

Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Swing Out Sister have released a magnificent debut album entitled "It's Better To Travel" which in my opinion is the second best record of the year behind Level 42's "Running In The Family".

I would especially recommend the compact disc which has bonus remixed alternatives of the hits "Breakout", "Surrender" and "Twilight World" and an instrumental version of "Communion" making the total playing time nearly 64 minutes. The trio's debut single "Blue Mood" from November 1985 (which never became a hit) is also on the album.

The fact that "Communion" is featured in two versions on the CD would seem to suggest that it is lined up for future release on 45. It is a mid-tempo song with a superb melody brilliantly vocalized by Corinne Drewery and crafted

to perfection on the instrumental back-up, making it the highlight of the album just ahead of "Surrender" which was the most soulful single they issued.

Also well worth hearing is "Fooled By A Smile", a delightfully catchy tune and "It's Not Enough" which is nearly as good. The instrumental called "Theme (from It's Better To Travel)" seems out of place when you first hear it, but after a few plays it comes across most effectively.

One can imagine it being used in a science fiction movie, as it would be perfect music for Cybermen, Robomen and Daleks to march to!!

Singer Corinne Drewery began her working life as a tealady at a radio station. Her two partners in the band are Andy Connell on keyboards and Martin Jackson on percussion, and the three of them wrote all the songs with Paul O'Duffy taking care of the production.

The "Brothers In Arms" album by Dire Straits has been in the Top 30 LP Chart for the entire two year period since its release in May 1985 and is the first recording to sell more than one million cassettes and over 250,000 CDs in this country. By the end of April its total sales on these shores came to 2,651,266 meaning that it has overtaken Michael Jackson's "Thriller" to become the

best selling album of all-time.

Whitney Houston's self-titled debut album is the best selling "debut" LP worldwide of all-time and her second long player "Whitney" is released this week. I shall be reviewing it later this month.

Definitely heading for the top of the Singles chart is George Michael's "I Want Your Sex" which has been banned from the B.B.C. playlist before 9 p.m. each day. Also worth a spin is "Goodbye Stranger" by George's former backing girls Pepsi and Shirlie, which is a great follow-up to "Heartache". Two splendid album tracks are making good headway as singles, namely "Diamonds" by Herb Alpert (featuring Janet Jackson) and "Infidelity" by Simply Red.

ITV's long awaited rival show to "Top Of The Pops" finally gets under-

way next Tuesday at 7.30. It is called "The Roxy" hosted by David "Kid" Jensen. "Solid Soul" is back on Channel 4 on Fridays at 5.30 and "The Chart Show" is at 6.15.

LP CHART

- 1 (1) It's Better To Travel (Swing Out Sister).
- 2 (3) Solitude Standing (Suzanne Vega).
- 3 (2) Keep Your Distance (Curiosity Killed The Cat).
- 4 (5) Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).
- 5 (8) The Joshua Tree (U2).
- 6 (4) Running In The Family (Level 42).
- 7 (7) Raindancing (Alison Moyet).
- 8 (10) FLM (Mel and Kim).
- 9 (14) Men And Women (Simply Red).
- 10 (6) So (Peter Gabriel).

● (Right) Swing Out Sister — a magnificent debut album.

