

## Record Review

Joyce Sims, the 28-year-old soul singer from Rochester, New York, has released her debut album on the London label, entitled "Come Into My Life."

Joyce, an alto/soprano, is one of the most exciting and distinctive singers to emerge in the last couple of years, and her LP is brimming with contemporary "hip hop" and "house" sounds. It is likely to be hotting-up the turntables in the clubs for many a month.

### Impressive

As well as singing Ms. Sims also composes and produces much of her music, and she is an accomplished pianist and flautist having majored in music at Nazareth College in New York. Her first song "Walk Away" written in 1983 led to her being signed by Sleeping Bag Records who are marketed by London in this country. This is on the album together with "All And All" which was her first 45 release, reaching No. 16 in the spring of 1986.

A year later she was back in our charts with the equally powerful dance track "Lifetime Love" which is also on the LP.

The only song on this package not composed by herself is "Love Makes A Woman," a fine version of

the Barbara Acklin song. One of the best hip hop producers, Mantronik, has added his expertise to some of the tracks on both the mixing and production stages. The most infectious, captivating number is the title song which is causing quite a stir, having been released as a 45.

British dancefloor favourites Total Contrast, who filled the floor of local clubs Thursdays last year when they appeared there, have a new LP in the shops called "Beat To Beat." The duo wrote most of the songs in collaboration with producer Steve Harvey. The best cut is "Help Me" which is more tuneful than the rest, while still pumping out a good dance beat. I cannot envisage any of the tracks becoming major hit singles but they are likely to take the clubs by storm. Their rhythms have moved with the times and their creativity in this respect is to be admired, but the album definitely falls into the category of one to dance to rather than listen to!

One of the most exciting new jazz singers is Dianne Reeves who has just issued a self-titled long player on the Blue Note label. Los Angeles based Dianne has a contralto voice with three and a half octave vocal range, power, grace and a style all her own. The recordings have been produced by George Duke and

they include two original pieces by Herbie Hancock, two by Dianne herself, including her signature tune "Better Days," and several classy standards such as Duke Ellington's "I Got It Bad."

The top single in America in 1987 was "Walk Like An Egyptian" by the Bangles, and the top LP was "Slippery When Wet" by Bon Jovi. Here in Britain the top dance record of last year was "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley.

These were the best-selling singles and albums of 1987 according to B.B.C. Radio and TV:

#### ALBUMS

1. Bad (Michael Jackson).
2. The Joshua Tree (U2).
3. Whitney (Whitney Houston).
4. Now 10 (Various).
5. Hits 6 (Various).
6. Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).

7. Whenever You Need Somebody (Rick Astley).
8. Bridge Of Spies (T'Pau).
9. Phantom Of The Opera (Original Cast).
10. Hits 7 (Various).

#### SINGLES

1. Never Gonna Give You Up (Rick Astley).
2. Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now (Starship).
3. I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Whitney Houston).
4. You Win Again (Bee Gees).
5. China In Your Hand (T'Pau).
6. Respectable (Mel and Kim).
7. Stand By Me (Ben E. King).
8. It's A Sin (Pet Shop Boys).
9. Star Trekkin' (The Firm).
10. Pump Up The Volume (M/A/R/R/S).

Bob Woodhead



● Joyce Sims