





# THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS

# CHART FOCUS



**Oasis** register their fourth number one single – and their eighth top three hit in a row – with *All Around The World*, which debuts in pole position after selling more than 110,000 copies last week.

It's the second number one from their latest album *Be Here Now*, and also the second number one entitled *All Around The World*, the first being a 1989 chart topper for Lisa Stansfield.

At 9min 38secs, *All Around The World* is also the longest number one to date, easily beating the previous record (just under eight minutes) established in 1993 by Meat Loaf's *I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)*. The longest hit of all remains The Orb's *Blue Room* (number eight, 1992) which checks in at just two seconds short of 40 minutes.

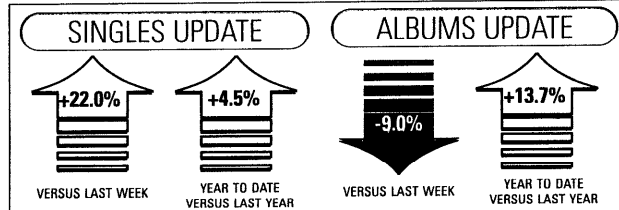
**Robbie Williams'** *Angels* enjoys its seventh consecutive week in the Top 10, and has now sold over 470,000 copies. That makes it a bigger seller than all but two *Take That* singles (*Back For Good* sold just short of a million and *How Deep Is Your Love* – recorded after Robbie left – sold 650,000) and all of the singles subsequently released by former members of the band.

The others, in descending order of sales, are *Forever Love* – Gary Barlow (300,000), *Freedom* – Robbie Williams (270,000), *Child* – Mark Owen (200,000), *Love Won't Wait* – Gary Barlow (190,000), *Old Before I Die* – Robbie Williams (170,000), *Clementine* – Mark Owen (120,000), *Open Road* – Gary Barlow (90,000), *So Help Me Girl* – Gary Barlow and *Lazy Days* – Robbie Williams (both 70,000), *South Of The Border* – Robbie Williams (40,000) and *I Am What I Am* – Mark Owen (20,000).

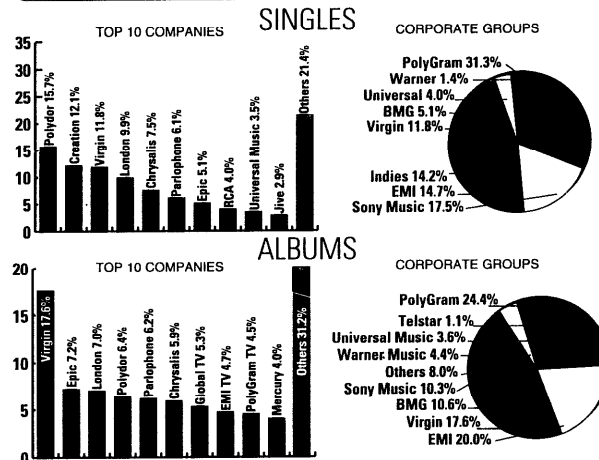
Robbie's *Life Thru A Lens* album continues to prosper as a result of the success of *Angels*, and holds at number three this week, having sold nearly 210,000 copies. At its current rate of progress it will overtake Gary Barlow's *Open Road* album (250,000 sales) in less than a fortnight.

As the above statistics show, you don't always have to sell a massive number of copies of a single to have a number one – *Love Won't Wait* did it with 190,000 sales, and the Chemical Brothers' *Block Rockin' Beats* did it with fewer than 160,000 sales.

