

# TOP 100 SINGLES 1996

| Title<br>artist  | label (distributor)         | Title<br>artist  | label (distributor)        |
|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>1 KILLING ME SOFTLY</b><br>Fugees                                       | Columbia (SM)               | <b>50 A DESIGN FOR LIFE</b><br>Manic Street Preachers                          | Epic (SM)                  |
| <b>2 WANNABE</b><br>Spice Girls  | Virgin (E)                  | <b>51 WONDERWALL</b><br>Oasis  | Creation (3MV/V)           |
| <b>3 SPACEMAN</b><br>Babylon Zoo   | EMI (E)                     | <b>52 THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US</b><br>Michael Jackson                          | Epic (SM)                  |
| <b>4 SAY YOU'LL BE THERE</b><br>Spice Girls                                | Virgin (E)                  | <b>53 A DIFFERENT BEAT</b><br>Boyzone  | Polydor (F)                |
| <b>5 RETURN OF THE MACK</b><br>Mark Morrison                               | WEA (W)                     | <b>54 I'VE GOT A LITTLE PUPPY</b><br>The Smurfs                                | EMI TV (E)                 |
| <b>6 OOH AAH... JUST A LITTLE BIT</b><br>Ginè G                            | Eternal/WEA (W)             | <b>55 SEVEN DAYS AND ONE WEEK</b><br>BBE                                       | Positiva (E)               |
| <b>7 THREE LIONS</b><br>Baddiel & Skinner and The Lightning Seeds          | Epic (SM)                   | <b>56 LIFTED</b><br>Lighthouse Family  | Wild Card/Polydor (F)      |
| <b>8 CHILDREN</b><br>Robert Miles  | Deconstruction (BMG)        | <b>57 ALWAYS BE MY BABY</b><br>Mariah Carey                                    | Columbia (SM)              |
| <b>9 MYSTERIOUS GIRL</b><br>Peter Andre featuring Bubbler Ranx             | Mushroom (3MV/BMG)          | <b>58 MOVE MOVE MOVE (THE RED TRIBE)</b><br>The Manchester United FA Cup Squad | Music Collection (DISC)    |
| <b>10 2 BECOME 1</b><br>Spice Girls  | Virgin (E)                  | <b>59 SLIGHT RETURN</b><br>The Bluetones                                       | Superior Quality/A&M (F)   |
| <b>11 DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER</b><br>Oasis                                | Creation (3MV/V)            | <b>60 HIGHER STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS '96 REMIXES</b><br>Wink                    | Manifesto (F)              |
| <b>12 HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE</b><br>Take That                               | RCA (BMG)                   | <b>61 SETTING SUN</b><br>The Chemical Brothers                                 | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>13 UN-BREAK MY HEART</b><br>Toni Braxton                                | LaFace/Arista (BMG)         | <b>62 MISSING</b><br>Everything But The Girl                                   | Blanco Y Negro (W)         |
| <b>14 BREATHE</b><br>The Prodigy   | XL Recordings (W)           | <b>63 ONE OF US</b><br>Joan Osborne  | Blue Gorilla (F)           |
| <b>15 FIRESTARTER</b><br>The Prodigy                                       | XL Recordings (W)           | <b>64 Theme from MISSION:IMPOSSIBLE</b><br>Adam Clayton & Larry Mullen         | Mother (F)                 |
| <b>16 WORDS</b><br>Boyzone   | Polydor (F)                 | <b>65 THE DAY WE CAUGHT THE TRAIN</b><br>Ocean Colour Scene                    | MCA (BMG)                  |
| <b>17 BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S</b><br>Deep Blue Something                    | Interscope (BMG)            | <b>66 ROTTERDAM</b><br>The Beautiful South                                     | GoDiscs (F)                |
| <b>18 IF YOU EVER</b><br>East 17 featuring Gabriella                       | ffrr (F)                    | <b>67 COMING HOME NOW</b><br>Boyzone   | Polydor (F)                |
| <b>19 WHAT BECOMES OF THE BROKEN HEARTED</b><br>Robson & Jerome            | RCA (BMG)                   | <b>68 FATHER AND SON</b><br>Boyzone  | Polydor (F)                |
| <b>20 ANYTHING</b><br>3T   | MJJ/Epic (SM)               | <b>69 I FEEL YOU</b><br>Peter Andre  | Mushroom (3MV/BMG)         |
| <b>21 FASTLOVE</b><br>George Michael                                       | Virgin (E)                  | <b>70 WHY</b><br>Michael Jackson   | MJJ/Epic (SM)              |
| <b>22 MACARENA</b><br>Los Del Rio  | RCA (BMG)                   | <b>71 ESCAPING</b><br>Dina Carroll   | 1st Avenue/Mercury (F)     |
| <b>23 BORN SLIPPY</b><br>Underworld  | Junior Boy's Own (RTM/DISC) | <b>72 GOOD ENOUGH</b><br>Dodgy   | A&M (F)                    |
| <b>24 READY OR NOT</b><br>Fugees   | Columbia (SM)               | <b>73 THA CROSSROADS</b><br>Bone Thugs-N-Harmony                               | Epic (SM)                  |
| <b>25 THE X FILES</b><br>Mark Snow   | Warner Bros (W)             | <b>74 NO WOMAN, NO CRY</b><br>Fugees   | Columbia (SM)              |
