● **Queen, whose latest album is said to prove that they are still "kings of the stage."**

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Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Released just before Christmas, but still doing well in the LP chart, is Queen's "Live Magic." Without a doubt this album confirms that Queen are kings of the stage. Not only did they steal the show at Live Aid in July 1985 but they have capitalized on that success with triumphant performances last year.

The tracks on this album were recorded at Wembley Stadium, Knebworth Park and Budapest. Unlike many "live" records the sound quality on "Live Magic" is very good and the audience participation blends in well. As far as the actual songs go all the familiar favourites are here, namely "A Kind of Magic", "Another One Bites The Dust", "I Want To Break Free", "Radio Ga-Ga" and the anthem-like "We Are The Champions".

Their classic "Bohemian Rhapsody" is featured without the complicated middle-section which is normally played on tape when they perform. Also worthy of a mention is the belting "Hammer To Fall" which is possibly the song that lends itself to "live" performance best of all.

Hot on the heels of her latest success in the singles chart with "No More The Fool" there are two albums by Elkie Brooks in the LP chart. There is a new album named after the current hit but better still is a Telstar compilation called "The Very Best of Elkie Brooks" with 16 tracks. There are the hits that will be familiar to most people like "Pearl's A Singer", "Lilac Wine", "Don't Cry Out Loud" and best of all "Sunshine After The Rain".

I always preferred the original soul version of "Don't Cry Out Loud" by the Moments which never became a hit, but all credit to Elkie for popularising this lovely ballad. She also enjoyed a bigger hit than composer Chris Rea with "Fool If You Think It's Over" but in this case her version was equally as good.

Of her lesser known hits "Only Love Can Break Your Heart" written by Neil Young stands out but I wish she had not attempted "Nights In White Satin" because the original Moody Blues version can never be bettered.

The Style Council have issued an album with a dif ference; it comes on two (45 r.p.m.) 12-inch singles, with two tracks on three sides and three on Side Four. The group say they have done this to enhance the sound quality and because every track is a potential hit single. On the latter point I have to disagree although the album called "The Cost Of Loving" is not as bad as some critics have suggested. Many of the songs are based around good ideas but they never build on them. Their numbers tend to have the same rhythm and melody from start to finish. The best cut is "Heavens Above" which is a finger-snapping, rhythmic, dance number. "Angel" is the best of the slower songs, with vocals by Dee C. Lee.

The best new 45 this week is "Running In The Family" by Level 42 which comes from a forthcoming LP.

LP CHART

1. Graceland (Paul Simon)
2. The Whole Story (Kate Bush)
3. Different Light (Bangles)
4. Live Magic (Queeen)
5. No More The Fool (Elkie Brooks)
6. Sweet Freedom (Michael McDonald)
7. August (Eric Clapton)
8. Get Close (Pretenders)
9. True Blue (Madonna)
10. Very Best of Elkie Brooks