



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS**

**FOR EVERYONE IN THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC**

**26 DECEMBER 2002 £3.80**

# MAUSIC WEEK

## Price cuts cloud Xmas sales surge

by Paul Williams  
 Artist album sales are hitting record levels this Christmas, but heavily at the expense of retail margins.

Nearly 21.7m units were sold over the counter in the six weeks up until last week, compared with 20.5m during the same period last year, representing a 4.5% year-on-year rise.

Despite the strong set of figures at a time when most key territories globally are still suffering negative growth, the lift comes as chart CDs priced under £10 appear more prevalent than during any previous Christmas. All four leading supermarkets have marked up all or some of their single-disc CD chart albums below the £10 mark, while others are selling key titles around the same level.

Virgin Megastores chart trading manager Gareth Perry says there have been some "excellent" sellers, such as Robbie Williams' Escapology. But he adds, "We have to work so much harder now for every unit we sell. It's such a price-sensitive market and there's a wider perception about pricing now."

"With supermarkets going at £9.97 it does make it increasingly difficult with us to compete on top-selling lines, because the vast majority of people see this product £3 or £4 cheaper elsewhere."

Perry's senior buying manager for music Alan Hunt, whose chain was on course to sell 1m albums in a single week for the first time last week, says it brought down its own chart prices the previous week from around £11.99 to £9.97 to compete with its rivals. Sainsbury's, for example, has been marking up chart titles at £9.99 now for more than a year, while Safeway is selling the current Blue, David Gray and Robbie Williams albums at £8.99 until December 27.

"We're not leading but we will follow and what's happened throughout the autumn is everyone is using the £9.99 or thereabouts message in one shape or form," he says. "It got to a point where we had to make a

decision whether we wanted to keep our value and follow that position."

Asda's music buying manager Beeky Gray says the supermarket had widened its £9.97 price point, previously reserved for only some titles, to compete at Christmas. Its increased range sizes are also paying dividends, she says, with less typical Asda releases such as the Stone Roses best of achieving good figures.

"We spent a lot of time over the past few years building up a credible offer and it's now paying off," she says. "There's a huge choice. We've got a supply chain working well, so most of the time titles are available and there's not many reasons to go anywhere else other than Asda. Over the time, people have realised that."

HMV's product director Steve Gallant, whose company's share



**Williams: strong seller at Virgin**

price took a knock last week over fears it would be dragged into a price war, puts the overall market rise down to good product and the strength of the UK music retail sector. "Retail is driving sales as well as product driving it," he says.

Against the high unit sales of artist albums, commentators are having a tougher time with the past six weeks down 5.6% on the same period in 2001. Meanwhile, in the past six weeks the singles market has crossed 19.2% on a year ago with over-the-counter unit sales totalling 4.5m compared to 5.6m in 2001. It was given a marginal boost last week with the arrival of the two Postcards: The Rivals singles, although neither looked likely to rival the first-week sales of previous reality music show releases (see below).

Huge publicity surrounding the release of Girls Aloud's Sound Of The Underground last week helped push the group's debut single into the lead in the Popstars: The Rivals battle for the Christmas number one, over Ebal/Alive's One True Voice. It emerged last week that the single was originally recorded by Polydor-signed girl group Orchid, but their version was never released. Reports that Girls Aloud's version of the Brian Higgins-written and produced track still features vocal lines sung by members of Orchid were confirmed by Polydor. Despite the controversy, Girls Aloud found plenty of promotional opportunities for their single last week, with HMV in Manchester's Trafford Centre among the beneficiaries (pictured), when the group performed, signed copies of the single and were even roped in to help out behind the tills in the busy pre-Christmas rush.



## PPL board builds links with MU and Aura

Performers are being brought into the heart of PPL for the first time, with invitations to Musicians' Union director general John Smith and Aura company secretary Nigel Parker to attend the collecting society's board meetings.

Smith and Parker will join PPL and Airn bosses Andrew Yeates and Alison Wenham as attendees along side PPL's 13-strong board and, although they will have no voting rights, will take a full part in the monthly discussions.

PPL director of strategy and business development Dominic McGonigal says the move is designed to further cement the improving working partnership between his organisation and the performing community, which has in the past enjoyed a more brittle relationship.



**McGonigal: improving partnership**

"Relations haven't been great between performers and PPL, but this is a chance to change that," says McGonigal. "They [Smith and Parker] will take a full part in the meetings and be a voice for performers."

Smith and Parker, who were recently invited to sit on PPL's distribution committee, will not be representing their organisations at board meetings and are expected to put the views of the world performing community. The

first board meeting they are expected to attend is on January 14.

Anthony Murphy, director of copyright at the DTI's patent office, also welcomes Smith and Parker's invitation to sit on the PPL board. He adds, "Their experience of the music business and their passionate commitment to the interests of performers will be considerable assets. Given the challenges facing everyone involved in the music world today, moves towards what in Government we call 'joined-up working' are always to be welcomed."

The move follows PPL's initiative to create the Performers' Forum, which saw the MU, Equity, Aard, Panira, NPG and PPL work together on issues affecting performers such as tracking down unregistered artists and speeding up royalty payments.

## Woolworths' Rose joins Safeway

Safeway has further underlined its commitment to music with the appointment of Chris Rose as its first dedicated music buyer.

Reporting directly to home entertainment buyer Ria Forristal, Rose will be responsible for developing music sales in Safeway from January.

Safeway set the target to appoint a music buyer for the chain by the end of the year as it August entertainment conference. Rose joins Safeway from a previous role in product management for music and multimedia at Woolworths.

Forristal says the appointment will strengthen the supermarket giant's

position in home entertainment, reinforcing its commitment to music and helping achieve sales growth targets.

The appointment of a new music buyer follows a year in which Safeway announced 15% year-on-year sales growth for CDs and launched 42 entertainment centres which brought audio-visual hardware, CD and DVD players and TVs alongside the entertainment range in-store. Safeway announced its intention to target 50% sales growth each year for the next two years, driven partly by the roll-out of its megastore format and home entertainment centres.

## BMG recruits students for Brits CD push

BMG is aiming to breathe new life into the official Brits album, as the industry awaits the nominations for this year's event.

The major's commercial division has secured the rights - previously held by Sony - to handle both the Brits album and DVD for the next two years and plans to increase public awareness that this is a charity record by recruiting Brit School students for its campaign. Among the causes benefiting from the releases are the Brit School itself and Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy.

Commercial head of marketing Darren Henderson says, "The album has got an awful lot more potential if you unlock the place of knowledge that this is a charity-based record and that's the basis of the campaign."

As part of that focus, BMG is planning to stage a retail tour around the week beginning February 17 when the album and DVD are issued, featuring students performing songs from the releases. They are expected to visit stores in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester, although details are still being finalised.

"Ultimately we're looking for news coverage of the fact we're doing this, which ultimately will result in selling more records and raising more money for the Brit Trust," says Henderson, who is also lining up an extensive new media campaign and "substantial" TV media budget.

The shortlist for the February 20 event will be unveiled on January 13, for a second successive year at London's Abbey Road Studios, and will again be televised live on ITV2.

newsfile

**NEW SPONSOR WILL BE FOUND SOON, SAY NETWORK CHART BOSSES**  
The Network Chart's management team remains totally confident it will have a new sponsor in place shortly, despite the fact that its current sponsorship deal expiring at the end of the year. Pepsi, which has backed the programme for the past nine years, announced it was pulling out in August, sparking a search for a new backer. Capital Radio operations director Paul Davies, overseeing the sponsorship search, says he believes the deadline will be met.

**COOPER MOVES INTO CLARKE'S ROLE AT RADIO ONE**

Radio One has moved to fill the gap left by the temporary departure of Lorna Clarke by appointing Ben Cooper (pictured) as acting head of mainstream. Cooper, who is currently in his second stint at the BBC station, will occupy the position until August, when Clarke returns following her placement as head of BBC Talent.



**AURA APPOINTS KING AS NEW CHAIRMAN**

Performers organisation Aura has a new chairman after appointing Stephen King to replace Peter Jenner at its recent AGM. Also at the meeting, Billie's drummer Dave Rowntree was elected as vice chairman, while Robbie Williams and Tony Hadley were among a number of candidates elected to the board. Jenner, who held the post for three years, will continue as a director of the organisation.

**POLICE SWOOP ON PIRATES IN AIRDRIE**

The MCPSP anti-piracy unit, police and trading standards officers have uncovered what is believed to be the biggest CD counterfeiting business operating in Scotland. Thousands of illegally-copied CDs, DVDs and videos were found, alongside copying equipment, in the raid on an Airdrie home last Thursday. A man and woman were subsequently brought in for questioning by police.

**FOX APPOINTED TO NEWLY-CREATED ROLE AT MTV**

Mel Fox, previously director at CanalSatellite Communications where her clients included Buena Vista Home Entertainment, has taken up the newly-created position of MTV Networks UK head of communications. Her new role will cover MTV's eight music TV services and three websites.

**NELSON RECEIVES MBE**



Radio One DJ and MTV presenter Trevor Nelson (pictured) was awarded an MBE by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on December 13 for his work as an ambassador for the Government-backed Millennium Volunteers, which aims to encourage 16- to 24-year-olds to volunteer in their local communities.

**CHANNEL 4 RECOMMISSIONS POPWORLD FOR 2003**

Channel 4 has recommissioned At It Productions' Popworld series for 2003, retaining its weekly 11pm Sunday slot as part of T4 and broadcasting it during school holidays. A series of Popworld specials is being lined up over the Christmas period, including Popworld Christmas in New York airing at 12 noon tomorrow (Tuesday) and featuring Craig David, Liberty X and Holly Valance.

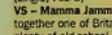
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Music Week is dropping an issue over the Christmas and New Year period and will return with its final January 11 2003, out on January 6.

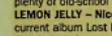
musicplaylist



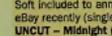
**MEL C - Here It Comes Again (Virgin)** The only Spice Girl to have carved a credible solo career returns with a track radio will be jumping on early in 2003 (single, Feb)



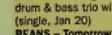
**GOOD CHARLOTTE - Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (Windup/Epic)** Rock's new toxic twins Benji and Joel Madden from America's punkiest pop offering since Green Day (single, Feb 3)



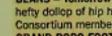
**VS - Mamma Jamma (Innocent)** Blue's Simon Webbe has put together one of Britain's hottest new R&B acts, complete with plenty of old-school hip-hop vibes (demo)



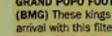
**LEMON JELLY - Nice Weather For Ducks (XL)** Standout from current album Lost Horizons, with the legendary Chicago-sampling SOS included to annoy those who paid through the nose for it on eBay recently (single, Jan 20)



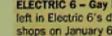
**UNCLEY - Midnight (WEA)** The UK's best is still rising on Manchester's drum & bass and with their sights clearly on the mainstream (single, Jan 20)



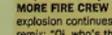
**BEANS - Tomorrow Right Now (Warp)** Futuristic old school? A hefty dollop of hip hop innovation from the former Antipop Consortium member (album, March 10)



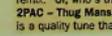
**GRAND POPO FOOTBALL CLUB - Each Finger Has An Attitude (BMG)** These Kings of Gallic electro-influenced funk announce their arrival in this filtered 12" dancefloor filler. (single, Feb 3)



**ELECTRIC G - Gay Bar (XL)** Proving that there will be plenty of fire left in Electric G's disco long after Danger! High Voltage! hits the shops on January 6 (from album, Dec)



**MUD FIRE CREW - Ollie (Sona Fama)** remix (Go Beat) The Asian explosion continues with the legitimate release of this rocking remix: "Oll, who's that Bengali girl?" indeed. (single B-side, Jan 13)



**2PAC - Thug Mansion (Interscope)** Six years after his death, this is a quality tune that will be huge (single, Feb 10)

# MidemNet unveils panellists as piracy issues top agenda

by Joanna Jones  
RIAA chairman and CEO Hilary Rosen will lead a string of high-profile keynote speakers at panellist MidemNet in January, as the US organisation stakes its war on piracy by targeting retailers.

Rosen, who last week announced a legal assault on a host of small US retailers having created CDs, will give a keynote speech to open the conference programme about turning consumers into paying customers.

A panel, titled Subscription Wars, featuring Musicnet's Alan McClade, Pressplay's Michael Bebel, Yahoo's David Goldberg and Tiscali's Mario Mariani, is due to follow. Microsoft's David Frest, Impala chairman and Plas France co-chairman Michel Lombot and Dave Stewart are also speaking at the event.

The shortlist has also been unveiled for the 2003 MidemNet Innovations Award, taking place on Saturday January 18, ahead of the main fair, with UK digital distribution service O2 and mobile phone song identification service Shazam among those nominated.

