

7/86

Rod Stewart's fans will be well satisfied with his first new L.P. for three years named after the current hit "Every Beat Of My Heart", which is one of his best ever recordings.

This anthem-type song is very similar to "Sailing" and even better in my opinion. Unfortunately the rest of the album does not quite come up to the standard of that song, but "Here To Eternity" comes close. He could have made more of his interpretation of John Lennon's "In My Life". Overall the L.P. is not as strong as "Body Wishes" from 1983, but if I were to make a list of Rod's albums it would certainly figure in the top half.

Also releasing her first L.P. for three years is Randy Crawford, who has one of the most distinctive voices in the world of soul music. Whereas most of her earlier work has been in a slow vein, "Abstract Emotions" (on Warner Bros.) is mostly upbeat.

It is an album of two sides... the first being mediocre and the second excellent. Opening up side two is the soulful, melodic "Desire" which is followed by the singalong soul of "Gettin' Away With Murder" (her new 45), going into the more rhythmic "Over-night" and the ballad "Almaz".

One of the most promising American soul performers to emerge this year is Willie Collins and you can now buy his debut L.P. named after the outstanding slow-grooving love song "Where You Gonna Be Tonight?", which narrowly failed to hit the Top 40.

Other songs on the album to listen out for are the ballad "Restless" and the funky "Determination" where he is joined on vocals by McFadden and Whitehead who had a hit in 1979 with "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now", and contributed to many of the best Philadelphia soul records in the late Seventies.

The "Invisible Touch" L.P. by Genesis needs to be heard a few times before it becomes enjoyable. In my view they reached their peak on the last two albums with Peter Gabriel and the first after his departure (namely "Trick Of The Tail", 1976).

This record has not really progressed from those efforts but when you strike a successful formula it can seem pointless trying to change it. Apart from the title song the other highlights here are "Tonight Tonight" and "In Too Deep" which is a classic Genesis love song.

With no L.P. chart this week it gives me the chance to comment on the ridiculous number of new albums by headline acts being released this summer. Record companies would generate more sales by spacing out their release dates. In the 25 years that I have been following the scene I cannot remember such a flood of new products... not even during the pre-Christmas period in any year.

With the quiet period that will inevitably follow I shall have the chance to comment on some of the favourites not yet mentioned. With the tide of new L.P.s "Brothers In Arms" by Dire Straits has left the top ten for the first time in its 14 months in the shops!

Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Samantha Fox has released her debut album entitled "Touch Me," and with the large following she has gathered from her modelling career it will undoubtedly sell by the lorry load.

The hit title-song is a good number but I am not particularly impressed by the quality on the remainder of the tracks. The only other numbers that I wanted to hear a second time were "It's Only Love" and "Baby I'm Lost For Words".

The other songs all tend to have the same rock beat that drifts aimlessly round the living room.

Following the success of "Now — The Christmas Album", EMI and Virgin have logically combined again to bring us "Now — The Summer Album," a double-L.P. packed with 30 seasonal hits of the "warmer variety."

There are summer sounds to suit all tastes here but my favourites include "Summer Breeze" (The Isley Brothers) and "Summer — The First Time" (Bobby Goldsboro) on Side One, and "Sunny Afternoon" (which was the best Kinks song musically and lyrically) on Side Two.

Side Three is the weakest apart from "The Sun Goes Down" (Level 42), but Side Four improves thanks to songs like "Here Comes The Sun" (The Beatles). Personally I would have picked the best of these songs and put them on one L.P. as they did to such great effect on "The Christmas Album."

Among the latest batch of video releases is "The Freddie Mercury Video E.P." featuring the promotional films that accompa-



● Samantha Fox — debut album

31/7/86

nied his four solo hits of 1985 and 1986.

These are "I Was Born To Love You" (which will be familiar to "Top Of The Pops" viewers), "Made In Heaven," "Time" and "Living On My Own" which was banned from television by CBS themselves, who considered it to be "over the top!"

It records the wild scenes at Freddie's 39th birthday party last October. Having set the ball rolling with "Bohemian Rhapsody" he

is obviously keen to maintain a hold on the crown as the King of Video.

A full-length feature film that is worth seeing on video is Madonna's "Desperately Seeking Susan" which began its cinema life last August and was released on video this summer. An enjoyable musical soundtrack includes "Into The Groove," and it accompanies a highly entertaining comedy storyline.

Also released at the cinema last year and on

video this year is the James Bond movie "A View To A Kill" which includes Duran Duran's title-song. This video will be of great interest to readers because the spectacular climax to the picture was filmed at Amberley in the chalk pits.