





11 DECEMBER 1999

# CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



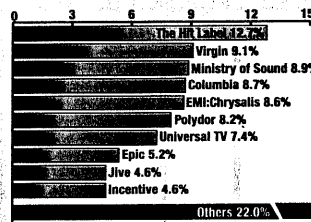
In an unseasonably static singles market and with pitifully little airplay, Cliff Richard somehow manages to raise the stakes again with *The Millennium Prayer* enjoying its second week at number one while increasing its sales to a new high of more than 158,000. That's in excess of 10,000 more than the previous week and brings total sales of the record to more than 390,000 in 20 days. Its auspicious start

and increasing topicality as we near the end of the millennium suggest it will sell many more before it's finished – possibly even matching the 900,000 sales which made his 1979 chart-topper *We Don't Talk Anymore* his biggest-selling hit to date. Although Richard has had 14 number ones in his career, it's interesting to note that only one has debuted at number one – that being *The Young Ones* way back in 1962.

Though failing by more than 50,000 sales to unseat Cliff Richard's *The Millennium Prayer*, garage gods *Artful Dodger* make an impressive debut at number two with *Rewind*, which sold upwards of 107,000 copies last week. While most of their peers are London-based, Artful Dodger – Mark Hill and Pete Devereux – are inhabitants of the unfashionable city of Southampton, not previously known as a stronghold for garage. With Italy's novelty/dance hit *Communication* by *Mario Piu* debuting at number five and new girl trio *Atomic Kitten* in at 10 with *Right Now*, all three new entries to the Top 10 are by artists making their chart debuts, an occurrence of great rarity if not unique.

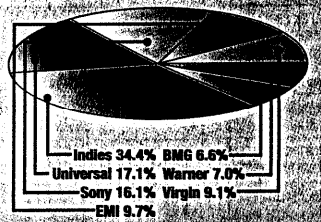
Among the records moving aside to accommodate these newcomers is *Macy Gray*'s *I Try*, which finally loosens its grip on the Top 10 after nine weeks, during which time it peaked at number six. Gray nearly maintained her impressive run – *I Try* sold just 74 copies fewer than *Atomic Kitten*'s

## MARKET REPORT TOP 10 COMPANIES



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

## TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



## SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: +0.1%

YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: -0.2%

## PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

UK: 36.8% US: 21.1% Other: 42.1%

single last week. Her fall means that the new Top 10 staple is *R Kelly*'s *If I Could Turn Back The Hands Of Time*, which rises 8-7 on its

seventh week in the Top 10. *Kelly*'s single has sold nearly 409,000 copies, while *Gray*'s single has sold more than 383,000.

## INDEPENDENT SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER	Cliff Richard	Papillon PROMISECD 01 (P)
2	2	IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME	R Kelly	Jive 0523182 (P)
3	5	HEADS HIGH	Mr Vegas	Greensleeves GRECD 785 (SRD)
4	4	I SEE YOU BABY	Groove Armada feat. Gram'ma Funk	Pepper 9230002 (P)
5	13	EVERYTIME	Lustral	Hooj Choons HOOJ 83CD (V)
6	7	ANOTHER WAY/AVENUE	Paul Van Dyk	Deviant DWNT35CDS (V)
7	11	LARGER THAN LIFE	Backstreet Boys	Jive 0550562 (P)
8	6	MUSCLE MUSEUM	Muse	Mushroom MUSH 66CDS (3MV/P)
9	8	(YOU DRIVE ME) CRAZY	Britney Spears	Jive 0550582 (P)
10	NEW	BLUEBOTTLE/FLY	Pob feat. DJ Patrick Reid	Platipus PLAT 63CD (SRD)
11	NEW	MY FEELING	Junior Jack	Pias Recordings PIASB 012CD (V)
12	9	HURRY UP AND WAIT	Stereophonics	V2 VVR5009328 (3MV/P)
13	12	BULLET IN THE GUN	Planet Perfecto	Perfecto PERF 3CDS (3MV/P)
14	NEW	BLAXTRAXX 3 (FUNKY NASSAU)	Mr. Spring Presents	W2 0091905V2R (P)
15	10	KINETIC '99	Golden Girls	Distinctive DISNCD 59 (P)
16	15	BUDDY X 99	Dream Team Vs Neneh Cherry	4 Liberty LIBTCD33 (P)
17	NEW	OPEN YOUR EYES	Nalin & Kane	Infusion (V)
18	RE	SUN IS SHINING	Bob Marley vs Funkstar De Luxe	Club Tools 0066895 CLU (V)
19	13	DON'T BE AFRAID '99	Moonman	Heat Recordings HEATCD022 (V)
20	16	JUMP N' SHOUT	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLS 116CD (V)

