

## ALBUMS

**SPOTLIGHT** Predicted to hit top 10 on *Billboard's* Top Pop Albums chart or to earn platinum certification

**NEW & NOTEWORTHY** highlights new and developing acts worthy of attention

**PICKS** new releases predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the format listed

**RECOMMENDED** Other releases predicted to chart in the respective format; also, other albums of superior quality

All albums commercially available in the U.S. are eligible for review

Send albums for review to:  
Sam Sutherland, *Billboard*  
9107 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

or Fred Goodman, *Billboard*  
1515 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10036

Country albums should be sent to:  
Kip Kirby, *Billboard*  
14 Music Circle East  
Nashville, Tenn. 37203

## POP

### TOMMY SHAW

**What If**  
PRODUCERS: Tommy Shaw, Riche Cannata  
A&M SP 5097

Former Styx guitarist's solo debut went top 50, insuring a promising base for this equally crisp sequel, which likewise downplays his erstwhile group's usual bombast to focus instead on punchy pop/rock. Strongest single contender is the opening "Jealousy," but the title track will also get a boost as the theme from "Remo Williams—The Adventure Begins." Look to AOR and harder mainstream formats for first radio slots.

### CHEECH & CHONG

**Get Out Of My Room**  
PRODUCER: Jeff Eyrich  
MCA MCA-5640

After an active hiatus from recording devoted to big screen efforts, the '60s countercultural duo returns with a set cannily attuned to '80s icons and issues. Their successful Springsteen parody, "Born In East L.A.," already insures a new infusion of fans, with the set juggling spoken shtick against musical bits; among the latter, "I'm Not Here Right Now" clicks.

### J. GEILS BAND

**Flashback—The Best Of . . .**  
PRODUCERS: Seth Justman, Joe Wissert  
EMI America ST 17174

This album collects all of the group's big hits, from "Love Stinks" to the back-to-back gold singles "Centerfold" and "Freeze-Frame." It's an attractive and appealing compilation for the venerable rock band, heard here while Peter Wolf was still adding vocal sizzle.

### JOE LYNN TURNER

**Rescue You**  
PRODUCER: Roy Thomas Baker  
Elektra 60449

The former lead singer of Rainbow steps out on his own with this set of pop-flavored rock'n'roll that proves lighter than that band's metal. In fact, the single, "Endlessly," is a ballad. The album also marks the return to active duty of Roy Thomas Baker after a series of album projects as executive producer.

### ADAM ANT

**Vive Le Rock**  
PRODUCER: Tony Visconti  
Epic BFE 40159

Pop chameleon sheds the lush musical sweep that marked his last outing to flex a leaner rock punch that scores on the title track; long gap since his last, semi-hit set will prove an obstacle, however.

### MICHAEL HEDGES

**Watching My Life Go By**  
PRODUCER: Elliot Mazer  
Open Air OA-0303 (Windham Hill/A&M)

Guitarist, a top Windham Hill instrumentalist, here focuses on his equally lyrical, emotive voice; the intimate settings may buck current radio trends, but the right mix of alternative airplay could make this a sleeper.

### BRUCE COCKBURN

**The Trouble With Normal**  
PRODUCERS: Eugene Martynec, Jon Goldsmith, Kerry Crawford  
Gold Mountain GM 3283 (A&M)

Canadian song poet's 1983 album, previously unissued in the U.S., gets belated release with a newly recorded version of the title track. Thoughtful, well crafted and up to his usual distinctive standard.

### THE OUTFIELD

**Play Deep**  
PRODUCER: William Wittman  
Columbia BFC 40027

Crisp power pop with a jangling '60s feel gives this British trio an impressive starting point; sleek vocal harmonies and economical, hook-laden material could yield mainstream radio play.

### JOHNNY RENO & THE SAX MANIACS

**Full Blown**  
PRODUCERS: Johnny Reno, T-Bone Burnett  
Rounder 9001

Texas saxophonist leads a crack rock outfit through paces that include rock roots material and more modern vehicles. Mixed results, although the best tracks, like "Runnin' For Cover," are bone crushers. One of Rounder's most commercial offerings since the label unearthed George Thorogood.

