

26 DECEMBER 1999

OFFICIAL UK TOP 75 CHART

MC

Main chart table with columns: Rank, Title, Artist (Producer) Publisher (Writer), Label CD/Cass (Distributor), 7/12. Includes entries like 'I HAVE A DREAM/SEASONS IN THE SUN', 'THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER', 'IMAGINE', etc.

TITLES A-Z chart listing various titles with associated ranks and labels. Includes entries like '2 TIMES', 'ALTER THE LOVE HAS GONE', 'ALIVE', etc.

As used by Top Of The Pops and Radio One

POINT BREAK advertisement featuring Warner Music logos, text: 'Features 14 live and acoustic recordings including their best loved songs and 5 brand new tracks', and 'THE NEW SINGLE. OUT NOW. WEA248CD1. CD2. CASS'.



Main table of music releases with columns for chart position, title, artist, and label. Includes entries like 'COME ON OVER', 'TURN IT ON AGAIN', 'MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE', etc.

TOP COMPILATIONS

Table of top compilation albums including 'NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC!', 'THE BEST CLUB ANTHEMS 2000...EVER!', 'RADIO 2 - SONGS OF THE CENTURY', etc.

25 DECEMBER 1999

CHART COMMENTARY

by ALAN JONES



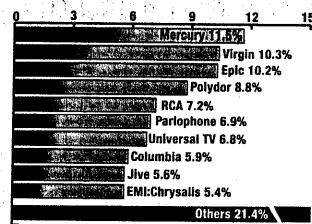
ALBUM FACTFILE

Queen are the only act ever to have two completely different 'best of' albums sell more than two million copies apiece, reaching the target first with 1981's *Greatest Hits*, and repeating the feat with 1991's *Greatest Hits II*. Their latest compilation - the logically-titled *Greatest Hits III* - may never attain the dizzy heights scaled by its predecessors, but it is off to a good start nevertheless.

It debuted at number five some six weeks ago, and has declined a little since then, though it holds at number nine, having sold over 86,000 copies last week, its best weekly total yet. Altogether, the album - which includes Freddie Mercury solo cuts as well as tracks by Queen - has sold 300,000 copies, and is on track to top the 500,000 mark by early next year.

Shania Twain's *Come On Over* registers its ninth week atop the album chart in emphatic style, selling a remarkable 239,000 copies last week, to bring its overall tally since release in January 1998 to more than two million, more than 1.8m of which were sold this year. Twain's sales increased by around 30% last week, once again outpacing the market, which saw sales of artist albums swell by more than 24% to top the five million mark for the first time this year. Among the other winners, the top seven albums all sold over 100,000 copies last week, with **Travis**' *The Man Who* returning 168,000 sales, **George Michael**'s *Songs From The Last Century* 162,000, **Celine Dion**'s *All The Way - A Decade Of Song* 147,000, **Westlife**'s self-titled debut 146,000, **Macy Gray**'s *On How Life Is* 120,000 and **Steps**' *Steptacular* 100,000. For all except **Steps**, last week was the biggest selling week of the albums' history. In the case of **Travis** it pushed sales of *The Man*

MARKET REPORT

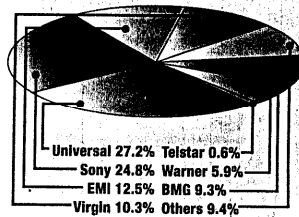


Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales, and corporate group shares by % of total sales, of the Top 75 artist albums



Who over the million mark (to 1,143,000, to be precise) while **Westlife**'s album, helped considerably by their fourth straight number

TOP CORPORATE GROUPS



PERCENTAGE OF UK ACTS IN THE CHART

UK: 48.7% US: 31.6% Other: 19.7%

one, saw a spectacular 71% increase in sales week-on-week to push its six week tally to more than 500,000. **Celine Dion**'s album

also sped past the half million mark, having taken just five weeks to get there.

One of the surprise successes is **Barry White**'s *The Collection*, a 1988 compilation which has really taken off again in the last couple of weeks. Although **White** has had to cancel his UK tour due to ill health, *The Collection* returned a massive 124% leap in sales last week, with more than 42,000 buyers helping it to jump 39-26 in the listings. It would have sold more and jumped higher had it not rapidly sold out in most stores. With a peak position of number five, the album has been double platinum for some time, and has now sold over 750,000 copies.

When album sales were in the doldrums in the summer, **The Corrs**' *Talk On Corners* managed to reach number one with weekly sales of under 30,000. This week, all of the Top 30 albums top the 30,000 mark, while a sale of 8,000 isn't enough to make the Top 75.