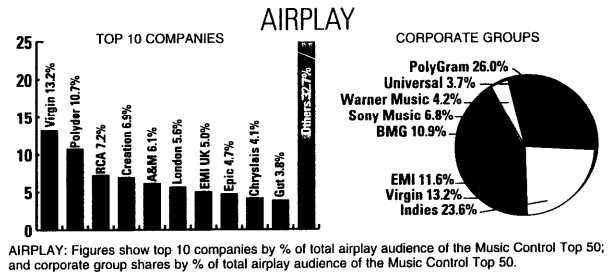
Equally, you can sell a lot of records without even reaching the Top 10, as the ongoing success of *Steps'* 5, 6, 7, 8 proves. The record has sold over 210,000 copies in the last 10 weeks without ever rising higher than number 14. It thus joins the small elite of records that have gone silver without making the Top 10. Other notables



## AT-A-GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARE



SINGLES: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75. ALBUMS: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the combined Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the combined Top 75.



AIRPLAY: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50; and corporate group shares by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50.

examples are Lynyrd Skynyrd's *Free Bird* and Evelyn Champagne King's *Shame*, the latter disc having an exceptional 23 week chart run in 1978 without ever climbing higher than 39, while becoming the first single ever to sell 100,000 copies on 12-inch.

**Peter Andre's** run of six consecutive Top 10 hits seems to have come to an end. His latest single *All Night All Right* debuts this week at number 16. It features a rap from **Warren G**, though the album version of the track has a rap by Coolio. It's the third single released by Andre from his *Time* album, which saw him revamping his image. While *Natural*, his last album in

the old (pop) style was a number one, *Time* (urban) peaked at number 28, and sold fewer than 1,000 copies last week despite the release of his new single. On this evidence, his fans preferred the old Peter.

**The Verve's** *Urban Hymns* album just holds off the challenge of **All Saints'** self-titled debut album to hold at number one, its ninth week in that position. It might not have been the number one album of 1997 but it should end up being the number one album from that year, as it seems certain to overtake Oasis' *Be Here Now's* total of 1,540,000 sales in the next fortnight or so.

Alan Jones



After 12 weeks at the top of the airplay chart **Natalie Imbruglia's** *Torn* is finally beginning to look vulnerable. It

shed nearly 10m listeners last week, and its audience is now only 4m larger than the **Lighthouse Family's** *High*, which should take over next week, though **All Saints'** *Never Ever* is also in with an outside chance. *Never Ever's* biggest supporter is *Atlantic 252*, where it was spun 88 times last week replacing *Torn* at the top of the station's playlist. Nationally, it actually registered 190 more plays than *Torn*, though *Torn* remains stronger at most of the large stations.

The **Backstreet Boys** have always been bigger at retail than at radio but *As Long As You Love Me* has played a major part in changing that, equalling the record's sales peak (number three) on the airplay chart and proving a long-term radio favourite. On its 17th week in the chart, it slips six notches to number 28 this week, as radio programmers replace it with the group's new single *All I Have To Give*, which makes a sensational 93-19 climb, making it the highest new entry on the Top 50. Powerful early support comes from Radio One (15 plays) and Capital (12).

Last week **Carleen Anderson** held 50th place on the chart with *Maybe I'm Amazed*, even though it had a mere 45 plays. This week the record has 166 plays – but still manages to slip to 55th place, swapping places with **Allure's** *All Cried Out*. *Allure* fell short of the Top 50 last week with 710 plays, and only just make it in this week with 762.

Initially garnering support from specialist evening shows and XFM, **Cornershop's** *Brimful Of Asha* has exploded thanks to the **Fatboy Slim** mix, and moves 188-30 on the chart this week, setting up what will be the first big sales success for the group. The oddly-titled single was played 22 times by Radio One last week and 31 times by Capital, these two together providing well over 80% of its audience.

The second most played record on radio in 1997, **Ultra Nate's** *Free*, continues to prosper and moves up four notches to number 21 this week, the fifth in a row in which it has shown growth. On its 35th week in the listings, much of its additional strength since Christmas has been drawn from the remix CD which was quietly released to retail last Monday. The record which tipped it for the title of top airplay hit of 1997, **No Doubt's** *Don't Speak*, has no such stimulus to keep it afloat but is number 42 on its 36th week in the Top 50. It has spent a further 16 weeks between 51 and 100, and debuted at number 48 on the airplay chart a year ago this very week.

Alan Jones

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