German-language version of Wolf-Ferrari's 1927 opera *Sty*, the tale of the *Voland* Sleeper, to the catalogue. The 1983 recording does justice to the work's mix of musical styles.

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When Cliff Richard's Millennium Prayer became only the second single this year to climb to number one after debuting lower down the Top 10, it demonstrated the dangers in prematurely writing off an old favourite.

The fact that cassette accounted for 36% of the first two weeks' sales clearly shows that the format is not obsolete yet. Consequently, it is hardly surprising that manufacturers are refusing to concede defeat, despite reports from the IFPI that total cassette sales have been declining at a rate of between 10% and 15% per year.

The immediate prognosis for video tape is rather better, although the advent of DVD would suggest that VHS will come under threat at some time within the next few years.

Meanwhile, volumes are still significant for both tape formats. According to the IFPI, in 1998 UK consumers bought more than 32m music cassettes, accounting for 24% of all singles sales and 10% of albums. In the same period, VHS sales totalled 140m units according to the BVA, and although this year has lacked a smash hit film on the scale of the bestselling Titanic, manufacturers are upbeat about the current level of orders.

"Everyone knows that cassette is a declining market, but for us there has been healthy growth in cassette singles over the past couple of years, and we are continuing to do steady business in blank tape and spoken word recordings," says Martine Tatman, sales director at audio tape manufacturer Ablex.

South London-based DDCdata paints an equally optimistic picture. Sales manager Keith Young estimates that the company will have produced around 15m cassettes by the end of this year, with all duplicators running at their maximum daily capacity of 100,000 units until Christmas.

"The fact that Sony and EMI no longer

MANUFACTURERS REFUSE TO GIVE IN TO CASSETTE GLOOM

Tape manufacturers are still upbeat about their prospects, reports Karen Faux



Cinram: 'VHS is holding up well'

have UK tape production has helped to create more music-based business," says Young. "There is still a big market for singles on cassette and on a good pop act it is not unusual to produce around 150,000 of them."

As with all areas of manufacturing, the key to survival is flexibility. Ablex can juggle orders of 500 to 5,000 and its investment five years ago in a custom-built digital loop bin system allows its production line to run at higher speeds and produce better quality tapes. "By storing the information digitally we can run off any number of duplicates, without any degradation," says Tatman.

This system helps Ablex to cope with

ever-shorter lead times. "A lot of our work is in singles and these have to be turned around within 24 hours. Most of our albums business is in manufacturing TV-advertised product, so once again turnaround times are demanding," she says.

On the VHS front, VDC Group — formerly the Video Duplicating Company and CD Systems — has increased its capacity in recent years to 100,000 60-minute tapes a day, although overall demand has dipped. "It's not as busy on a day-to-day basis as it was three or four years ago," says joint managing director Adwin Badi. "But hopefully we will see things picking up next year."

US multimedia giant Cinram has progressively boosted its VHS capacity since entering the UK market five years ago. The company recently invested £2m in its VHS duplication systems and can now generate 1m 90-minute tapes a week. At the beginning of November, the manufacturer sealed a long-term deal to produce all of Columbia Tristar Home Video's UK product at its Ipswich plant. Cinram currently claims to control 20% of the UK VHS market.

"The VHS market is holding up well," says Cinram sales and marketing manager

Jonathan Beddows. "The aim of our recent investment was to automate more processes and speed turnaround, in response to the fact that release windows are getting narrower all the time."

Cinram also promises a swift turnaround for its music customers, operating out of the former Sony Music plant in Aylesbury. The company can offer next-day delivery on runs of up to 10,000 if the order arrives before noon.

"Tape is an important feature of our business and it is something we are planning to market particularly aggressively next year," says Beddows. "Although the market may be shrinking, we intend to sustain volumes and increase market share."

First Sound And Vision (FSV) operations manager Frank Myers says the company's



Ablex: healthy singles growth

audio tape output has been declining at an annual rate of 15% over the past three years, although current production levels are still in the region of 100,000 cassettes a day.