| <b>26 ONE &amp; ONE</b><br>Robert Miles featuring Maria Naylor             | Deconstruction (BMG)        | <b>75 I'M ALIVE</b><br>Stretch & Vern present Maddog                           | ffrr (F)                   |
| <b>27 BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME</b><br>Celine Dion                              | Epic (SM)                   | <b>76 OH WHAT A NIGHT</b><br>Clock   | Power Station/MCA (BMG)    |
| <b>28 GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME</b><br>Gabriella                          | Go Beat (F)                 | <b>77 I NEED YOU</b><br>3T   | MJJ/EPIC (SM)              |
| <b>29 NOBODY KNOWS</b><br>Tony Rich Project                                | LaFace/Arista (BMG)         | <b>78 NAKED</b><br>Lolita  | 1st Avenue/EMI (E)         |
| <b>30 YOU'RE GORGEOUS</b><br>Baby Bird                                     | Echo (V)                    | <b>79 YOU'RE MAKIN ME HIGH</b><br>Toni Braxton                                 | LaFace/Arista (BMG)        |
| <b>31 KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR/THROW...GUNS AWAY</b><br>Dunblane          | BMG (BMG)                   | <b>80 WHATEVER</b><br>Oasis  | Creation (3MV/SM)          |
| <b>32 CECILIA</b><br>Suggs featuring Louchie Lou & Michie One              | WEA (W)                     | <b>81 FALLING INTO YOU</b><br>Celine Dion                                      | Epic (SM)                  |
| <b>33 FLAVA</b><br>Peter Andre   | Mushroom (3MV/BMG)          | <b>82 KEEP ON JUMPIN'</b><br>Lisa Marie Experience                             | Manifesto (F)              |
| <b>34 DON'T STOP MOVIN'</b><br>Livin' Joy                                  | Undiscovered/MCA (BMG)      | <b>83 ONE BY ONE</b><br>Cher   | WEA (W)                    |
| <b>35 IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME NOW</b><br>Celine Dion                    | Epic (SM)                   | <b>84 HEY DUDE</b><br>Kula Shaker  | Columbia (SM)              |
| <b>36 I LOVE YOU ALWAYS FOREVER</b><br>Donna Lewis                         | Atlantic (W)                | <b>85 WE'VE GOT IT GOIN' ON</b><br>Backstreet Boys                             | Jive (P)                   |
| <b>37 HOW BIZARRE</b><br>OMC   | Polydor (F)                 | <b>86 GANGSTA'S PARADISE</b><br>Coolio featuring LV                            | Tommy Boy (BMG)            |
| <b>38 JESUS TO A CHILD</b><br>George Michael                               | Virgin (E)                  | <b>87 CALIFORNIA LOVE</b><br>2 Pac featuring Dr Dre                            | Death Row/Island (F)       |
| <b>39 VIRTUAL INSANITY</b><br>Jamiroquai                                   | Sony S2 (SM)                | <b>88 I BELONG TO YOU</b><br>Ginè G  | Eternal/WEA (BMG)          |
| <b>40 FOREVER LOVE</b><br>Gary Barlow                                      | RCA (BMG)                   | <b>89 I AM, I FEEL</b><br>Alfisa's Atic  | Mercury (F)                |
| <b>41 HILLBILLY ROCK HILLBILLY ROLL</b><br>Woolpackers                     | RCA (BMG)                   | <b>90 STRANGER IN MOSCOW</b><br>Michael Jackson                                | Epic (SM)                  |
| <b>42 I WANNA BE A HIPPIE</b><br>Technohead                                | Mokum (P)                   | <b>91 FEMALE OF THE SPECIES</b><br>Space                                       | Gut (T/P)                  |
| <b>43 THERE'S NOTHING I WON'T DO</b><br>JX                                 | Hooj Choons/ffrfreedom (F)  | <b>92 FABLE</b><br>Robert Miles  | Deconstruction (BMG)       |
| <b>44 INSOMNIA</b><br>Farthless  | Cheeky (3MV/BMG)            | <b>93 ANGEL</b><br>Simply Red  | East West (W)              |
| <b>45 WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT</b><br>Warren G featuring Adina Howard | Interscope (BMG)            | <b>94 I JUST WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU</b><br>Etta James                        | Chess/MCA (BMG)            |
| <b>46 FREEDOM</b><br>Robbie Williams                                       | Chrysalis (E)               | <b>95 LOUNGIN</b><br>LL Cool J   | Def Jam/Mercury (F)        |
| <b>47 I GOT 5 ON IT</b><br>Luniz   | Noo Trybe/Virgin (E)        | <b>96 ONE TO ANOTHER</b><br>The Charlatans                                     | Beggars Banquet (RTM/DISC) |
| <b>48 EARTH SONG</b><br>Michael Jackson                                    | Epic (SM)                   | <b>97 CHILD</b><br>Mark Owen   | RCA (BMG)                  |
| <b>49 SPINNING THE WHEEL</b><br>George Michael                             | Virgin (E)                  | <b>98 FOREVER</b><br>Damage  | Big Life (P)               |
|  |                             | <b>99 COSMIC GIRL</b><br>Jamiroquai  | Sony S2 (SM)               |
|  |                             | <b>100 BLURRED</b><br>Pianoman   | 3 Beat/ffrfreedom (F)      |

