

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS



James Horner's music for the movie *Titanic* becomes the first incidental score ever to top the British album chart, surging 5-1 this week. The album, which is also the first ever number one for Sony Classical, sold 52,000 copies last week, 4,000 more than **The Verve's** *Urban Hymns*, which dips to number two.

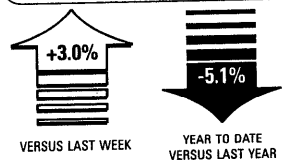
Urban Hymns was second to **Oasis' Be Here Now** in the list of best-selling albums of 1997 trailing by 200,000 sales but its powerful start to 1998 has lifted its sales to nearly 1.62m, about 50,000 more than *Be Here Now*. Before being dethroned by *Titanic*, *Urban Hymns* had spent six weeks in a row at number one, to add to the five it registered immediately after its release last October. Its overall tally of 11 weeks at number one is bettered by only two albums in the nineties - the *Spice Girls' Spice* (15 weeks) and *Simply Red's Stars* (12 weeks) - and equalled by *Meat Loaf's Bat Out Of Hell II - Back Into Hell* and *Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill*. Thus far, *Urban Hymns* has spent its entire chart career - 19 weeks - in the top three. The last album to enjoy a longer initial top three residency was *Oasis' (What's The Story) Morning Glory?*, which didn't fall to four until its 31st week.

On the singles chart, **Aqua's** *Doctor Jones* shows enough growth to outpace the *Backstreet Boys' latest All I Have To Give*, which debuts at number two. *All I Have To Give* is the *Backstreet Boys' eighth straight Top 10 hit* and their fifth in a row to make the top five, both totals being superior to the current track record of all the other boy bands except *Boyzone*. It's also the third top three hit in as many releases from their *Backstreet's Back* album, which has sold 530,000 copies in the sixth months since its release but which has surprisingly dropped 10 places in the last fortnight, slumping 16-21-26.

Meanwhile, the latest girl group to make its presence felt is **Cleopatra**. The Manchester sisters are the youngest of the girl groups to chart - *Yonah* is 13, *Cleopatra* is 15 and *Zainam* is 17 - and the second highest charting group comprising solely of sisters in chart history, the number three posting of their debut single *Cleopatra's Theme* being beaten only by *Sister Sledge*, who topped the chart with *Frankie* in 1985. They also boast the youngest songwriter in the current chart, as *Cleopatra's Theme* was written by the middle sister whose name is also that of the group.

For obvious reasons, whatever **Elton John** chose as his new single was likely to have insignificant sales

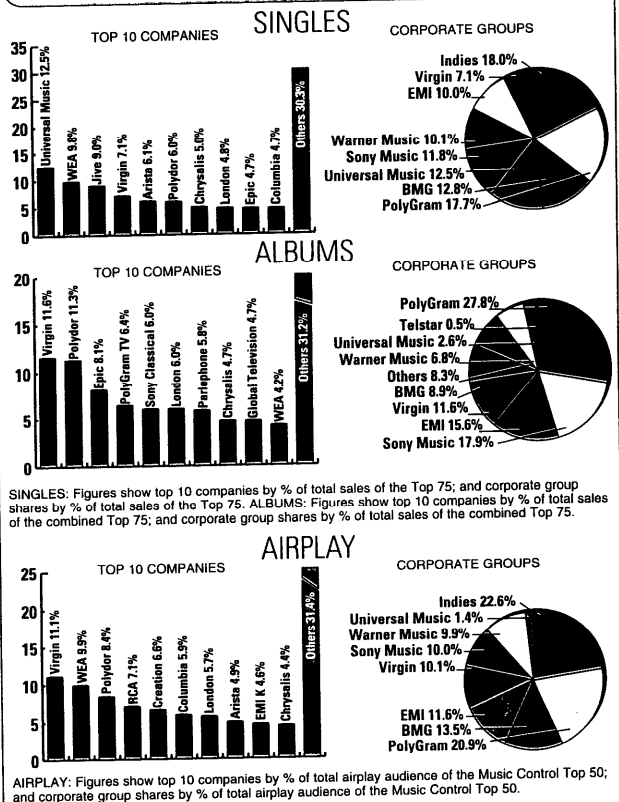
SINGLES UPDATE



ALBUMS UPDATE



AT-A-GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARE



compared to the history making *Candle In The Wind 97*. In the event, *Recover Your Soul* makes a respectable debut at number 16, though its first week sales are barely 1% of the first week sales of *Candle In The Wind*. Its success, however, make Elton the only act so far to have enjoyed a new hit every year in the nineties. Even more impressively, Elton has had a hit each and every year since his 1971 debut *Your Soul*. If Elton can maintain his record for three more years he will top the record of 30 consecutive years of hits enjoyed by *Elvis Presley* from 1956 to 1985, though whether "enjoyed" is the correct word for an artist who died several

years before his run came to an end is debatable.

The fading glory of being named the number two album in C4's *Music Of The Millennium* programme sees the *Stone Roses' self-titled 1989 debut* slump 23-35, while the group's former lead vocalist **Ian Brown's** debut solo album *Unfinished Monkey Business* debuts at number four. It's not just the highest new entry of the week - it's the highest new entry of 1998, and its success - it sold 40,000 copies last week - partially compensates dealers for below par chart entries by both **Goldie** (number 15) and **Pearl Jam** (number seven).

Alan Jones



Robbie Williams' Angels finally ascends to the apex of the airplay chart this week, after a lengthy 11 week

climb. It's the slowest climb yet to the top of the chart, eclipsing *Toni Braxton's Un-Break My Heart*, which made it at the ninth attempt in December 1996. Williams' single has spent 10 weeks in the Top 10 of the CIN chart, and its apparently consistent appeal to record buyers has been crucial in maintaining its airplay support. In the absence of wide appeal 1998 releases, the top four records in this week's chart are collectively the oldest quartet ever to hold such high placings. Aside from *Angels* they are **All Saints' Never Ever** (on its 14th week in the chart, and robbed of top billing by a mere 1/3 of a million listeners this week), the **Lighthouse Family's High** (10th week) and **Janet Jackson's Together Again** (13rd week). With **Natalie Imbruglia's Turn** holding eighth place in its 18th week on the chart, things are getting pretty stale.

Lower down, **Aqua's Doctor Jones** is finally getting airplay more commensurate with its sales success, and rockets 95-27, while returning hero **Madonna's Frozen** is the highest new entry into the Top 50 at number 21. *Doctor Jones* moved out of intensive care thanks to a major increase in support from Radio One - where it was played 12 times last week, compared to only twice the week before - and also earned 11 spins at Capital. *Frozen* managed to snare 18 plays from each station, which, between them, delivered slightly under half of the 22m audience enjoyed by the record. *Frozen's* early success suggests that radio stations' response to *Madonna's last single - Another Suitcase In Another Hall* - was due to the song's unfashionability, not the artist's. *Madonna's first Evita single, Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, peaked at three on the airplay chart but *Another Suitcase In Another Hall* fell short of the Top 50, despite peaking at number seven on the CIN (sales) chart.

The most added record at radio a fortnight ago, Aussie duo **Savage Garden's Truly Madly Deeply** experienced very strong growth again last week, with support for the recent US number one hit nearly doubling, sending it soaring 62-26. One of the record's earliest and strongest supporters is London's Capital Radio, where it has been played 64 times in the last fortnight.

After exploding 203-32 a fortnight ago, the **Lilys** maddeningly commercial *Nanny In Manhattan* has stalled. It climbed to 31 last week but now slips to 34.

Alan Jones

CHART FOCUS

THE UK'S OFFICIAL CHART SOURCE

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