"It is ironic that although the market for audio cassette is diminishing every year, production methods have been refined to the point where a 60-minute tape can be duplicated in just one minute," says Myers. "We could comfortably generate 500,000 tapes a day if there was sufficient demand."

FSV's biggest markets for tape are cassette singles, corporate material and talking books for publishers such as Harper Collins and Universal Spoken Word. While Myers stresses that all cassette work is well-received, he acknowledges that business such as this presents its own problems. "Runs are rarely more than 5,000 and the tape lengths are long," he says.

The children's market is still a healthy one for audio cassette, and manufacturers such as ICC have made it a key target area. ICC believes itself to be one of the few UK duplicators to have registered year-on-year growth every year during the past 10 years and says it has achieved this by focusing on a combination of small to medium-sized companies, such as independent record

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'As tape volumes continue to decline we will see more of the key players move out, and that will benefit small companies'
— Luke Cardwell, Corneer

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CD may have completely superseded cassettes when it comes to covermounts, but in other promotional areas the older format still offers advantages.

At West London-based Heathmans Mastering (formerly Tape To Tape), owner Ronnie Garrity says record companies frequently opt to produce preview copies of big releases on cassette, as there is less danger of it being bootlegged.

"A CD is a perfect digital copy and although promotional releases are tightly targeted there is always the danger that somebody could make a copy somewhere along the chain," says Garrity. "Also, preview copies are aimed at rips travelling in cars, so cassette is the ideal medium."

Garrity set up his business 12 years ago with 30 tape decks and he now has 15 studios and a staff of 45, as well as a client list on which all of the major label groups are represented.

The recent name change was made to reflect the scope of the company's activities, which also include mastering and CD and vinyl production. "On the tape

side, we'll produce any size order and our location makes us ideally placed for turning product around quickly for record companies," he says.

Price is also a factor in tape's favour, according to keynote Cassettes in Surrey, which services clients including the National Symphony Orchestra and local blues label A New Day. The company concentrates on short run, real-time work but also acts as a broker for customers seeking larger volumes.

"CD duplication is more expensive because of the price of the discs themselves," says director Tim Wheatley. "An individual CD-R costs between 50p and 60p, whereas a tape costs only a quarter of that. For shorter programmes, it makes sense to use tape."

There are also specific uses to which tape is particularly suited, Wheatley adds. "We regularly produce corporate tapes for the likes of British Gas, the AA, BT and RAC. A lot are designed to be listened to by staff while in their cars and digital quality isn't really an issue."

labels, and corporate customers like banks and building societies. The factory has a weekly capacity of 70,000, with spoken word accounting for about 60% of output.

"As tape has declined, a lot of manufacturers have dropped out of the market, and we have picked up their business," says sales and development manager Andy Thorpe.

At Weston-Super-Mare-based Corrmear Services, which has a capacity of 100,000 and specialises in budget label compilations, director Luke Cardwell claims profit margins are higher now that fewer manufacturers are competing for business.

"Another current advantage is that we are able to buy materials such as shells and tape more cheaply than a few years ago," says Cardwell. "As tape volumes continue to decline we will see more of the key players move out, and that will benefit the small companies."

Although VHS duplication is currently the core business for Wembley-based TC Video, managing director Sandra Rumble is preparing for a disbanded future. TC Video offers video production and mastering, CD duplication and DVD authoring, and caters primarily for a corporate client base. "We are helping our customers to move gradually from VHS through to CD and DVD," she says. "This way we can ensure that they stay with us."

Clearly, video and audio cassette have both seen better days, although they remain of paramount importance to certain areas of the market. In practice, the speed at which the spoken word market makes the transition to disc will have a significant bearing on the future of the music cassette, as will the penetration of in-car CD players.

