

30/4/87

## Record Review

Bob Woodhead

The popular Isle of Wight band, Level 42, ended the British leg of their European Spring tour by playing for two nights at the Brighton Centre over Easter. I was lucky enough to see them performing on the final night when the large crowd were treated to a masterful display of musicianship and special effects. The quartet really enjoyed themselves and the "end of term" atmosphere came across to the audience.

They performed six out of the nine songs from their new package "Running In The Family" which is the best album of all-time in my opinion. Among those six was the exquisite ballad "It's Over" which went down very well. They also played numbers from their

last album "World Machine" and a few older tunes, but the songs which were applauded most were their biggest hits "Lessons In Love" and "Running In The Family" itself.

The extravagant light-show was most effective and it can never be fully appreciated on the video version of their concerts. But even more impressive was the quartet's ability to reproduce their sound so well on stage. They returned for two encores; firstly "Something About You" and "Hot Water" where singer/bass-player Mark King and keyboard player Mike Lindup were hoisted high above the stage in wire harnesses. In this age of cordless, remote-control guitars it was possible for King to play the bass "in the air"!

Level 42's "World Machine" was voted the 12th favourite L.P. by Ocean Sound listeners in the survey detailed below, and "Running In The Family" (only released half-way through the survey period) came 37th.

Madonna has become the first female solo performer to have four No.1 hits in this country. Her infectious, summery "La Isla Bonita" deservedly hit the jackpot last week. On the subject of chart statistics, my thanks to Colin Barley of Bognor Regis who tells me that the Dubliners have had the longest gap between Top 30 hits of any group in the British singles charts. They have recently enjoyed renewed success in duet with the Pogues on "The Irish Rover."

Representing Britain in this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Brussels on May 9 will be Rikki singing the very mediocre "Only The Light" which does not sound like a winning song to my ears, although I hope I am wrong! To my mind the best tune among the Songs For Europe was "Bless Your Lucky Stars" by Paddington group Juice, which is now available on a single.

Album of the week is "One From The Heart" by Jocelyn Brown (on Warner Brothers). She puts everything into her vocal performance on all eight tracks which represent a well-balanced variety of frantic dance music and moody ballads. Most of the numbers have been produced by "Jellybean" who is famous for his work with Madonna.

Over Easter Ocean Sound broadcast the Top 100 albums and singles voted for by listeners, and these were the Top Tens in each category:

### SINGLES

1. Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen).
2. The Lady In Red (Chris De Burgh).
3. Imagine (John Lennon).
4. I Just Called To Say I Love You (Stevie Wonder).
5. Bridge Over Troubled Water (Simon and Garfunkel).
6. Careless Whisper (George Michael).
7. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
8. Sailing (Rod Stewart).

9. Sledgehammer (Peter Gabriel).
  10. Baker Street (Gerry Rafferty).
- ALBUMS
1. Brothers In



● Level 42, whose latest album is said to be "the best of all time."

- Arms (Dire Straits).
2. True Blue (Madonna).
3. Silk And Steel (Five Star).
4. Queen's Greatest Hits.
5. Thriller (Michael Jackson).
6. Bridge Over Troubled Water (Simon and Garfunkel).
7. Rumours (Fleetwood Mac).
8. Bat Out Of Hell (Meat Loaf).
9. Graceland (Paul Simon).
10. Hunting High And Low (A-Ha).

Reduced from A3 → A4.