### SKINNY PUPPY

**Bites**  
PRODUCERS: Cevin Key, David Ogilvie  
Network 15ntwk

Techno-dance synth trio is heavily electronic in sound, even for the genre. Result is a strong club collection a la Kraftwerk. The label is Canadian.

### GRAPES OF WRATH

**September Bowl Of Green**  
PRODUCER: Terry McBride  
Network 16ntwk

Relaxed, open-sounding electric trio plays with intelligence and drive. Group will have to make their commercial bones with college radio, but could cull the type of response currently being garnered by the Meat Puppets.

### JOHN FAHEY

**Requia**  
PRODUCER: Samuel Charters  
Terra/Vanguard T-2

This reissue of a 1967 recording is fresh and stirring as ever. Fahey's intricate solo acoustic guitar work paved the way for a number of contemporary instrumentalists and record labels, including the folks up on Windham Hill.

### CLYDE CRINER

**New England**  
PRODUCERS: Clyde Criner, Alanna M. Georgens  
Terra/Vanguard T-4

Another instrumental package from this new label. Keyboardist Criner is a fine technician who incorporates grand piano, Fairlight CMI and flute into a pretty, if ultimately predictable, format.

## SPOTLIGHT

### KENNY ROGERS



The Heart Of The Matter

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**The Heart Of The Matter**  
PRODUCER: George Martin  
RCA AJL1-7023

Rogers' third album for RCA, following two strong platinum sellers, marks another inspired producer/artist pairing, as George Martin takes over the reins from Barry Gibb and David Foster. The resulting package reflects a unified romantic mood, exemplified by the first single, "Moring Desire." The album also includes songs by Michael Smotherman, Dave Loggins and Troy Seals & Graham Lyle.

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

#### PHANTOM, ROCKER & SLICK

PRODUCERS: Steve Thompson, Michael Barbiero  
EMI America ST-17172

Its pedigree taps two former Stray Cats and journeyman guitarist Earl Slick, but this new rock trio sidesteps its members' past styles to zero in on no-frills, high-octane guitar rock with Stones-like rawness. If the playing breaks no new ground, the current climate for such six-string classicism should translate into a fast break on AOR and harder mainstream formats.

#### ABC FUN FIT FEATURING MARY LOU RETTON

PRODUCER: Michael Zager  
Mosaic/CBS Associated B6Z 40161

Adult America may be wearying of Olympic medalist Retton's ubiquitous grin, but the ABC television network has built a kiddie exercise show around her, and now CBS is adding this album counterpart to the running. That strategy could well turn the package into a sizeable seller. Includes a 16-page instruction booklet.

#### SANDY BULL

**E Pluribus Unum**  
PRODUCER: Maynard Solomon  
Terra/Vanguard T-3

Another reissue on the new Terra imprint, this one has not aged as well as the Fahey package. An interesting blend of traditional and bizarre instruments (electric guitar and bass, oud, Indian bass drum), but not nearly interesting enough to justify a 17-minute tune on side A and a 21-minute extravaganza on the flip side.

#### ZASU PITTS MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA

**The Pitts Bear Down (Recorded Live)**  
PRODUCERS: Steven Ashman, Oliver DiCicco  
Kaleidoscope F-23

Live set by this 14-piece Bay Area show band offers lusty but reverent covers of r&b perennials associated with Motown, Stax and Phil Spector, among others; should broaden the base of this label, previously known for historical and "new acoustic" fare.

## BLACK

#### THE SPINNERS

**Lovin' Feelings**  
PRODUCER: Various  
Mirage 7 90456

A snappy collection of upbeat, funky tunes and soulful ballads from these perennial pros. Best cuts: "Put Us Together Again," "You're My Number One."

#### THE STAPLE SINGERS

PRODUCERS: Mike Piccirillo, Gary Goetzman  
Private 1 BFZ 40109 (CBS)

Venerable pop/gospel stylists' second for the label again taps a tough rock/funk urgency while keeping their righteous topical focus; new Talking Heads cover, "Life During Wartime," sizzles, as does remake of "Are You Ready?"