# UK acts outstrip the US, but Canadian Alanis hits the top

The resurgence in local talent which has seen UK artists start to assert themselves so strongly in singles sales – 56 of the Top 100 singles of 1996 were local repertoire, compared with just 39 two years earlier – is beginning to generate album sales, too. And the biggest victims of this indigenous uprising are Americans.

In comparison with homegrown rock, a lot of what America has to offer seems jaded. How else do you explain the fact that US records spent just two weeks at number one on the albums chart in 1996? Metallica (who are, in any case, partly Danish) and REM each broke through for just one week. And the only US album to feature in the Top 20 of 1996 is Fugees' *Refugee Camp*. This magazine has tabulated the biggest selling albums every year since 1964, and never before has there been such a paucity of yanks in the Top 20.

These dramatic figures actually distort the picture somewhat, as just below the top line Americans are still out in some force, with 23 of them in the Top 100, the same as last year, though that figure itself represented a 10-year low.

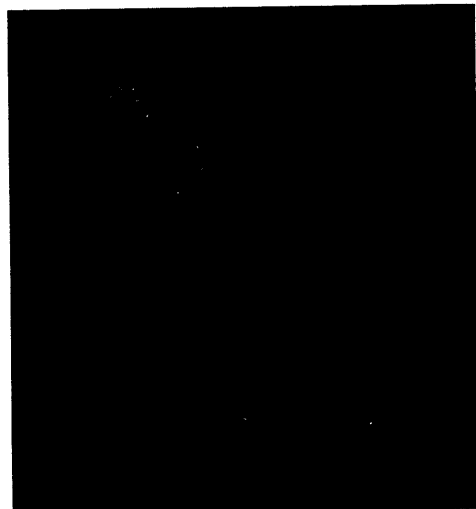
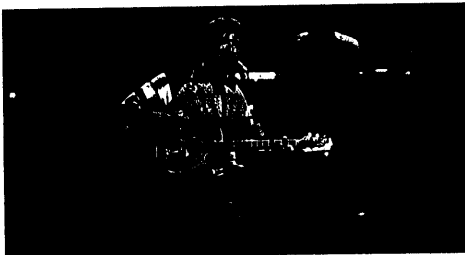
And it is a North American – a Canadian – who emerges with the biggest-selling album of 1996. Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* was phenomenal. It began the year on its 20th week in the chart, and in 26th place. It never fell so low again, and spent 11 weeks at number one, amassing sales of some 2m units during the year, to add to its useful 200,000-plus 1995 sale. The success of Morissette brought Britain back into line with the rest of the world for a change. *Jagged Little Pill* was the global best-seller by a wide margin in 1996.

Morissette's prominence in Britain was bad luck for Oasis, whose (*What's The Story*) *Morning Glory?* was therefore doomed to finish in second place for the second year in a row. That it could finish so high in what is expected to be confirmed as the industry's record year is astonishing, given that it sold 1.84m units in 1995. Now 12-times platinum, it may never be the number one album of a specific year, but is still in line to become the biggest-selling album in UK history. With *Definitely Maybe* also showing solid staying power Oasis are well-placed to cash in with their upcoming third album.

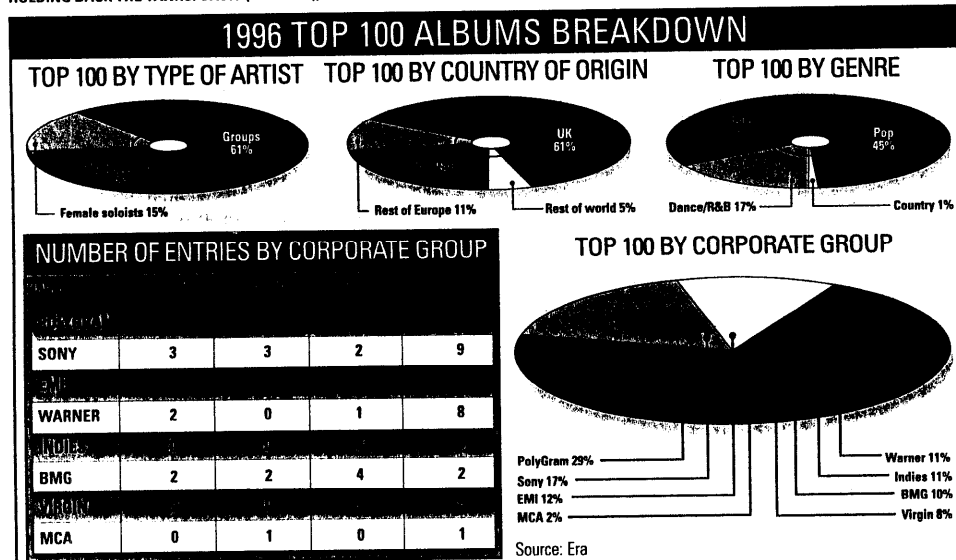
Rapidly catching up with both Morissette and Oasis as the year ended, Spice Girls' debut album *Spice* was the second fastest-selling debut album in history, burning its way to 1,678,000 units in 55 days. It thus eclipses Eternal's debut album *Always & Forever* to become the biggest-selling album ever by a girl group.

In the face of much exciting new music, one of the most noticeable trends is the rapid decrease in greatest hits albums making an impact.

There's little evidence to suggest that record companies are any less eager to exploit back catalogue than was previously the case, but the chart is playing host to fewer and fewer of them. As recently as 1994, 32 of the Top 100 albums were hits packages. In 1995, that dipped sharply to 22, and last year it slumped again to 17 with *Take That's*



HOLDING BACK THE YANKS: OASIS (TOP LEFT), THOSE SPICE GIRLS AGAIN AND ALANIS MORISSETTE



*Greatest Hits* taking the prize ahead of oldies collections by Simply Red, Crowded House, Mike & The Mechanics and East 17.

As far as back catalogue is concerned, Jeff Wayne's *War Of The Worlds*, dating back to 1978, fared best, ranking 101st. The Beatles sold around a million albums in the year, primarily the Anthology series and primarily, therefore, high-priced doubles. Their best-selling regular album releases were Sgt. Pepper's *Lonely Hearts Club Band* (178th), *Revolver* (272nd) and *Abbey Road* (281st).

The Fugees' *The Score* wasn't just the best-selling album by an American act, it was also the best-selling album of all in the dance/R&B genre. Just before *Killing Me Softly* came out, it increased its sales 14 weeks in a row. Fuelled by three hit singles, it managed to maintain a high level of sales through the year, making the Top 20 for the first time in May, and not dropping out of it again. With M People's *Strange Fruit* enjoying another good year, the Lighthouse Family's *Ocean Drive* taking off in a big way, Jamiroquai's

*Travelling Without Moving* fulfilling potential and several other rhythm-based projects succeeding, the dance/R&B sector delivered a best-yet 17 albums to the Top 100. It did so primarily at the expense of pop which fell to a 45% share, leaving it just 8% ahead of rock, over which it had a 19% lead only a year ago.

Perhaps the most disappointing performance by an album came from Enigma's *Le Roi Est Mort, Vive Le Roi*, which peaked at number 12. It finished 86th for the year. The group's two previous albums both reached number one. MCMXC AD was the number 34 album of 1991, while *The Cross Of Changes* was 14th in 1994.

Aside from *Spice*, eight other debut albums released in 1996 make the Top 100, about par for the course. Kula Shaker's *K* was the year's next most popular breakthrough album, after spending a couple of weeks at number one and spinning off four hit singles.

