Donna's back with the hits

13/4/89

Donna Summer

= Record Review =

The phenomenal Stock, Aitken, Waterman trio of writers and producers whose work recently held three out of the Top Four places on the Singles Chart (with records by Jason Donovan, Donna Summer and Bananarama), have been working their magic formula on a new album called "Another Place and Time" by Donna Summer.

They composed all ten of these new songs – the strongest being the hit 45 "This Time I Know It's For Real", closely followed by the appealing "The Only One" which has the sort of catchy tune that could provide Ms. Summer with another Top Ten hit if it is picked for Single release.

"Sentimental" is another infectious track that stands out but the other numbers are perhaps too predictable and similar to one another to really stand out. "If It Makes You Fell Good" is the exception, although the style here is too close to that of the group Five Star for comfort.

"In Another Place and Time" and "Break-away" are slower songs but they drift along rather aimlessly and without much gumption. If the S-A-W team have a weakness I would suggest that it is their ballad compositions.

Stylus Music have served up another helping of 'House' sounds on a new 20-track compilation called "Hip House", featuring recent favourites like "We Call It Acieed" by D. Mob featuring Gary Haisman.

This was one of the most successful records in the clubs during the latter part of 1988 and it broke the barriers to become Top Ten chart success during the most popular period for this type of music, before radio presenters were ordered to cut back on the amount of airplay allocated to 'House'.

Adeva's terrific version of the sould classic "Respect" appears on the album, along with recent chart hits by Rob Base and D.J. E-Z Rock, Milli Vanilli, Salt'N'Pepa and the Wee Papa Girl Rappers.

As always at this time of year I select a few of the pre-Christmas album releases that could not be fitted into the column for reviewing at the particularly busy time.

Definitely worthy of a mention is the "To Whom It May Concern" album by the Pasadenas featuring their smash hit dance singles "Tribute (Right On)" and "Riding on A Train" and their successful ballad "Enchanted Lady".

This is the best number on the set and is noteable for its powerful, falsetto lead vocals and infectious harmony vocals in the background. The remaining tracks are a pleasant variety of soulful sounds ranging from the tuneful, mid-tempo "Funny Feeling" and "Living In The Footsteps Of Another Man" to the ballad "I Really Miss You".

In this same pre-Christmas category comes the debut from Mica Paris entitled "So Good" which, for the most part lives up to its name.

Her three 1988 hit singles are included – the best being the silky smooth "Breathe Life Into Me". There are other strong slow cuts like "Words Into Action" but Mica can power away on faster sounds when called upon to do so.

The best example of this is the wonderfully catchy "Great Impersonation" which will have you reaching for the repeat button.

LP CHART

1. Like A Prayer (Madonna).
2. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan).
3. A New Flame (Simply Red).
4. Don't Be Cruel (Bobby Brown).
5. Singular Adventures Of The Style Council.
6. Original Soundtrack (S'Express).
7. Southside (Texas).
8. Appetite For Destruction (Guns'N'Roses).
9. The Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals).
10. Stop! (Sam Brown).