

Best yet for Duran Duran

Duran Duran are back with a new album named after their recent hit single "Notorious." Many critics have been writing them off as "has-beens" but this record should make those critics eat their words. I would go as far as to say that it is the group's best yet.

The first two songs on the second side are particularly strong. "Vertigo" is an interesting number with a strong, sing-along chorus, and "So Misled" has a rhythmic, chanting feel to it, with Nile Rodgers' guitar-playing very predominant.

Mr. Rodgers helped the trio produce the album. Steve Ferrone, of the Average White Band, did the drumming in place of Roger Taylor, and I understand that he is going to become the permanent replacement. Andy Taylor has also left the band but he has contributed to this L.P.

The best track on side one is "American Science" which has a catchy tune and an effective horn section operating in the background. "Hold Me" is another good, up-tempo number. All ten songs were written by Simon LeBon, Nick Rhodes, and John Taylor, and the record has a crisp, well-produced sound running throughout.

Following the success of their "Hymns Album" the Huddersfield Choral Society has released "The Carols Album" featuring 20 of the best known Christmas carols.

Unlike many similar L.P.s there are only a couple of lesser known carols here, so this is likely to become the most popular collection of its type. The only important carols that are not included are "Ding

Dong Merrily On High" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem," but the L.P. features "We Three Kings," "Good King Wenceslas," "I Saw Three Ships" and "In The Bleak Midwinter."

Another excellent new Christmas album is "The Swingles Christmas" by the four boy, four girl vocal group the Swingles (Polydor). Their vocal arrangements on the 14 songs ranging from "Sleigh Ride" and "I Believe in Father Christmas" to "The Twelve Days of Christmas," are first rate, and no musical instruments are used. This album is a surprising breath of fresh air as far as Christmas records go.

Atmosphere

Also worth an honourable mention is the new L.P. "Christmas" by Elaine Paige, from Bognor Regis. I really enjoyed listening to this collection of festive songs with a difference, particularly "Coventry Carol" and "The Coldest Night Of The Year." Elaine actually recorded these in London during the warmer month of September, but she certainly managed to inject a Christmas atmosphere into them.

The bookmakers' new favourite to be the Christmas number one is the Housemartins superb version of "Caravan Of Love," the Isley Brothers soul song.

L.P. CHART

- 1 Now 8 (various)
- 2 Hits 5 (various)
- 3 The Whole Story (Kate Bush)
- 4 The Singles (Police)
- 5 Live Magic (Queen)
- 6 Graceland (Paul Simon)
- 7 True Blue (Madonna)
- 8 Top Gun (Soundtrack)
- 9 Silk and Steel (5 star)
- 10 Slippery When Wet (Bon Jovi)



● Duran Duran — latest album is their best yet.