Toni Braxton had two long lingering Top 10 hit singles with *You're Makin' Me High* and *Un-Break My Heart*, but her album *Secrets* remains stubbornly

unconvinced it should do the same. It rose only as high as number 15 during the year, but sold long enough and consistently enough to emerge as the year's 28th most popular collection.

Braxton was one of 15 women in the 100, compared with 24 men and 61 groups. That's broadly the same as last year, with women's stock cresting at an all-time high, although British women remain notoriously chart shy. Just Louise, Gabrielle and Dina Carroll make a showing – and even then only in the bottom half of the chart.

Finally, just in case overseas readers think that any of the above gives any clues whatsoever to the best formula for success in the UK charts, how do we explain that the biggest-selling act to originate from the continent in 1996 staged an unexpected comeback 18 years after their only previous and fairly moderate hit? Yet, proving superior even to the winsome charms of Boyzone, *The Smurfs* checked in with the number 17 (*The Smurfs Go Pop!*) and number 31 (*Christmas Party*) albums for the year. Factor that one in.

Alan Jones

# TOP 100 ALBUMS 1996

| Title artist  | label (distributor)      | Title artist  | label (distributor)         |
|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>1 JAGGED LITTLE PILL</b><br>Alanis Morissette                        | Maverick/Reprise (W)     | <b>50 MERCURY FALLING</b><br>Sling  | A&M (F)                     |
| <b>2 (WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY?</b><br>Oasis                     | Creation (3MV/V)         | <b>51 NAKED</b><br>Louise   | 1st Avenue/EMI (E)          |
| <b>3 SPICE</b><br>Spice Girls   | Virgin (E)               | <b>52 THE COLOUR OF MY LOVE</b><br>Celine Dion  | Epic (SM)                   |
| <b>4 FALLING INTO YOU</b><br>Celine Dion                                | Epic (SM)                | <b>53 GABRIELLE</b><br>Gabrielle  | Go.Beat (F)                 |
| <b>5 OLDER</b><br>George Michael  | Virgin (E)               | <b>54 COMING UP</b><br>Suede  | Nude (3MV/V)                |
| <b>6 TAKE TWO</b><br>Robson & Jerome                                    | RCA (BMG)                | <b>55 DAYDREAM</b><br>Mariah Carey  | Columbia (SM)               |
| <b>7 THE SCORE</b><br>Fugees  | Columbia (SM)            | <b>56 DANCE INTO THE LIGHT</b><br>Phil Collins  | Face Value (W)              |
| <b>8 GREATEST HITS</b><br>Take That                                     | RCA (BMG)                | <b>57 ANTHOLOGY 2</b><br>The Beatles  | Apple/Parlophone (E)        |
| <b>9 GREATEST HITS</b><br>Simply Red                                    | East West (W)            | <b>58 LOAD</b><br>Metallica   | Vertigo (F)                 |
| <b>10 BLUE IS THE COLOUR</b><br>The Beautiful South                     | Gol Discs (F)            | <b>59 TO THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED</b><br>The Cranberries                                 | Island (F)                  |
| <b>11 MOSELEY SHOALS</b><br>Ocean Colour Scene                          | MCA (BMG)                | <b>60 THE MEMORY OF TREES</b><br>Enya   | WEA (W)                     |
| <b>12 RECURRING DREAM - THE VERY BEST OF</b><br>Crowded House           | Capitol (E)              | <b>61 SOMETHING TO REMEMBER</b><br>Madonna  | Maverick/Sire (W)           |
| <b>13 OCEAN DRIVE</b><br>Lighthouse Family                              | Wild Card/Polydor (F)    | <b>62 PARANOID &amp; SUNBURNT</b><br>Skunk Anansie                                    | One Little Indian (F)       |
| <b>14 BIZARRE FRUIT/BIZARRE FRUIT II</b><br>M People                    | Deconstruction/RCA (BMG) | <b>63 SONGS OF INSPIRATION</b><br>Daniel O'Donnell                                    | Ritz (F)                    |
| <b>15 TRAVELLING WITHOUT MOVING</b><br>Jamiroquai                       | Sony S2 (SM)             | <b>64 ONLY HUMAN</b><br>Dina Carroll  | 1st Avenue/Mercury (F)      |
| <b>16 K</b><br>Kula Shaker  | Columbia (SM)            | <b>65 DON'T STOP</b><br>Status Quo  | PolyGram TV (F)             |
| <b>17 THE SMURFS GO POP!</b><br>The Smurfs                              | EMI TV (E)               | <b>66 THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION</b><br>Neil Diamond                                     | Sony TV/MCA (SM)            |
| <b>18 A DIFFERENT BEAT</b><br>Boyzone                                   | RCA (BMG)                | <b>67 POWER OF A WOMAN</b><br>Eternal   | 1st Avenue/EMI (E)          |
| <b>19 DIFFERENT CLASS</b><br>Pulp                                       | Island (F)               | <b>68 MADE IN HEAVEN</b><br>Queen   | Parlophone (E)              |
| <b>20 EVERYTHING MUST GO</b><br>Manic Street Preachers                  | Epic (SM)                | <b>69 A MAXIMUM HIGH</b><br>Shed Seven  | Polydor (F)                 |
| <b>21 DEFINITELY MAYBE</b><br>Oasis                                     | Creation (3MV/V)         | <b>70 JOLLIFICATION</b><br>Lightning Seeds  | Epic (SM)                   |
| <b>22 HITS</b><br>Mike & The Mechanics                                  | Virgin (E)               | <b>71 THE VERY BEST OF</b><br>Roy Orbison   | Virgin (E)                  |
