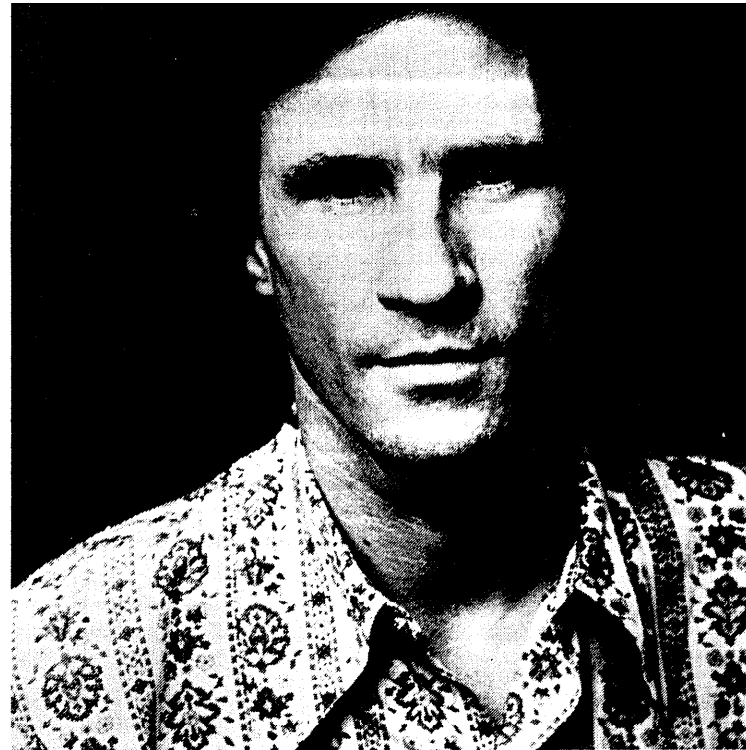




# CHARTFILE

BY ALAN JONES



● **BILL MEDLEY:** "Not only is this shirt fashionable but it matches my living room"

● **The Righteous Brothers** 'Unchained Melody' explodes to the top of the singles chart this week, but it is a record that, in reality, should have been credited to the Righteous Brother — it features only the vocals of **Bobby Hatfield** as his partner **Bill Medley** readily admitted 15 years ago.

Nevertheless, history will record it as the second Righteous Brothers' Number One, coming nearly 26 years after their first, 'You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'. No other act has topped the chart after such a lengthy hiatus — the previous record of just over 23 years between Number One hits being established by **The Hollies** in 1988. They too topped the chart with a re-issue. Only two records have reached Number One at an older age than 'Unchained Melody' — 'Reet Petite' was 29 when it topped the chart just before Christmas in 1986, and **Ben E. King's** 'Stand By Me' was 25 when it reached the summit just a few weeks later in the early part of 1987.

'Lovin' Feelin' and 'Unchained Melody' were The Righteous Brothers' first two hits, and the duo thus (very belatedly) joins the elite group of acts to reach Number One with their first two hits. A dozen acts have previously managed the feat: **The Stargazers, Eddie Calvert, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Adam Faith, Gerry & The Pacemakers, Mungo Jerry, Rod Stewart, John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John, Art Garfunkel, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, George Michael** and **Jive Bunny & The 3Mc's**, though some — most notably George Michael — had earlier successes in different guises.

'Unchained Melody' was previously a Number One hit for **Jimmy Young**

(now a Radio 2 disc jockey) way back in 1955. It's the 14th song to reach Number One in two different versions, following 'Answer Me', 'Cherry Pink And Apple Blossom White', 'Singing The Blues', 'Young Love', 'Mary's Boy Child' (once as part of a medley), 'This Ole House', 'You'll Never Walk Alone', 'I Got You Babe', 'Living Doll', 'Spirit In The Sky', 'Everything I Own', 'With A Little Help From My Friends' and 'Do They Know It's Christmas?'.

As previously noted, 'Unchained Melody' owes its current popularity to the fact that it is used in the current movie 'Ghost'. In 1955, it was also featured in a film — but that fact played no part in its success. In fact, the movie for which it was written, a prison docu-drama then called 'Unchained', was a box-office flop. It was sung in the film by the famous actor/baritone **Todd Duncan**, who was later to lend his deep, rich and resonant tones to the 1959 version of **George Gershwin's** musical 'Porgy And Bess'.

Surprisingly, Todd's version of 'Unchained Melody' was never released as a single; but within the space of just eight weeks no fewer than 14 were! In addition to Jimmy Young's chart-topping rendition, there were Top 20 versions by **Al Hibbler, Les Baxter and Liberace**, plus less successful covers by **Ken MacKintosh, Jean Carson, The Crew Cuts, Dick James, Fay Brown, Cliff Townsend, Leroy Holmes And His Orchestra** (with a whistler replacing the vocalist), **Roy Hamilton, Don Cornell And The Kingtones**.