Meanwhile, manufacturers will continue to mine those sections of the market which continue to be profitable. But in the long term, it could take an act of God to save the tape formats — and even Cliff Richard might be reluctant to stake his faith on that.

Tape's top sellers

Most of the cassette albums in the Top 10 accounted for a third of the album's total format sales and current trends suggest that sales rely largely on a combination of younger and older music buyers. Acts such as Shania Twain and The Corrs undoubtedly find favour with older car drivers while teenage fans of Boyzone, Britney Spears and Steps continue to buy cassettes to play on personal stereos, and bands such as Abba and Boyzone appeal strongly to both groups.

However, record companies recognise that the format's slide cannot be halted. "Cassette album sales are rapidly declining and sometimes runs can be as short as 1,000 to 2,000," says Polydor production manager Steve Johnson. "In some instances we are no longer bothering to go with it at all."

At Skint, production manager Shane Murray believes low dealer prices and promotional drives can help the aging format make a stronger contribution. "We put releases out on cassette if we think that it is cost effective to do so," he says. "Fatboy Slim's album did very well on cassette, which was probably due to the fact that a lot of young people bought it to play on their own tape systems."

"We have had other releases which have notched up good sales on cassette, such as the On The Floor At The Boutique compilations, and we will be releasing the next Lo Fidelity Allstars album on the format. Ideally we like to maintain a commitment to a range of formats."

When it comes to singles, the picture is more positive. PIAS Recordings' general manager Pete Dodge says that cassette

TOP 10 VHS VIDEOS FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

Title (Label)	Company	Manufacturer
1 The Lion King II — Simba's Pride (Walt Disney)	Buena Vista	Technicolor
2 A Bug's Life (Walt Disney)	Buena Vista	Technicolor
3 Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (Universal Pictures)	Universal Pictures	Cinram
4 Antz (CIC Video)	CIC Video	Technicolor
5 Dr Dolittle (Fox Video)	Fox Video	Technicolor
6 The BFG (Warner's)	VCI	n/a
7 George of the Jungle (Walt Disney)	Buena Vista	Technicolor
8 Saving Private Ryan (CIC Video)	CIC Video	Deluxe
9 Godzilla (Columbia TriStar)	Columbia TriStar	Cinram
10 Flubber (Walt Disney)	Buena Vista	Technicolor

accounted for 230,000 of Mr Olro's 750,000 sales. "We only released one CD version and the cassette was very much the purchase format for young teens," he says.

At Polydor, Steve Johnson says that whether a single will sell on cassette depends on the nature of the act in question.

"If you are talking about Boyzone or S Club 7, who sell a lot through stores like Woolworths, then the percentage sales on cassette can be quite high," he says.

TOP 10 CASSETTE SINGLES FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

Title/Artist (Label)	Manufacturer
1 Baby One More Time (Britney Spears) (Jive)	n/a
2 Blue (Da Ba Dee) (Eternal)	Damton/FSV
3 Mambo No. 3 (Lou Bega) (RCA)	Ablex
4 Flat Beat (Mr. Oizo) (Sonic Union)	Key Productions
5 Unleash The Vixen (Leona Lewis) (Columbia)	Ablex
6 That Don't Impress Me Much (Shania Twain) (Mercury)	Universal (Holland)
7 SPM (Ti I Come) (N1) (Sire) (GWR)	James Yorko
8 Boom Boom Boom (Deon Deon) (Positive)	Ablex
9 Bring It All Back (S Club 7) (Polydor)	Cinram
10 Sweet Like Chocolate (Shazam) & Bigfoot (Chocolate Boy) (Pepper) (n/a)	n/a

