

Concluding my year-by-year review of the last decade of music, the final year of the 1980s will undoubtedly be remembered as the year of Acid-House music. The Rap, Hip Hop and House sounds of the previous two years had merged into a sound with a harder, raw edge and controversial culture that dominated the charts more than any musical form in my memory. By the end of the summer a European boom in this music, primarily from Italy, took over the charts. The most memorable record was the outstanding, atmospheric "Ride On Time" by Black Box which was No. 1 for six weeks - the longest spell at the top for five years.

Last year was also the year when the success of the Stock-Aitken-Waterman team of writers/producers reached its incredible peak. By July they had produced six out of the year's 11 chart toppers, including three consecutive No. 1 hits -

the first time this had been done since George Martin achieved the hat trick in 1964. For the third year running they had been responsible for the most successful singles artist of the year. In 1987 it was Rick Astley, the following year Kylie Minogue, and in 1989 it was Jason Donovan with three No. 1 hits and two other Top 3 hits. Jason also had the top selling album "Ten Good Reasons" which overtook Simply Red's best effort to date "A New Flame" in the final week of the year. However, Mr. Donovan was outsold by Gloria Estefan whose two No. 1 albums made her the best-selling albums artist. Her stunning recipe of Latin flavoured dance numbers mixed with aesome ballads like "Here We Are" made her the first artist since the Police in 1980 to have two LPs in the Top 5 of the Year.

Jive and Bunny And The Mastermixers who specialized in mixing snatches of old rock 'n' roll records into a modern dance sound, emulated the feat of Gerry And The Pacemakers in 1963 and Frankie Goes To Hollywood in 1984, by reacing No. 1 with each of their first three releases. Their "Swing The Mood" with 820,000 sales and Black Box's "Ride On Time" with 850,000 were the only Singles of 1989 to qualify for a place in the Top 80 of the 80s. They were No. 21 and No. 20.

Successful chart debutants included Soul II Soul, Bobby Brown, the London Boys, Adeva, Neneh Cherry and Lisa Stansfield, the lady from Rochdale who recently won the Variety Club Award for Best Recording Artist of 1989 and the B.P.I. Award for Best Newcomer. In Lisa I think Britain may have found its greatest soul singer of all-time - a voice of rare quality that will be with us for years! Her debut album "Affection" was certainly my favourite of 1989.

Established artists who enjoyed a good run last year included Chris Rea, Donna Summer, Fine Young Cannibals, Deacon Blue, Transvision Vamp and Holly Johnson who embarked on a solo career. Sadly we will hear no more from the late Roy Orbison whose final album achieved great success. The album he recorded with the supergroup Travelling Wilburys will also go down in history as a classic. Appropriately, the decade ended with a remake of the charity-disc "Do They Know It's Christmas" at No. 1. Its 400,000 sales brought total sales of the song in this country to four million. It was the only song to reach No. 1 in two different versions during the 1980s, but sadly it spent less time on the charts (six weeks) than any No. 1 in the history of pop.

These were the top-selling al-

bums and 45s of 1989, according to the more accurate BBC:

ALBUMS

1. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan)
 2. A New Flame (Simply Red)
 3. But Seriously (Phil Collins)
 4. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan)
 5. Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan)
 6. Enjoy Yourself (Kylie Minogue)
 7. Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals)
 8. Foreign Affair (Tina Turner)
 9. Like A Prayer (Madonna)
 10. Club Classics (Soul II Soul)
- 45s
1. Ride On Time (Black Box)
 2. Swing The Mood (Jive Bunny)
 3. Eternal Flame (Bangles)
 4. Too Many Broken Hearts (Jason Donovan)
 5. Back To Life (Soul II Soul)
 6. Something's Gotta Hold (Almond/Pitney)
 7. That's What I Like (Jive Bunny)
 8. Pump Up The Jam (Technotronic with Felly)
 9. Do They Know It's Christmas? (Band Aid 2)
 10. Hand On Your Heart (Kylie Minogue)

Bob Woodhead



Lisa Stansfield