Record Review

20/3/86

The best new single this week is "Galveston Bay" by Lonnie Hill on the 10 record label. It is a smooth, soul sound sung in the same style as Freddie Jackson's current hit "Rock Me Tonight" which I tipped for success back in July, 1985. "Galveston Bay" was recorded at the Colorado Sound Studios in Denver and was composed by Lonnie himself.

If you enjoy this kind of music it is worth tuning in to Robbie Vincent's Soul programme at 9 p.m. every Sunday on Radio One in stereo. Tony Blackburn also hosts a splendid soul-music show on B.B.C. Radio London (206 metres Medium Wave) from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on weekdays. The programme features some entertaining phone-ins.

At 41 Diana Ross is the oldest female solo-singer to occupy the No 1 spot, beating Barbra Streisand who was 38 when "Woman In Love" was top. Starship's moody, melodic song "Sara" never reached the Top Forty in this country but I am pleased to report that it has peaked at No. 1 in America, where Whitney Houston occupies the top slot in the L.P. chart.

Her album is still in second place to "Brothers In Arms" (Dire Straits) here in Britain. Last week I reported that "Brothers In Arms" had become the all-time best selling C.D. album with 60,000 sales, but I failed to mention that it has also sold 600,000 compact-discs worldwide.

Blank cassettes are likely to cost an extra ten pence in the near future. There will be a levy which will be paid to the record-companies to compensate them for loss of business due to home taping.

Queen have greatly improved upon "One Vision" with their new song called "A Kind Of Magic." Also worth a spin is Duane Eddy's remake of "Peter Gunn" with the Art Of Noise, and New Order's "Shellshock" which they will be performing "live" on "The Tube" tomorrow evening.

In place of the normal L.P. chart here is a list of America's Grammy-Award winners for this year:

Best 45: "We Are The World" (U.S.A. For Africa).

Best L.P.: "No Jacket Required" (Phil Collins).

Best Song: "We Are The World" (Michael Jackson/ Lionel Richie — composers).

Newcomer: Sade.

Female Pop vocal performance: "Saving All My Love For You" (Whitney Houston).

Male Pop vocal performance: "No Jacket Required" (Phil Collins).

Group Pop vocal performance: "We Are The World" (U.S.A. For Africa).

Instrumental Pop Performance: "Miami Vice Theme" (Jan Hammer).

Female Rock vocal performance: "One Of The Living" (Tina Turner).

Male Rock vocal performance: "The Boys Of Summer" (Don Henley).

Group Rock vocal performance: "Money For Nothing" (Dire Straits).

Female R.&B. vocal performance: "Freeway Of Love" (Aretha Franklin).

Male R. & B. vocal performance: "In Square Circle" (Stevie Wonder).

Group R. & B. vocal performance: "Nightshift" (Commodores).

Best R. & B. Song: "Freeway Of Love" (Narada Michael Walden/Jeffrey Cohen — composers).

Music Video: "We Are The World."

Bob Woodhead

Record Review

Bob Woodhead

27/3/86

It is likely that Cliff Richard's collaboration with the Young Ones and Hank Marvin on "Living Doll" will be No. 1 by the time you read this. If so, Cliff will be the first artist to have topped the charts in four different decades.

His original recording of "Living Doll" became his first No. 1 hit when he was 18 in 1959. He also hit the jackpot with "Travellin' Light" that year and enjoyed seven chart-toppers in the Sixties as well as "We Don't Talk Anymore" in 1979. "Daddy's Home" just missed out in 1981 when it climbed to No. 2.

OLDIES

This year has been a good one for the older generation of pop performers. Frank Sinatra (70), James Brown (60), Duane Eddy, Cliff, Diana Ross, the Rolling Stones (all over 40) have all had hit records, and there are several others that space prevents me from mentioning.

George Michael will undoubtedly put in a strong challenge for the No. 1 spot with his haunting ballad entitled "A Different Corner" which is released this week. Other new 45s include Bryan Ferry's "Is Your Love Strong Enough?" backed-up by an instrumental version of "Windswept"; and Double's "Your Prayer Takes Me Off" re-mixed from their debut LP "Blue".

REFORMED

One of the most pleasing events of recent months has been the reformation of the Electric Light Orchestra who are now working as a trio. Their first LP release for three years is entitled "Balance Of Power" and is available on Epic Records. It is a great improvement on their somewhat pretentious "Secret Messages" of 1983. This new work includes the current hit "Calling America" but the best track is called "Sorrow About To Fall" which sounds like a futuristic version of the old hits "Showdown" and "Evil Woman." Among all the wizardry though is some great saxophone playing. As usual, Jeff Lynne wrote and produced all the material.

Also new on the album front is "Viva Vivaldi" by James Last (on Polydor). Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is regarded as one of the most influential composers of his generation and the pioneer of orchestral music. His most famous work was "The Four Seasons" and included on "Viva Vivaldi" are James Last's versions of Primavera (Spring), A Springtime Dream and Largo. James Last has released more than 50 chart LPs — a feat exceeded only by Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra.

LP CHART

1 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
2 Hits For Lovers (Various).
3 Whitney Houston
4 No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).
5 Rockey IV (Soundtrack).
6 Hounds Of Love (Kate Bush).
7 Nightbeat 2 (Various).
8 Be Yourself Tonight (Eurythmics).
9 Balance Of Power (Electric Light Orchestra).
10 The Hymns Album (Huddersfield Choral Society).