All charts © CIN

## PEPSI Chart

This	Last	Title Artist	Label	This	Last	Title Artist	Label
1	1	THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER Cliff Richard	Papillon	21	20	TURN Travis	Independents
2	2	RE-REWIND... Artful Dodger	Relentless	22	22	THAT'S THE WAY IT IS Caline Dier	For
3	3	KING OF MY CASTLE Wadud Project	AM/PM	23	23	TONITE Phas & Small	Multiply
4	4	BACK IN MY LIFE Alice DeeJay	Positiva	24	24	BOMB DIGGY Another Level	Northwestside/Arise
5	5	COMMUNICATION... Mario Piu	Incentive	25	18	WHAT I AM Tin Tin Out feat. Emma Bunton	VC Recordings
6	6	EVERY DAY I LOVE YOU Boyzone	Polydor	26	26	TURN YOUR LIGHTS DOWN LOW Lene Lovace & Bob Marley	Capitol
7	7	IF I COULD TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME R Kelly	Jive	27	27	THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH Garbage	Radiocave/WEA
8	8	TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP Marine McCutcheon	Innocent	28	28	STEAL MY SUNSHINE Len	World/Columbia
9	9	NORTHERN STAR Melanie C	Virgin	29	29	WHY Giamma Kid	WEA
10	10	RIGHT NOW Atomic Kitten	Innocent	30	30	I KNEW I LOVED YOU Savage Garden	Columbia
11	11	SHE'S THE ONE/IT'S ONLY US Robbie Williams	Chrysalis	31	31	I LEARNED FROM THE BEST Whitney Houston	Arise
12	12	I TRY Macy Gray	Epic	32	32	BIG BOYS DON'T CRY/ROCKIN' ROBIN Lolly	Polydor
13	13	KEEP ON MOVIN' Five	RCA	33	33	KING FOR A DAY Jamiroquai	Sony C2
14	14	RADIO The Corrs	Atlantic	34	34	2 TIMES Ann Lee	Systematic/London
15	15	WAITING FOR TONIGHT Jennifer Lopez	Columbia	35	35	SUNSHINE Gabrielle	Go Beat/Polydor
16	16	WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER Texas	Mercury	36	36	THE BRICK SONG VERSUS GITTY UP Salt N' Pepa	MTW
17	17	LIFT ME UP Geri Halliwell	EMI	37	37	FLYING WITHOUT WINGS WestB	RCA
18	18	WILL 2 K Will Smith	Columbia	38	38	UNPRETTY TLC	LaFace/Arise
19	19	GENIE IN A BOTTLE Christina Aguilera	RCA	39	39	AIN'T THAT A LOT OF LOVE Simply Red	East West
20	20	MANI I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN! Shania Twain	Mercury	40	40	HEARTBREAKER Mariah Carey	Columbia

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To hear the chart hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 505290. Calls cost 50p min

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TOP 75



Main chart table with columns: Rank, Title, Artist, Label/CD (Distributor), Cass/Viny/MD. Contains 75 entries including 'COME ON OVER' by Shania Twain and 'SUPERGRASS'.

HNE Highest new entry HC Highest climber ▲ Sales increase ▲ Sales increase 50% or more

TOP COMPILATIONS

Table of Top Compilations with columns: Rank, Title, Artist, Label/CD/Cass/Viny/MD (Distributor). Includes 'NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 44'.

Table of Top Compilations with columns: Rank, Title, Artist, Label/CD/Cass/Viny/MD (Distributor). Includes 'KISS CLUBLIFE 2000'.

ARTISTS A-Z

Table of Artists A-Z with columns: Artist, Rank, Title, Label/CD/Cass/Viny/MD (Distributor). Lists artists from ABBA to WESTLIFE.