A cross-industry coalition, campaigning to lower VAT on recorded



Ladryon: part of British showcase

music in Europe, will also be using Midem as a forum to discuss the issue, with a conference on Monday, January 20, due to be attended by France's culture minister among other government officials.

Meanwhile, UK electro-dash pioneers Ladryon are to headline the bill at the British At Midem showcase in January 20, due to be attended by France's culture minister among other government officials.

It marks the second successive year promoter Metropolis and the NME have been on hand to help to put together the lineup for the event.

## Smith aiming to mend MU morale with open platform

John Smith is offering a platform of openness in his role as newly-elected general secretary of the Musicians' Union, as he attempts to mend the beleaguered union away from its "terrible patch" of the last two years.

Smith, who prevailed in a two-way run off for the top job against Chris Hodgson after winning 4,608 of the 7,000 valid votes cast, says his main task will be to repair some of the damage to morale which has impacted on the union during the past couple of years of infighting.

This followed the acrimonious leadership battle between Dennis Scard and Derek Key at the end of 2000. Key was subsequently removed from office in early 2001, after being charged with bringing the union into disrepute. But he continued to be a thorn in its side, as the union has run into a multitude of problems including censure from

the certification officer over election practices to criticism of its financial controls.

"Nothing will be hidden and, if it has to be confidential, we will make sure everyone understands why," says Smith. "There has been a problem with an element of the membership and we will not get rid of the group of people who criticise, but I hope we can provide answers."

Smith says one of his immediate tasks will be to "get the senior team back together" by finding an assistant general secretary to fill his old job and also someone to replace Andy Knight, who left the organisation earlier this year.

He is also overseeing a thorough strategic review, which he expects will find new ways of modernising the union and saving money. Smith also wants to rewrite the union's rule book, which he describes as "full of holes" and very old fashioned.

## UK acts feature in US mags' 2002 best-of lists

Established and emerging UK talent has stormed the US media's polls of the best music of 2002, underlining the continuing critical acclaim for British acts. Starman, despite a year of mixed overseas sales success.

UK acts scooped the top three positions... of Entertainment Weekly's Top 10 albums of the year list... by The Streets' album... Pirate Material... with Mercury Records' signing Elvis Costello's When I Was Cruel... taking second spot and EMI act Starshell's Love is in the Air... in third.

The publication hailed Mike Skinner as an "archetypal slunge-songwriter" and his debut set, issued by Vice/Atlantic in the US, a "mesmerising, do-it-yourself mislive



The Streets: 'mesmerising'

from the youth-culture front-line".  
Sole magazine's Top 10 album of 2002 ranked Costello's Parlophone-issued A Rush of Blood To The Head at number three, while their single In My Place also won a mention in the magazine website's leading downloaded tracks.

Coldplay's album was again endorsed by Rolling Stone as one of the publication's 50 best albums of the year. Costello won another man-

January 2002's showcase featured The Beatles, Elbow, Electric Soft Parade and Mull Historical Society. "The British At Midem event is a good showcase for key European licensees and a great opportunity to reach European media," says Ladryon's manager Tony Dean. "We have been concentrating so far on the US release of the album and the new UK label and it is a good way to kickstart the European side before the tour in April." Dean says the band is also looking to use the Midem showcase as a springboard to tie up a publishing deal.

Midem will also see the relaunch of the newly-overhauled UK acoustic showcase, which is hosted in conjunction with Kashmir Klub and will take place earlier on the Monday evening at the Hotel Martinez's Pallisander, formerly the Salon Estere. It will feature a brace of up-and-coming UK acoustic acts including Universal Music-published Tom Baxter, unsigned Amy Waigie, singer-songwriter Geoffrey Williams - who has penned tracks for Michael Jackson and Shaun Escoffery - and Shellie Poole, previously one half of Alisha's Attic.

## Shazam tool links audio clips to SMS messages

Mobile music recognition group Shazam is offering record companies a valuable new promotional tool, after launching its Songmail service.

The new service allows users to text tracks and then gives them the opportunity to send a 30-second audio clip over their mobiles.

Shazam marketing director Vijay Solanki says that, because of this, record companies can target users who have shown a preference for an artist or genre of music with new releases. "They could send the new Holly Valance release - the day before the track goes to radio - to people who have tagged her songs previously. It's much more meaningful to have a taster of a song saying it is coming out, rather than simply a text message," he says.

Solanki adds that being targeted in this manner may make users more likely to send the track on, so creating a viral promotional tool.

tion in that magazine's best albums list, along with The Streets, while Badly Drawn Boy's Twisted Merse/XX-issued You've Fed The Fish, Mercury/EMI act Dave's The Last Broadcast, the Dark Horse/Parlophone-issued George Harrison album Brainwashed and Ladryon's Light & Magic, released through Emperor Norton in the US, all rank in the Top 50.

Meanwhile, Domino-singled Liverpool four-piece Clinic, earlier tipped by Rolling Stone as one of 10 acts to watch for 2002, were recognised for their second album Walking With Thee, as Linda Thompson's Roundabout Fashionably Late album, which was the folk singer's first new set in 17 years, was also tipped.



David Sneddon (pictured) is set to lead a series of Fame Academy acts signed to the Mercury label, which is understood to be signing at least four of the contestants to its roster.

Besides Sneddon, Sinesad and Kinlake are signing to Mercury, says Mercury joint managing director Greg Castelli. In turn, Malaichi is signing to Mercury/Universal TV, while Pippa has recorded a dance track to be released through Mercury-linked Serious. It is understood that the future of third-placed Lemar is also being discussed.

Universal chairman Lucian Grainge dismisses any potential concerns about Mercury – also the home of Darius and Warren Slacey, who came to prominence in the first Popstars series – becoming viewed as a “reality pop label”.

Castell adds, “Mercury is a major record label that has incredible heritage. It is a multi-faceted company and there are no plans for it to be genre-specific. Clearly we are looking to build from a roster of very established artists to totally revive the A&R front of the company. And we just want talented artists and talented people in the company. That’s how we will move the company forward. We are determined to develop Darius’ songwriting and the songwriting of David Sneddon, Kinlake, Sinesad and so on.”

Mercury goes into 2002 on the back of a stellar end to 2001, with a Christmas season album market share of more than 40%, driven by Darius’ platinum debut, its Fame Academy compilation (which was set to hit double platinum by year-end) and Top 25 albums from Shania Twain and Lionel Richie.

## my comment

### PRICE CUTS ARE FESTIVE FOLLY



It is at the most festive times that the most extreme reactions come to the fore. And with competition at its most feverish this Christmas, the supermarkets got serious last week.

The optimism going into the Christmas season was less palpable in recent weeks. The sheer volume of high-quality product looked set to spark a bonanza in the final month of the year. Indeed, sales in the past two months have been very strong.

But supermarkets’ decisions to slash prices across the board over the past few weeks can only have hurt the specialist retailers.

It can’t make sense for the supermarkets either. Safeway’s decision to sell chart titles at £9.99 – when their dealer prices rest at only a little over £9 – leaves the chain with precious little margin. Even if you take into the big retailers’ file discounts, the costs of internally shipping units to stores, racking and simple manpower costs, the profit is simply non-existent.

The natural reaction for every local and specialist retailer is to become frustrated and angry at such pricing practices. And both emotions are totally justified.

In taking the issue forward, however, the music industry has to learn how to work with these powerful new players. Safeway’s decision to slash chart titles over the year is a signal that they are not going to go away.

Record companies have, this year, found themselves squeezed from both sides – by artists on the one side and price retailers on the other. Having made significant strides to understand the concerns of the art community and, in a number of small ways, address them. It must be a priority to make similar moves with the supermarkets in 2003.

This doesn’t mean lying down and accepting the supermarkets’ loss-leader view of the world. But it does mean negotiating. And both interests while helping them build greater understanding of our business.

To many, it may not be as attractive a proposition. But it is unavoidable nonetheless.

2002 has been a fascinating year, not without some purely extraordinary moments for the business, such as the first week sales for Coldplay album and Will Young’s debut single or live performances from Brian Wilson and Elton John, not to mention the Robbie Williams deal, news of BMG/Zomba acquisition and Ms Dynamite’s Mercury Music Prize triumph.

I’m certain 2003 holds just as much excitement in store and will be back with our first issue of *MUSIC WEEK* magazine on the first week sales for Coldplay album and Will Young’s debut single or live performances from Brian Wilson and Elton John, not to mention the Robbie Williams deal, news of BMG/Zomba acquisition and Ms Dynamite’s Mercury Music Prize triumph.

Until then, have a very happy festive season – and see you in the new year. **Martin Talbot**  
martin@musicweek.com

# Mercury plots new year splash for first Fame Academy singles

by Martin Talbot

Mercury Records looks set to score the first platinum single of 2003 when it launches Fame Academy winner David Sneddon, with his debut single *Stop Living The Lie* on January 13.

Sneddon is due to take a break over Christmas, while also beginning to work on songs, coming back in the new year to develop album plans with Mercury joint managing director Steve Lijwichte A&Ring the project – only his second A&R project in his present role following Darius’s platinum solo album *Dive In*.

Fellow Mercury managing director Greg Castell says that Sneddon will be given time to put his first album together. “It will take as long as it takes,” says Castell. “Frankly, this is a creative process, not a sausage factory.”

The decision to release the single on January 13 was taken to allow the greatest opportunity for Mercury to maximise immediate profile for the record, says Castell. “Radio and TV schedules change before all recognition over the Christmas and New Year period. Looking at the transmission schedules, it was the earliest we could release the record and make sure we had a very strong promotional slot for the full week preceding it.”

The final night of Fame Academy averaged 8m viewers, peaking at 8.2m to make it BBC1’s second highest-rated show of 2002. The final broadcast, which went out at 10.35pm, averaged 7.5m and a peak of 7.8m. In contrast, *PVA-2002* final drew a 13.9m audience and 8.7m phone votes last February. Castell adds that Sneddon himself

## FINALS’ AUDIENCE RATINGS

	Peak	Average
Pop Idol	15.0m	13.1m
Popstars	12.9m	12.8m
Rivals (Girls)	9.56m	7.2m
(Boys)	8.95m	7.0m
Fame Academy	8.56m	7.7m

Source: Barb

received 3.5m phone votes to surge to victory, ahead of second-placed Sinesad and third-placed Lemar.

Universal Music chairman Lucian Grainge emphasises the strength of Fame Academy, which he believes will be the source of a string of careers. “David Sneddon writes his own songs, Sinesad writes her own songs,” he says. “This is not Gareth Gates or Hear’Say. The crown jewel of Fame Academy is that they write their own songs.”

Under the Fame Academy deal, it is understood that Mercury has a first option on all 12 finalists, which has to be exercised within three months of the final taking place (see above). Publishing sources expect a feeding frenzy to follow next year, with all but one of the 12 of the Fame Academy acts – including David Sneddon – still up for grabs.

Richard Griffiths, head of The Firm, the management company which is representing all of the contestants, says that negotiators for publishing the acts are being held back for the new year.

“We are close to doing a publishing deal for Mari – we feel we want to do a publishing deal first for her, so we can get a real partner involved and see where that takes us,” he says. “But we are going to think about the rest in the new year.”

## Carling inks £3m deal to rename Academies

Carling has tightened its grip on the live music sector by clinching a £3m three-year deal with McKenize Group to rename the Academy venues under the drinks brand from early next year.

Four of the UK’s key music venues will be renamed Carling, starting with Birmingham, Bristol and Brixton Academies in February as well as the forthcoming Glasgow Academy, which is due to open in late March. The Shepherd’s Bush Empire, also part of the MKG portfolio, will retain its name as Carling believes it would detract from the heritage brand.

“This is a massive deal for Carling as these are spot-on venues for our audience,” says Carling head of sponsorship Stuart Cain. “We have established links with most live music operators, resulting in deals with Clear Channel and Mean Fiddler and the MKG Group was the only one we hadn’t done that with.”

He adds that Carling is working closely with McKenize shareholders MCD, Metropolis and SJM and record labels to create a “new music concept” alongside a planned revamp of the renamed venues.

## AEG seeks approval for Dome live music plans

Entertainment group Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) is already talking to artists to open the Dome Arena in mid-2005 after submitting its planning application to turn the Docklands venue into the best purpose-built music venue in Europe.

Last week AEG, in tandem with developer Meridian Delta and current operator English Partnerships (EP), handed the London Borough of Greenwich the plans to build a new £135m, 26,000-capacity arena.

AEG Europe’s managing director Dede Kornett says that if approval is given – a vote by Greenwich council is expected on April 16 – building work could start as early as this coming April. Once consent is given, the Dome will be handed over from EP to AEG and Meridian. However, Kornett is aware that it is an optimistic time frame because he recognises “the Greater London Authority Mayor and Government ministers will want to make their mark”.

