

Record Review

by Bob Woodhead



One of the most distinctive voices on the scene at the moment is that of Bono, the singer with U2. He is perhaps best known for his contribution to the Band Aid song on which he sang the thought-provoking line "And tonight thank God it's them instead of you."

Together with U2 he is back with a new chart-topping album entitled "The Joshua Tree" which features the group's latest single "With Or Without You." This is probably the best number on side one because the vocals are drowned by the instruments on the catchy song "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For." Side Two opens with "Red Hill Mining Town" which is

likely to be the next 45 release in view of the fact that a video has been made to accompany it. Like much of the LP it has a good vocal performance by Bono on an indifferent song. "In God's Country" is a better track, based on a driving guitar-rhythm with the whole band's enthusiasm really shining through.

Unfortunately none of the songs come up to the standard of "New Year's Day" and "Pride (In The Name Of Love)" from previous years, and I find U2 to be the poor relation in the trio of Big Country, Simple Minds and themselves.

Newly released on the Stylus label is the Vienna Symphony Orchestra's "Symphonic Rock" featuring their interpretations of ten recent best-selling chart singles. These include an interesting medley of Mozart's 40th Symphony and Falco's "Rock Me Ama-

deus." I also enjoy hearing the orchestra play "Brothers In Arms," "Private Dancer" and Jennifer Rush's "The Power Of Love." The three songs really lend themselves to this type of treatment, but there are others where it can sound pretentious.

Single of the week is Jaki Graham's "Still In Love" (a track from her "Breaking Away" LP), closely followed by Smokey Robinson's customary smooth ballad "Just To See Her" (from a forthcoming album). It is also good to see the Thompson Twins back on the scene with "Get That Love." They are now down to a duo and they too have an album in the pipeline.

Swing Out Sister are likely to have a third Top Ten hit with only their third release called "Twilight World." They are without doubt one of the hottest new acts to emerge in the past six months, and their

album is scheduled for May release. David Grant is back on the scene with a singalong number entitled "Take Us Back."

When reviewing "The Phantom Of The Opera" on March 12 I mentioned the fact that two compact discs lasting two hours were heavy going (not only to listen to but price-wise), so I am pleased to report that the highlights are available on a single compact disc as well.

LP CHART

- 1 Now 9 (Various).
- 2 The Joshua Tree (U2).
- 3 Running In The Family (Level 42).
- 4 Move Closer (Various).
- 5 Men And Women (Simple Red).
- 6 Phantom Of The Opera (Original Cast).
- 7 Very Best Of Hot Chocolate.
- 8 Graceland (Paul Simon).
- 9 Live Magic (Queen).
- 10 So (Peter Gabriel).