



# CHARTS

## CHARTFILE



**BARBRA STREISAND:**  
reclaiming the No 1 spot

**F**LEETWOOD MAC'S 'Rumours' this week joins the elite band of albums to chalk up 200 weeks on the chart. It follows hot on the heels of Meat Loaf's 'Bat Out Of Hell' which completed its double century just seven weeks ago. Here's a complete list of albums to have passed this landmark:

1 The Sound of Music — Original Soundtrack	265 weeks
2 South Pacific — Original Soundtrack	206 weeks
3 Bridge Over Troubled Water — Simon & Garfunkel	291 weeks
4 Dark Side Of The Moon — Pink Floyd	275 weeks
5 Greatest Hits — Simon & Garfunkel	253 weeks
6 Tubular Bells — Mike Oldfield	242 weeks
7 Bat Out of Hell — Meat Loaf	207 weeks
8 Rumours — Fleetwood Mac	200 weeks

Both 'Rumours' and 'Bat Out Of Hell' seem sure to add considerably to their totals before finally breaking out, and both hold chart longevity records of their own.  
 • 'Rumours' entered the album chart on 12 February 1977, finally reaching No 1 on 14 January 1978 after 29 weeks on the chart. No other record in chart history has taken as long to reach the summit.



**FLEETWOOD MAC: join the elite**

• 'Bat Out Of Hell' peaked at No 8 on 22 August 1981 — its 176th week in the chart. No other record has taken even half as long to reach its highest chart position. Though 'Rumours' and 'Bat Out Of Hell' are the only records on the current chart to pass 200 weeks, two other records are moving into contention.  
 • Jeff Wayne's 'War Of The Worlds' has been on the chart for 173 weeks. It would be more but it has dropped out five times in the last two years, last time taking a 15 week sojourn before returning.  
 • Barry Manilow's 'Manilow Magic' has charted 148 times, though it seems far, far more ...  
 Barbra Streisand surprised everyone last week by reclaiming the No 1 spot on the LP chart a mere seven days after giving way to Jam's 'The Gift'. Before it was dethroned Ms Streisand's 'Love Songs' album had already spent seven weeks at the apex — longer than any album since Adam & The Ants' 'Kings Of The Wild Frontier' which held out for 13 weeks this time last year.  
 'Love Songs' is Streisand's fourth number one album, a fact which confirms her status as the world's premier female singer. Nevertheless, her triumphs have been interspersed with more mediocre offerings, a fact confirmed by a glance at her chart record since 1977:

	Date Entered Chart	Highest Position	Weeks On Chart
A STAR IS BORN (With Kris Kristofferson)	26 Mar 77	(2 wks)	54
STREISAND SUPERMAN	9 Jul 77	32	9
SONGBIRD	1 Jul 78	48	2
GREATEST HITS VOL. 2	3 Mar 79	1 (4 wks)	30
WET	10 Nov 79	25	13
GUILTY	11 Oct 80	1(2 wks)	77
LOVE SONGS	18 Jan 82	1(*)	12

\*Nine weeks at number one if still top this week. If not, eight.

The vanquished Jam can at least take consolation that after a string of chart topping singles they've managed to reach the pole position on the album chart for the first time. Somehow their unquestioned status as one of the country's top bands has never been confirmed by their showings on the album chart, as can be seen from the following log:

	Date Entered Chart	Highest Position	Weeks On Chart
IN THE CITY	14 May 77	20	18
THIS IS THE MODERN WORLD	12 Nov 77	22	4
ALL ROD CONS	28 Oct 78	6	15
SETTING SONS	17 Nov 79	6	19
SOUND AFFECTS	6 Dec 80	2	18

The 'GSR', incidentally, was the first album to enter the chart at No 1 this year, and the 17th to do so this decade ...

**A** Top Of The Pops first last week as three Irish groups in a row (Poster & Allen, Boomtown Rats and the Nolans) demonstrated their latest offerings ...  
 Last week's Top 50 singles chart contained only six American records ...  
 David Maltman of Blackburn poses the question: "Which hit record features most lead vocalists?" He then tries to answer it by suggesting 'Papa We Love You' (Lead vocals from Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder) and 'Float On', a vehicle for vocals from all four Floaters. In fact, the Philadelphia All-Stars 1977 hit 'Let's Clean Up The Ghetto' beats both hands down with Archie Bell, Dee Dee Sharp, Gamble, O'Jays, Billy Paul, Teddy Pendergrass and Lou Rawls all taking their turn on lead. But even this is small beer compared to 'Cheer's Tune', an American country and western hit of the seventies. A tribute to Chet Atkins, it featured 27 different lead vocalists in two minutes and 45 seconds. Eddy Arnold, Willie Nelson, Bobby Bare, Hank Snow, Connie Smith, Skeeter Davis and George Hamilton, amongst others, were allotted a single line each. The label did not identify the singers individually, styling one and all as 'Some of Chet's Friends'. It was an awful record which charted only on its novelty value ...

Finally this week, a Chartfile put on the back for Creole Records. In the face of a continuing recession the Harlesden-based minor, best-known for its timely reggae and disco one-off deals, has signed Welsh rock quartet Virginia Wolf to a long-term contract. Their first contribution to the recorded art has just been released and, for the record, it's a goodie. With Duran Duran's Siobhan Collins, Colin Thurston twiddling the controls they've come up with a more than competent remake of the Sweet classic 'Action'. But the real killer's the title, a self-penned ditty with the title 'Where Do We Go From Here' which draws back from hard rock and futuristic music. Creole, Rip It! ... ALAN JONES.