| <b>23 AROUND THE WORLD - THE JOURNEY SO FAR</b><br>East 17              | London (F)               | <b>72 SONG REVIEW - A GREATEST HITS COLLECTION</b><br>Stevie Wonder                   | Motown (F)                  |
| <b>24 18 TIL I DIE</b><br>Bryan Adams                                   | A&M (F)                  | <b>73 THE GREAT ESCAPE</b><br>Blur  | Food/Parlophone (E)         |
| <b>25 GARBAGE</b><br>Garbage  | Mushroom (3MV/BMG)       | <b>74 LOVE SONGS</b><br>Elton John  | Rocket (F)                  |
| <b>26 WILDEST DREAMS</b><br>Tina Turner                                 | Parlophone (E)           | <b>75 THE PRESIDENTS OF THE USA</b><br>The Presidents Of The United States Of America | Columbia (SM)               |
| <b>27 ALL CHANGE</b><br>Cast  | Polydor (F)              | <b>76 THE VERY BEST OF</b><br>The Moody Blues   | PolyGram TV (F)             |
| <b>28 SECRETS</b><br>Toni Braxton                                       | LaFace/Arista (BMG)      | <b>77 SECOND TOUGHEST IN THE INFANTS</b><br>Underworld                                | Junior Boy's Own (RTM/DISC) |
| <b>29 1977</b><br>Ash   | Infectious (RTM/DISC)    | <b>78 THE MUSICALS</b><br>Michael Ball  | PolyGram TV (F)             |
| <b>30 SHERYL CROW</b><br>Sheryl Crow                                    | A&M (F)                  | <b>79 THESE DAYS</b><br>Bon Jovi  | Mercury (F)                 |
| <b>31 CHRISTMAS PARTY</b><br>The Smurfs                                 | EMI TV (E)               | <b>80 RETURN OF THE MACK</b><br>Mark Morrison   | WEA (W)                     |
| <b>32 STANLEY ROAD</b><br>Paul Weller                                   | Gol Discs (F)            | <b>81 MELLON COLLIE AND THE INFINITE SADNESS</b><br>Smashing Pumpkins                 | Hut/Virgin (E)              |
| <b>33 FREE PEACE SWEET</b><br>Dodgy                                     | A&M (F)                  | <b>82 GOLDEN HEART</b><br>Mark Knopfler   | Vertigo (F)                 |
| <b>34 NEW ADVENTURES IN HI-FI</b><br>REM                                | Warner Bros (W)          | <b>83 DIZZY HEIGHTS</b><br>Lightning Seeds  | Epic (SM)                   |
| <b>35 HISTORY - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, BOOK 1</b><br>Michael Jackson | Epic (SM)                | <b>84 LEFTISM</b><br>Leftfield  | Hard Hands/Columbia (SM)    |
| <b>36 SAID AND DONE</b><br>Boyzone                                      | RCA (BMG)                | <b>85 ANTHOLOGY 3</b><br>The Beatles  | Apple/Parlophone (E)        |
| <b>37 DREAMLAND</b><br>Robert Miles                                     | Deconstruction (BMG)     | <b>86 LE ROI EST MORT, VIVE LE ROI!</b><br>Enigma                                     | Virgin (E)                  |
| <b>38 SPIDERS</b><br>Space  | Gut (TIP)                | <b>87 GOLD - GREATEST HITS</b><br>Abba  | Polydor (F)                 |
| <b>39 ROBSON &amp; JEROME</b><br>Robson & Jerome                        | RCA (BMG)                | <b>88 CRAZYSEXCOOL</b><br>TLC   | LaFace/Arista (F)           |
| <b>40 THE BENDS</b><br>Radiohead  | Parlophone (E)           | <b>89 CARRY ON UP THE CHARTS - THE BEST OF</b><br>The Beautiful South                 | Gol Discs (F)               |
| <b>41 EXPECTING TO FLY</b><br>The Bluetones                             | Superior Quality/A&M (F) | <b>90 MUSIC FOR THE JILTED GENERATION</b><br>The Prodigy                              | XL Recordings (W)           |
| <b>42 NATURAL</b><br>Peter Andre  | Mushroom (3MV/BMG)       | <b>91 WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD</b><br>Meat Loaf                                   | Virgin (E)                  |
| <b>43 IF WE FALL IN LOVE TONIGHT</b><br>Rod Stewart                     | Warner Bros (W)          | <b>92 THE VERY BEST OF</b><br>Buddy Holly   | Dino (P)                    |
| <b>44 LIFE</b><br>Simply Red  | East West (W)            | <b>93 ALISHA RULES THE WORLD</b><br>Alisha's Attic                                    | Mercury (F)                 |
| <b>45 CROCODILE SHOES II</b><br>Jimmy Nail                              | East West (W)            | <b>94 POST/TELEGRAM</b><br>Bjork  | One Little Indian (P)       |
| <b>46 WALKING WOUNDED</b><br>Everything But The Girl                    | Virgin (E)               | <b>95 GREATEST HITS 1985-1995</b><br>Michael Bolton                                   | Columbia (SM)               |
| <b>47 EVITA (ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK)</b><br>Various                        | Warner Bros (W)          | <b>96 RELISH</b><br>Joan Osborne  | Blue Gorilla (F)            |
| <b>48 THE IT GIRL</b><br>Sleeper  | Indolent/RCA (V)         | <b>97 BROTHERHOOD</b><br>3T   | MJJ/Epic (SM)               |
| <b>49 THE FINEST</b><br>Fine Young Cannibals                            | ffrr (F)                 | <b>98 PABLO HONEY</b><br>Radiohead  | Parlophone (E)              |
|   |                          | <b>99 HANK PLAYS HOLLY</b><br>Hank Marvin   | PolyGram TV (F)             |
|   |                          | <b>100 IT'S GREAT WHEN YOU'RE STRAIGHT...YEAH</b><br>Black Grape                      | Radioactive (BMG)           |