Source: CIN/MW Research

TOP 10 CASSETTE ALBUMS FOR THE YEAR TO DATE

Title/Artist (Label)	Manufacturer
1 By Request (Boyzone) (Polydor)	Cinram
2 Come On Over (Shania Twain) (Mercury)	Universal (Holland)
3 Now! 42 Various (EMI/Virgin) (Universal)	EMI (Holland)
4 Gold — Greatest Hits (Abba) (Polydor)	Cinram
5 Now! 43 Various (EMI/Virgin) (Universal)	EMI (Holland)
6 Strip One Step (Jive)	n/a
7 Talk On Comm (The Corrs) (Atlantic)	Warner (Germany)
8 Baby One More Time (Britney Spears) (Jive)	n/a
9 The Party Always Venegas (Positive)	Ablex
10 You've Come A Long Way, Baby (Fatboy Slim) (Sire)	Tribal Manufacturing

Source: CIN/MW Research

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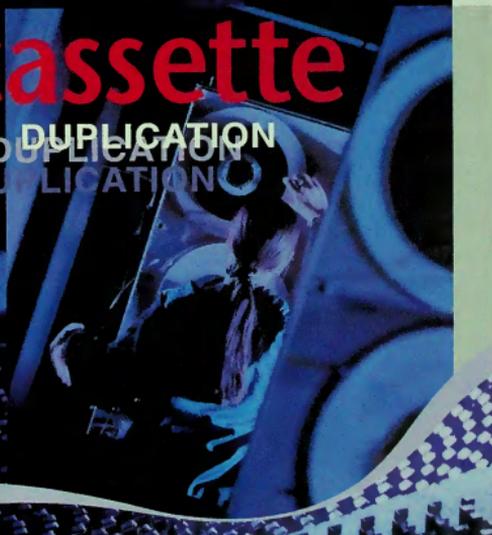
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RETAIL FOCUS: ASDA

by Karen Faux

This time last year Asda rolled back its price of a single chart album to £12.99, a move now mirrored by other High Street retailers. It has just gone another step with a further reduction to £11.99 which has generated considerable interest from press and radio. "There are always accusations that supermarkets use music as a loss leader but this is certainly not the case with Asda," says Andy Spofforth, the chain's music buying manager. "We are committed to bringing down the price of CDs but only if we can still make a profit. Since this latest reduction we have seen a considerable uplift in volumes."

Music and video are very much at the forefront of Asda's new Super Centre concept, which was unveiled in July to record companies at a special presentation in London. Asda believes there is potential to launch around 10 of these massive 46,000 sq m outlets in the UK and while the idea had been developed before US retail giant Wal-Mart took over the supermarket chain in the summer, Wal-Mart's experience in running



Asda: rolling out Super Centre concept from May 2000

similar sites will undoubtedly be an advantage. Asda is also currently benefiting from Wal-Mart's IT expertise, which has influenced the way its in-store systems have recently been upgraded to increase their efficiency.

ASDA PUTS MUSIC FIRST

With a £5m spend on TV advertising, this year's campaign represents Asda's biggest ever. The fact that music and video provide the focus of its corporate ads underlines the importance of this product to the chain as a whole. "The opening shots in the ads show CDs and videos which emphasise Asda's commitment to providing its shoppers with the best deal on popular entertainment," says Andy Spofforth. "We are also running more co-op ads with record companies than ever before."

The launch of the first Super Centre represents an exciting opportunity for Asda to enhance its image as a destination for music. The first Super Centre opening is scheduled for next May and will be able to accommodate an entertainment offer

comparable to the music multiples," says Spofforth. "At 900 sq m to a 500 sq m there will be a much deeper music and video range than in our current 15,000 sq m stores."

The new fixtures and fittings currently being designed for these expanded music departments will filter through to the whole of the chain. Meanwhile, Asda has maximised display space for Christmas shoppers with dual and triple sitings for chart product POS on all current major releases. "This means that the big-selling releases are flagged up in as many places as possible and are virtually unmissable for shoppers," says Spofforth. "Although we have a Christmas promotion running this year we are not running as many individual promotions as we have in the past. Instead we are concentrating on cross-merchandising and maximising sales across chart product."