13 DECEMBER 1999

# CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



## ALBUM FACTFILE

The Fun Lovin' Criminals reached number three with 100% Columbian, their last album of new material, which was released in September last year. Though Mimosa charts much lower - at 37 - it would be unfair to suggest their "lounge" album is a disappointment. First, in the rarefied sales atmosphere that attends the advent season, it sold more than 15,000 copies last week, and second, it comprises primarily previously released tracks, collecting together covers of

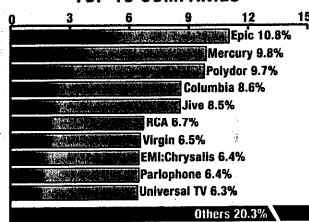
10CC's I'm Not In Love, the Manhattans' Shining Star and Frank Sinatra's Summer Wind alongside three new tracks, of which the one getting most attention is a sublime cover of the Climax Blues Band's Couldn't Get It Right. The others are Ozzy Osbourne's Crazy Train and the Louis Armstrong hit We Have All The Time In The World. The group are currently touring the UK, including a chilled-out selection of cuts from Mimosa alongside their usual more high octane material.

In the top three for the 23rd week in a row, Shania Twain's Come On Over returns to the summit for its seventh week at number one, after narrowly outselling Steps' Steptacular last week. The margin of victory was just in excess of 500 units, with both records topping the 104,000 mark. For Steps, that's Steptacular's third-highest tally to date, being inferior to the album's opening 111,000 sale and to last week's 108,000 sale, but for Twain it is the highest one-week tally achieved by Come On Over in the 22 months since it was released, and boosts its overall sales to 1.618m. It also furthers the album's lead atop the 1999 best-sellers ranking - a list it is sure to top.

Thus far in 1999, Come On Over has sold 1.439m, compared to the 1.210m tally of runner-up, Boyzone's By Request. Third-placed Abba's Gold - Greatest Hits is the most noteworthy of the trio, however, and sold its millionth copy of 1999 yesterday (Sunday) - not bad for an album released

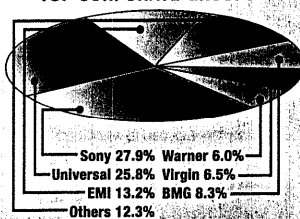
## MARKET REPORT

### TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales, and corporate group shares by % of total sales, of the Top 75 artist albums

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



### SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: **+20.3%**

YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: **+1.7%**

### PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

UK: 44.7% US: 35.5% Other: 19.7%

seven years ago and comprising primarily tracks recorded more than 20 years ago. After debuting at number four six weeks

ago, Genesis' Turn It On Again - The Hits started a slow decline, and had slipped to 24 by last week. It turns around in dramatic

fashion this week, however, jumping to 10, with its week-on-week sales up by more than 100% to a new high of more than 44,000. The main reason for its dramatic turnaround is a TV-advertised special offer by WH Smith, where the album is available for just £9.99.

It is one of many recent offers available in chains which the indie sector cannot afford to match. With their file discounts, it may earn Smiths a small profit but indie shops paying the full dealer price of £9.15 for the record are facing a loss of 65p an album, when VAT is added, if they are to match the Smiths deal.

The Boots campaign - with many albums at £9.99 - is damaging too, and there's no comfort for dealers diversifying into MiniDiscs, DVDs or videos, as there are offers on all of these at different multiples which turn them from useful add-ons to unwanted loss-leaders for the poor indie, with as much as £3 having to be written off some items to match the multiples.

# COMPILATIONS

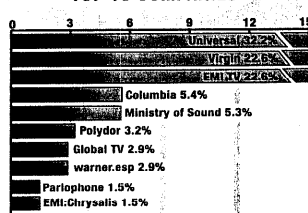
Now that's what I call the fastest-selling compilation ever: after making a massive debut last week with sales of more than 278,000 - the biggest first-week tally in the extremely distinguished history of the 16-year-old Now series - **Now That's What I Call Music! 44** somehow raised the stakes even higher, and sold just in excess of 290,000 copies last week. Its sales after two weeks are, therefore, more than 568,000. That's massively ahead of the pace of any other compilation, the previous record being held - naturally - by last Christmas's **Now That's What I Call Music! 41**, which raced to 399,000 sales in two weeks. Now 44! is a staggering 42% ahead of that pace and more than 78% ahead of the then record 318,000 two-week tally established by **Now That's What I Call Music! 38** two years ago. Now 44

accounted for more than a fifth of all compilation sales last week, outranked the number two album by a margin of more than five to one, and sold more than the rest of the Top 10 put together. Its runner-up was another EMI/Virgin/Universal collaboration, **Music Of The Millennium**.