| Title   | label (distributor)                | Title   | label (distributor)        |
|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>1 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 35</b>               | EMI/Virgin/PolyGram (E)            | <b>25 MOVIE KILLERS</b>                               | Telstar (BMG)              |
| <b>2 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 34</b>               | EMI/Virgin/PolyGram (E)            | <b>26 THE HOUSE COLLECTION - CLUB CLASSICS</b>        | Fantazia (3MV/SM)          |
| <b>3 TRAINSPOTTING (ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK)</b>            | EMI Premier (E)                    | <b>27 THE BEST IRISH ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b>   | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>4 THE BEST SIXTIES ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! II</b> | Virgin (E)                         | <b>28 HITS 96</b>                                     | Global TV/warner.esp (BMG) |
| <b>5 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 33</b>               | EMI/Virgin/PolyGram (E)            | <b>29 SHINE 5</b>                                     | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>6 NEW HITS 96</b>                                    | warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV (BMG) | <b>30 THE BEST OPERA ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b>   | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>7 THE BEST DANCE ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! 6</b>    | Virgin (E)                         | <b>31 CLUB MIX 96</b>                                 | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>8 HEARTBEAT - No 1 LOVE SONGS/60s</b>                | RCA/Global TV (BMG)                | <b>32 THE BEST...ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! 3</b>     | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>9 THE ANNUAL II - TONG/BOY GEORGE</b>                | Ministry Of Sound (3MV/SM)         | <b>33 PULP FICTION (ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK)</b>          | MCA (BMG)                  |
| <b>10 THE LOVE ALBUM III</b>                            | Virgin (E)                         | <b>34 CLUB MIX 96 - VOL 2</b>                         | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>11 THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b> | Virgin (E)                         | <b>35 THE BEST...ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! 4</b>     | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>12 HITS 97</b>                                       | warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV (SM)  | <b>36 SMASH HITS MIX 97</b>                           | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>13 IN THE MIX 96</b>                                 | Virgin (E)                         | <b>37 THE BEST SWING ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b>   | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>14 THE ULTIMATE PARTY ANIMAL</b>                     | Global Television (BMG)            | <b>38 THE NO 1 CHRISTMAS ALBUM</b>                    | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>15 THE BEST...ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! 2</b>       | Virgin (E)                         | <b>39 IN THE MIX 96 - 3</b>                           | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>16 IN THE MIX 96 - 2</b>                             | Virgin (E)                         | <b>40 THE BEST SIXTIES ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b> | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>17 KISS IN IBIZA '96</b>                             | PolyGram TV (F)                    | <b>41 100% PURE GROOVE</b>                            | Telstar (BMG)              |
| <b>18 HUGE HITS 1996</b>                                | warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV (SM)  | <b>42 SHINE 7</b>                                     | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>19 FRESH HITS 1996</b>                               | warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV (SM)  | <b>43 THE LOVE ALBUM II</b>                           | Virgin (E)                 |
| <b>20 THE BEST RAP ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER!</b>       | Virgin (E)                         | <b>44 THE BEST OF HEARTBEAT</b>                       | Columbia (SM)              |
| <b>21 THE ALL TIME GREATEST LOVE SONGS...</b>           | Columbia (SM)                      | <b>45 FANTAZIA PRESENTS THE HOUSE... 4</b>            | Fantazia (3MV/SM)          |
| <b>22 SISTERS OF SWING</b>                              | PolyGram TV (F)                    | <b>46 DANCE ZONE - LEVEL SEVEN</b>                    | PolyGram TV (F)            |
| <b>23 THE GREATEST HITS OF 96</b>                       | Telstar (BMG)                      | <b>47 VYBIN' 3 - NEW SOUL REBELS</b>                  | Global Television (BMG)    |
| <b>24 BIG MIX 96</b>                                    | EMI TV/warner.esp (E)              | <b>48 BOYZ OF SWING</b>                               | PolyGram TV (F)            |
|   |                                    | <b>49 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 32</b>            | EMI/Virgin/PolyGram (E)    |
|   |                                    | <b>50 CLUB MIX 97</b>                                 | PolyGram TV (F)            |

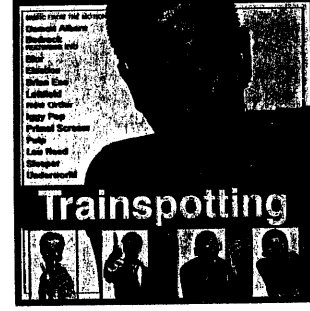
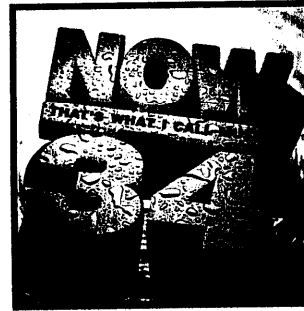
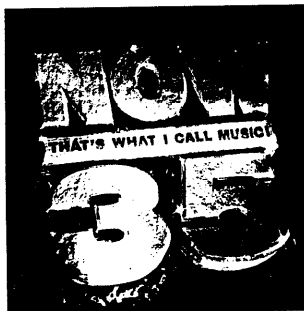
## Virgin stays top in a changing sector

While the dominance of the Now That's What I Call Music! series continues unabated, a lot of other long-established facts about the compilation market are going to need re-assessing.

First off, after at least a decade of uninterrupted growth, it appeared to shrink in 1996. In fact, it shrunk quite dramatically. Although it managed to grab a 26.8% share of sales in the year's biggest week (the one immediately before Christmas) - exactly the same as in 1995 - it produced far fewer big selling albums over the 12 month period than expected. In 1993, the 50th biggest-selling compilation album was placed 171st in the overall album chart, and sold 85,000 units. In 1994, it sold 110,000 copies and ranked 146th. In 1995, it sold 132,000 copies and was ranked 131st. This dramatic growth was reversed in 1996, when the number 50 compilation sold 100,000 copies and was ranked 157th overall.

Secondly, don't look for specialist TV merchandisers Telstar and Dino to lead the race. Dino spends much of its time nowadays putting together niche market dance compilations, while Telstar's former prominence has been eroded dramatically. After placing 17 records in the Top 50 in 1993, Telstar has declined to 11 in 1994, six in 1995 and just three last year, none of them in the Top 20.

For years now, Virgin has been the most aggressive operator in the marketplace, and it continued its spectacular growth last year, being wholly responsible for 17 of the Top 50, and partly responsible for a further four, its highest level of penetration yet, by far. No fewer than 10 of the Virgin titles in the Top 50 are in their



ONLY TRAINSPOTTING COULD COME CLOSE TO THE TRADITIONAL DOMINANCE OF THE NOW SERIES, TOP SELLERS YET AGAIN

increasingly diverse Best...Ever! series, covering everything from opera to Irish music.

