

# Unique combination of rock and opera

Freddie Mercury, the remarkable singer with Queen, and Spanish opera star Montserrat Caballe have teamed up to release an album that constitutes a unique combination of rock and opera, entitled "Barcelona."

The eight tracks were produced by Mercury in collaboration with David Richards and Mike Moran, and were recorded in this country. Mercury and Moran also composed the songs with Ms. Caballe assisting on one and English lyricist Tim Rice on two.

Rice helped to write "The Golden Boy" which has just been issued as a new single. This is the most memorable, spine-tingling performance on the album, beginning with some wonderful orchestration and extraordinary vocal gymnastics from both parties, before bursting into an incredible, gospel-styled, chanting number.

The next best track is "How Can I Go On" which has a memorable melody similar to some of Freddie's best contributions on Queen albums of the past. The title-song itself will be known to many readers as it became a Top

## Record Review

Ten hit this time last year and is going to be used as the theme to the Olympic Games in Barcelona itself in 1992.

### Astounded

The sheer power and perfection of Montserrat Caballe's voice is the most striking element in all the other songs. It is the type of voice that can cope with any mood of music and has the notable asset of allowing the listener to be totally relaxed - something many opera singers cannot achieve.

When Freddie Mercury was interviewed on Spanish television in 1986 he astounded the interviewer by announcing that he was actually in Barcelona because he wanted to meet Montserrat Caballe. The message was heard and they eventually met for lunch in the city.

Freddie then played Montserrat two songs he had written for her and they immediately agreed to record this album together. Only days later she performed one of the songs as the final encore at a recital in Covent Garden, London, after which she asked him to compose a song about her home

town, and of course "Barcelona" was the result. One year on, we have been treated to this real pleasure of hearing a whole album of their work, and the waiting has certainly been worthwhile.

An impressive variety of new Pop and Rock publications have appeared in bookshops in recent months, mainly from the Guinness series. They include the pocket "Book of Top 1,000 Singles," an update of "British Hit Albums," the new "U.S.A. Top 40 Albums," and best of all an update of the "Book of 500 Number Ones" including write-ups on all 600 chart-topping singles up to November last year - simply called "The Guinness Book of Number One Hits." Blandford Press have also updated their "Top Twenty Book" in hard-back form, featuring the charts for every week between 1955 and 1987.

By reaching No. 2 with her latest single "Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi" Kylie Minogue has made the most successful start to a chart career for a female. Her first four releases have reached No. 1, 2, 2, and 2 respectively. Only Gerry And The Pacemakers and

Frankie Goes To Hollywood have made better starts, by reaching No. 1 with their first three records and No. 2 with their fourth.

### L.P. CHART

1. Money For Nothing (Dire Straits).
2. Rattle And Hum (U2).
3. Any Love (Luther Vandross).
4. Introspective (Pet Shop Boys).
5. Kylie (Kylie Minogue).
6. To Whom It May Concern (Pasadenas).
7. Greatest Hits Collection (Bananarama).
8. New Light Through Old Windows (Chris Rea).
9. Giving You The Best That I Got (Anita Baker).
10. Watermark (Enya).

Bob Woodhead



Montserrat Caballe and Freddie Mercury, in a new album called 'Barcelona'.