



# George makes emphatic return

## SALES

The delicious irony of replacing a Sony act at the top of the singles chart will not be lost on **George Michael**, whose debut Virgin single *Jesus To A Child* enters the chart at number one this week after selling 110,000 copies.

It brings the six-week reign of **Michael Jackson's** *Earth Song* to an end, just as George's version of *Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me* with **Elton John** put paid to **Black Or White's** number one career. George has now had 10 number one singles – more than any other act apart from **The Beatles**, **Elvis Presley** and **Cliff Richard**.

*Jesus To A Child* is the sixth chart-topper in a row to debut at number one – a record – and outsold *Earth Song* by a 5:2 ratio last week. Even so, it sold decreasingly well towards the end of the week and may be hard pressed to hold off **Babylon Zoo's** *Spaceman* next week.

With **George Michael** debuting at number one, last week's top five move down a notch a piece in convoy. That means that **Everything But The Girl's** *Missing* is number five and **Oasis's** *Wonderwall* is number six.

The incredible staying power of these two records, which peaked at number three and number two respectively, has seen them both sell nearly 700,000 copies, making them the biggest selling singles not to reach number one since **Wham's** 1984 seasonal sizzler *Last Christmas*.

*Missing* leads *Wonderwall* by a short head, but while **Oasis** have seen their album – number one again this week – benefit hugely from their single's success, **Everything But The Girl's** *Amplified Heart* album has proved largely unaffected by their single. *Amplified Heart* had a brief chart career when first released in June 1994, but did climb as high as number 20.

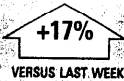
Since being repackaged to include the new mix of *Missing* before Christmas, it has been a bit of a damp squib. It didn't even return to the chart until last week, when it dribbled in at number 66 – a position it retains this week.

Having a great deal more success, though, is newcomer **Alanis Morissette** who leapfrogs over her label boss **Madonna** and her fellow Canadian **Celine Dion** this week with her *Jagged Little Pill* album, which climbs from number 13 to number six.

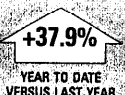
It first entered the chart in August, but despite spending 21 consecutive weeks in the listings, it had never previously charted higher than number 12 even though it has sold over a quarter of a million copies so far.

Alan Jones

## SINGLES UPDATE



## ALBUMS UPDATE



## SALES AWARDS

- **Platinum:** **Boyzone:** *Father And Son* (single); **Boyzone:** *Said And Done*.  
**Gold:** **The Chemical Brothers:** *Exit Planet Dust*; **Coolio:** *Gangsta's Paradise*.
- **Silver:** **George Michael:** *Jesus To A Child* (single); **John Anderson Orchestra:** *Pan Pipes – Romance Of Ireland*.

## PLAYLIST ADDS

**Radio 1 FM: w/c 08.01.96: B-List:** **Lighthouse Family – Lifted**; **Q-Tee – Gimme Your Body**; **Tori Amos – Caught A Lite Sneeze**; **C List:** **Gin Blossoms – Till I Hear From You**; **Longpigs – Far**; **Oleta Adams – We Will Meet Again**; **Skunk Anansie – Weak**; **Whipping Boy – When We Were Young**.  
**Capital FM: w/c 12.01.96: A List:** **Simply Red – Never Never Love**; **Whitney Houston – Count On Me**; **B List:** **Chyna Phillips – Naked And Sacred**; **C List:** **Bobby Brown – Every Little Step**; **Inner City – Your Love**.  
**Virgin 1215: w/c 12.01.96: B List:** **Paul Carrack – Eyes Of Blue**; **Dubstar – Not So Manic Now**; **Lighthouse Family – Lifted**; **C List:** **The Bluetones – Slight Return**; **Paul Brady – The World Is What You Make It**; **Gin Blossoms – Till I Heard It From You**.  
**MTV Europe: w/c 16.01.96: Backstreet Boys – We've Got It Goin' On**; **Skunk Anansie – Weak**; **Janet Jackson – Twenty Foreplay**; **The Bucketheads – Got Myself Together**; **Roxette – June Afternoon**; **AC/DC – Hail Caesar**.

## THIS WEEK'S HITS

### Singles

NUMBER ONE/HIGHEST NEW ENTRY: **Jesus To A Child** **George Michael** – Virgin  
HIGHEST CLIMBER: **Little Britain Dreadzone** – Virgin  
NUMBER ONE R&B SINGLE: **Too Hot** **Coolio** – Tommy Boy  
NUMBER ONE DANCE SINGLE: **Got Myself Together** **The Bucketheads** – Positiva

### Albums

NUMBER ONE: **(What's The Story) Morning Glory?** **Oasis** – Creation  
HIGHEST NEW ENTRY: **Ballroom Hit: Sweet** – PolyGram TV  
HIGHEST CLIMBER: **The Presidents Of The United States Of America** (self-titled) – Columbia  
NUMBER ONE COMPILATION: **Hits 96** – Global TV/Warner TV

### Airplay

NUMBER ONE SINGLE: **Earth Song** **Michael Jackson** – Epic  
BIGGEST GROWER: **One By One** **Cher** – WEA  
MOST ADDED: **Tell It To My Heart** **Taylor Dayne** – Arista  
BIGGEST INCREASE IN AUDIENCE: **Hey Lover** **LL Cool J** – Def Jam

THE OFFICIAL CHARTS MONITOR

## AIRPLAY

Given the fact that their audience profiles are very different, it's surprising to note that in recent weeks the playlists of **Virgin 1215** and **Atlantic 252** have become remarkably similar. **Virgin** is nominally a rock station with a core audience in its 20s, while **Atlantic 252** is much more of a pop station, with a younger audience. **Atlantic 252**, of course, plays far fewer songs far more frequently, but both stations put **Pulp's** *Disco 2000* at the top of their playlists this week, and no fewer than seven records in the **Virgin Top 10** were also in the **Top 10** of **Atlantic 252**.

The **Pulp** track remains one of the most popular on the remainder of the **Media Monitor** panel too, and spends a ninth consecutive week among the **Top 10** tunes. The two top records on the chart remain the same with **Michael Jackson's** *Earth Song* ahead of **Everything But The Girl's** *Missing*. It's the fifth week in a row these have been the top two, with *Missing* number one in the first week, and *Earth Song* ahead for the last four.

Their duopoly looks likely to be broken next week by **George Michael's** *Jesus To A Child*, which is picking up steam nicely. It rises from nine to three this week, with an impressive extra 348 plays. **Capital Radio**, which premiered the track as part of its *Help A London Child* programming last Easter, is still its most fervent admirer and spun it 56 times last week, more than any other disc.

The **Lighthouse Family's** *Lifted* single was a bit of a disaster in 1995. Even though it got a fair amount of club play and some radio support, it peaked at number 62 on the **CIN** chart last May. Now remixed, it looks likely to improve its performance second time around. It is again picking up a lot of support in the clubs, and now has radio behind it in a big way. It's the highest new entry to the **airplay Top 50** this week, debuting at number 19 with 410 plays, including 31 at **Capital**.

Two other new entries to the chart are getting less widespread support. **Wasis Diop & Lena Fiagbe's** *African Dream* and **Addis Black Widow's** *Innocent* debut at numbers 39 and 36, with just 28 and 26 plays respectively. They do so because the vast majority of their support is from **Radio One**. *African Dream* gets all but four of its plays and 99.5% of its audience from the national station, while *Innocent* picks up 10 plays elsewhere, but still gets 98.8% of its audience from **Radio One**. Both records are forthcoming Mercury releases.

Alan Jones

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