

## Record Review

The most successful British girl group of all time, Bananarama are enjoying seasonal chart success with their well-timed album release "The Greatest Hits Collection."

Keren Woodward, Sarah Dallin and Siobhan Fahey began singing in London clubs in 1981. Their first single (released that same year) "Aie A Mwana" was not a hit but it led to them being spotted by Terry Hall, formerly lead singer with the Specials and at that time leader of the Fun Boy Three. This resulted in the Fun Boy Three and Bananarama teaming up on two hit singles in 1982. Both of these "It Ain't What You Do It's The Way That You Do It" and "Really Saying Something" are included on this collection together with their other early hits like "Cruel Summer" from 1983, and their later work with the Stock-Aitken-Waterman production team from 1986 to 1988. The best of these later hits were "I Heard A Rumour" and "Love In The First Degree" from 1987.

Siobhan Fahey left the trio earlier this year, having settled down to family life with husband Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics. She has been replaced by Jacqui O'Sullivan, a close friend of all three girls. Bananarama are not the best singers in the world and over the years they have received considerable criticism in the Press, but their sense of fun and their ability to make jaunty, appealing records, moving with the musical fashions, has undoubtedly put them in the position they are in today. My only criticism of this album is the way that all the later Stock-Aitken-Waterman hits have been crammed together on Side One while the early hits are banded together also. It would have made more sense to mix the musical content around a little more.

Bananarama have broken new ground by employing a collection of M.P.'s like Cyril Smith, Merlyn Rees and Norman St John Stevas

to dance to selected tracks on a promotional TV advertisement for the record.

Another compilation album aimed at seasonal consumers is Virgin's "Human League - Greatest Hits" featuring eleven of their Top 20 hits as well as their recent minor hit "Love Is All That Matters" and Phil Oakey's duet with Giorgio Moroder "Together In Electric Dreams" which was a No.3 hit in 1984.

The album provides some fabulous memories of their synthesized, electronic heart, "Mirror Man" and the chart-topping "Don't You Want Me." Although the later hits lost some of the instant dance appeal the melodies and lyrics had more sophistication, so "Life On Your Own," "Louise" and "Human" give the record a memorable variety and lasting appeal.

Topping the LP Chart is the latest in the "Now That's What I Call Music" series, "Now 13." As usual it is a double album packed with 32 recent chart hits. The best tracks are in fact the first three on the album, namely "The Only Way Is Up" by Yaz, "Teardrops" by Womack And Womack, and "A Little Respect" by Erasure.

### LP CHART

1. Now 13 (Various).
2. Kylie (Kylie Minogue).
3. Private Collection (Cliff Richard).
4. Premiere Collection - Andrew Lloyd Webber.
5. Money For Nothing (Dire Straits).
6. Greatest Hits (Fleetwood Mac).
7. Wanted (Yaz).
8. The Ultimate Collection (Bryan Ferry).
9. Get Even (Brother Beyond).
10. Soft Metal (Various).

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