“Three months between getting the application and giving the green light is very ambitious, but as soon as we have consent the construction process will take 24 months, making



Dome: 26,000-capacity arena

us ready for mid- or late 2005,” he adds.

Kornett says it is too early to reveal the names of acts he is talking with to open the Dome Arena, but promises a “string of pearls” with a line-up of several major international acts to open the venue.

He adds AEG, which operates the Staples Centre in Los Angeles and promotes acts including Britney Spears and Robbie Williams, has consulted with a number of acts and their advisors to ensure they fit the Dome Arena with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. These include the ability to offer capacity up to 26,000 down to 18,000. If everyone is seated, and 7,500 for a more intimate experience by using flexible seating and curtains.

## Fitzgerald to head WMME operation

Warner Music is moving to fill the gap left at the top of its European manufacturing operation following the retirement of Guenter Severin by promoting German plant boss John Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald, currently deputy managing director and chief financial officer at Warner Music International’s (WMI) manufacturing and distribution plant in Alsdorf, Germany, will take over his new role as managing director of Warner Music Manufacturing Europe (WMME) on January 1.

Severin began his career at Alsdorf in 1975 as head of manufacturing and is bowing out after more than 25 years’ service at WMME, which was formed in 1975 and currently serves WMI’s manufacturing and distribution needs on a global basis with an annual capacity of 150m CDs.

Warner Music Europe executive vice president Gero Caccia says the move will ensure the “existing strong management team” will continue in WMI’s manufacturing division. Fitzgerald joined WMME in 1989 as financial controller, and was promoted to his current post in 2000.





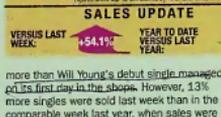


SINGLES COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



The battle for chart supremacy between PopStars: The Rivals bands Girls Aloud and One True Voice and the approach of Christmas helped to spark a 54% expansion in the singles market last week. According to OCC estimates, more than 1,315,000 singles were sold. That is the third highest weekly tally of what has been a very poor year for singles, trailing only the total for sales week ending 23 March 2002 when 1.71m singles were sold (including over 850,000 copies of Gareth Gates' debut hit 'Unchained Melody') and week ending 2 March 2002, when nearly 2.02m singles were sold, including 1,108,000 copies of Will Young's debut single 'Evergreen/Anything Is Possible'. Young and Gates were, of course, the winner and runner-up of ITV's last music-based reality show Pop Idol, and by comparison PopStars: The Rivals has sparked far fewer sales. Indeed, despite the obvious boost to the market due to seasonal factors, total sales of Girls Aloud, One True Voice and the Cheeky Girls for the whole of last week were barely



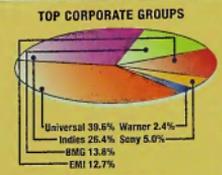
Initially the underdogs in the race for the Christmas number one, Girls Aloud easily beat One True Voice to win the battle of the PopStars: The Rivals bands. Their single 'Sound of the Underground' / 'Stay Another Day' sold more than 213,000 copies last week to debut at number one, while One True Voice's 'Sacred Trust' / 'After You're Gone' (I'll Still Be Loving You) earned a distant runner-up spot with sales of less than 148,000. The girls' majority was more than 44%. With

PopStars: The Rivals curiosities the Cheeky Girls slipping 2-3 despite a 39% increase in sales week-on-week to more than 88,000, the ITV reality series becomes the first ITV programme in chart history to simultaneously supply the entire top three. Girls Aloud are only the 12th all-girl group to reach number one in chart history but the fourth to do so this year, following the Sugababes, Atomic Kitten and Las Ketchup.

of the year. The 19-year-old Canadian singer/songwriter's debut, Complicated, rocketed to number three and spent five weeks in the Top 10 following its debut in September, since when her debut album Let Go has blossomed into a major seller. With new single 'Sucker For...' which debuts at number nine this week - giving a further boost, the album has increased sales for eight weeks in a row, and has been occupying its highest position yet - number seven - for the last three weeks. It sold a best yet 121,000 copies last week to bring its overall tally to more than 552,000 copies, earning it 20th place in the year-to-date rankings. Enjoying its 11th straight week in the Top 10, Las Ketchup's 'The Ketchup Song' (Asereje) has now topped the 500,000 sales mark, and is the year's eighth biggest seller. With Enrique Iglesias' 'Hero' single in third place for the week with 690,000 sales, Spanish artists will supply the two biggest hits in chart history.

INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label ( distributor )
1	NEW	SACRED TRUST/AFTER YOU'RE GONE	One True Voice	EMI/Jive 500152 (P)
2	NEW	UNITED STATES OF WHATEVER	Liam Lynch	Global Warming WARRIOR17 (P)
3	1	HOLDING ON FOR YOU	Liberty X	V2 VORSHED2 (DMV)
4	3	LIKE I LOVE YOU	Justin Timberlake	Jive 652432 (P)
5	4	POSSIE IT NEED YOU ON THE FLOOR	Scout24	Sheffield Tunes/Epic UK 014735510 (P)
6	5	NO LIMITS	Babshoff Dog	VVC CDCHURCH (NOV/P)
7	NEW	WOLF	Shy FX	Ebony Dubs EB0001 (SRD)
8	NEW	THE WOLF	Dee Clarke	Skins SKIN78 (3MV/P)
9	7	BLOW YOUR MIND II AM THE WOMAN	Lisa Pin Up	Nuclear NUC789 (ADD)
10	NEW	MAN ON THE MOON	Guyver	Tidy Tunes TOP7001 (ADD)
11	8	I DON'T CARE	Tony De Ve	Tidy Tunes TIDY1181 (ADD)
12	9	DIRTY HARRY'S REVENGE	Adam F feat. Benne Man	Kaos KA0504P (SRD)
13	6	LIVE OR DIE/SOUTH MANZ	Di'Ja	Welve WVL007 (SRD)
14	10	REVOLUTION	BJK	Nuclear NUC789 (ADD)
15	NEW	ROCKET LAUNCHER	Sonic & Silver/Funkstation	Virus VRS011 (P)
16	17	LK (CAROLINA CAROL BELLA)	Dr. Marky And Xrs feat. Stamina McV	Recordings V3530 (SRD)
17	NEW	ICE COBLES/RED CARPET	'Til It's Science	Metabands MET1941 (SRD)
18	NEW	SUPASONG	X-Press 2	Skins SKIN220 (DMV/P)
19	14	POOR LENO	RayShag	Wall of Sound WOP1049 (V/P)
20	NEW	RIDDLE	DJ SS	Vivid VIV023 (SRD)



1.61.000, although sales are down by more than 0.3% compared to the total of more than 1.969.000 sales this week in 2000. Avril Lavigne is one of the success stories



This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	NEW	SOUND OF THE UNDERGROUND	Girls Aloud	Popstar
2	NEW	SACRED TRUST/AFTER YOU'RE GONE	One True Voice	EMI/Jive
3	1	LIKE I LOVE YOU	Justin Timberlake	Walt Disney
4	NEW	SEBBI SINGS TO BE THE HARDEST WORK	Justin Bieber	Innocent
5	NEW	LOVE YOURSELF	Shayne	Warrapop/Popstar
6	NEW	IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE	Shayne	Warrapop/Popstar
7	NEW	YOU'RE A SUPERSTAR	Lee Ann	Real Gone
8	NEW	THE KETCHUP SONG (ASEREJE)	Las Ketchup	Delacorte
9	NEW	SKNER BOI	Avi Lavigne	Arava
10	NEW	FEEL	Robbie Williams	Odeysis
11	NEW	OLEMANA	Neil Young, Kelly Rowland	Universal Island
12	NEW	THE LAST GOODBYE WITH YOU	Arava	Arava
13	NEW	FAMILY PORTFOLIO	Arava	Arava
14	NEW	HOLDING ON FOR YOU	Liberty X	V2
15	NEW	JENNY FROM THE BLOCK	Jennifer Lopez	Epic
16	NEW	STRONGMANS WITH DIRTY COPS	Samuel L. Jackson	Meridian
17	NEW	WE'VE GOT TONIGHT	Ben Kinsley, Tom Kelly	Popstar
18	NEW	DIRTY	Arava	Arava
19	NEW	HEAVEN	DJ Snake & Nerve Inc.	Dance Machine/DJ Snake
20	NEW	PUPPY LOVE/LEIGHLEIGH	Dixie Chicks	Popstar

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Shazam TAG CHART PRE-RELEASE / MULTI-GENRE

This Week	Last Week	Title	Artist	Label
1	1	TRUE	Jamison P. Angel Bu	V2
2	5	THE WAY	Dave Nigro	Dada
3	6	COME ON OVER	John Silver	Dream
4	NEW	MISSING YOU	Lacy Gray	Impact
5	NEW	LOVE STORY	Lacy & Bushwick	XL Recordings
6	NEW	10 AM IN YOUR MIND	Arava	Arava
7	NEW	THE OPERA SONG	Jarvis Vitec R. Charles Danch	Direcion
8	NEW	DREAMER	OK & Signe Dream Team	Motly
9	NEW	DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE	Electric Six	XL Recordings
10	NEW	JUST THE WAY I'M FEELING	Feeder	Epic

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28 DECEMBER 2002

Pos	Week	Title	Artist (Producer) Publisher (Writer)	Label CD/Cass (Distributor)
1	NEW	<b>SOUND OF THE UNDERGROUND</b>	Polystar 05822/05822/1 (E)	Polystar
2	NEW	<b>SACRED TRUST/AFTER YOU'RE GONE</b>	Red/Alice 9201/9201/1534 (P)	Red/Alice
3	3	<b>CHEEKY SONG (TOUCH MY BUM)</b>	Melody COMPLETERS/CAULI/STYRI (BMG)	BMG
4	1	<b>SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD</b>	Innocent SIN/CAZ/SIN/CAZ (E)	Innocent
5	3	<b>LOSE YOURSELF</b>	Interpop/Polystar 4978262/4978264 (E)	Interpop/Polystar
6	4	<b>IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE</b>	Polystar 05836/05836/1 (E)	Polystar
7	NEW	<b>YOU'RE A SUPERSTAR</b>	Nuff/Arista 74219/74219/423 (BMG)	Arista
8	11	<b>THE KETCHUP SONG (ASERJEE)</b>	Columbia 673183/02/31834 (TEN)	Columbia
9	NEW	<b>SKBER BOY</b>	Arista 74219/74219/423/3670764 (BMG)	Arista
10	3	<b>FEEL</b>	Chrysalis CDCH451/05/1045151 (E)	Chrysalis
11	2	<b>PUPPY LOVE/LEIGH LOU</b>	Polystar 05844/05844 (U)	Polystar
12	4	<b>WE'VE GOT TONIGHT</b>	Polystar 05861/05861/4 (U)	Polystar
13	10	<b>DILEMMA</b>	Universal/Int-Island MCDST042/9MCDSC0429 (P)	Universal/Int-Island
14	NEW	<b>SCORPIO RISING</b>	Universal/Arista H48/54/CDU (BMG)	Universal/Arista
15	2	<b>WHAT MY HEART WANTS TO SAY</b>	X42121856/02/42121856/594 (BMG)	Arista
16	11	<b>FAMILY PORTRAIT</b>	Arista 74219/74219/423/180264 (BMG)	Arista
17	12	<b>THE LAST GOODBYE/BE WITH YOU</b>	Innocent SIN/CAZ/SIN/CAZ (E)	Innocent
18	13	<b>HOLDING ON FOR YOU</b>	V2 VVRS0204/06/VVRS020765 (JMV/VP)	Liberty X/Lawson Sony ATV/Prima/Sony/London/Target/Polystar/Universal
19	10	<b>DIRTY</b>	RCA 4743182/02/47431952/14 (E)	RCA
20	15	<b>THUG LOVIN'</b>	Def Jam 95378/02/020706 (U)	Def Jam
21	11	<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Global Warner WARM2074 (P)	Global Warner
22	12	<b>NOTHING SACRED - A SONG FOR KIRSTY</b>	Decca 4723/402 (U)	Decca
23	NEW	<b>I THINK WE'RE ALONE NOW</b>	WDC/CDL0820/02/0820/0820 (MCA/UC)	WDC/CDL
24	10	<b>JENNY FROM THE BLOCK</b>	Epic 673573/1 (TEN)	Epic
25	12	<b>NAUGHTY GIRL</b>	London LONCD470/LONCD45472 (TEN)	London
26	8	<b>HEAVEN</b>	Data Ministry Of Sound DATA4MCD3 (JMV/VP)	Data Ministry Of Sound
27	10	<b>NU FLOW</b>	Epic 673028/02/6730294 (TEN)	Epic
28	11	<b>IT'S A RAINBOW</b>	BMG Music 2/PPCD10 (U)	BMG Music
29	7	<b>I'M GONNA GETCHA GOOD!</b>	Mercury 172223/02/172289 (U)	Mercury
30	5	<b>STRONGER/ANGELS WITH DIRTY FEACES</b>	Int-Island/Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	Int-Island
31	8	<b>LIKE I LOVE YOU</b>	Jive 97543/04/97543/04 (E)	Jive
32	4	<b>Die ANOTHER DAY</b>	Warner Bros W6950/1/5958 (TEN)	Warner Bros
33	20	<b>DON'T LET ME DOWN/YOU AND I</b>	S 42421812/02/421812/126 (BMG)	Sony
34	8	<b>RUSHES</b>	Mercury 05383/02/05383/54 (E)	Mercury
35	4	<b>MAYBE</b>	Interpop/Polystar 4978262/4978264 (E)	Interpop/Polystar
36	NEW	<b>DON'T STOP</b>	Virgin/Decca VSCD1138/1 (E)	Virgin/Decca
37	7	<b>UNBREAKABLE</b>	MCA/Int-Island MCDST042/9MCDSC0429 (U)	MCA/Int-Island

