

# Sting disappoints

21/3/91

Sting has kept us waiting for three years to follow-up his noted "Nothing But The Sun" album, but his new CD "The Soul Cages" is disappointing.

As with the previous album he makes some strong social comment particularly on environ-

mental issues, but these new songs lack the strong melodic hooks that usually characterise his work.

There were only two tracks that had me captivated - firstly the catchy, tuneful "All This Time" and secondly "St Agnes and the Burning Train" which is a beautiful instrumental melody played on a mandolin. All the songs have been written and ar-

ranged by Sting, and he produced the album in collaboration with Hugh Padgham.

Gloria Estefan's latest CD entitled "Into The Light" is also a disappointment after her last two brilliant albums.

There is not one song that I can honestly say is memorable or even a tune to hum. The famous Latin rhythms and riffs are still there and there are some average ballads like "I Am Here For You" and "Close My Eyes", but they are not in the same League as "Here We Are" or "Cuts Both Ways".

The best of the faster, dance numbers is the funky "What Goes Around" but again one feels she is off form, which is understandable after her serious road accident from which she has made a brave recovery.

Castle Communications have released a superb new digital recording of "The Planets Suite" by Gustav Holst performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Charles Groves.

The sound quality on this CD is flawless and it brings new life to this classical masterpiece. As a bonus the disc also in-

cludes the "St Paul's Suite For Strings" which I had never heard before and came as a pleasant surprise.

Holst composed this bright, optimistic Suite in the new music wing of St Paul's Girls School in Hammersmith in 1913 when he was head music teacher there, and he gave it this title by way of thanks for his new sound-proofed study which provided him with perfect working conditions.

Among the winners at the recent British Record Industry Awards were George Michael for the Best British Album "Listen Without Prejudice", the Three Tenors for the Best Classical Album, Lisa Stansfield for Best British Female Artist, Elton John for Best British Male Artist and Betty Boo for Best British Newcomer.

These were the Chart Topping Albums of 1990:

Jan 22: Colour (Christians) 1 week.

Jan 29: But Seriously (Phil Collins) 7 weeks.

Mar 19: I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got (Sinead O'Connor) 1 week.

Mar 26: Changesbowie (David Bowie) 1 week.

Apr 2: Only Yesterday

(Carpenters) 2 weeks. Returned to the top on April 23 for five weeks).

Apr 17: Behind The Mask (Fleetwood Mac) 1 week.

May 29: Volume 2 - 1990 A New Decade (Soul II Soul) 3 weeks.

Jun 18: The Essential Pavarotti (Luciano Pavarotti) 1 week. Returned to the top on July 2 for 3 weeks).

Jun 25: Step By Step (New Kids On The Block) 1 week.

Jul 23: Sleeping With The Past (Elton John) 5 weeks.

Aug 28: Graffiti Bridge (Prince) 1 week.

Sep 3: In Concert (Pavarotti, Domingo, Carreras) 1 week. Returned to the top on September 17 for 4 weeks.

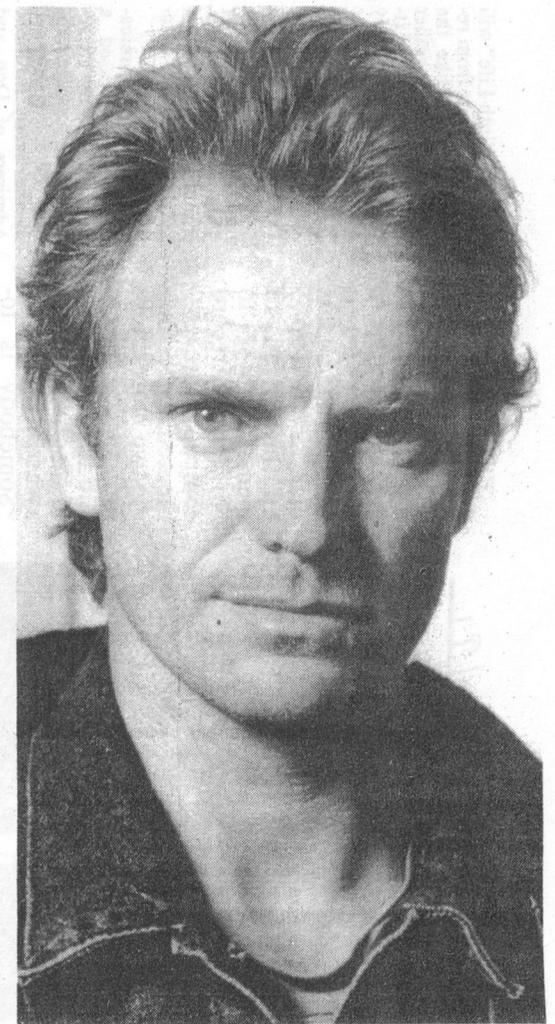
Sep 10: Listen Without Prejudice (George Michael) 1 week.

Oct 15: Some Friendly (Charlatans) 1 week.

Oct 22: Rhythm Of The Saints (Paul Simon) 2 weeks.

Nov 5: Very Best of Elton John (Elton John) 2 weeks.

Nov 19: The Immaculate Collection (Madonna) 9 weeks.



**Bob Woodhead**

Sting: Not matching his previous high standard.