



# THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS



With a trio of monster hits occurring at the same time, there's no change in the top three of the singles chart this

week – its first "freeze" since last November. At number three, **Sarah Brightman** and **Andrea Bocelli's** *Time To Say Goodbye* has sold 350,000 copies in five weeks. At number two, **Eternal** and **BeBe Winans** have sold 380,000 copies of *I Wanna Be The Only One* in four weeks. And at number one **Hanson's** *MMMBop* has sold 466,000 copies in just three weeks.

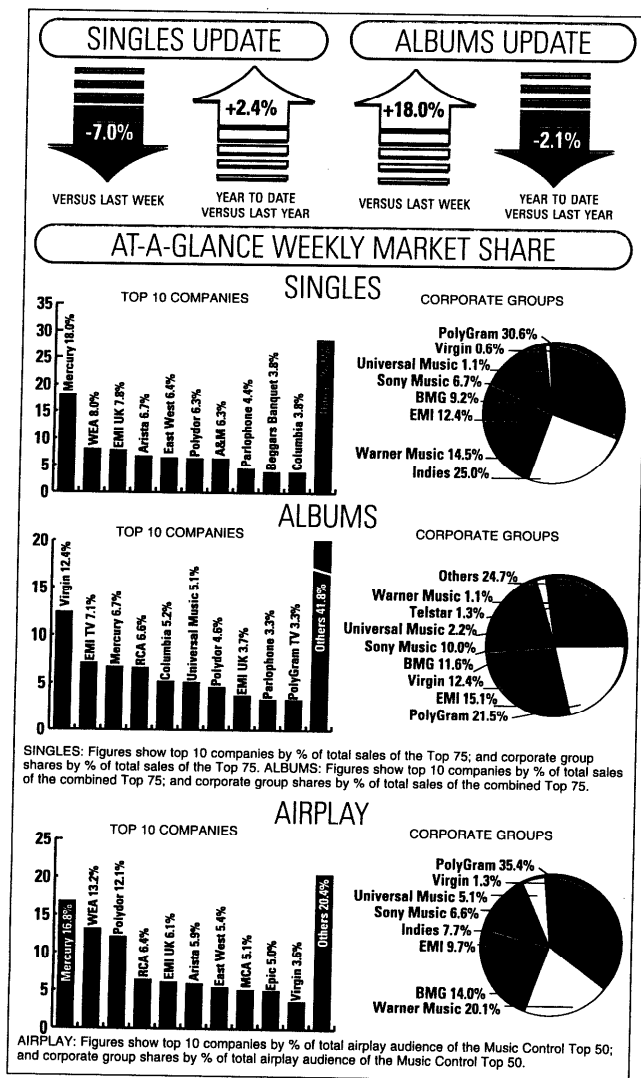
The Hanson phenomenon spreads to the album chart this week with *Middle Of Nowhere*, the group's debut LP, entering at number one. That's a fine achievement, though the current and deepening album sales depression allows them to do so having sold only 24,000 copies of their album last week.

Hanson are comfortably the youngest group to have a number one album, their average age of 14 shaving five years off the previous low, set by **Ash**, when they reached number one last year with their 1977 album, its title giving more than a clue to their year of birth and the fact they were just 19 at the time.

There has been a solo artist with a number one LP at a earlier age, however, that being **Neil Reid**, a boy soprano. Introduced to the nation via *Opportunity Knocks* by the recently deceased **Hughie Green**, Reid had a number two hit single with *Mother Of Mine* and immediately topped that achievement by spending three weeks at the top of the album chart with his self-titled debut collection in 1972, at the age of just 11. Its success exasperated critics at the time who asked with some justification and a nod at the **Rev Spooner** whether there was a real need for **Neil Reid**.

The **Wu-Tang Clan**, who were dethroned by the Hanson album, plunge 1-14 with their *Wu-Tang Forever*, which thus makes a bigger drop from pole position than any album in chart history. The good news for the rap supergroup is that *Wu-Tang Forever* debuts at number one in America, after selling 612,000 copies last week – massively outselling **Tim McGraw** who debuted at number two with 223,000 sales, and the **Spice Girls** who fell to three with 145,000 sales, which ironically, is more than they sold when they were number one last.

Back in the UK, the **Bee Gees** renaissance continues with *I Could Not Love You More* debuting at 14, giving the Bee Gees back-to-back Top 20 hits following the recent number five success of *Alone*. Both tracks come from their *Still Waters* album which is the



With an extra 600,000 audience impressions apiece last week, **Eternal's** *I Wanna Be*

The **Only One** and **Hanson's** *MMMBop* continue to be the nation's most heard hits. Though Hanson gained the upper-hand in the sales chart three weeks ago, **Eternal** are the airplay favourites, though **I Wanna Be The Only One** has dropped support marginally, with 2078 plays last week, a decrease of 51 compared to 2044 for Hanson, an increase of 39. As mentioned elsewhere, they are two of the three big hits which are engaging the nation at the moment. The third part of that triumvirate, **Sarah Brightman** and **Andrea Bocelli's** *Time To Say Goodbye*, is arguably even more popular with punters, generating not just singles sales but also Top 10 albums for both **Bocelli** and **Brightman** – yet it's had very poor support from radio. It moves 55-54 on the airplay chart this week, with 116 plays delivering an audience of 12.5m. Most stations monitored by Music Control played the track just once last week, as part of their Pepsi Chart feed. The only stations to feature the song more than twice were **Orchard** (six plays), **GNR** (seven), **Marcher Coast** (13) and **BBC Radio Two**, which at least knows what its audience wants, playing the song 10 times.

Although it played *Time To Say Goodbye* just once, **Radio One** lapsed into one of its less forward-looking phases and seemed more content to play the hits than make them last week, reserving its most-favoured status for a battalion of current and recent hits. **Hanson**, **Ultra Nate** and **Eternal** shared the station's top spot with 31 plays apiece. There are considerably fewer leftfield and alternative records being championed by the station at the moment, though whether this conservatism is a one-off freak or part of a new trend remains to be seen.

Despite that, the new record most featured by **Radio One** last week was **Todd Terry's** *Something's Goin' On*. Already number one on **RM's** club chart, **Todd's** latest was aired 22 times by **Radio One** last week, and was also an instant success elsewhere, notably at **Capital** (25 plays), **BRMB** (23) and **Invicta** (21). Though also supported by the three **Kiss** stations, **Terry's** single failed to excite quite as much response there, with 42 plays between them, **Kiss 102** (Manchester) leading the way with 18 plays.

Its successor **Just A Girl** has now been fully serviced – and moves 98-53 at radio – but **No Doubt's** *Don't Speak* is reluctant to depart the airplay chart just yet. It moves 42-38 on its 22nd week in the chart, its rise largely fuelled by increased exposure at **Atlantic 252**, where it was aired 25 times last week.

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# CHART FOCUS

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