Pos	Week	Title	Artist (Producer) Publisher (Writer)	Label CD/Cass (Distributor)	TITLES A-Z
38	4	<b>ALIVE</b>	EMI/Vertigo W0808/Universal (Solomon/Elli)	EMI/Vertigo	1
39	6	<b>ONE LOVE</b>	Innocent SIN/CAZ/SIN/CAZ (E)	Innocent	2
40	2	<b>POSSIE (I'M LYING ON THE FLOOR)</b>	Real Gone! 9201/9201/1534 (P)	Real Gone!	3
41	3	<b>PUT HIM OUT</b>	Polystar 05836/05836/1 (E)	Polystar	4
42	2	<b>MINDSTROUD</b>	Mercury 05383/02/05383/54 (E)	Mercury	5
43	2	<b>TELL ME WHY</b>	EMI/Vertigo W0808/Universal (Solomon/Elli)	EMI/Vertigo	6
44	6	<b>DRIVEN BY THE VEINS</b>	East West 5204/02/5204/10 (TEN)	East West	7
45	6	<b>THROUGH THE RAIN</b>	Mercury 05383/02/05383/54 (E)	Mercury	8
46	NEW	<b>OCEAN OF ETERNITY</b>	Data Ministry Of Sound DATA4MCD3 (JMV/VP)	Data Ministry Of Sound	9
47	7	<b>WORK IT</b>	Elektra E70404/07/7040 (TEN)	Elektra	10
48	7	<b>ELECTRIC STORM</b>	Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	Int-Island	11
49	5	<b>THE SCIENTIST</b>	Parlophone CDH858/1 (E)	Parlophone	12
50	NEW	<b>LIFE IS LIFE</b>	EMI/Vertigo W0808/Universal (Solomon/Elli)	EMI/Vertigo	13
51	2	<b>THE OTHER SIDE</b>	Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	Int-Island	14
52	8	<b>OBJECTION (TANGO)</b>	Epic 673042/02/673042/1 (E)	Epic	15
53	1	<b>STILL WAITING</b>	Mercury 05383/02/05383/54 (E)	Mercury	16
54	1	<b>RHINESTONE COWBOY (GIDDY UP GIDDY UP)</b>	Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	Int-Island	17
55	7	<b>MUSIC GETS THE BEST OF ME</b>	Parlophone CDH858/1 (E)	Parlophone	18
56	6	<b>COME INTO MY WORLD</b>	Parlophone CDH858/1 (E)	Parlophone	19
57	6	<b>HAPPY</b>	Def Jam/Mercury 05383/02/05383/54 (E)	Def Jam/Mercury	20
58	6	<b>WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOUR?</b>	Melody COMPLETERS/CAULI/STYRI (BMG)	BMG	21
59	10	<b>NO LIMITS</b>	MCA/Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	MCA/Int-Island	22
60	NEW	<b>WOLF</b>	Ebony Dubs - (I SPQ)	Ebony Dubs	23
61	NEW	<b>STOLE</b>	Columbia 673272 (I-SPQ)	Columbia	24
62	6	<b>PUT THE NEEDLE ON IT</b>	London LONCD470/LONCD45472 (TEN)	London	25
63	4	<b>PRAY</b>	Positive CDTVS180/07/180 (E)	Positive	26
64	10	<b>THE LONG AND WINNING ROAD/SUSPICIOUS MINDS</b>	X42121856/02/42121856/594 (BMG)	Arista	27
65	10	<b>GIRLFRIEND</b>	J 74219/74219/423/180264 (BMG)	Arista	28
66	NEW	<b>THE WOLF</b>	Skin - (I SPQ)	Skin	29
67	8	<b>FROM THE CHURCH TO DA PALACE</b>	Priority 551102/1 (E)	Priority	30
68	5	<b>I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL</b>	Jive 92842/02/92842/04 (P)	Jive	31
69	6	<b>NO ONE KNOWS</b>	Interpop/Polystar 4978262/4978264 (E)	Interpop/Polystar	32
70	10	<b>BLUES OF THE STONE AGE (HORMONE VILLAINS)</b>	Int-Island CDH181/02/12813 (U)	Int-Island	33
71	RE	<b>ALL OUT OF LOVE</b>	WEA WEA3800/04/WEA3800 (TEN)	WEA	34
72	RE	<b>HEY SEXY LAD</b>	MCA/Int-Island MCDST042/9MCDSC0429 (U)	MCA/Int-Island	35
73	6	<b>THE GAME OF LOVE</b>	Arista 74219/74219/423/180264 (BMG)	Arista	36
74	7	<b>THE ZEPHYR SONG</b>	Warner Bros W6950/1/5958 (TEN)	Warner Bros	37
75	5	<b>NEW DIRECTION</b>	Polystar 05836/05836/1 (E)	Polystar	38

As used by Top Of The Pops and Radio One

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### ALBUMS COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



The week before Christmas traditionally provides the heaviest sales of the year, and 2002 is no different from usual, with sales of all albums up week-on-week by 30% to 9,232,000. While that is historically a superb performance, it is nevertheless considerably fewer than the total for the comparable week in both 2000 and 2001. In 2000, a staggering 10,298,000 albums were sold in the week, while 2001's tally was 9,788,000. Artist albums account for 6,924,000 of this year's tally, compared to 7,156,000 in 2001 and 7,946,000 in 2000.

On a positive note, the top 34 artist albums all sold more than 50,000 copies last week, with the top 11 all exceeding the 100,000 mark. Only two albums in the Top 75 declined week-on-week, these being *S Club's* Seeing Double (down 48-60 with a 14% dip) and *Mariah Carey's* *Charmbracelet* (off 13%, and falling 57-72).

In percentage terms, the winners were *Ronan Keating's* *Destination 10* 93% and climbing 33-14. *Reykoskop's* *Melody Am* (83%, 82-69) and *The Eminem Show*

### COMPILATIONS

A 26% increase week-on-week helped compilation sales to top the 2m mark last week for the first time this year. In all, some 2,308,000 albums were sold.

Now that's What! *Carl Marshall's* *S3* was the biggest seller for the fifth week in a row, and reversed three weeks of decline to sell more than 159,000 copies – a 6% improvement. Its lead at the top decreased marginally from 36,000 to 34,000, however, as *Fame Academy* improved by 10% to 125,000 sales in second place.

Christmas-themed albums are having a poor year, with just three of them in the Top 20. Boasting rights are with the *BMG/Sony/Teletext/NSM* album *Christmas Hits*, which registered a 44% increase in sales to move 5-4, while *EMI/Virgin's* *Best Christmas Albums In The World...Ever* slides 4-7 despite a 6% hike. *Christmas Hits* was first released

### MARKET REPORT

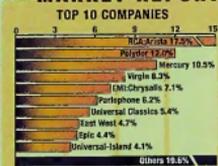


Figure shows top 10 companies by % of total sales, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75 artist albums.

### SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +31.9%  
 YEAR TO DATE VS YEAR TO DATE LAST YEAR: +3.4%

(77%, 39-29). Many of the week's biggest sellers – including *Keating* and *Shania Twain* (Up is indexed up 21.15 with a 51% hike) – were helped by appearances on the *Royal*

### ALBUMS FACTFILE

Providing the number one Christmas album for the second year in a row, *Robbie Williams* sold more than 310,000 copies of *Escapology* last week – and jumped to the top of the 2002 rankings. The album passed the million sales mark on Thursday, 22 days after it was released, and subsequently cruised past both *Pink's* *Missundeadto* and *Enrique Iglesias's* *Escape* to leap 3-1 on the best sellers of the year list. Although a comparatively fast million seller,

*Escapology* has taken nearly twice as long to get there as the record holder, *Be Here Now* by *Oasis* which reached seven figures in a mere 17 days in 1997. It is also selling slower than *Williams's* last album, 2001's *Swing When You're Winning*. *Swing* sold 365,000 copies in the comparable week last year, to take its five week total to 1,312,000, compared to the 1,185,000 copies *Escapology* has sold in the same period thus far.

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS

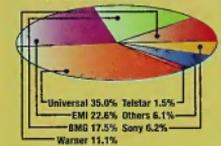


Figure shows % of UK acts in the Top 75, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75 artist albums.

### PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

Variety Performance Show on BBC last Sunday (15th).

So high was the bar raised that no new release managed to sell the 14,000-plus tally

required to dent the Top 75. The nearest to doing it was *God's Son* by rapper *Nas*, which debuted at number 50 with nearly 13,000 sales. *Nas's* last album *Stigmata* was released exactly a year ago, and also missed the Top 75, debuting at number 92 with 8,900 sales. *Charvise*, both albums are duos compared to his 1999 album *I Am or I Ain't* or his 1996 predecessor *The Way I Live* – but despite debuts at 31 and 38 respectively, the two albums sold 6,000 and 3,000 copies on their first week.

*Escapology* was not the only album to reach its millionth sale – *Coldplay's* *A Rush Of Blood To The Head* got there too. The *Red Hot Chili Peppers's* *By The Way* and *Blue's* *One Love* are likely to follow this week.

Meanwhile, the *Rolling Stones* and *Elvis Presley* both enjoyed a 53% hike in sales in the week but both will miss the million mark this year, in fact, besting them both as the biggest-selling hits compilation of the year is *Westlife's* *Unbreakable*, which sold nearly 148,000 copies last week, to bring its overall sales to 208,000 in six weeks.

### INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This Week	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1 THINKING IT OVER	Livest X	V2 VVR101782 (MNV/PI)
2	2 THE VERY BEST OF...	The Stone Roses	Silverstone SC6482 (PI)
3	3 GREATEST HITS #7-82	Kylie Minogue	PAR SC20626 (PI)
4	4 MELODY AM	Reykoskop	Wall Of Sound WALLC027 (PI)
5	5 JUSTIFIED	Justin Timberlake	Jive JSC24772 (PI)
6	6 HAVE YOU FED THE FISH?	Bady Dream Boy	UK TXNLX01256 (V)
7	7 S	Moby	Mute CDSUTM022 (V)
8	8 SONGBIRD	Eva Cassidy	Bliss Street/Wen GZ19045 (HOT)
9	9 IMAGINE	Eva Cassidy	Bliss Street/Wen GZ19045 (HOT)
10	10 COMFORT IN SOUND	Foster	Echo ECHO6242 (PI)
11	11 LOST HORIZONS	Lemon Jelly	Impudent Funsal IFLX25822 (PI)
12	12 LOVEBOX	Chris Arnado	Pepper C00162 (PI)
13	13 DANCING DOWN THE STONEY ROAD	Chris Rea	Jazzco Blue JBLUC02183 (MNV/PI)
14	14 RAT PACK	Frank Sinatra/Dean Martin	Planet Media & Ent (TBO)
15	15 PUSH THE BEAR FOR THIS AM - THE SINGLES	Scanner	Sheffield Tunes/Edu UK 01417257 (V)
16	16 THE DRIFTERS	The Drifters	V2 VVR 102962 (MNV/PI)
17	17 ABOUT A BOY (OST)	Bady Dream Boy	One Little Indian TOLX25822 (PI)
18	18 GREATEST HITS	Björk	One Little Indian TOLX25822 (PI)
19	19 YOUR NEW FAVOURITE BAND	Hives	Pipettes MCR58522 (PI)
20	20 UP UP THE BRACKET	The Libertines	Rough Trade RTKRAECC026 (PI)

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### MARKET REPORT



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

### SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +26.5%  
 YEAR TO DATE VS YEAR TO DATE LAST YEAR: +1.1%

(77%, 39-29). Many of the week's biggest sellers – including *Keating* and *Shania Twain* (Up is indexed up 21.15 with a 51% hike) – were helped by appearances on the *Royal*

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS

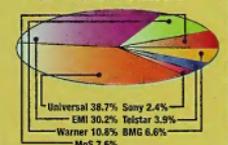


Figure shows % of UK acts in the Top 75, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75 artist albums.

### COMPLIATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 75.0%  
 Compilations: 25.0%

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

1	18	ESCAPOLOGY	ROBBIE WILLIAMS	EMI
2	2	MISSUNDERSTOOD	FRANK	ARISTA
3	3	ESCAPE	ENRIQUE IGLESIAS	INTERSCOP/PIPOLDR
4	4	A RUSH OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD	COLDPLAY	PARLOPHONE
5	5	BY THE WAY	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	WARNER BROS
6	6	ONE LOVE	BLUET	INNOCENT
7	7	THE EMINEM SHOW	EMINEM	INTERSCOP/PIPOLDR
8	8	UNBREAKABLE - THE GREATEST HITS... VOL 1	WESTLIFE	PIPOLDR
9	9	HEATHEN CHRISTMAS	FRANK	BIG BROTHER
10	10	ELVIS - 30 NUMBER 1 HITS	ELVIS PRESLEY	ICA
11	11	COME AWAY WITH ME	NORAH JONES	PARLOPHONE
12	12	SILVER SIDE UP	NICKELBACK	ROADRUNNER
13	13	FEVER	KEVIN MCDONALD	PARLOPHONE
14	14	GREATEST HITS 1 & 2 III	QUEEN	PARLOPHONE
15	15	A NEW DAY AT MIDNIGHT	DAVID GRAY	EAST WEST
16	16	LAUNDRY SERVICE	SHAGRA	EPIC
17	17	FROM NOW ON	WILL YOUNG	S
18	18	NELLYVILLE	NELLY	UNIVERSAL
19	19	FEELS SO GOOD	ATOMIC KITTEN	INNOCENT
20	20	LET GO	ARVIL LAVIGNE	ARISTA

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# OFFICIAL CHARTS 28/12/2002

music week

## SINGLES

### 1 SOUND OF THE UNDERGROUND

Chris Brown

Pop/R&B

- 2 **SABEDU TRUST**/AFTER YOU'RE GONE (The Time Voice) *Pop/R&B*
- 3 **CHEBY SONGS TOUCH MY BUM!** The Cheeky Girls *Multiply*
- 4 **SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD** Blue feat. Roni Yehon *Israel*
- 5 **LOSE YOURSELF** Eminem *Interscope/Polystar*
- 6 **IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE** Daniel Bedingfield *Polydor*
- 7 **YOU'RE A SUPERSTAR** Love Inc. *Mute/Arista*
- 8 **THE KETCHUP SONG (ASSEMBLE)** Las Ketchup *Columbia*
- 9 **SK8ER BOI** Avril Lavigne *Arista*
- 10 **FEEL** Robbie Williams *Direktis*



- 6 **11 PUPPY LOVE/SLEIGH LOVE** S Club Juniors *Pop/R&B*
- 9 **12 WE'VE GOT TONIGHT** Roman Keating feat. Lulu *Pop/R&B*
- 13 **13 DILEMMA** Kelly feat. Kelly Rowland *Universal/UK-Island*
- 14 **14 SCOPPIO** Rising Death in Vegas with Liam Gallagher *Careless/Kelvin*
- 5 **15 WHAT MY HEART WANTS TO SAY** Gareth Gates *S*
- 11 **16 FAMILY PORTRAIT** Pink *Arista*
- 12 **17 THE LAST GOODBYE**BE WITH YOU Atomic Kitten *Innocent*
- 14 **18 HOLDING ON FOR YOU** Liberty X *V2*
- 10 **19 DIRTY** Christina Aguilera feat. Redman *RCA*
- 15 **20 THUG LOVIN'** Ja Rule feat. Bobby Brown *Dod Jam*



The Official UK Charts Company 2002. Produced in co-operation with the BBC and BMD, based on a sample of more than 4,000 record outlets.

## MASAI DO THAT THANG

REMIXES BY  
UNLESSO PROJECT  
AND  
STYLONE  
NUMBER 1 IN DJ MAGAZINE CHART



## ALBUMS

### 1 ESCAPOLLOGY

Robbie Williams

EMI

- 2 **ONE LOVE** Blue *Innocent*
- 4 **THE GREATST HITS 1970-2002** Elton John *Mercury*
- 3 **4 UNBREAKABLE - THE GREATST HITS VOL. 1** Westlife *S*
- 6 **5 MISSUNDAZTOOD** Pink *Arista*
- 5 **6 A NEW DAY AT MIDNIGHT** David Grey *East West*
- 7 **7 LET GO** Avril Lavigne *Arista*
- 8 **8 BY THE WAY** Red Hot Chili Peppers *Warner Bros*
- 10 **9 A RUSH OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD** Coldplay *Parlophone*
- 11 **10 ELVIS - 30 #1 HITS** Elvis Presley *RCA*



- 12 **11 FORTY LUCKS** The Rolling Stones *Virgin/Decca*
- 22 **12 ESCAPE** Enrique Iglesias *Interscope/Polydor*
- 9 **13 FEELS SO GOOD** Atomic Kitten *Innocent*
- 31 **14 DESTINATION** Roman Keating *Polydor*
- 21 **15 UP!** Shania Twain *Mercury*
- 15 **16 SOMEWHERE IN TIME** Danny Diamond *Decca*
- 13 **17 DIVE IN** Darin *Decca*
- 17 **18 SENTIMENTO** Andrea Bocelli *Mercury*
- 24 **19 GOTTA GET THRU THIS** Daniel Bedingfield *Philips*
- 20 **20 ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES** Sugababes *Island/UK-Island*





**COOL CUTS CHART**

as chosen by our readers and you can see the full list on page 40

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | <b>MY LOVE IS ALWAYS SUFFERING</b> Neil Tennant (Chicago dance duo and re-imagined in the New Year)                               |
| 2  | <b>PRINCE &amp; THE NEW POWER GENERATION</b> Prince & The New Power Generation  |
| 3  | <b>TOGETHER AGAIN</b> The Roots   |
| 4  | <b>LEGACY</b> Madonna (Madonna's first single with her new label, with a re-release from her 1984 album)                          |
| 5  | <b>BEGIN TO UNWONDER</b> Alicia Keys (Madonna's first single with her new label, with a re-release from her 2001 album)           |
| 6  | <b>TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL</b> Kelly Rowland (Kelly Rowland's first single with her new label, with a re-release from her 2001 album) |
| 7  | <b>TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL</b> Kelly Rowland (Kelly Rowland's first single with her new label, with a re-release from her 2001 album) |
| 8  | <b>DUCKES EP</b> The Roots  |
| 9  | <b>HURRICANE</b> The Roots  |
| 10 | <b>THE ROOTS</b> The Roots  |
| 11 | <b>DON'T THINK I FEEL IT</b> L'Orange   |
| 12 | <b>THE ROOTS</b> The Roots  |
| 13 | <b>UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE</b> DJ Fresh  |
| 14 | <b>CUTTER</b> The Roots   |
| 15 | <b>THE THINGS YOU SAY</b> Ozuna   |
| 16 | <b>TAKE ME DOWN</b> Estelle   |
| 17 | <b>ADMISSION</b> The Roots  |
| 18 | <b>MAGNIFICENT</b> The Roots  |
| 19 | <b>COME INTO MY ROOM</b> The Roots  |
| 20 | <b>COME INTO MY ROOM</b> The Roots  |



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For more information contact Craig Jones or Craig Will McClinton

Any DJs wishing to apply for the mailing lists, please contact either Craig Jones - EuroSolution or Matt Rickard - hyper active

**Dance charts email service providing extended information three days before it appears in print.**

For more information on the upfront dance charts contact Scott Green on 020 7579 4451 or [scott@musicweek.com](mailto:scott@musicweek.com)

**TOP 10 BREAKERS**

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1  | THREE BROTHERS (MAKES) New 10                           | Profil       |
| 2  | ADDED TO LOVE (SHARE) (MAKES) Robert Fisher             | EW           |
| 3  | MEMORABLE OF ME (DJ PHILLIP, WOOT & JAM MAKES) New 10   | Parlo        |
| 4  | LINEAGES (MAKES) Inert                                  | Kon          |
| 5  | SO MUCH LOVE (Thomas Baptiste & DJ Fidan)               | Real         |
| 6  | FEEL THE LOVE (SAFFROW) (MAKES) The D's Club, Urban Ben | Event        |
| 7  | ALL THE LOVE New  | Dance        |
| 8  | SHOWDOWN (ALIGHT) (MAKES) (MAKES) JMI LA                | with ball    |
| 9  | IF YOU LEAVE ME NOW (The Higher You Go)                 | Information  |
| 10 | QUEEN SONG (MAKES) Future                               | by ball/ball |

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**CHART COMMENTARY**  
by ALAN JONES

I've enjoyed major club chart hits with Angelle, Orion and Citron. Caned, to name but three, but in his current incarnation as mood evocative Jürgen Vias, Darren Tate has thus far unleashed just two top-notch tunes. The first Vias single, The Theme, scored an unusually long time in the Upfront Club Chart, peaking at number five. It crossed over to the sales charts too, reaching number 13 on the OCC listings. His follow-up, The Opera Song (Bryce New World), is an even bigger smash. With specialist radio play already in the pocket, including a B-listing at Radio One, it explodes 74 weeks on both the Upfront and Commercial Pop Club Charts this week.

Tate/Vias is joined on the record by troubled teenage operatic star Charlotte Church, who, like Tate, adopts a pseudonym for the release, in her case CMC. Although clearly the biggest record of the week across the two charts together, The Opera Song was only a little ahead of its nearest rivals on both charts. In the Upfront arena, it enjoyed a 5% lead over Alison Limerick's Where Love Lives, which would otherwise have topped the chart for the third time in its career. On the Commercial Pop chart its lead over Pop Icons - The Rivals band One True Voice's Sacred Trust was less than 2%.

Elsewhere on the Upfront Chart, there are 11 new entries, as promotional priorities for 2003 begin to take over. One of the most interesting is Chicane's debut Warner Music offering, Love On The Run. All of Chicane's eight hits to date have been for Alex Goot's Xtravaganza label but that tenure ended unhappily, and it is more than two years since the last Chicane single. Their previous singles have had guest vocals from the likes of Mike Bremman and Bryan Adams, and for Love On The Run former D-Room mainman Peter Umshak is on board. The record debuts at number 10 on the Upfront Chart this week.

Tom Braxton's Hit The Freeway enjoys its fourth straight week at the top of the Orion Chart, but its lead has been whittled away dramatically, with Sean Paul's reggae sleeper Give Me The Light, which was 29 a fortnight ago, is now at number two. Meanwhile, with sales about half his prior, continuing to command a place in the higher chart long after its release, Big Brother's follow-up OK is the highest new entry, debuting at number nine.

**A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all at Poparazzi, Pro Urban and Power Promotions**

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# COMPILATIONS

## 1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC '83

11 LOVE 2 PARTY 2003  
Various Artists  
Mercury

2 **FAME ACADEMY**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

3 **COUNTRY LEGENDS**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

4 **CHRISTMAS HITS**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

5 **THE BEST AND GREATEST ALBUMS IN THE WORLD 2**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

6 **MILE (OST)**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

7 **BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUMS IN THE WORLD EVER**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

8 **ALL THE CLASSIC TEARJERKERS**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

9 **WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

10 **THE ANNUAL 2003**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

11 **1 LOVE 2 PARTY 2003**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

12 **PIKE BADING PUMPKIN - THE BEST OF**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

13 **CLUBLAND II**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

14 **50 YEARS OF THE GREATEST HIT SINGLES**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

15 **CHRISTMAS WITH THE RAT PACK**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

16 **HUGE HITS 2003**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

17 **CLASSICAL CHILLOUT GOLD**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

18 **THE BEST OF FRODO BAGGINS - THE WINTER**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

19 **THE JAZZ ALBUM 2003**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

20 **CLASSIC FM - SMOOTH CLASSICS**  
Various Artists  
Mercury

**LAND OF THE LYING**

**THE NEW SINGLE**

**miss**

as a collection of pop songs, some of the most famous in the world, MISS has been selected for the album 'LAND OF THE LYING'.