It was also covered by **Leo Sayer**, for whom it was a minor hit in 1986, and can also be found in a bewildering array of versions by other hitmakers, including

**Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard, Heart, Charlie Rich, Willie Nelson, US, Gene Vincent and Sonny & Cher.**

The 12-inch and compact disc variants of The Righteous Brothers' version also include their aforementioned previous Number One, 'You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin', which now has the unique distinction of appearing on the flipside of Number One singles by two different acts, having previously graced the underside of Berlin's 1986 chart-topper 'Take My Breath Away', the link being that both songs are heard in the **Tom Cruise** movie 'Top Gun'.

By coincidence, 'Take My Breath Away' is itself once again a major hit and is now challenging for the Number One position, having been re-issued a few weeks ago to tie-in with 'Top Gun's' TV premiere. This time around, there is no 12-inch version of 'Take My Breath Away'.

Meanwhile, 'Show Me Heaven', **Maria McKee's** recent Number One hit taken from the current Tom Cruise movie 'Days Of Thunder', is immediately below 'Take

My Breath Away' at number four in the chart.

● America has a new Number One this week, as white rapper **Vanilla Ice** moves into pole position with 'Ice Ice Baby'.

**Blondie** were the first act to have rap Number One, way back in 1981 with 'Rapture', but Vanilla Ice is the first rap to top the chart (subtle distinction) besides the number two hits by **Tone-Loc** ('Wild Thing'), **Technotronic** ('Pump Up The Jam') and **Snap!** ('The Power'). 'Ice Ice Baby' was originally released the spring on a small independent label the flipside of Vanilla Ice's remake of W. Cherry's hit 'Play That Funky Music'. A in Georgia flipped it over and started playing 'Ice Ice Baby' which was quickly picked up by the SBK label. The rest is history, and it's now sold 750,000 copies Stateside, while Vanilla Ice's debut album 'To The Extreme' has climbed to number two on the album chart after seven weeks during which it has sold more than a million copies.

## TWELVE INCH

TW LW

1	2	<b>UNCHAINED MELODY</b> The Righteous Brothers	Verve
2	1	<b>KINKY AFRO</b> Happy Mondays	Factory
3	4	<b>A LITTLE TIME</b> The Beautiful South	Go! Discs
4	—	<b>CLOSE TO ME</b> The Cure	Fiction
5	5	<b>AFTERMATH/I'M FORREAL</b> Nightmares On Wax	Warp
6	—	<b>FANTASY</b> Black Box	de/Construction
7	7	<b>I'M YOUR BABY TONIGHT</b> Whitney Houston	Arista
8	9	<b>LET'S PUSH IT</b> Innocence	Cooltempo
9	—	<b>MY RISING STAR</b> Northside	Factory
10	3	<b>MEGAMIX</b> Technotronic	Swanyard
11	16	<b>SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN</b> Poison	Enigma
12	—	<b>STEPBACK IN TIME</b> Kylie Minogue	PWL
13	13	<b>ANTHEM</b> N.Joi	de/Construction
14	6	<b>ICAN'T STAND IT</b> Twenty 4 Seven	BCM
15	17	<b>MOTHER UNIVERSE</b> The Soup Dragons	Raw TV
16	12	<b>(WE WANT) THE SAMETHING</b> Belinda Carlisle	Virgin
17	—	<b>FREQUENCY</b> Rhythmic	Network
18	—	<b>DON'T WORRY</b> Kim Appleby	Parlophone
19	—	<b>LOVE WILL NEVER DO (WITHOUT YOU)</b> Janet Jackson	A&M
20	8	<b>ANNIVERSARY WALTZ—PART I</b> Status Quo	Vertigo

## COMPACT DISC

TW LW

1	1	<b>THE RHYTHM OF THE SAINTS</b> Paul Simon	Warner Brother
2	—	<b>BEHAVIOUR</b> Pet Shop Boys	Parlophone
3	2	<b>ROCKING ALLOVER THE YEARS</b> Status Quo	Vertigo
4	3	<b>REMASTERS</b> Led Zeppelin	Atlantic
5	6	<b>MISSING YOU—AN ALBUM OF LOVE</b> Various	EM
6	—	<b>CORNERSTONES 1967-1970</b> Jimi Hendrix	Polydo
7	5	<b>IN CONCERT</b> Various	Decca
8	7	<b>LISTEN WITHOUT PREJUDICE VOL I</b> George Michael	Epi
9	—	<b>VISION THING</b> Sisters Of Mercy	Merciful Release
10	—	<b>EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON</b> A-ha	Warner Brother
11	4	<b>RECYCLERZZ</b> Top	Warner Brother
12	8	<b>THAT LOVING FEELING VOL 3</b> Various	Dino
13	11	<b>REFLECTION</b> The Shadows	Polydo
14	—	<b>RED, HOT AND BLUE</b> Various	Chrysalis
15	15	<b>SLEEPING WITH THE PAST</b> Elton John	Rocke
16	—	<b>SMASH HITS 1990</b> Various	Dove
17	—	<b>TRIP ON THIS—REMIXES</b> Technotronic	Telstar
18	19	<b>LLOYD WEBBER PLAYS LLOYD WEBBER</b> Julian Lloyd Webber	Philips
19	16	<b>DEEP HEAT—THE HAND OF FATE</b> Various	Telstar
20	12	<b>SOUL PROVIDER</b> Michael Bolton	CB!