

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS

CHART FOCUS



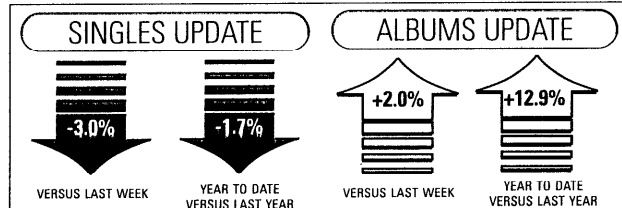
Usher spent seven weeks at number two in America with *You Make Me Wanna...* without ever reaching number one (his path was blocked by Elton John) but he makes no mistake here, debuting in pole position after selling nearly 110,000 singles last week.

Usher has had two previous UK singles, making his chart debut here in 1995, when he reached number 70 with *Think Of You*. He was 15 then and is only 18 now, making him the youngest male soloist to top the UK chart since Glenn Medeiros topped with *Nothing's Gonna Change My Love For You* a decade ago. *You Make Me Wanna...* is the first number one for L.A. Reid and Babyface's LaFace imprint, although it has had a couple of number twos with Toni Braxton and number four hits from both Tony Rich and TLC.

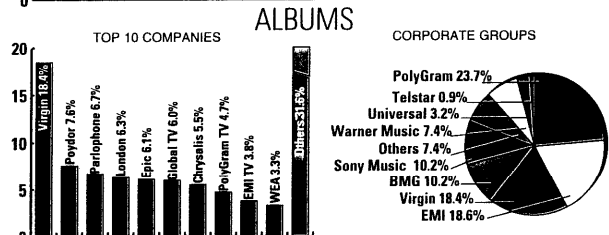
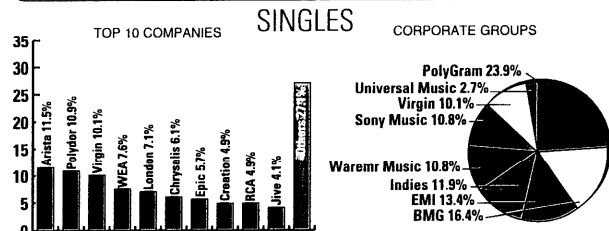
The record Usher replaces at number one - *Oasis' All Around The World* - tumbles to number five, suffering a savage 63% decline in week-on-week sales. With only 150,000 copies sold to date, it clearly won't be one of *Oasis' biggest sellers*, although the fact that it was number one last week means *Oasis* have had number one singles in each of the last four years. The only other acts in chart history to reach number one four years in a row are Elvis Presley (1957-1963) and The Beatles (1963-1969), each of whom did it seven years in a row, and Take That (1993-1996). George Michael can be added to that list if we include his solo and Wham! tracks, which together give him a span of 1984-1987.

Girl Power continues to grow, with the arrival of *Solid HarmoniE (SHE)*, who debut at number 18 with their first single *I'll Be There For You*. The Anglo-American group, with an average age of 20, bring to four the number of new hits registered by Jive already in 1998, the others being *2 Pac's I Wonder If Heaven Got A Ghetto*, *Joe's Good Girls* and *Kaleef's Sands of Time*, the latter track being on the associated Unity label. With a new Backstreet Boys single due and the apparently unquenchable *Steps* single 5-6-7-8 in its 11th week on the chart, it could be the best year yet in the history of the label, which was kick-started by *Tight Fit's* number one hit *Back To The Sixties* in 1981.

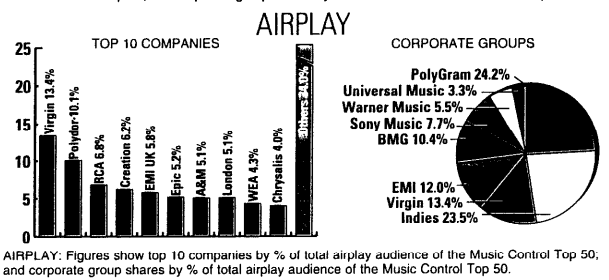
Proving to be one of the more durable songs of the disco era, *You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)* is a Top 20 hit for the third time, and each time it's been sung in a searing falsetto by a male. First to have a hit with it was the late Sylvester, who reached number 8 in 1978. Twelve years later, Jimmy Somerville took the song even higher, peaking at number five. Now it's a hit for *Byron Stingily*, former lead singer of *Ten City*. *Stingily's* version debuts at



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.

number 13 this week. It was also a very minor hit (number 65) for *Dream Frequency* in 1994.