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- 19 **21 THIS IS ME... THEN** Jennifer Lopez Epic
- 18 **22 ENCORE** Lionel Richie Mercury
- 16 **23 WHAT MY HEART WANTS TO SAY** Gareth Gates S
- 14 **24 IT HAD TO BE YOU - THE GREAT AMERICAN ROAD** Stewart Deca
- 27 **25 REPRISE** Russell Watson
- 25 **26 COME AWAY WITH ME** Norah Jones Partington
- 28 **27 MORE FRIENDS - SMALL WORLD BIG BAND 2** Joss Whedon WSI
- 23 **28 FROM NOW ON** Will Young S
- 39 **29 THE ENIMEM SHOW** Enimem Interscope/Polydor
- 29 **30 NIRVANA** Nirvana Geffen/Polydor
- 26 **31 TOGETHER S Club Juniors Polydor**
- 30 **32 GREATEST HITS 87 - 82** Kylie Minogue PML
- 32 **33 BEST OF BOWIE** David Bowie EMI
- 41 **34 THE VERY BEST OF Fleetwood Mac WSM**
- 34 **35 GREATEST HITS II & III** Queen Parlophone
- 40 **36 THINKING IT OVER** Liberty X VZ
- 33 **37 DUETS** Barbara Streisand Columbia
- 36 **38 THE BEST OF 1990 - 2000 & B-SIDES 02** Island/Uni-Island
- 35 **39 FORBIDDEN DELAYED - THE GREATEST HITS** Manic Street Preachers Epic
- 37 **40 SINGS THE HITS OF WET WET WET & SMILE** Heart Pelow Mercury/Universal TV

## KEY UPCOMING RELEASES

- 24 **32 DIE ANOTHER DAY** Madonna Warner Bros
- 27 **33 DON'T LET ME DOWN/YOU AND I** Will Young S
- 26 **34 RUSHES** Darius Mercury
- 30 **35 MAMBE** Enrique Iglesias Interscope/Polydor
- 1 **36 DON'T STOP THE ROLLING STONES** Virgin/Decca
- 38 **37 UNBREAKABLE** Westside S
- 34 **38 ALIVE S Club** Polydor
- 37 **39 ONE LOVE** Blue Innocent
- 27 **40 POSSE (I NEED YOU ON THE FLOOR)** Scooter Specificed Tunes/Decca UK
- AINSLIEY Keep Me A Secret (Mercury) Feb 24
- AUDIO BULGERS: We Don't Care (Source) Jan 6
- FIP & BILLY: Vienna Dance With Somebody (All Around The World) Jan 6
- LAYO & BUSHWICKAKALI: Love Story (XU) Jan 13
- OASIS: Songbird (Big Brother) Feb 3
- SINEAD GUINN: Ina (Mercury) Feb 10
- KELLY ROWLAND: Stole (Columbia) Jan 27
- DAVID SNEDDON: Stop Living The Lie (Mercury) Jan 13
- JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE: Cry Me A River (Live) Feb 3
- JURGEN VARIES feat. CMIC: The Opera Song (Direction) Jan 20



28 DECEMBER 2002

Rank	Label	Title	Artist (Producer)	Label/Cat	Distribution	Cases/Vinyl/CD
1	EMI	ESCAPOLOGUE * 5 CD	Robbie Williams (Chris/Don/Povey)	EMI 5293496 (IE)	54293496 (IE)	
2	1	ONE LOVE * 4	Innocence CD5111 (IE)			
3	4	THE GREATEST HITS 1970-2002 * 2	Mercury 55902 (IE)			
4	3	UNBREAKABLE - THE GREATEST HITS VOL. 1 * 3	514205100 (BMG)			
5	4	MISSUNDERSTOOD * 4	Arista 078214182 (BMG)			
6	5	A NEW DAY AT MIDNIGHT * 2	East West 506615582 (TEN)			
7	1	LET GO * 2	Arista 74301948312 (BMG)			
8	2	BY THE WAY * 3	Warner Bros 532441101 (TEN)			
9	1	A RUSH OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD * 3	Parlophone 545890 (IE)			
10	1	ELVIS - 30 #1 HITS * 2	RCA 018638078 (BMG)			
11	1	FORTY LICKS * 2	Virgin/Decca CDVX2064 (IE)			
12	4	ESCAPE * 4	Interscope/Polygram 453132 (IE)			
13	1	FEELS SO GOOD * 2	Innocent CD5110 (IE)			
14	1	DESTINATION * 2	Polygram 5857832 (IE)			
15	1	UPI * 1	Mercury 1730442 (IE)			
16	5	SOMEWHERE IN TIME * 2	Decca 0663302 (IE)			
17	3	DIVE IN * 2	Mercury 0638222 (IE)			
18	1	SENTINELS * 2	Phonix 4734102 (IE)			
19	4	GOTTA GET THRU THIS * 2	Polygram 551252 (IE)			
20	1	ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES * 2	Island/UK Island CD1821 (IE)			
21	1	THIS IS ME... THIS	Virgin 0151082 (TEN)			
22	4	ENCORE * 2	Mercury 0633482 (IE)			
23	1	WHAT MY HEART WANTS TO SAY * 2	514201172 (BMG)			
24	1	IF I HAD TO GO TO THE GREAT AMERICAN * 2	1421288671 (BMG)			
25	5	REPRISE * 5	Decca 4731004 (IE)			
26	3	COME AWAY WITH ME * 2	Parlophone 538832 (IE)			
27	1	MORE FRIENDS - SMALL WORLD BAND 2 * 2	WES 80706 (TEN)			
28	1	FROM NOW ON * 2	51421186939 (BMG)			
29	3	THE ENIMEM SHOW * 3	Interscope/Polygram 453232 (IE)			
30	1	NRIVANA * 2	Geffen/Polygram 4535022 (IE)			
31	2	TOGETHER	Polygram 0652502 (IE)			
32	3	GREATEST HITS 87-92 * 2	PWL 9224682 (IE)			
33	2	BEST OF BOWIE * 2	EMI 538212 (IE)			
34	1	THE VERY BEST OF * 2	WSM 812273352 (IE)			
35	3	GREATEST HITS II & III * 2	Parlophone 528882 (IE)			
36	2	THINKING IT OVER * 2	V2 VVR101782 (DAMI)			
37	2	DIETS * 2	Columbia 5081129 (TEN)			
38	1	THE BEST OF 1990-2000 & B-SIDES * 2	Island/UK Island CD1213 (IE)			
39	5	FOREVER DESTINY - THE GREATEST HITS * 2	514205100 (BMG)			
40	1	SINIS THE KING OF NET WET & SMILE	Mercury 0638222 (IE)			
41	6	SUCKER THAN YOUR AVERAGE * 2	Waters CDVW142 (BMG)			
42	4	LAUNDRY SERVICE * 2	Epic 4987232 (IE)			
43	4	THE BEST OF 1970-2000 * 2	Island/UK Island CD1213 (IE)			
44	1	THE CELTIC CHILLOUT ALBUM	Decca/DCA 062370 (IE)			
45	2	THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION	Universal TV 066522 (IE)			
46	2	HEAVEN CHEMISTRY * 2	Big Brother 8000205 (AMT)			
47	2	GREATEST HITS * 2	Wild Card/Polygram 0554482 (IE)			
48	2	NEVILLE * 2	Universal 0186922 (IE)			
49	1	ONE BY ONE * 2	RCA 74321373462 (BMG)			
50	1	MY WAY - THE BEST OF * 4	Reprise 830421 (IE)			
51	2	MOMENT IN TIME	T2/label TDC3300 (BMG)			
52	6	A LITTLE DEEPER * 2	Polygram 5895852 (IE)			
53	5	THE LAST TEMPTATION * 2	Del Junco/Mercury 0526432 (IE)			
54	4	FREAK OF NATURE * 2	514205100 (BMG)			
55	6	STRIPPED * 2	RCA 74219161252 (BMG)			
56	7	JUSTIFIED	514224772 (IE)			
57	4	FEVER * 5	Parlophone 533004 (IE)			
58	5	TESTIFY * 2	Face Value/East West 50461482 (TEN)			
59	7	THE VERY BEST OF * 2	Silverstone 9202382 (IE)			
60	4	SEEING DOUBLE	Polygram 0549662 (IE)			
61	5	SILVER SIDE UP * 2	Recordrunner 1204852 (IE)			
62	4	IN THE BEGINNING * 2	East West 50461482 (TEN)			
63	5	FOOTPRINTS * 2	London 062483722 (TEN)			
64	9	DOES THIS LOOK INFECTED? * 2	Mercury 052030 (IE)			
65	6	HAVE YOU GOT THE FISH? * 2	XL/Netwerk 1561 (IE)			
66	6	18 * 1	Mute CDUM1202 (IE)			
67	7	TENACIOUS * 2	Epic 5070322 (TEN)			
68	8	IMAGINE * 2	Epic Street/Netwerk 11005 (HOT)			
69	RE	MELODY AM * 2	Walt of Sound G212025 (HOT)			
70	RE	SONGBIRD * 1	Epic Street/Netwerk 11005 (HOT)			
71	7	WHITE LADDER * 2	RT/Net West 8578382 (IE)			
72	5	CHARMBACCAL * 2	Island US/Mercury 0523442 (IE)			
73	RE	UNDER CONSTRUCTION * 2	Epic 755962812 (TEN)			
74	6	LIVE IN PARIS	Verve 0526392 (IE)			
75	4	READ MY LIPS * 2	Polygram 5197142 (IE)			

NE Highest new entry HC Highest charted SL Sales increase SA Sales increase 50% or more

TOP COMPILATIONS

Rank	Label	Title	Artist	Label/Cat	Distribution	Cases/Vinyl/CD
1	1	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 53 * 4	Various Artists	EMI/Universal CDN6193/CDN6193D53 (IE)		
2	2	FAME ACADEMY * 2	Various Artists	Mercury 036812381 (IE)		
3	3	COUNTRY LEGENDS * 2	Various Artists	Virgin/EMI VTD02481 (IE)		
4	5	CHRISTMAS HITS	Various Artists	BMG/514205100 WSM H1 TSC0011 (BMG)		
5	3	THE BEST AIR GUITAR ALBUM IN THE WORLD 2 * 1	Various Artists	EMI/Universal VTD02481 (IE)		
6	12	8 MILE (OST)	Various Artists	Interscope/Polygram 4935322 (IE)		
7	4	BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD EVER * 1	Various Artists	Virgin/EMI VTD02481 (IE)		
8	4	ALL TIME CLASSIC TRAMP JERKERS * 1	Various Artists	WCM WCMCD181 (IE)		
9	15	WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEeps * 1	Various Artists	Universal TV 562443 (IE)		
10	3	THE ANNUAL 2003	Various Artists	Mercury CD Sound ANCD2K03 (IE)		
11	NEW	I LOVE 2 PARTY 2003	Various Artists	Virgin/EMI VTD02481 (IE)		
12	2	PURE GARAGE PLATINUM - THE VERY BEST OF	Various Artists	Warner Dance WSMCD120 (IE)		
13	8	CLUBLAND II * 2	Various Artists	UMT/VAATW 066822 (IE)		
14	10	50 YEARS OF THE GREATEST HIT SINGLES * 1	Various Artists	EMI/Universal VTD02481 (IE)		
15	15	CHRISTMAS WITH THE RAT PACK * 2	Various Artists	Capitol 5421203 (IE)		
16	11	HUGE HITS 2003	Various Artists	BMG/514205100 WSM H1 TSC0011 (IE)		
17	7	CLASSICAL CHILLOUT GOLD	Various Artists	Decca/DCA 062370 (IE)		
18	4	THE VERY BEST OF PURB & B - THE WINTER	Various Artists	Telestar TUGM1 TUCV033 (IE)		
19	2	THE JAZZ ALBUM 2003	Various Artists	Verve DR0622 (IE)		
20	RE	CLASSIC FM - SMOOTH CLASSICS	Various Artists	Classic FM CFMCD033 (IE)		

# THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS SPECIAL LIST

28 DECEMBER 2002

## CLASSICAL ARTISTS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Distributor)
1	1	SPENTIMENTO	Andrea Bocelli	Philips 474102 (U)
2	2	REFUGE	Russell Watson	Decca 473102 (U)
3	3	ALED	Alad Jones	UCL 064492 (U)
4	5	THE COLLECTION	John Rutter	UCL 474222 (U)
5	4	THE SINGER	Lesley Garrett	EMI Classics 551402 (E)
6	6	PRELUDE - THE BEST OF	Charlotte Church	Sony Classical 550806 (TEN)
7	7	KASHIF: THE QUEEN SYMPHONY	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	EMI Classics 552952 (E)
8	8	THE JOHN RUTTER CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Cambridge Singers/Rutter	Collegium 552910 (S)
9	12	MAHLERS SYMPHONY NO 5	Berliner Philharmoniker Orchestra	EMI Classics 552852 (E)
10	8	THE GOLD COLLECTION	Lesley Garrett	Decca 473206 (U)
11	10	GREATEST HITS	Nigel Kennedy	EMI Classics 551412 (E)
12	11	ENCORE	Russell Watson	Decca 473202 (U)
13	13	THE VOICE	Russell Watson	Decca 462492 (U)
14	15	SACRED ARIAS	Andrea Bocelli	Philips 462402 (U)
15	14	BEYOND IMAGINATION	OperaBabes	Sony Classical 550916 (TEN)
16	16	I GIORNI	Ludovico Einaudi	Arista 742219422 (BMG)
17	17	CAROLS FROM KING'S	Kings College Choir	Decca 473202 (U)
18	19	THE ART OF	Geoffa Bartoli	Decca 473202 (U)
19	17	CAROLS FROM KING'S	KCCZ/Walocka	HMV HMV52412 (E)
20	18	FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS	Jacques Chou/Walocka	Classics For Pleasure DDF462 (E)

