

Record Review

19/12/85
Bob Woodhead

This year will surely be best remembered as the year of Women In Rock by Madonna, and the year of Charity which culminated in "Live Aid."

It began with Band Aid at No.1 with "Do They Know It's Christmas" which had taken only two weeks and three days to become the biggest selling single of all time in Britain. By the end of January it had sold well over three million copies. At No.2 were Wham with "Last Christmas" which sold over one million discs without ever reaching the top.

But it was Madonna at No.3 in January who went on to make the year's biggest headlines. The song "Like A Virgin" was the title track to her Nile Rodgers' produced album which has spent more than a year in the LP charts. Her total of eight Top Ten hit singles within the calendar year is a unique

achievement for any artist, and she is the first female to be the top-selling artist in 33 years of pop charts.

The year 1985 has proved to be the best year ever for women in pop music. Apart from Madonna, there have been chart-topping hits by Barbara Dickson and Elaine Paige (the best-selling female duet ever), Phyllis Nelson, Sister Sledge, Annie Lennox, Chris Hynde, Whitney Houston and Jennifer Rush (the first million selling song in Britain by a girl singer), Furthermore Sade and Tina Turner have continued their success in the album charts.

Bob Geldof's Band Aid project started the year's other major trend of charity-ensemble discs. These included No.1 hits by U.S.A. For Africa, The Crowd and Mick Jagger with David Bowie. The most remarkable day of 1985 and arguably the greatest day in the

history of rock was Saturday, July 13, when the whole world witnessed "Live Aid." During the weeks that followed the charts reflected the dramatic effect that the show had.

In next Tuesday's Christmas Observer Part Two of the 1985 Review will carry a list of all the No.1 singles. Meanwhile here is my choice of the best singles of 1985:

1. Move Closer (Phyllis Nelson)
2. White Wedding (Billy Idol)
3. Everybody Wants To Rule The World (Tears For Fears)
4. Into The Groove (Madonna)
5. There Must Be An Angel (Eurythmics)
6. Gentle, (B, B & Q)
7. Cherish (Kool And The Gang)
8. Easy Lover (Philip Bailey and Phil Collins)
9. Duel (Propaganda)
10. I Want Your Lovin' (Curtis Hairston)

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In the first 11 months of 1985 the only single to pass one million sales in Britain was Jennifer Rush's "The Power Of Love", which took a record 16 weeks to reach No. 1, beating Dead Or Alive's 15 weeks achieved earlier in the year.

The second best seller was "I Know Him So Well" by Barbara Dickson and Elaine Paige (daughter of a Bognor estate agent), with figures approaching 900,000.

Close behind at No.3 was Madonna's "Into The Groove", pushing Paul Hardcastle's "19" into fourth place. Of course, these placings might have changed during December, but you will be able to hear the Top 40 of the year at 5 p.m. on Sunday (December 29), in stereo on Radio One. On Saturday at 3 p.m., you can hear the U.S. Top 30 on the same channel.

Million

The year 1985 saw a boom in album sales with Phil Collins' February release "No Jacket Required" leading the way by topping the million mark. Bruce Springsteen's "Born In The U.S.A." has actually outsold "No Jacket", but some of its sales were registered in 1984. Bruce has enjoyed the best year of his career, thanks to a successful world tour.

Also getting close to seven-figure album sales are "Brothers In Arms", by Dire Straits and "Songs From The Big Chair", by Tears For Tears. Meat Loaf's "Bat Out Of Hell" beat the all-time record of 320 consecutive weeks on the L.P. Chart held by "The Sound Of Music" be-

tween 1965 and 1971.

The final part of the 1985 Review will appear in the New Year Observer. In the meantime to prepare you for Christmas Day's "Top Of The Pops" (B.B.C.1, 2 p.m.) here are the year's chart-toppers:

Chart toppers

December 11, 1984: Do They Know It's Christmas (Band Aid) — five weeks.

January 15, 1985: I Want To Know What Love Is (Foreigner) — three weeks.

February 5: I Know Him So Well (Elaine Paige/Barbara Dickson) — four weeks.

March 5: You Spin Me Round (Dead Or Alive) — two weeks.

March 19: Easy Lover (Philip Bailey/Phil Collins) — four weeks.

April 16: We Are The World (U.S.A. For Africa) — two weeks.

April 30: Move Closer (Phyllis Nelson) — one week.

May 7: 19 (Paul Hardcastle) — five weeks.

June 11: You'll Never Walk Alone (The Crowd) — two weeks.

June 25: Frankie (Sister Sledge) — four weeks.

July 23: There Must Be An Angel (Eurythmics) — one week.

July 30: Into The Groove (Madonna) — four weeks.

August 27: I Got You Babe (UB40 With Chrissie Hynde) — one week.

September 3: Dancing In The Street (Mick Jagger/David Bowie) — four weeks.

October 1: If I Was (Midge Ure) — one week.

October 8: The Power Of Love (Jennifer Rush) — five weeks.

November 12: A Good Heart (Feargal Sharkey) — two weeks.

November 26: I'm Your Man (Wham) — two weeks.

December 10: Saving All My Love For You (Whitney Houston) — two weeks so far.