Every year there are more compilations of Christmas songs competing for attention but the seasonal album making the biggest impact is the same for the third year in a row - **The Best Christmas Album In The World...Ever!** Since release in November 1997, the album has sold in excess of 775,000 copies. It jumps 22-6 on the chart this week, leaving rivals like **The Ultimate Christmas Collection (20-15)**, **Christmas - The Album (38-25)**, **The Christmas Album (48-36)** and **Simply The Best Christmas (53-50)** trailing in its wake.

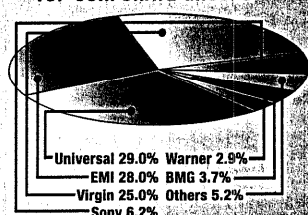
## MARKET REPORT

### TOP 10 COMPANIES



Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 20, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 20.

### TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



### SALES UPDATE

VERSUS LAST WEEK: **+18.5%**

YEAR TO DATE VERSUS LAST YEAR: **+6.7%**

### COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 66.0%  
Compilations: 31.0%

# INDEPENDENT ALBUMS

This	Last	Title	Artist	Label (distributor)
1	1	STEPTACULAR	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519442 (P)
2	2	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 1004492 (3MV/P)
3	4	RELOAD	Tom Jones	Gut GUTCD 009 (V)
4	3	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 0522172 (P)
5	7	R	R Kelly	Jive 0517932 (P)
6	6	WWF THE MUSIC - VOLUME 4	James A Johnston	Koch International 333612 (KO)
7	5	MILLENNIUM	Backstreet Boys	Jive 0523222 (P)
8	8	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	Ry Cooder	World Circuit WCD 050 (P)
9	9	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 1000438 (3MV/P)
10	10	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Fatboy Slim	SkinT BRASSIC 11CD (3MV/P)
11	13	A SECRET HISTORY	The Divine Comedy	Setanta SETCDL 100 (V)
12	12	PLAY	Moby	Mute CDSTUMM 172 (V)
13	15	REMEDY	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLCD 129 (V)
14	11	VERTIGO	Groove Armada	Pepper 0530332 (P)
15	14	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 0522662 (P)
16	16	STEP ONE	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519112 (P)
17	18	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH 29CD (3MV/P)
18	17	THE FAT OF THE LAND	The Prodigy	XL Recordings INT 4844652 (V)
19	17	SHOWBIZ	Muse	Mushroom MUSH 59CD (3MV/P)
20	18	THE MASTERPLAN	Oasis	Creation CRECD 241 (3MV/P)

# THE YEAR SO FAR... TOP 20 ALBUMS

This	Last	Artist	Label
1	1	SHANIA TWAIN	MERCURY
2	2	BOYZONE	POLYDOR
3	3	ABBA	POLYDOR
4	4	THE CORRS	143/LAVA/ATLANTIC
5	7	TRAVIS	INDEPENDIENTE
6	5	PERFORMANCE AND COCKTAILS	STEREOPHONICS
7	6	I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU	ROBBIE WILLIAMS
8	8	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	FATBOY SLIM
9	9	STEP ONE	STEPS
10	12	THE HUSH	TEXAS
11	11	STEPTACULAR	STEPS
12	10	THE MISEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL	RUFFHOUSE/COLUMBIA
13	11	FORGIVEN, NOT FORGOTTEN	THE CORRS
14	13	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	WHITNEY HOUSTON
15	14	BABY ONE MORE TIME	BRITNEY SPEARS
16	15	LADIES & GENTLEMEN - THE BEST OF	GEORGE MICHAEL
17	18	THE PARTY ALBUM!	VENGABOYS
18	16	RAY OF LIGHT	MADONNA
19	19	ON HOW LIFE IS	MACY GRAY
20	17	THIS IS MY TRUTH TELL ME YOURS	MANIC STREET PREACHERS

© CIN Last figures represent the chart placing from the last published Year So Far albums chart

To hear the charts hot-off-the-press on Monday morning, call 0891 505291 (artist albums)/0891 505289 (compilations). Calls cost 50p/min