Dance music continues to play a major role in this sector. Its biggest year was 1993, when it contributed 22 titles in the Top 50. By 1995, that had fallen to 17, a total that increases marginally to 18 this time.

For the 10th time in 11 years - the Bodyguard soundtrack triumphed in 1993 - the number one compilation is from the enormously successful EMI/Virgin/PolyGram Now! stable. Now That's What I Call Music! 35 is 1996's biggest-selling compilation by some distance. It sold nearly 1.25m units in the run-up to Christmas, pushing the previous Now album (Now! 34) into second place. It outsold all but seven regular artist albums, and is the fifth Now! album to sell a million or more in the past five years.

Taking an honourable third place in the rankings is the original soundtrack to the British movie Trainspotting,

which brought the Underworld hit Born Slippy to prominence.

Trainspotting is one of only two soundtracks in the Top 50 - the other being Pulp Fiction, which looks set to sell very strongly as a catalogue item for some time to come.

When the Now! series was first launched by EMI/Virgin/PolyGram, a rival Hits series was briefly positioned as a competitor by the other three majors (BMG/Sony/Warner Music). That concept seemed long dead, but the co-operation between the three companies has flourished anew with the Hits brand name reborn on New Hits 96, Hits 97, Huge Hits 1996, Fresh Hits 1996 and Hits 96, all of which find a place in the Top 50. Altogether, a dozen of the albums listed were joint productions - a record.

When compilation albums first started coming into vogue, Sixties themed LPs were extremely popular. But, with numerous budget albums offering cheap and equally fine

retrospectives of the era, the TV marketing pendulum swung well away from these. But recent experiments by Virgin - which has had two successful Best Sixties Album In The World...Ever titles - and Sony via a whole series of Heartbeat compilations have been very successful, to the extent that there are two Sixties compilations in the Top 10 for 1996, the music's highest penetration in more than a decade. Ironically, this comes at a time when Sixties music is finding radio play harder than ever to come by.

The compilation chart is harder to break for indie labels than almost any other chart, since most of the albums are high profile major company priorities backed by large budgets. Congratulations, then, to the Ministry Of Sound whose second annual - featuring mixes by Boy George and Pete Tong - took on and beat most of the big boys, finishing in ninth place in the listing after selling nearly 400,000 units.

Alan Jones

| Title | artist  | label                  | Title  | artist  | label                               |                  |
|-------|---|------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1     | <b>FAST LOVE</b>                                  | George Michael         | Virgin | 25  | <b>DON'T STOP MOVIN'</b> Livin' Joy | MCA/Undiscovered |
| 2     | <b>GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME</b> Gabrielle       | Go Beat                | 26     | <b>A DESIGN FOR LIFE</b> Manic Street Preachers       | Epic                                |                  |
| 3     | <b>RETURN OF THE MACK</b> Mark Morrison           | WEA                    | 27     | <b>NEVER NEVER LOVE</b> Simply Red                    | East West                           |                  |
| 4     | <b>DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER</b> Oasis             | Creation               | 28     | <b>WONDERWALL</b> Oasis                               | Creation                            |                  |
| 5     | <b>LIFTED</b> Lighthouse Family                   | Polydor                | 29     | <b>SAY YOU'LL BE THERE</b> Spice Girls                | Virgin                              |                  |
| 6     | <b>MISSING</b> Everything But The Girl            | Blanco Y Negro/Eternal | 30     | <b>ONE OF US</b> Joan Osborne                         | Blue Gorilla/Mercury                |                  |
| 7     | <b>GOOD ENOUGH</b> Dodgy                          | A&M                    | 31     | <b>IF YOU EVER</b> East 17 Featuring Gabrielle        | London                              |                  |
| 8     | <b>KILLING ME SOFTLY</b> Fugees                   | Columbia               | 32     | <b>MYSTERIOUS GIRL</b> Peter Andre feat. Bubbler Ranx | Mushroom                            |                  |
| 9     | <b>DISCO 2000</b> Pulp                            | Island                 | 33     | <b>I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU</b> The Rembrandts           | East West                           |                  |
| 10    | <b>NOBODY KNOWS</b> Tony Rich Project             | Laface/Arista          | 34     | <b>A GIRL LIKE YOU</b> Edwyn Collins                  | Setanta                             |                  |
| 11    | <b>OCEAN DRIVE</b> Lighthouse Family              | Wild Card/Polydor      | 35     | <b>UNBREAK MY HEART</b> Toni Braxton                  | LaFace/Arista                       |                  |
| 12    | <b>I AM I FEEL</b> Alisha's Attic                 | Mercury                | 36     | <b>STUPID GIRL</b> Garbage                            | Mushroom                            |                  |
| 13    | <b>SPINNING THE WHEEL</b> George Michael          | AE/Virgin              | 37     | <b>JESUS TO A CHILD</b> George Michael                | Virgin                              |                  |
| 14    | <b>BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S</b> Deep Blue Something | Interscope/MCA         | 38     | <b>EARTH SONG</b> Michael Jackson                     | Epic                                |                  |
| 15    | <b>SLIGHT RETURN</b> Bluetones                    | Superior Quality       | 39     | <b>YOU'RE GORGEOUS</b> Baby Bird                      | Echo                                |                  |
| 16    | <b>I LOVE YOU ALWAYS FOREVER</b> Donna Lewis      | Atlantic/East West     | 40     | <b>JUST A LITTLE BIT</b> Gina G                       | Eternal/WEA                         |                  |
| 17    | <b>IRONIC</b> Alanis Morissette                   | Maverick/Warner Bros.  | 41     | <b>WANNABE</b> Spice Girls                            | Virgin                              |                  |
| 18    | <b>HOW BIZARRE</b> OMC                            | Polydor                | 42     | <b>BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME</b> Celine Dion               | Epic                                |                  |
| 19    | <b>VIRTUAL INSANITY</b> Jamiroquai                | Sony S2                | 43     | <b>ESCAPING</b> Dina Carroll                          | 1st Avenue/Mercury                  |                  |
| 20    | <b>ROTTERDAM</b> Beautiful South                  | Go! Discs              | 44     | <b>WOMAN</b> Neneh Cherry                             | Hut/Virgin                          |                  |
| 21    | <b>HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE</b> Take That            | RCA                    | 45     | <b>GANGSTA'S PARADISE</b> Coolio Featuring LV         | Tommy Boy/MCA                       |                  |
| 22    | <b>ALWAYS BE MY BABY</b> Mariah Carey             | Columbia               | 46     | <b>GOLD</b> Prince                                    | Warner Bros/NPG                     |                  |
| 23    | <b>WRONG</b> Everything But The Girl              | Virgin                 | 47     | <b>THE ONLY THING THAT LOOKS...</b> Bryan Adams       | A&M                                 |                  |
| 24    | <b>ONE BY ONE</b> Cher                            | WEA                    | 48     | <b>GOODBYE HEARTBREAK</b> Lighthouse Family           | Wild Card/Polydor                   |                  |
|       |   |                        | 49     | <b>FALLING INTO YOU</b> Celine Dion                   | Epic                                |                  |
|       |   |                        | 50     | <b>SOMETHING CHANGED</b> Pulp                         | Island                              |                  |

