

Record review

The most successful new British outfit to emerge last year was Soul II Soul led by the charismatic Jazzie B whose real name is Beresford Romeo.

The debut album "Club Classics" was the tenth best-seller of 1989, and if anything their new LP "Volume Two - 1990 A New Decade" is even stronger. The songs display a greater maturity and the dance-groove is even more sophisticated. Jazzie has again gathered together a stunning variety of female vocalists including his cousin Marcie Lewis who takes the honours on "Get A Life" and "People" which is one of the best untempo, rhythmic dance-tracks. My two favourite are those sung by Lamya Al-Mughery who is better known for her work as Razette. She performs scorching lead-vocals on the exquisite ballads "Love Come Through" and "In The Heat Of The Night". The next best number is "Missing You" - a haunting ballad sung by popular soul-songstress Kym Mazelle. The LP also includes their recent, melodic hit "A Dream's A Dream".

The "avant-garde" German

outfit Propaganda, who arrived on the scene in great style with the "Secret Wish" album in 1985, have finally satisfied our appetites for second helpings with a new set of songs collectively entitled "1-2-3-4". The new album has been produced by Ian Stanley and Chris Hughes, well known for their work with Tears for Fears, and it features the excellent single "Heaven Give Me Words". The remaining tracks are very much what you would expect from a band that is famed for its "techno" sound, and the new female lead-vocalist Betsi Miller demonstrates exciting potential. After the single, the track that stands out most is "How Much Love" with its strong backbeat and infectious styling.

The irrepressible Stock-Aitken-Waterman team of writers/producers have two new albums in the shops, namely "Everybody Knows" by Sonia, and "Between The Lines" by Jason Donovan. Sonia's is easily the better of the two, almost amounting to a "Greatest Hits" as she had enjoyed four smash hits before it was even released, and they are all included here! Of the remaining numbers I enjoyed "Climb To The Top Of A Mountain" and the title-track. Jason Donovan's "Ten

Good Reasons" was the top-selling album of 1989 but on the evidence of these new songs he is unlikely to repeat the feat in 1990. "I'm Doing Fine" is a particularly poor attempt at trying to be "Beatlesque" and the cover-version of "Rhythm Of The Rain" comes nowhere near the Cascades masterpiece of 1963 - one of my earliest favourites.

Belinda Carlisle recently gave a fabulous "live" performance at the Bournemouth Centre to an enthusiastic audience. As her solo career is still in its early stages, she performed all her hit singles which are now into double-figures. In between, she sang most of the songs from her latest album "Runaway Horses" which is rarely off my cassette-player these days! The highlight for me was "Summer Rain" with its haunting orchestration and clever mood-changes, and this song must surely be chosen as the next 45 release. In her show, Belinda also featured older favourites like "I'm Mad About You" and she returned for two encores and the predictable change of costume! These were positions 21 to 40 best-selling albums of the 1980s on Independent Radio:

21. A New Flame (Simply

- 21/6/90
Red) 1989.
22. Anything For You (Gloria Estefan) 1987.
23. Silk and Steel (Five Star) 1986.
24. Private Collection (Cliff Richard) 1988.
25. Born In The USA (Bruce Springsteen) 1984.
26. Bridge Of Spies (T'Pau) 1987.
27. Whenever You Need Somebody (Rick Astley) 1987.
28. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears) 1985.
29. No Parlex (Paul Young) 1983.
30. Legend (Bob Marley and The Wailers) 1984.
31. Dare (Human League) 1981.
32. Rattle and Hum (U2) 1988.
33. Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan) 1989.
34. Tracy Chapman - 1988.
35. Push (Bros) 1988.
36. An Innocent Man (Billy Joel) 1983.
37. Colour By Numbers (Culture Club) 1983.
38. Love Songs (Barbra Streisand) 1982.
39. Whitney Houston - 1985.
40. Welcome To The Pleasure Dome (Frankie Goes To Hollywood) 1984.

Bob Woodhead

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Summer has brought with it the usual bumper crop of soul and dance albums with the exquisite "Deep Heat 7 - Seventh Heaven" leading the way. The "Deep Heat" series gets stronger with every release, and Volume 7 is currently top of the compilation chart.

Rather than lifting chart material, Telstar lift the tracks from the Club scene and many of them are only just available as 45s. My two favourite numbers on the set are "Trippin' On Your Love" by A Way Of Life and Satoshi Tomiie's "And I Loved You" with their sophis-

ticated soulful approach, but there are many other highlights including "The Technotronic Megamix", "Affection" by Liaz (a scorching version of the Lisa Stansfield number), and "Girl To Girl" by one of the most exciting new bands of 1990 - the 49ers.

In my opinion the best dance number of the year has been "The Power" by Snap and I am pleased to report that their debut album "World Power" comes up to the same standard. Apart from "The Power" there are three other sensational tracks, namely "Oops Up" which has already given them a second smash hit, "Believe The Hype," and best of all "Mary Had A Little Boy," with awesome vocals on top of a fabulous rhythm.

Black Box from Italy,

who enjoyed the best-selling single of 1989 with "Ride On Time," took a long time to release their debut album "Dreamland" but the waiting was certainly worthwhile. The album includes "Ride On Time" together with the two worthy follow-up hits "I Don't Know Anybody Else" and "Everybody Everybody." The remaining tracks are all consistently strong with interesting rhythms and styles. "Strike It Up" sounds like a potential hit single and "Fantasy" even more so. This is a memorable cover-version of the Earth Wind & Fire 1978 hit.

Dusty Springfield's long-awaited comeback album "Reputation" has rarely been off my CD player, such is its appeal. Five of her ten new songs have been pro-

duced by the Pet Shop Boys, including "Daydreaming" which is a really catchy slower tune, "In Private" her wonderful Top Twenty smash, and "I Want To Stay Here" which is a new version of the 1963 ballad by Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme. The other five tracks feature a variety of producers including Paul O'Duffy who takes the helm on the sensual "Arrested By You." Other tuneful songs include "Send It To Me" and "Time Waits For No One."

Marc Almond's new CD "Enchanted" has a cosmopolitan musical feel to it, with the strongest influence being the Spanish/Mexican flamenco style. The best track is "A Lover Spurned" with its "tongue-in-cheek" lyrics and melodramatic production. I also enjoyed "Carnival Of Life" which has a rhythm and style that is similar to Kaoma's "Lambada." Marc's music lies in a category all on its own, which is what makes his albums so interesting, and one can only admire him.

These were positions 41 to 60 best-selling albums of the 1980s on

Independent Network Radio:

41. Private Dancer (Tina Turner) 1984.
42. Face Value (Phil Collins) 1981.
43. Phantom Of The Opera (Original Cast) 1987.
44. Hysteria (Def Leopard) 1987.
45. Live Under A Blood Red Sky (U2) 1983.
46. Fantastic (Wham!) 1983.
47. Kings Of The Wild Frontier (Adam & The Ants) 1980.
48. Actually (Pet Shop Boys) 1987.
49. Revenge (Eurythmics) 1986.
50. Invisible Touch (Genesis) 1986.
51. Kick (INXS) 1987.
52. The Whole Story (Kate Bush) 1986.
53. Top Gun (Soundtrack) 1986.
54. All The Best (Paul McCartney) 1987.
55. Love Over Gold (Dire Straits) 1982.
56. Hearsay (Alexander O'Neal) 1987.
57. Greatest Hits Collection (Bananarama) 1988.
58. Double Fantasy (John Lennon & Yoko Ono) 1980.
59. Faith (George Michael) 1987.
60. Eliminator (ZZ Top) 1983.

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