## COUNTRY

#### JANIE FRICKE

**The Very Best Of Janie**  
PRODUCER: Bob Montgomery  
Columbia FC 40165

A hits-studded collection that lives up to its title. Included are "It Ain't Easy Bein' Easy," "He's A Heartache (Looking For A Place To Happen)," "Tell Me A Lie," "She's Single Again" and more. Also included: "Ridin' High," a duet with Merle Haggard.

#### VARIOUS ARTISTS

**19 Hot Country Radio Super Hits**  
PRODUCERS: Various  
Epic FE 40175

Like a blast from the radio dial, this package features instantly recognized hit titles. For starters: Ricky Skaggs' "Uncle Pen," Exile's "Give Me One More Chance," Willie Nelson's "City Of New Orleans," Rosanne Cash's "Blue Moon With Heartache," plus plenty more.

#### MICKEY GILLEY

**I Feel Good (About Lovin' You)**  
PRODUCERS: Norro Wilson, Mickey Gilley  
Epic FE 40115

Gilley's a master balladeer who also knows how to shake loose. He displays both sides to his musical personality here in basically contemporary arrangements, which have plenty of pop/easy listening styling.

## JAZZ/FUSION

#### WYNTON MARSALIS

**Black Codes (From The Underground)**  
PRODUCER: Steve Epstein  
Columbia FC 40009

His fourth jazz album as leader finds the young trumpet virtuoso maturing as a composer. All six pieces are originals, each offering structural twists and contrasts in mood, yet the material proves, in the main, both compelling and accessible. His quintet, again spotlighting Kenny Kirkland's piano and brother Branford Marsalis' reeds, likewise shines in a set that merits the likely broad exposure.

## GOSPEL

#### JOHN SURMAN

**Withholding Pattern**  
PRODUCER: Manfred Eicher  
ECM 1295/825 407 (PSI)

British fusion pioneer's gnomic chamber style is now self-contained, thanks to layered, overdubbed reeds and synthesizers; continues the stately, brooding mood of his earlier label works.

#### HOWARD MCCRARY

**So Good**  
PRODUCERS: Win Kutz, Howard McCrary  
Good News SPCN 7-01-812010-1

McCrary presents a slick sound with danceable tracks that cover the r&b, jazz and pop spectrum. This is music to be heard with the lights down low with lyrics about the light on high. Radio should gobble this up—it's right in the mainstream.

#### THE ALTAR BOYS

**When You're A Rebel**  
PRODUCER: B.B. Stone  
Broken SPCN-7-100-30282-X

This young group captures the high energy and intensity of rock. There's a passionate energy in the tracks, and the message is delivered in a frenzy. This is active music, and these guys are obviously on the move.

#### VALERI BARINOV

**The Trumpet Call**  
PRODUCER: Not listed  
I Care 1985

This album is actually a bootleg recording made in Russia by Christian dissident Valeri Barinov. Technically, it has been aided by Scott Wesley Brown's remixes, but it is still rough. It's sung in Russian, and American Christians are hoping to saturate the Soviet Union with this release. This musical is a collector's item, and the only record of its kind to come from Russia.

#### RICK RISO

**Gotta Have The Real Thing**  
PRODUCER: Rick Riso  
Home Sweet Home SPCN 7-01-000439-0

Riso's debut release has a pop sound heavily influenced by jazz. The lyrics suffer a sameness and break no new ground, but musically it's easy on the ear.

## CLASSICAL

**TCHAIKOVSKY: THE NUTCRACKER (COMPLETE)**  
St. Louis Symphony, Slatkin  
RCA ARC2-7005

Colorful packaging, front and back, and inclusion of ballet character cutouts make this a strong contender for holiday gift dollars. A straightforward performance that lets the music speak for itself, which it does glowingly in this expert recording.

**MORE OF THE BEST OF WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**  
Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Marriner, C. Davis  
Philips 416 273

A midprice "sampler" that extends the range of repertoire enjoyed by the many purchasers of the predecessor best-seller and others tied to the "Amadeus" phenomenon. Well-chosen catalog excerpts from opera, orchestra, concerto and choral albums, all at a \$6.98 list.