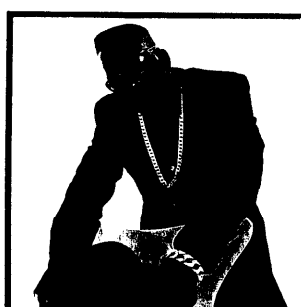
# George finds faith with programmers

George Michael's enduring appeal was underlined by the popularity of three of his singles on the airwaves in 1996, with *Fast Love* emerging as the most-played track overall.

*Fast Love* spent six weeks at the top of the chart in early summer – a longer reign than any other number one in 1996 – and spent 21 weeks in the airplay chart overall. Michael's singles were not the only Virgin releases to perform strongly on radio. The company's performance matched that of traditional airplay heavyweights, with seven tracks in the Top 50. *Spice Girls' Say You'll Be There* and *Wannabe* are at 29 and 41, while the Christmas number one *2 Become 1* is looking set for a long radio life in 1997, as well as record sales.

The only other act to have three entries in the Top 50 are Polydor newcomers *The Lighthouse Family*, who finally found widespread radio acceptance with *Lifted* (the 56th biggest seller) at number five, and whose *Ocean Drive* and *Goodbye Heartbreak* sit at numbers 11 and 18, although neither of the latter appear in the Top 100 sales chart. Polydor's other airplay hit was from another new act, New Zealand's OMC, whose quirky *How Bizarre* was the 18th most-played track of 1996 and 37th biggest seller. But Polydor's best-selling track of the year, Boyzone's Bee Gees cover *Words* failed to make the Top 50.

PolyGram dominated the airplay Top 50 in 1996, with 15 tracks spread over all its labels, while Warner turned in a fair performance with nine of the 50. PolyGram's biggest airplay hit was Gabrielle's retro *Give Me A Little More Time* on Go! Discs, which was the



TUNING IN (FROM LEFT): GEORGE MICHAEL, WHO TAKES THE TOP SPOT, GABRIELLE AND MARK MORRISON

second most-played track of the year and the 28th biggest seller. Island's Pulp also managed two tracks in the 50. Mercury newcomers *Alisha's Attic* notch up a very respectable 12th with their debut single, *I Am, I Feel*, which just makes the 100 sales chart, while A&M's *Dodgy* broke through to 11R, with *Good Enough* soaring over the airwaves for much of the summer and becoming the seventh most-played track.

There's no room for WEA heavyweights *Madonna* or *REM* in the Top 50, with Warner's airplay stars instead including newcomers *Mark Morrison* and Eurovision entrant *Gina G*. 1996's fifth biggest-selling single *Return Of The Mack* by Morrison on WEA was the third most-played track, although *Gina G's Ohh Aah... Just A Little Bit* on Eternal, while notching up sixth place in the sales 100, languishes at number 40 in airplay. East West's three in the 50 include surprise newcomer and conqueror of the US chart *Donna Lewis* at 16, while last

year's airplay winners *Simply Red* only manage 27th place with *Never Never Love*, which doesn't get a look in in terms of the sales Top 100.

Meanwhile a release from 1995, *I'll Be There For You* by *The Rembrandts*, is the 33rd most-played track, helped by its use in the cult TV sitcom *Friends*.

Unlike Warner, Sony's most played tracks – six of which were on Epic show a reliance on established acts, with *Celine Dion*, *Mariah Carey*, *Michael Jackson* and *Manic Street Preachers* the biggest airplay successes.

*Mariah Carey's Always Be My Baby* and *Fugees' Killing Me Softly* are the only two Columbia releases to make the Top 50 airplay, with the latter, the biggest-selling single of the year, clearly overcoming programmers' traditional aversion to rap in eight places.

No end of year chart would be complete without *Oasis*, and *Don't Look Back In Anger* is the fourth most

played track (and 11th best seller), with 1995's *Wonderwall* – voted the best song in the world ever by *Radio One* listeners over Christmas – also retaining radio programmers' fondness, at number 28.

Steven Jones' prediction that he would make the Top 10 was realised, and *Babybird's You're Gorgeous* won over 11R, with the *Echo* track at number 39 in the airplay chart and number 30 in sales.

Radio's increasing acceptance of the dance genre was reflected by *Livin' Joy's Don't Stop Movin'* on MCA at number 25, while the dance remix of *Everything But The Girl's Missing*, so huge in 1995, managed sixth position – and boosted the Virgin album *Walking Wounded* to a respectable 46th place in the sales league.

Other biggies not so popular with programmers were footie anthem *Three Lions*, *The Prodigy's* massive hits *Breathe* and *Firestarter*, and *Born Slippy* by *Underworld*, none of which make the Top 50.

Catherine Eade