

21/12/89

14/12/89
Sensational debut sound

In next week's Observer I shall be looking back at my favourite albums and tracks of 1989, and topping the list of albums will be the sensational debut by the year's finest newcomers Lisa Stansfield, entitled "Affection."

Until now the late Gracie Fields and Sir Cyril Smith have been the most famous people to come out of Rochdale, but they now have a serious rival in Ms Stansfield who must surely be one of the most promising talents to keep an eye on in the 1990s.

Lisa has followed in Yazz's footsteps by working with the top producer Coldcut, before branching out on her own, but her vocal and songwriting talents really place Yazz in the shade.

She wrote all the songs on "Affection" in collaboration with her band Ian Devaney and Andy Mor-

ris, and these two gentlemen also arranged, mixed and produced the albums.

"Affection" is one of those recordings which sounds far superior on CD, being very much a digital, keyboard based, dance sound and you will get three bonus tracks - two of them very good.

The highlights include the aforementioned "All Around the World," "This is the Right Time" a big hit from the summer, "The Love in Me" with its strong tune and catchy chorus, "What Did I Do To You?" and "Live Together" which is likely to be the next 45 release.

Chris De Burgh has been enjoying a successful run on the LP chart with "Spark to a Flame" which is subtitled "The Very Best of Chris De Burgh" as it features 12 of his most popular tracks and two new songs "This Waiting Heart" and "Diamond in the Dark."

The oldest track on the collection is "A Spaceman Came Travelling" being the only one to be taken

from his 1970s recordings.

It is a classic Christmas song with a difference. My other favourite numbers include "Missing You" and "Tender Hands" which are both attractive melodic tunes lifted from his best album "Flying Colours" released last year.

Other highspots include "Sailing Away" from that same album, and two songs taken from the 1986 LP "Into The Light" namely "Say Goodbye To It All" and the chart-topping "Lady In Red" which needs no introduction.

LP CHART

1. But Seriously (Phil Collins).
2. Jive Bunny - The Album (Jive Bunny and the Mastermixers).
3. Enjoy Yourself (Kylie Minogue).
4. Affection (Lisa Stansfield).
5. The Road To Hell (Chris Rea).
6. The Best of Rod Stewart.
7. Spark to a Flame (Chris De Burgh).
8. Hanging Tough (New Kids on the Block).
9. Labour of Love 2 (UB40).
10. After the Laughter (Freddie Star).

Bob Woodhead

At the beginning of the year I predicted that the Stock-Aitken-Waterman team of writers and producers would foster another new talent to superstardom as they did in 1987 with Rick Astley and in 1988 with Kylie Minogue. I am happy to say that this prediction came true with the success of Jason Donovan who has been the most successful artist in the Singles Chart of 1989 with three No.1 hits and two other Top 3 entries. His album is battling with Simply Red to be No.1 for the year.

In the summer the Stock-Aitken-Waterman team became the first producers since George Martin in 1964 to produce three consecutive No.1 records, and by July they had produced six out of the year's 11 chart-toppers.

Primarily 1989 will be remembered as the year of "Acid-House" It totally dominated the charts and the most memorable record was "Ride On Time" by the Italian session-group Black Box, with its distinctive "rasping" female vocal. It was the longest running No.1 record since "I Just Called To Say I Love You" by Stevie Wonder was also top for six weeks in 1984, and it is the year's No.1 best-seller.

The hot summer in the Clubs was also dominated by House classics like "Just Keep Rockin'" by Double Trouble And The Rebel MC, with its clever Hip House and Sk'Ouse Mixes. The newcomer of the year was Lisa Stansfield who followed in Yazz's footsteps by working with top producer Coldcut before going her own way.

You can see the biggest hit songs of 1989 performed on "Top Of The Pops" on Christmas Day, and the biggest hits of the Decade performed on the Thursday, December 28th edition at 6.30.

These were my favourite Tracks and Albums in 1989:

TRACKS

1. Ride On Time (Black Box).
2. Where In The World? (Swing Out Sister).
3. All Around The World (Lisa Stansfield).
4. Here We Are (Gloria Estefan).
5. If Only I Could (Sydney Youngblood).
6. Never Too Much (Luther Vandross).
7. Enchanted Lady (The Pasadenas).

8. Someday Is Tonight (Janet Jackson).
9. Just Keep Rockin' - both Mixes (Double Trouble And The Rebel MC).
10. She's A Mystery To Me (Roy Orbison).

ALBUMS

1. Affection (Lisa Stansfield).
2. Level Best (Level 42).
3. The Legendary Roy Orbison.
4. Kaleidoscope World (Swing Out Sister).
5. All The Hits - Hot Sensational Remixes (Imagination).
6. Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan).
7. Blast! (Jolly Johnson).
8. A New Flame (Simply Red).
9. The Traveling Wilburys.
10. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan).

Bob Woodhead

7/12/89
Win a triple compact disc

As regular readers of my Record Review column in the Observer will probably have gathered, I shall be taking a retrospective view of the music of the 1980s in the early weeks of the New Year.

There are already some compilation albums in the shops, featuring some of the biggest hit songs of the last ten years. The most comprehensive of these is a triple compact disc "The Greatest Hits of the 80s" released by Telstar, and this includes no fewer than 50 number one hits.

The Observer is giving one of these away and, to be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do

is tell me which artist has enjoyed a Top Thirty hit single in this country, in every calendar year of the 1980s?

I would then like you to tell me which record you consider was the most typical of the decade, and your reasons. It need not necessarily be your favourite, but just a song you think best sums-up the last ten years of music. Your reasons must be written in less than 30 words.

Your entry must reach the Observer offices no later than Monday, December 18, and I will announce the winner in my Record Review of the 1980s on January 18.

Bob Woodhead

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