Asda is currently doing very strong business with albums from acts such as Cher, Five, George Michael and B*Witched. It has also been selling a lot of Friends and James Bond videos on the back of a "buy one and get one free" deal.

IN-STORE NEXT WEEK (from 13/12/99)



Windows - George Michael, Best Millennium Party Album In The World...Ever, Best Friends Album In The World...Ever, Sony Nice Price campaign with CDs at £7.99 each or three for £21. **In-store and press ads** - Paderewski, John Lennon, Kiri Te Kanawa, Future Loop Foundation, Sony promotion. **TV ads** - Best Millennium Party Album In The World...Ever, Best Frank, Nat And Dean Album In The World...Ever



Albums - S Club 7, Westlife, Steps, Children's Promise, John Lennon, Cuban Boys **Video** - buy one get one free on Best Of Bond and Friends, Matrix, George Of The Jungle, Godzilla, Mr Bean and Rubber



In-store - Christmas campaign offering chart albums at £9.99 and cassettes at £7.99 including Celine Dion, Robbie Williams, Five and Steps, by a Friends video and get one free, chart videos (excluding Disney) for £11.99 and three for the price of two



Albums of the month - Best of '99 campaign; **In-store display boards** - Best of '99 campaign including Basement Jaxx, Beta Band, Moby, Sebadoh, All Back To Mine, Roots Manuva, The Wiseguys, The Divine Comedy



Windows and In-store - Christmas campaign with money-off vouchers for 2000; **Press ads** - LeAnn Rimes, InFamo and Amelo label promotions with three CDs for £10; Steps, John Lennon, Westlife, James



Album - Celine Dion; **Windows** - Celine Dion, Charlotte Church; **Listening posts** - Jose Cura, Chris de Burgh, Supergass



Windows - George Michael, Genesis, James Bond, Sega Dreamcast; **In-store** - Best Selling Albums Of '99 promotion; **Listening posts** - Pete Townshend, Essential Soundtracks, Sopranos, Sheryl Crow, Very Best Of Jazz, Robert Gray; **TV ads** - Genesis, James Bond



Singles - S Club 7, James, Mariah Carey, John Lennon, 'His Only Rock 'N' Roll', Westlife, Charlotte Church; **Albums** - Dolly Parton, Carole King, Cotton Mary



Singles - Westlife, S Club 7, Steps, Cuban Boys, South Park, Solid Gold Charbusters, John Lennon, Children's Promise, James, Marvin & Tamara, Charlotte Church, Heather Mills' feat. Paul McCartney; **Albums** - Sting, Bob Marley, Blur, Alanis Morissette; **Windows** - Travis, Cher, Bryan Adams, S Club 7, George Michael, Whitney Houston, Celine Dion, Will Smith, Charlotte Church, Stereophonics, Melanie C, Tom Jones



Selecta listening posts - Matthew Sweet, Tom Waits, Cocteau Twins, Feeder, Go Go Dolls, A Tribe Called Quest, Groove Armada, Emiliana Torrini; **Mojo recommended retailers** - Luther Aspin, Fleetwood Mac, Jack Bruce, Sly & The Family Stone, Spirit, Junior Kimbrough



Singles - James, John Lennon, South Park; **Windows** - George Michael, Black Sabbath, Mercury promotion, SLY campaign; **In-store** - James, Eurythmics, Black Sabbath, Matrix, Christmas campaign; **Press ads** - Eurythmics, Black Sabbath, Matrix, Nitin Sawhney



In-store - Westlife, John Lennon, Heather Mills, James, Solid Gold Phase, South Park, Christmas campaign offering two CDs for £22 across hundreds of titles; **Press ads** - S Club 7, It's Only Rock 'N' Roll, Steps, Cuban Boys



Album - Celine Dion; **Windows** - Celine Dion, Charlotte Church, Christmas; **Listening posts** - Jose Cura, Chris de Burgh, Supergass



Single - Westlife; **Album** - George Michael; **In-store** - Steps, Best Millennium Party In The World...Ever, two CDs for £22

ON THE SHELF

TIM MILNER,
owner, Badlands,
Huddersfield



"We have a very strong base of student customers and we cater for that taste that is to the left of mainstream. We're looking forward to healthy sales in January on the back of all the end-of-year and millennium polls that will give exposure to our kind of acts. This week has been pretty good for new albums and we are selling a lot of Korn, Roots Manuva, Beastie Boys, Beck and Metallica."

