

For the third week running Madonna makes the headlines in this column. She has become the first girl singer to hold the top two positions in the singles' chart, and only the fifth performer to achieve the feat. The others were Elvis Presley, the Beatles, John Lennon and Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

Furthermore, she has now had five hit singles in 1985 and each of them has sold more than 250,000 copies, qualifying for a silver disc. If she maintains her lead she will be the first female to become top selling artist of any year in the 33-year history of British charts.

Her next single is scheduled for late-September release; it is to be "Angel," which is a track off the L.P. "Like A Virgin."

Also due out in the autumn is a new album by the Human League called "Crash," and they are planning a tour to promote it. Last week saw the release of two new "live" albums. Firstly from W.E.A. came "Bill Haley's Scrapbook" featuring a rock 'n' roll revival show recorded in New York on October 18, 1969.

Bill and his Comets received an eight-minute standing ovation (not included on this disc I hasten to add!), but really this is a tame performance compared to his work in the

1950's. All the favourites are included here, but there are much better versions to be found on other Haley records.

The other new "live" album is from Vienna band Opus, and it is named after their hit single "Live Is Life" (on Polydor). It was recorded at the Oberwart stadium on September 2, 1984, and the performance gives the impression that Opus are attempting to sound like a "Fun" version of Foreigner and Yes. Singer Herwig Rudisser sounds so similar to Lou Gramm on "Positive," and he sounds like Jon Anderson on "Opusopus" and "No Job." There is even a touch of Police's Sting in his vocals on "Eleven" and "Follow Me."

Nevertheless, the L.P. makes entertaining listening, not least for the excellent title track, which has been the singalong record of the summer. Whether or not the public will take the group seriously enough to buy the album on the strength of the one hit remains to be seen.

New singles this week include Jaki Graham's "Heaven Knows," the Thompson Twins' "Don't Mess With Doctor Dream" (co-produced by Nile Rodgers), and Marc Almond's "Stories Of Johnny" (accompanied by Westminster City School Choir). But the best of the lot is Shakatak's "City Rhythm" which comes out tomorrow, and will surely push them back into the

charts. An album and a tour will follow later in the year.

L.P. CHART

1. Now That's What I Call Music 5 (Various).
2. Like A Virgin (Madonna).
3. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
4. Born In The USA (Bruce Springsteen).
5. Be Yourself Tonight (Eurythmics).
6. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
7. The Kenny Rogers Story.
8. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
9. The Unforgettable Fire (U2).
10. Madonna (Madonna).

releasing their first studio album for nearly two years in September, entitled "The Key" which I will be reviewing in a few weeks' time. Fans will be glad to hear that their British tour includes a date at Worthing Assembly Halls on September 6.

Finally this week, a tip for pop fans travelling to the Gloucester/Severn Valley area, which has one of the better independent local radio stations called "Severn Sound" on 388 M.W. and 95 V.H.F. Stereo. Some of the struggling I.L.R. stations should follow their example by placing the emphasis more on the music, with less chatter. After all, most people switch on the radio to enjoy a relaxing background to the day's chores, without the distraction of constant chatter which is freely available on television and Radio Four.

Seventh Wave," while Kate Bush ends a long silence with a new single called "Running Up That Hill," and an album to follow in September.

New from the Philly World label is "Prove It To Me" by New Experience, which is likely to be a big dance hit. However, the song does not have enough melody to be a chart hit.

Other new singles include Bananarama's "Do Not Disturb," and Philip Oakey and Giorgio Moroder's "Be My Lover Now."

On the album front, there are no new releases from major artists at present, as they tend to hold back their material at this time of year, and then put it on the market during the run-up to Christmas.

This should enable EMI/Virgin's "Now That's What I Call Music Volume Five" compilation to reach No. 1. It came out last week, and is bound to sell well. There is an accompanying video which reached the shops on Monday and costs about £20.

I am pleased to report that Imagination will be

- LP CHART**
1. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
  2. Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
  3. Be Yourself Tonight (Eurythmics).
  4. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
  5. The Kenny Rogers Story.
  6. No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
  7. The Secret Of Association (Paul Young).
  8. Billy Joel's Greatest Hits Volume 1 and 2.
  9. The Unforgettable Fire (U2).
  10. All Through The Night (Aled Jones).

the name Madonna is on everyone's lips at the moment, as she has become the first woman to come three simultaneous Top Twenty hits since Ruby Murray in 1955. Ruby actually had five discs in the Top Twenty in the same week, at the age of 20; something unlikely to be achieved again.

Madonna's "Into The Groove" and "Holiday" have both sold more than half a million copies in this country alone, qualifying for gold discs.

Listeners to Steve Wright's Radio One show will be happy to hear that Mr. Angry has released a single entitled "I'm So Angry!!!" Sting has issued another 45 from his solo L.P. called "Love Is The

Musical journey

Music through the ages will be the theme of a concert to be given by musicians from Repton School in Chichester Cathedral later this month. Early composers such as Farnaby and Susato, through Bach, Schumann, and Elgar, to Scott Joplin and Fats Waller will be represented in "Renaissance to Jazz", which comes to the city as part of a national tour.

A new work, "Blues with Fanfares for Eight Brass", will be played at each concert. It was commissioned in memory of Chris Parker, a Repton master and former touring musician with the group, who died from cancer in April, aged 39.

The five-minute piece is written in a 20th Century idiom by Gabriel Jackson, an old boy of St Edmund's, Canterbury, now at the Royal Academy of Music. The seven Reptonians in the group will be augmented by two boys from St Edmund's. This fifth annual tour will stop off at Chichester on August 30

RECORD REVIEW

Bob Woodhead

58/8/85