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## JAZZ & BLUES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Distributor)
1	1	COME AWAY WITH ME	Norah Jones	Parlophone 553602 (E)
2	2	THE JAZZ ALBUM 2003	Various	Werns 060672 (U)
3	3	LIVE IN PARIS	Diana Krall	Werns 055360 (U)
4	4	ASK A WOMAN WHO KNOWS	Natalie Cole	Werns 4A314262712 (U)
5	5	DANCING DOWN THE STONEY ROAD	Chris Rea	Gezzer Head 551101 (DMP/VP)
6	6	TRAVELLING	Jonni Mitchell	Nonesuch 796172 (U)
7	7	THE VERY BEST OF SMOOTH JAZZ	Various	Unit Classics & Jazz 553402 (U)
8	9	KIND OF BLUE	Miles Davis	Columbia UK 46403 (TEN)
9	10	TAMPO TITO	Rebel Gilberto	East West 09247402 (TEN)
10	11	PHENOMY	The Roots	MCA/Uni-label 511502 (U)

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## R&B SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No (Distributor)
1	1	LOSE YOURSELF	Eminem	Interscope/Polydor 473092 (U)
2	3	DILEMMA	Enya feat. Kelly Rowland	Universal/MCA/2002 (U)
3	2	THIS LOVIN'	Ja Rule feat. Bobby Brown	Def Jam 863702 (U)
4	4	DIBITY	Christina Aguilera feat. Redman	RCA 743219222 (BMG)
5	5	JENNY FROM THE BLOCK	Jennifer Lopez	Epic 673552 (TEN)
6	6	NU FLOW	Big Brovaz	Epic 673202 (TEN)
7	7	LIKE I LOVE YOU	Justin Timberlake	Jive 525434 (P)
8	8	PUT HIM ON	Ms Dynamite	Polydor 668052 (U)
9	9	ONE LOVE	Bloo	Innocent SIN004 (E)
10	10	THROUGH THE RAIN	Mariah Carey	Mercury 90136 (U)
11	11	LOVE ON THE LINE	Blaiz	East West SQA020201 (TEN)
12	12	WORK IT	Missy Elliott	Elektra E73402 (TEN)
13	13	STOLE	Kelly Rowland	Columbia 672912 (Import)
14	11	HAPPY	Ashanti	Def Jam 863241 (U)
15	14	GIRLJENNY	Alicia Keys	J 743219471 (BMG)
16	16	FROM THE CHA CHA CHA TO DA PALACE	Snoop Dogg	Priority 551912 (E)
17	15	GIRL TALK	Arista (BMG)	TLC
18	17	WHAT'S YOUR PLAYAT	Craig David	Wildcat CWX1401 (BMG)
19	18	DOIT WANNA KONG	Shy FX & T-Power feat. DJ & Subdub	Hot Chocolate
20	17	CRUSH TONIGHT	Fat Joe feat. Ciara	Atlantic A70427 (TEN)
21	20	CLEANLY OUT MY CLOSET	Eminem	Interscope/Polydor 487392 (U)
22	21	IT'S ALL GRAYV	Romeo feat. Christina Milam	Relentless RELENT200 (DMY/TEN)
23	22	ADDICTION	Tyri Harts feat. Rakim	Interscope/Polydor 487782 (U)
24	24	HEY SEXY LADY	Shaggy	MCA/Uni-label MCT574004 (U)
25	22	LV U BETTER	LL Cool J	Def Jam 863822 (U)
26	27	HOT IN HERRE	Ini	Universal MCT504008 (U)
27	25	DOWN 4 U	Navy	North East, Ja Rule/Arista/Columbia/VP
28	28	DY-NA-MI-TEE	Ms Dynamite	Polydor 5059782 (U)
29	28	WITHOUT ME	Eminem	Interscope/Polydor 487782 (U)
30	28	NOTHIN'	NORE	Def Jam 85062 (U)

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## CLASSICAL COMPILATIONS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Distributor)
1	1	CLASSICAL CHILLOUT GOLD	Various	Decadence DECTV005 (DMY/TEN)
2	2	CLASSIC FM - SMOOTH CLASSICS	Various	Classic FM CFM033 (BMG)
3	3	CLASSICS 2003	Various	Decca 472692 (U)
4	4	CLASSICAL LEGENDS	Various	VirginEMI VTC0240 (E)
5	5	CLASSICAL AMBIGUE	Various	VirginEMI VTC0235 (EUK)
6	6	THE CLASSICAL BITE AWARDS ALBUM 2002	Various	Sony Classical STV0218 (TEN)
7	7	CAROLS FROM ST GEORGES CHAPEL	Various	Crescent CRM0240 (EUK)
8	8	RELAXING CLASSICS	Various	EMI Gold 574622 (E)
9	7	CHRISTMAS WITH THE TENDERS	Pavement/Domingo/Carreras	Metrom MET0020 (EUK)
10	11	A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	Pavement/Carreras	Musical Collection MCC0391 (DISC)
11	10	JOY TO THE WORLD	Various	Nonesuch 855170 (S)
12	12	THE BEST OF THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Various	Enigma 857880512 (DISC)
13	10	PAVARTO/DOMINGO/CARRERAS	Various	Enigma 857880512 (DISC)
14	13	THE CLASSIC SCORE	Various	Sony TV/Decca M000CD 73 (TEN)
15	13	ESSENTIAL CAROLS	Various	Decca 473702 (U)
16	17	BEST CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE MILLENIUM 19TH	Various	VirginEMI VTC0240 760 (E)
17	14	GENIE OF PARIS - THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM	Various	VirginEMI VTC0238 (EUK)
18	14	CLASSICAL CHILLOUT COLLECTION	Various	HMV HMV57692 (E)
19	20	A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS	Various	EMI Classics CDS052592 (E)
20	20	CLASSICAL CHILLOUT 2	Various	VirginEMI VTC0247 (E)

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## ROCK

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (Distributor)
1	1	BY THE WAY	Red Hot Chili Peppers	Warner Bros 556241402 (TEN)
2	2	NIRVANA	Nirvana	Geffen/Parlophone 455220 (U)
3	3	ONE BY ONE	Fox Fighters	RCA 7432192402 (BMG)
4	4	GREATEST HITS I & III	Queen	Parlophone 520882 (E)
5	5	SILVER SIDE UP	Nickelback	Redwaver 126842 (E)
6	6	SONGS FOR THE DEAF	Queens Of The Stone Age	Interscope/Polydor 493440 (U)
7	7	DOES THIS LOOK INFECTED?	Sum 41	Mercury 603500 (U)
8	8	ADIDAS/AVE	Audiofile	Epic/Interscope 510330 (TEN)
9	9	COMFORT IN SOUND	Feeder	Echo ECH0343 (U)
10	9	STEAL THIS ALBUM	System Of A Down	American Recordings 510248 (TEN)

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## DANCE SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No (Distributor)
1	1	WOLF	Dilijah	Various Dubz E8001 (BMG)
2	2	YOU'RE A SUPERSTAR	Love Inc.	Naïve/Electra 7432193841 (BMG)
3	3	THE WOLF	Dave Clarke	Skint SK11776 (DMY/IMP)
4	4	THE DISCO-SOUND MANZ	Shy FX	Yale YX100 (TEN)
5	3	BLOW YOUR MIND (I AM THE WOMAN)	Lisa Lisa feat.	Nukleus 94509140 (ADD)
6	6	ROCKET LAUNCHER	Sonic & Silver	Virgin VRS011 (P)
7	7	ICE CUBES/RED CARPET	Total Science	Metalheads MET0740 (SRD)
8	2	I DON'T CARE	Tony De Vit	Tidy Trax Tidy1811 (ADD)
9	13	HEAVEN	DJ Sammy & Yanou feat. Do	Data Data451 (DMY/TEN)
10	10	THE PLANET THING	The Planets	Adesi AD0176 (SRD)
11	11	SUPERSTITION	Shynda Wonder	Simply 12 5120 J055 (BMG)
12	12	GO TO HAVE YOUR LOVE	Mantronix	Simply 12 5120 J011 (BMG)
13	13	OCEAN OF ETERNITY	Future Breeze	Data/Ministry Of Sound DATA448 (DMY/TEN)
14	9	DIRTY HARRY'S REVENGE	Adam F feat. Beebie Man	Kaos KS00404 (SRD)
15	15	I THINK WE'RE ALONE NOW	Passafium feat. Karen Perry	AATY 1061 (SRD/27 JAM/10)
16	16	COMPARSONE	Casagrande	Flonza FLONZA10 (SRD)
17	5	REVOLUTION	BK	Nukleus NUK087047 (ADD)
18	18	MAN ON THE MOON	G-Prez	Tidy Trax TIDY000114 (ADD)
19	19	SUPASONG	X-Yu2	Skint XP85004 (DMY/VP)
20	14	LU (CAROLINA CAROL BALE)	DJ Marky & XRS feat. Stamina MC	V Recordings V015 (SRD)

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## DANCE ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label Cat. No (Distributor)
1	1	MELROY AM	Rockywork	Wall Of Sound WALL0027 (U)
2	2	ANGELS WITH DIRTY FEACES	Sugababes	Island/Uni-label -CD0182 (U)
3	3	PURE GARBAGE PLATINUM - THE VERY BEST OF	Various	Warner Dance -WMSMCD120 (TEN)
4	4	GOTTA GET THRU THIS	Daniel Bedingfield	Polydor 4931292 (U)
5	5	THE ANNUAL 2003	Various	Locked On Sound -LON0203 (DMY/TEN)
6	6	LOST HORIZONS	Lemon-Jelly	Imposted Party/DL FXPLP1764 (V)
7	7	ORIGINAL PIRATE MATERIAL	The Streets	Monkey On 679 Recordings 08245862 (TEN)
8	10	18	Moby	Mute CDSTUMM02 (U)
9	7	CLUBLAND II	Various	UMTV/AATV -060902 (U)
10	8	THE VERY BEST OF EUPHORIA - MATT DAREY	Various	Telstar TV/BMG -TTVCD3291 (SRD)

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## MUSIC VIDEO

This	Last	Title	Label Cat. No (Distributor)
1	1	WESTLIFE: Unbreakable - The Greatest Hits - Vol 1	S 7432194202 (U)
2	2	BLUE: One Love Live Tour	Innocent SIN004 (U)
3	3	ROMAN: KEATING: Live - Destination Wembley	VP 910481 (U)
4	4	KYLE MINOGUE: Kylie Four 2002	Parlophone 450210 (U)
5	4	DANIEL O'DONNELL: Shades Of Green	Resound 402621 (U)
6	6	U2: The Best Of - 1990-2000	Island/Uni-label 835530 (SRD)
7	7	RUSSELL WATSON: Live	Universal Video 5134871 (U)
8	8	QUEEN: Greatest Video Hits - 1	Parlophone 452949 (U)
9	9	DAVID BOWIE: Best Of Bowie	EMI 010223 (U)
10	12	ROBBIE WILLIAMS: Live At The Albert	Chrysalis 432623 (U)
11	10	VARIOUS: Pop Idol Tour 2002	11 11 11
12	11	S CLUB 7: Carnival	11 11 11
13	18	LED ZEPPELIN: Song Remains The Same	11 11 11
14	15	VARIOUS: New 20's - The DVD	11 11 11
15	14	SILK'N: Disappearance	11 11 11
16	18	VARIOUS: Joe's Hallelujah - 10 Years Later	11 11 11
17	17	MARTINE MCCOTTICHEAD: Sings The Musicals	11 11 11
18	19	KYLIE MINOGUE: Greatest Hits	11 11 11
19	15	STEPS: The End Of The Road	11 11 11
20	23	ATMIC KITTEN: Eight Here Eight Now - Live	11 11 11
21	19	WARREN: Music Video 50092433	11 11 11
22	19	Polyto 65230	11 11 11
23	19	Warner Bros 550339	11 11 11
24	19	EMI/VP/Universal 02004062	11 11 11
25	19	Resound 402623	11 11 11
26	19	Warner Vision 08 08245862	11 11 11
27	19	VP 907371	11 11 11
28	19	PWL 922485	11 11 11
29	19	Jive 510145	11 11 11
30	19	Eagle Vision 09E301	11 11 11

CLASSICAL news

**THEVES HIT WRONG NOTE FOR OPERA RARA**  
Doody dealings in London's East End coincided with the theft of a consignment of recordings intended for Opera Rara, the specialist label devoted to reviving neglected 18th- and early 19th-century bel canto operas.