The year's first significant new album has arrived in the form of *Moon Safari*, by French duo *Air*. The album debuts this week at number six, a considerable achievement for an act that has yet to have a hit single. *Air* have become press darlings in recent weeks, and have also attracted considerable airplay for their upcoming single *Sexy Boy*. Only about one act a year manages to create enough excitement to have an album debut inside the Top 10 without first registering a hit single. In the Nineties

the only other examples - excluding acts like *BBM* who included members with previous chart success - are *The Commitments* (1991), *Sugar* (1992), *Larry Adler* (1994), *Free The Spirit* (1995), *Blowing Free* (1995), the *Wu-Tang Clan* (1997) and *Daft Punk* (1997). Of these, *The Commitments* album was powered by a hit movie while *Free The Spirit* and *Blowing Free* were MOR albums heavily advertised on TV, and *Larry Adler* was far from being unknown and had an album littered with guests. Of all the above, only the *Adler* and *Wu-Tang Clan* albums charted higher, debuting at two and one respectively. **Alan Jones**



After 12 weeks at number one - the second longest tenure since the airplay chart was introduced, and beaten only by the 15-week reign of *Simply Red's Fairground* in 1995 - *Natalie Imbruglia's Torn* is finally dethroned. Surprisingly, it's neither *All Saints* nor the *Lighthouse Family*, last week's nearest rivals, who end *Natalie's* reign but *Oasis*, who scramble to pole position with *All Around The World*. It's the second single from *Be Here Now* to top the airplay chart, as *Do You Know What I Mean* spent three weeks at the summit in July/August last year.

All Around The World's surprise acceleration to the summit was helped significantly by the 32 plays the record received on *Radio One*, enough to put it top of the station's chart, one play ahead of *Ian Brown's My Star*. Even though *All Around The World* was played fewer times than any other record in the top six - a massive 553 times fewer than *Never Ever* - it occupied far more airtime, more than nine-and-a-half minutes every time it was played in full, more than twice as long as any of its nearest challengers.

Oasis's reign may be rather more short-lived than *Imbruglia's* however - they've already surrendered top billing on the sales chart, and they're being pursued on the airplay chart by the indefatigable *Janet Jackson* cut *Together Again*. *Janet's* record lurches 7-2 on its 11th week in the chart amid a general cooling of support for the top records, best illustrated by the fact that while the number eight single commanded an audience of more than 50m in last week's chart, it required only a little over 40m this week - a downturn of 20%.

The latest unknowns to be propelled into the chart are the *Lilys*, whose single *Nanny In Manhattan*, on the indie *Che* label, debuts at number 32. It does so with 83 plays, including 26 from *Radio One*, where it's the eighth most played record. *Radio One* accounts for 90% of its audience - and for an even bigger share of the *Freestylers'* audience for *B-Boy Stance*, which is the fifth most played record on the station with 27 plays last week. It accumulated only 11 more plays across the whole Music Control panel, and *Radio One* represents a massive 99.7% of the 14.58m audience which lifts the record 45-40 on this week's chart.

Meanwhile, the only pre-release single among the Top 20 at Atlantic 252 is *Hurricane #1's* excellent *Only The Strongest Survive*, which the Dublin-based station spun 36 times last week, providing almost half of the audience which helped to raise the record 50 places from 112 to 62. **Alan Jones**

STARSHIP TROOPERS

United Citizen Federation
New Single featuring Sarah Brightman
Mixes by D-Bop, Trouser Enthusiasts & Rated PG

LAUNCHES 2ND FEBRUARY 1998

Supported by major press advertising and nationwide flyposting campaigns

STARSHIP TROOPERS

Distributed by Warner Music (UK) Ltd. COLA0-40C/CD

