

## Record Review

7/1/88

Continuing my review of the year 1987, it was a record-breaking 12 months for the production team of Stock, Aitken and Waterman.

In the opening months it seemed that Narada Michael Walden would be the most successful producer of the year. The 35-year-old from Michigan, U.S.A., became the first producer of No. 1 hits by three different acts in the same year since George Martin did so in 1964.

Narada took the helm on chart-toppers by George Michael in duet with Aretha Franklin, Starship and Whitney Houston. The duet "I Knew You Were Waiting" was also a landmark in the career of George Michael being his ninth consecutive No. 1 on the Network Chart (counting Band Aid) and his

eighth in three years on the B.B.C. listings — which is the same total as the Rolling Stones managed in their entire career.

However, the British trio of producers, Matt Aitken, aged 31 (pictured left), Pete Waterman, 40 (centre) and 36-year-old Mike Stock, equalled Walden's achievement by producing chart-toppers for Mel and Kim, Ferry Aid and Rick Astley.

### Ferry aid

Their success began in a small way in 1984 with Hi-NRG dance hits by Hazell Dean, and the following year they enjoyed No. 1 success with Dead Or Alive and hits by Princess. In 1987 the artists performing their work included Samantha Fox, Sinitta and Bananarama, and in December they had seven records in the charts simultaneously.

Not only are they talented producers with an instantly recognizable, punchy sound, but they also compose most of the songs.

Three years ago they were so short of money they had to share a single pint of beer on one of their evenings out, but now their company has a turnover of £11m. and they have sold 35 million records worldwide.

One of the performers currently being produced by Stock-Aitken and Waterman is Edwin Starr, who returned to Chichester in 1987 for a second appearance at Thursdays Nightclub in April.

While there he was top of the pops along with several other artists who made up Ferry Aid and sang "Let It Be" to raise funds for the victims of the Channel Ferry Disaster.

### The Roxy

Last June ITV finally launched a rival music show to BBC tv's "Top Of The Pops" namely "The Roxy" on Tuesday nights. I shall be taking a final look back at 1987 in next week's column.

These records were the chart-topping albums of 1987:

January 13, 1987: The Whole Story (Kate Bush) two weeks.

January 27: Graceland (Paul Simon) three weeks.

February 17: Phantom Of The Opera (Original London cast) three weeks.

March 10: Very Best Of Hot Chocolate, one week.

March 17: The Joshua Tree (U2) two weeks.

March 31: Now 9 (various) five weeks.

May 5: Keep Your Distance (Curiosity Killed The Cat) two weeks.

May 19: It's Better To Travel (Swing Out Sister) two weeks.

June 2: Live In The City Of Light (Simple Minds) one week.

June 9: Whitney (Whitney Houston) six weeks.

July 21: Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby, one week.

July 28 for four weeks and September 1 for one week: Hits 6 (various).

August 25: Hysteria (Def Leppard), one week.

September 8: Bad (Michael Jackson) five weeks.

October 12: Tunnel Of Love (Bruce Springsteen) one week.

October 19: Nothing Like The Sun (Sting) one week.

October 26: Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac) two weeks.

November 9: Faith (George Michael) one week.

November 16: Bridge Of Spies (T'Pau) one week.

November 23: Whenever You Need Somebody (Rick Astley) one week.

November 30: Now 10 (Various).