According to Stephen Revell, Opera Rara's managing director, the company's staff were eagerly awaiting delivery of Ginevra di Scozia by Giovanni Simone Mayr, expertly produced and lavishly packaged to mark the 200th anniversary of the work's inauguration of the Teatro Nuovo in Trieste. "We had recorded the opera live in Trieste at the opera's and theatre's bicentenary and there was much excitement — everyone wanted to hear it," he says.

Prolonged roadworks near Opera Rara's Old Street headquarters had prepared Revell and his staff for delayed deliveries. But eventually the freight company responsible for shipping the three-disc set, complete with 220-page book, was contacted and invited to provide an estimated arrival time. The reply astonished Opera Rara's live-abiding opera lovers, who learned that the delivery van had arrived at their office and accepted instructions from a confident, well-spoken man "wearing a pin-striped suit and sporting a clipboard". The van was re-routed to drop the CDs "as quickly as possible" at an address just off Commercial Road.  
"And that's the last we heard of it," says a perplexed Revell. "This was obviously a very well-organised affair — all we can conclude is that there is either an extraordinarily disappointed or a very happy, highly cultured, opera-loving international criminal gang at work. Whichever, we apologise to all the customers and music critics at the lateness of this recording."

Opera Rara's conviction that Mayr provides the "missing link" between Mozart and Rossini is supported by the invention,

dramatic focus and sheer verve of Ginevra di Scozia. Elizabeth Vidal's commanding performance in the title-role and correspondingly fine singing from Daniela Barcellona add to the appeal of this revelatory release.

**STAIER SIGNS TO HARMONIA MUNDI**

The rehabilitation of formerly signed Warner Classics labels continues with news that fortepianist and harpsichordist Andreas Staier has joined the roster of Harmonia Mundi.

The German-born musician (pictured) made his early reputation as keyboard player



with the provocative early music group Musica Antiqua Köln, launching his solo career in the mid-Eighties and since forging an international reputation for the insight and sensitivity of his work. His recordings for Teldec and Deutsche Harmonia Mundi have attracted critical praise, a host of record industry awards and impressive sales for an artist dealing in the specialist performance of early music.

Staiier has already recorded a programme of Mozart sonatas on fortepiano for the French classical indie, set for UK release in the spring. Future plans include a recording of the artist's mature thoughts on Bach's Goldberg Variations, a disc of Haydn piano concertos in partnership with the Freiburg Barockorchester and an album of Beethoven's piano concertos with the Orchestre des Champs Elysées conducted by Philippe Herreweghe.

Andrew Stewart can be contacted by e-mail at [AndrewStewart1@compuserve.com](mailto:AndrewStewart1@compuserve.com)

ALBUM of the week

**ANOUAR BRAHEM: Le Pas Du Chat Noir.** Brahem, Couturier, Matinier. (ECM ECM1792). This boundary-defying disc has been available for several months, but has recently stepped into the lower reaches of the classical album chart and deserves to catch a larger share of curious listeners. Anouar Brahem's work here derives from natural melodic shapes and harmonic contours, drawn from the piano and enhanced by the sounds of Arabic oud and accordion. The tonal mix is littered with the woe, complementing the generally inward emotions and sense of stillness carried by the music. Paul Gambaccini aired one of the album's tracks on his Classic FM chart show and prompted a flood of interest. In-store exposure of L'Arbre Qui Voit and the title track would provide a perfect antidote to more highly Christmas releases.



REVIEWS

for records released up to 6 January 2003

**BAX: String Quartet No.3; Lyrical Interlude; Adagio Ma Non Troppo.** Maggini Quartet (Naxos 8.555953). The Maggini Quartet won a Gramophone Award for Naxos in 2001, in recognition of a Vaughan Williams album, underlining their status among interpreters of neglected British chamber music. Their latest release sees a return to the works of Arnold Bax, whose Third String Quartet is delivered with consummate musicianship and a rare power of communication. The Quartet and the beautiful Lyrical Interlude are otherwise unavailable in the UK classical catalogue.

**AVISON: Concertos In Seven Parts Done From The Lessons Of Domenico Scarlatti.** Café Zimmermann (Alpha Alpha031). Charles Avison's considerable skills as a composer were immortalised in Laurence Sterne's novel Tristram Shandy and in verse by Robert

Browning. Previous recordings have tended only to scratch the tempestuous surface of his music, an approach diametrically challenged by Café Zimmermann in this ripe recording. The half-dozen concertos on this disc originally capitalised on the popularity of Domenico Scarlatti's keyboard lessons with English audiences. On the strength of this admirably-produced release, Avison has all the passion and wit to satisfy a contemporary audience.

**SCHUBERT: String Quartet In A Minor; Quartet Movement In C Minor; String Quartet In E Flat Major.** Belcea Quartet (EMI Classics 5 57419 2).

Originally "discovered" on EMI's budget Debut line, the Belcea Quartet has just signed a contract to record exclusively for the full-price EMI Classics catalogue. The group's latest release repays the faith placed in their collective artistry, movingly so in the sublime interlude of the so-called "Rosamunde" Quartet and with genuine individuality in the C Minor Quartet Movement.

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## OFF THE RECORD

## THE PLACE TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IS AT MIDEM



A key issue for everyone attending Midem 2003 is the war against piracy. No part of the music industry is immune to the effects of this worldwide problem. Midem is an international event embracing all sectors of the music industry and so the Stop Out Piracy message is crucial to our survival and to the survival of every Midem participant.

Yes, actions are being taken worldwide. We are warned against complacency: The IPI blames the UK's fall in retail sales in the first half of 2002 on piracy and copyright theft. It is for this reason that we will be focusing on the war against piracy throughout Midem 2003.

Another theme in Cannes next year is that of Midem as a place to do business. In an increasingly online world, people still need to meet, to talk and to explore ideas person-to-person. And, while all of us have all the technology we need at our fingertips to be able to travel the world in a matter of minutes, no amount of electronic communication can replace the intense exchange of ideas in a conference room.

**'No amount of electronic communication can replace the intense exchange of ideas in a conference room'**

The intense exchange of ideas in a conference room, a chance meeting in a bar, or the exhibition floor – or a gig. It looks like participation at Midem will be greater than last year, but, good or bad, such statistics often hide the real trends in the music industry, but which are reflected at Midem. For example, the urban explosion in Europe and elsewhere, which we have acknowledged with the first Urban Village at Midem. The continued strength of the dance and electronic sectors will be reflected in the best-attended Electronic Village in its five years.

The digital broadcasting revolution means that what once considered niche musical genres are now getting a proper hearing. And online has been embraced industry-wide where music is concerned, as our pre-market talks, MidemNet – now in its fourth year – continues to prove.

But digital technology – and particularly P2P – has posed new and dangerous threats to our industry. The effort to control it must be an international one and the world's premier annual international music gathering is Midem, which is why we will all be in Cannes in January 2003.

*Domonique Legstem, Midem director*

● Off The Record is a personal view

## THE BIG QUESTION

## DAVID SNEEDON: MORE ROBBIE OR GARETH?

Vijay Solanki, marketing director Shazam

"Right now he doesn't seem to have that long short life, but his longevity will be proved after his first singles and album. He is talented, but it doesn't convert to more than that. You don't see a Robbie there yet. Robbie's longevity is down to his character and I don't think David has that, it's more 'catchy'."

**John O'Hara, Capital FM Network programme director**  
"He's more Gareth. Unfortunately, when you're starting with an artist from scratch on TV, that whole manufacturing process seems to turn them into a performer they don't want to be. He seems a nice guy, but doesn't have the rawness of Robbie and more and more of our listeners are telling us they're fed up with these artists."

**Patsy Birbeck, head of press, V2 Records**

"I just think he'll be Jonathan Wilkes part two. All the way through the series I was thinking he's in it because he's good-looking, and then he won. He's really a dull boy band member doing it on his own."

**Nik Goodman, programme controller, Fort FM**

"He fits so comfortably between the two. We've so peaked with this format now that playlisters are awash with these types of artists and audiences are finding it hard to differentiate between them. It's not great for radio, because you're almost obliged to play these records because of the weight of TV support, but we should be looking for long-term artist development instead."

**Dave Shack, BMG UK & Ireland, International Vice president**

"I have worked with both the artists. David Sneedon seems a very cheeky chappy to me, which reminds me of Gary Robbie. But he sounds like he can really sing and have a creative musical input to a song, so that sends him back to Gareth. Hey, a hybrid of the two wouldn't be a bad thing."  
**Allison Lower, editor, TV Hits**

"David will have a strong career. Fame Academy was a different platform to Poptans and Pop Idol. Also he is signed to Mercury, which will give him the freedom to write his own songs. You only have to look at Darius' album – which was self-written – to see that it can work."

**Nell Wyatt, marketing, Metropolis Music**

"Definitely Gareth Gates. Er, what does he look like anyway? These TV chancers all blur into one brand while after a while."

**Mercury Records is issuing David Sneedon's first single in January, after his Fame Academy victory two weeks ago.**

## DIARY

Remember where you heard it: London's barflies couldn't have failed to notice that **Courtney Love** is in the UK for Christmas and the New Year, dotting the is and crossing the Ts on her new solo contract with **Poptones/Telstar**. The rent-a-cute grunge diva has already been overheard telling late-night drinkers at London's Columbia Hotel that she took up her neighbour **Goldie Hawn's** advice to have a **facelift** before she hit 35. Other **Who** scoops include her plans for a role in a Shakespeare play in Stratford-on-Avon... Talking of the Bard, Juliet stayed away but **Romeo** put in an appearance last Friday as BBC digital station 1Xtra got down with the kids with a PA at a school in Dulwich... After listening to the pilots, **Capital FM** bosses reportedly reckon they are about to take the London breakfast market by storm again with the heavily-revamped **Chris Tarant** show. Its launch on January 6 is expected to be followed shortly by more programming changes within the group... Looks like royalty investigator **David Morgan** and his clients **Musical Youth** will have to wait until the new year before they see any settlement from Universal in their battle for royalties stretching back two decades... His recent charity clothes giveaway has at least created some space for it, but **Sir Elton John** took possession last week of yet another sales award. The latest, a triple-platinum disc for his Greatest Hits 1970-2002 best of, was handed over during a mammoth nine concerts in 11 days for his own Aids foundation. He is pictured, left to right, with Mercury joint MD **Greg Castell** and 21st Artists creative director **Derek Mackillop**... If dealing with the Christmas rush isn't enough, **HMV** has been busily number-crunching the critics' favourite albums of the past year. **Queens Of The Stone Age's** Songs For The Deaf leads the list, with titles from **The Streets**, **The Flaming Lips**, **Ms Dynamite** and **2 Many Djs/Soulwax** completing the top five... **Anthony Wilson** will no doubt be collecting a few tips on how to run a music conference when he visits **XSXW** in Texas next March, where he will be the subject of one of the keynote interviews. Other Brits heading out will be **The Darkness** and **Death In Vegas**, who are among the line-up of the **BT's** annual showcase... So the creeping **Carling-lising** of live music continues apace with the drinks brand sealing the deal with **McKenzie Group** to brand four of its venues. **McKenzie** says look out for further announcements in the new year concerning another major venue opening in the north west in April, a loyalty scheme for giggoers and a string of smaller music venues opening in cities around the UK... One venue Carling hasn't got its hands on is London's **Royal Festival Hall** where, a year after **Brian Wilson** made grown men cry by performing **Pet Sounds** in its entirety, plays host in January to **Arthur Lee** performing **Love's Forever Changes** album... How come blokes always get into the technology thing? **Shazam** reckons 70% of its 150,000 users are teenage geezers to mid-thirties guys, probably because the tagging service appeals to their **anal nature**.....



● Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes-Benz? Well, if your name is **Robert Tilley**, there really is no need to conjure up a Joplin-like prayer, because the lucky **PPL** postroom supervisor last week ensured himself a fantastic Christmas by picking up a brand-new, prize-winning Mercedes. **Tilley** took possession of the vehicle, which had been donated by members of the **BPI**, after winning first prize in a 10th anniversary raffle for the **Brit School**. In all, the draw raised more than **£18,000** for the school. Pictured, left to right, are **Tilley**, **Brit School** principal **Nick Williams** and chair of governors **John Deacon**.

**music week**

Incorporating fono, MBI, Future Hits, Green Sheet, Hit Music, Record Mirror and Tours Report



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