

Joining forces E.M.I. and Virgin Records have presented "Now That's What I Call Music — the Christmas Album", which is certainly my favourite L.P. of 1985 and overhauls "Phil Spector's Christmas Album" of 1963 as the best Christmas album ever. I am quite sure that after a few seasons this record will figure amongst the best sellers of all time.

It contains 18 of the greatest festive hits, from John Lennon's 1972 "Happy Christmas (War is Over)" through to Band Aid's 1984 "Do They Know It's Christmas". Proceeds from this title are going to the Band Aid Trust and a donation from the remainder of the proceeds will be made to the N.S.P.C.C.

The only pre-1972 songs are Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" (recorded in 1942 but re-issued in 1977) and the Beach Boys' "Little Saint Nick" (recorded in 1964). Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody" is included, but my particular favourites are the aforementioned Band Aid track and Wham's "Last Christmas". The only disappointing omission is Boney M's 1978 chart-topper "Mary's Boy Child". Even if you only like four or five of the

songs this album will represent excellent value for money. A major T.V. advertising campaign was launched on Sunday.

Also new from this E.M.I./Virgin series is "Now That's What I Call Music 6" which continues the successful policy of packaging 30 recent chart singles on to a double-album.

The other important release is Shakatak's seventh L.P. entitled "Day By Day" (on Polydor) which includes the hit of the same name and their recent 45 "City Rhythm". There are seven other numbers including an instrumental called "Viva La Fantasy". Vocalist Gill Saward is developing a talent for songwriting having co-written three songs including "Day By Day". The group have kept to their tried and tested formula on this disc and who can blame them when their loyal fans continue to buy their records and attend their concerts? They are one of the most polished and professional bands around.

EMI continues its series of Beatles re-issues with the release of "We Can Work It Out"/"Day Tripper". The single was originally released on December 3, 1965 on the eve of their last U.K. tour. It was their eleventh official single and their ninth consecutive No.

- LP CHART**
- 1 Greatest Hits of 1985 (Various).
 - 2 Love Songs (George Benson).
 - 3 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
 - 4 Promise (Sade).
 - 5 Easy Pieces (Lloyd Cole and the Commotions).

- 6 The Spandau Ballet Singles' Collection.
- 7 The Love Album (Various).
- 8 Love Hurts (Elaine Paige).
- 9 Now — The Christmas Album (Various).
- 10 Like a Virgin (Madonna).

1, notching up sales of a million copies within three weeks.

Record Review

Most of the albums aimed at the Christmas market have already been released but there are plenty of new 45s that could still become big chart hits this month.

Leading the way is Level 42's classy "Leaving Me Now" closely followed by Sting's "Russians" and Julian Lennon's "Because" (originally recorded by the Dave Clark Five). Elton John should find success with "Wrap Her Up" which features George Michael on vocals, and the Thompson Twins likewise. Their December offering is a reworking of the old Beatles' song "Revolution" and it is one of the best cuts on their recent album "Here's To Future Days."

Until now, Bruce Springsteen's "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" has never been available on a single — but fans will be pleased to learn that they can now find it on the B-side of his new 45 called "My Home Town." A less likely chart contender is Freddie Mer-

cury's "Love Me Like There's No Tomorrow" taken from the "Mr. Bad Guy" LP. The title track would have been a far better choice for a single.

Freddie's group Queen have released "The Complete Works" which is a boxed set containing all 13 of their albums plus a special bonus LP called "Complete Vision." The whole package sells for about £57. Queen have also been signed to record a soundtrack for the forthcoming movie "Highlander" and this recording should be in the shops by February. A single from this film will be released in January.

Donna Summer has issued "The Donna Summer Collection" which includes her Euro-hits of the late seventies and early eighties recorded with Giorgio Moroder. The songs include "MacArthur Park", "On The Radio", and "Enough Is Enough" (in duet with Barbra Streisand).

Pink Floyd's "Dark Side Of The Moon" has become

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the first album to spend 600 weeks in the American LP chart, while Dire Straits have put out the world's first compact-disc single — "Brothers In Arms". Madness' "Uncle Sam" peaked at No.21 in the charts, bringing to an end their run of twenty consecutive Top Twenty singles dating back to "The Prince" in 1979.

LP CHART

1. Now That's What I Call Music 6 (Various).
2. Hits 3 (Various).
3. Spandau Ballet's Singles' Collection.
4. Now — The Christmas Album (Various).
5. Love Songs (George Benson).
6. Greatest Hits of 1985 (Various).
7. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
8. The Love Album (Various).
9. Promise (Sade).
10. Love Hurts (Elaine Paige).