This year has certainly been one of change. Some of the record companies seem to have gone down the road of pandering to the supermarkets and one in particular seems to have completely disregarded the indies. However there are still plenty of companies that make us feel we have an important role to play. Vital, Universal and EMI are all superb and have given us very good support. All we ever ask for is a lower playing field - we're not after any special favours.

Christmas campaigns with companies

such as Sony and EMI are currently working well. However, we are not keen on Sony's decision to only give discount deals on singles at the pre-sale stage. It can be difficult to gauge demand upfront and it is frustrating that there is nothing doing the week the single is released. As far as I know this policy only applies to indie stores.

Singles business is quietening down a bit here as it usually does at this time of year, although this week we have done well with Leftfield and Lauryn Hill & Bob Marley. Over the next few weeks our aim is to pile the album product high and sell as much as we can while the peak season lasts.

I reckon seasonal sales will be down compared with the past couple of years. It has a lot to do with the fact that people can now buy music anywhere they walk into and even our local Bunnings store has CDs racked out. Our strength is being able to offer something different."



ON THE ROAD

JIM BRAIN,
Sony rep for
the Midlands

"I've worked for Sony for nine years and can safely say that I'm carrying more product than I ever have before. I've got a total of 25 albums on the car, many of which are volume sellers and five of which are currently in the top 10."

It is good to see the Macy Gray and Travis albums performing so well. They have both been enthusiastically supported by retail right from the start and both look set to win a variety of awards during the next few months. Other albums doing the business are Celine Dion, Charlotte Church and Will Smith, all of which are enjoying massive TV advertising right through to Christmas.

Singles are also busy and this week sees another strong set of releases. These include Leftfield's Dusted, which is possibly the best track on their album. There is a lot of interest in Jamiroqin's King For A Day, which includes unreleased mixes of Canned Heat and Supersonic. The band performed this track

and a couple of others on the Jo Whalley show and were superb. Our other two big releases this week are Lauryn Hill & Bob Marley, which looks as if it will be massive in my area, and Celine Dion, which will enter the top 10 and give a boost to her album sales.

The next couple of weeks sees new singles from Thunderbugs and Charlotte Church. Radio will ensure that the Thunderbugs deliver another hit and prospects are good for their new album coming early next year. The new Charlotte Church track is featured on Ford's Millennium edition ad. There is also a lot of pre-release interest in Len's Soul My Sunshine and the second single from B*Witched's Awake And Breathe album coincides with their first arena tour."

It is good to see the shops looking a lot busier this week. Hopefully everyone will have a good Christmas and I know I will as I have an off snowboarding once all the work has been taken care of."

Back in 1981 MADNESS were busy themselves singing about a grey day. These days, however, it's greyhounds they're more bothered about – as evidenced last Wednesday when the ever Nitty Boys turned up at Walthamstow Dogs for a fundraising night in aid of the CANCER BACKUP charity. Formerly top dog and former Stiff labelmate IAN DURY showed up to lend morale support at the event, while PAUL WELLS did his bit by donating a Lambretta hand-painted with the Stanley Road cover by its original artist PETER BLAKE – also present – for a charity auction.

Meanwhile, don't be too surprised if Madness's next album cover takes on the appearance of Blur's Parklife because the band shelled out £2,400 for a greyhound during the auction. It has been named DRIP FED FRED, named after their next single, which is due in February and features Dury. Pictured, left to right, are SUGOS, CHRISSEY BOY, IAN DURY, WOODY and MARK "BEDDERS" BEDFORD.