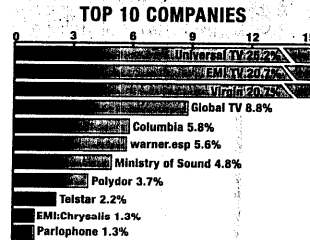
COMPILATIONS

Now *That's What I Call Music! 44* becomes the first compilation ever to sell more than 250,000 copies for four weeks in a row, returning a sale estimated by CIN at 258,514 last week - a mere 39 copies less than the previous week. *Now! 44* has sold nearly 1,086,000 copies in its first four weeks on release. Now 41, the previous fastest selling compilation, sold 767,000 copies in its first four weeks, a fact which means that *Now! 44* is ahead by a massive 41.6% at the same stage of its life. Not only has *Now! 44* established a new record for compilations, it has also matched the pace of the introductory self-titled **Robson & Jerome** album, and now shares with it the title for the fastest million seller in the UK, both albums taking just 26 days to reach that figure. For all its achievements,

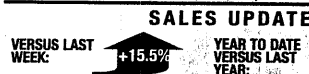
however, *Now! 44* is becoming less dominant over its competitors than it has been hitherto. The number two compilation last week was *Hits 2000*, which increased its weekly sales from 85,000 to 120,000, while *Music Of The Millennium*, which retains third place, pushes its weekly tally from 77,000 to nearly 106,000.

Though there are only two albums of seasonal fare in the artist Top 75, and just one in the Top 20 compilation chart - **The Best Christmas Album In The World...Ever!** - they occupy all but three of the Top 20 places in the budget Top 20, with **Crimson's The White Christmas Album** compilation taking pole position with sales just short of 5,000 last week, while the same label's **Christmas Party** album by **Jive Bunny & the Mastermixers** is in second place.

MARKET REPORT



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.



COMPILATIONS' SHARE OF TOTAL SALES

Artist albums: 71.5%

Compilations: 28.5%

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	3	RELOAD	Tom Jones	Gut GUTCD 009 (V)
4	4	BABY ONE MORE TIME	Britney Spears	Jive 0522172 (P)
5	6	R	R Kelly	Jive 0517932 (P)
6	5	WWF - THE MUSIC - VOLUME 4	James A Johnston	Koch International 333612 (KO)
7	7	MILLENNIUM	Backstreet Boys	Jive 0523222 (P)
8	8	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	Ry Cooder	World Circuit WCD 050 (P)
9	10	REMEDY	Basement Jaxx	XL Recordings XLCD 129 (V)
10	9	WORD GETS AROUND	Stereophonics	V2 VVR 1000438 (3MV/P)
11	12	A SECRET HISTORY	The Divine Comedy	Setanta SETCDL 100 (V)
12	13	PLAY	Moby	Mute CDSTUMM 172 (V)
13	11	YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY	Farbo Slim	Skint BRASSIC 11CD (3MV/P)
14	14	VERTIGO	Groove Armada	Pepper 0530332 (P)
15	15	STEP ONE	Steps	Ebul/Jive 0519112 (P)
16	17	VERSION 2.0	Garbage	Mushroom MUSH 29CD (3MV/P)
17	16	GREATEST HITS	2Pac	Jive 0522662 (P)
18	RE	STONE ROSES - 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION	The Stone Roses	Silvertone 0591242 (P)
19	18	THE FAT OF THE LAND	The Prodigy	XL Recordings INT 4844652 (V)
20	RE	(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY?	Oasis	Creation CRECD 189 (3MV/P)

THE YEAR SO FAR...

TOP 20 SINGLES

This	Last	Title	Artist
1	1	BABY ONE MORE TIME	BRITNEY SPEARS
2	2	BLUE (DA BA DEE)	JEFFE 65
3	3	MAMBO NO.5 (A LITTLE BIT OF...)	LOU BEGA
4	4	9PM (TILL I COME)	ATB
5	5	LIVIN' LA VIDA LOCA	RICKY MARTIN
6	6	THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME MUCH	SHANIA TWAIN
7	16	THE MILLENNIUM PRAYER	CLIFF RICHARD
8	7	SWEET LIKE CHOCOLATE	SHANKS & BIGFOOT
9	8	FLAT BEAT	MR. OIZO
10	9	WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH	BOYZONE
11	10	BRING IT ALL BACK	S CLUB 7
12	11	BETTER OFF ALONE	ALICE DEEJAY
13	12	PERFECT MOMENT	MARTINE MCCUTCHEON
14	13	BOOM,BOOM,BOOM,BOOM!!	VENGABOYS
15	14	GENIE IN A BOTTLE	CHRISTINA AGUILERA
16	15	NO SCRUBS	TLC
17	17	WHEN YOU SAY NOTHING AT ALL	ROMAN KEATING
18	18	HEARTBEAT/TRAGEDY	STEPS
19	19	MY LOVE IS YOUR LOVE	WHITNEY HOUSTON
20	20	BEAUTIFUL STRANGER	MADONNA

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

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