

Mixture will keep the fans happy

Following her terrific success with the album "Anything For You", which is the second best selling LP of 1989 behind Simply Red "A New Flame", Gloria Estefan has released a fine follow-up entitled "Cuts Both Ways".

The new LP has ten new tracks and the cassette and CD editions contain Spanish language versions of two of the best songs. Not surprisingly "Cut Both Ways" smashed straight into the LP chart at No.1 and it has been selling in large quantities.

The melodies and infec-

tious rhythms are not quite as striking as they were on the last album, but there is a pleasant, well-balanced mixture of Latin flavoured dance numbers and ballads that will keep Gloria's fans more than happy. On this album it is the latter category that really stand out.

My favourite cut is "Here We Are" which is a really strong ballad with a great melody, and fine production work. Two of the other ballads also have strong tunes, namely "Think About You Now" and the title-track "Cuts Both Ways" which has a lilting, Spanish feel to it.

The recent smash hit single "Don't Wanna Lose You" also falls into this category, and the tape and

CD editions feature a Spanish language version of this great song.

The fastest numbers are characterized far more by pacy, Latin rhythms than they were on the last album. Those with the stronger, melodic tunes come across best, particularly "Oye Mi Canto" and "Say" which also has some delightful brass orchestration. "Get On Your Feet" lacks a good melody but it is likely to fill the floors at the discos as it is a real belter of a dance number.

Success

Ms. Estefan is obviously developing as a songwriter as she composed the majority of the songs on "Cuts Both Ways" herself.

Ten years ago many of the major record-labels were suffering a decline in their share of record sales when a multitude of small independent labels sprang up and enjoyed remarkable success for a few years.

The most famous of these, "indies" as they are now called, was the 2 Tone label which is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary, and to mark this special occasion they have released a compact disc entitled "The 2 Tone Story".

2 Tone was the label formed and owned by the group The Specials, so it is hardly surprising that there are more Specials tracks than those of other artists. Their contributions stand head and shoulders above the rest so I, for one, am not complaining.

From that very first 2 Tone single "Gangsters" in 1979, through to "Nelson Mandela" in 1984, it was a real pleasure to listen to their hard-hitting Ska music once again, including of course their No. 1 hits "Too Much Too Young" and "Ghost Town" with its social commentary on the state of Britain in 1981.

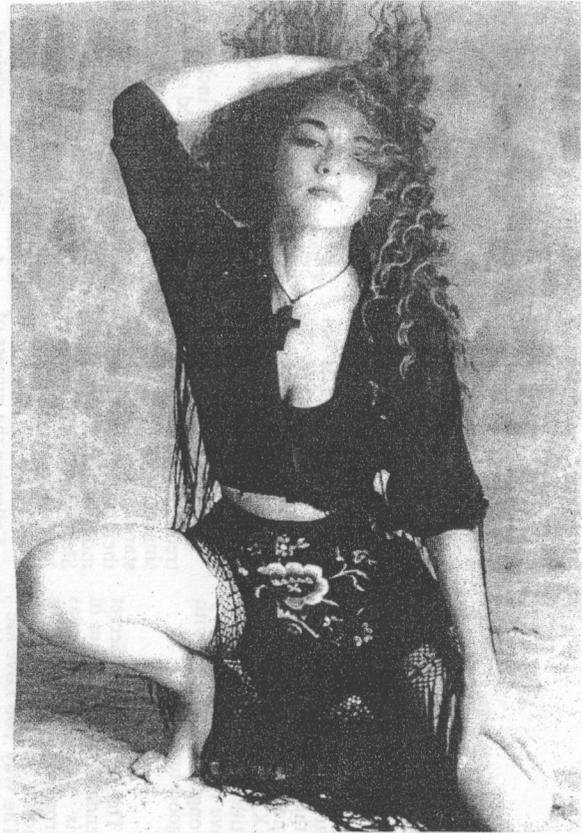
Other artists featured include Madness, the Beat, Rico, the Bodysnatchers, Bad Manners and the Selecter whose "On My Radio" still sounds fresh, with its punchy feel after nearly ten years.

LP CHART

1. Aspects of Love (Original London Cast).
2. Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan).
3. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan).

4. Dr. Feelgood (Motley Crew).
5. Singalongawaryears (Max Bygraves).
6. All The Hits: Hot Sensational Remixes (Imagination).
7. A New Flame (Simply Red).
8. Raw & The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals).
9. Adeva (Adeva).
10. Trash (Alice Cooper).

Bob Woodhead.



Gloria Estefan

Reduced from A3 → A4.