Remember where you heard it: Word from Creation central is that Alan McGee's new music label is likely to be a low-key, one-off, reissue affair and nothing remotely on the scale of a Creation Mk II...Richard Branson and Melanie C launched Virgin's new Glasgow store last Thursday with the usual bravado by abseiling down the building. Still, that's what you have to do when you call your first solo release I'm Goin' Down...The night before, Virgin staff, record company execs and other suppliers were treated at Glasgow's Ubiquitous Chip restaurant to the charms of female duo Sister Girly, who parodied their way through the likes of Cher, B*Witched and Steps, the latter much to the delight of their distributor's top bod Steve Mason...Meanwhile, serious money was changing hands at the restaurant in a Christmas number one sweepstake

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including the likes of Mason, EMI's Mike McMahon, Universal's Nigel Haywood and Steve Gallant, Virgin Entertainment's Simon Wright, Our Price's Mike McGinley and Dooley...Cliff and EMI were back together again the next day thanks to Pinnacle's currently rather smug-faced Tony Powell. Powell, having just landed at Stansted with other execs returning from Glasgow, decided to rub it in for EMI sales director McMahon when he generously handed him a copy of Cliff's Pinnacle-distributed chart-topper...The BPI is puzzled, nay mystified, after a Deep Throat tipped off Dooley that a bunch of swag CDs had found their way on to a Camden market stall marked "Confiscated by the BPI" and bearing the date October 25, 1995. The BPI APU assures Dooley that the organisation has never stickered confiscated booty and that no raid took place on that date. A BPI source adds that bootleggers could even be stickering the stuff themselves to give their goods an extra frisson of illegality...

It's not quite Christmas, but who needs an excuse to party? Certainly not ELTON JOHN. The consummate party-giver and party-giver threw open the doors to his new offices in

Olympia last Thursday, inviting round 150 movers and shakers to get on down. In addition to Epic managing director ROB STRINGER (pictured left), Elton played host to his management company stalwarts B*Witched, Twenty First Artists creative director DEREK MACKILLOP (right), Sony's Paul Burger, London's Laurie Cokell and Mercury's Howard Berman.



Nanette Leung will be drinking long after her leaving bash as British Music Rights director, held last Thursday at London's Soho Lounge. In front of guests including BPI director general John Deacon and various publishers, the wine connoisseur was presented with a leaving present of a case of vintage wine...Can't wait for the new U2 album? Then watch out for the soundtrack to the new Wim Wenders movie penned by Bono, The Million Dollar Hotel. The U2 singer has also written the soundtrack, which will be available early next year...Celebrations down at Elephant & Castle last week as the Ministry of Sound mafia looked forward to the prospect of two Top 10 singles debuts from its two newest affiliated labels, Incentive (Mario Piu) and Relentless (Artful Dodger). Dooley "big ups" to Matt Jagger, Nick Halkes and Media Village..... Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom!!! No, that's not the sound of the ESSEX RADIO GROUP's top bod PAUL CHANTLER (1) jumping up and down but rather the chart-topping strains of the Vengaboya who entertained Chantler (pictured with LOUISE) and other radio wags last Wednesday at EMI:Chrysalis's annual ILR dinner at EMI's Brook Green HQ. Among the others at the bash, where Alice Deenay and new singer-songwriter Lucie Silvas also performed, were (2), from left to right, Aire FM programme director ADAM WOODGATE, Galaxy Newcastle and Leeds' respective heads of music SARTIA JAGPAL and JAY SMITH, and Radio City's assistant programme director RICHARD MADDOCK.



CUSTOMER CARELINE

If you have any comments or queries arising from this issue of Music Week, please contact Sophie Moss at e-mail - smoss@nmf.com fax +44 (0)171 407 7094; or write to - Music Week Feedback, Fourth Floor, 8 Montague Close, London SE1 9UR.

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