



Swing Out Sister

Soul and '60s style ^{11/1/90}

In 1989, Simply Red released their third and best album "A New Flame" and it deservedly went on to sell nearly 1.5 million in Britain to become the year's top seller neck and neck with Jason Donovan's album.

I am only sorry that the band never released the beautiful track "More" as an A-side single.

Last year also saw Gloria Estefan achieving well-earned success with two huge selling albums "Anything For You" and "Cuts Both Ways".

The latter album's appeal was less immediate but more lasting than "Anything For You" and the two huge sellers have made Gloria the top selling album artist.

It was a pleasure to see Holly Johnson achieving immediate solo success last year - something I predicted as long ago as 1986, when he was with Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

The Fine Young Cannibals, Deacon Blue, Simple Minds and Transvision Vamp all enjoyed successful 45s and albums, but one of the most consistently underrated outfits are Swing Out Sister, who recorded one of the year's finest albums "Kaleidoscope World".

On this disc they opted for a 1960s style of music coated with modern soul influences and glossy production work.

Andrew Connell who was classically

trained, is a gifted composer and Corinne Drewery's voice is a joy to listen to.

Level 42 were honoured to be chosen by George Martin as the backing band playing throughout the Prince's Trust Concert, and their leader Mark King directed the music with Martin. In my view this was the best-ever annual concert for the Trust.

Last year was another fine one for new talent breaking through to achieve success.

Names that spring to mind include Soul II Soul, Bobby Brown, the London Boys, Adeva, Neneh Cherry and my personal favourite, Lisa Stansfield.

The most successful newcomers were Jive Bunny and The Mastermixers specializing in mixing up snatches of old rock 'n' roll hits and making them into a modern dance record.

They became only the third artists to enjoy No.1 success with each of their first three releases, emulating Gerry And The Pacemakers and Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

These were the chart-topping Albums of 1989:-

January 9: The Innocents (Erasure) 1 week.

Jan 16: The Legendary Roy Orbison 3 weeks.

Feb 6: Technique (New Order) 1 week.

Feb 13: Raw And The Cooked (Fine Young Cannibals) 1 week.

Feb 20: A New Flame (Simply Red) 4 weeks. (returned to the top on April 24 for 1 week, and again on July 17 for 2 weeks).

Mar 20: Anything For You (Gloria Es-

tefan) 1 week.

Mar 28: Like A Prayer (Madonna) 2 weeks.

Apr 10: When The World Knows Your Name (Deacon Blue) 2 weeks.

May 2: Blast! (Holly Johnson) 1 week.

May 8: Street Fighting Years (Simple Minds) 1 week.

May 15: Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan) 2 weeks. (returned to the top on June 5 for 2 weeks).

May 30: The Miracle (Queen) 1 week.

Jun 19: Flowers In The Dirt (Paul McCartney) 1 week.

Jun 26: Batman (Prince) 1 week.

Jul 3: Velveten (Transvision Vamp) 1 week.

Jul 10: Club Classics (Soul II Soul) 1 week.

Jul 31: Cuts Both Ways (Gloria Estefan) 6 weeks.

Sep 11: Aspects Of Love (London Cast) 1 week.

Sep 18: We Too Are One (Eurythmics) 1 week.

Sep 25: Foreign Affair (Tina Turner) 1 week.

Oct 2: Seeds Of Love (Tears For Fears) 1 week.

Oct 9: Crossroads (Tracy Chapman) 1 week.

Oct 16: Enjoy Yourself (Kylie Minogue) 1 week.

Oct 23: Wild! (Erasure) 2 weeks.

Nov 6: Road To Hell (Chris Rea) 3 weeks.

Nov 27: But Seriously (Phil Collins).

Bob Woodhead