



UK BRITS AROUND THE WORLD

BRITS IN THE USA — Top 10 charts for British acts in the U.S.

Was it 1996 or 1966? Among the top 10 U.K. albums on The Billboard 200 in the past year were the latest efforts by Bush and Oasis, two of the strongest British acts of the '90s. But in the year-end tally, these bands were flanked by the Beatles, who scored the No. 1 and No. 4 spots with "Anthology 1" and "Anthology 2," respectively.

The success in America in the past year of a number of young British acts—Bush, Oasis, Radiohead, Blur, to cite but a few—boosted the spirit of optimism in the U.K. music business. However, the year-end Billboard charts confirm the enduring appeal of veteran British acts as well, who still largely outsell newcomers in the U.S. market.

TOP 10 U.K. ALBUMS IN THE U.S.

1. "Anthology 1," The Beatles (Apple)
2. "Sixteen Stone," Bush (Trauma/Interscope)
3. "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?" Oasis (Epic)
4. "Anthology 2," The Beatles (Apple)
5. "Seal," Seal (ZTT/Sire)
6. "Vault—Greatest Hits 1980-1995," Def Leppard (Mercury)
7. "Ozzmosis," Ozzy Osbourne (Epic)
8. "Mercury Falling," Sting (A&M)
9. "Stripped," Rolling Stones (Virgin)
10. "Older," George Michael (Virgin)

TOP 10 U.K. ALBUM ACTS IN THE U.S.

1. The Beatles (Apple)
2. Bush (Trauma/Interscope)
3. Oasis (Epic)
4. Def Leppard (Mercury)

5. Seal (ZTT/Sire)
6. Ozzy Osbourne (Epic)
7. Sting (A&M)
8. Rolling Stones (Virgin)
9. George Michael (DreamWorks)
10. Everything But The Girl (Atlantic)

TOP 10 SINGLES BY U.K. ACTS IN THE U.S.

1. "I Love You Always Forever," Donna Lewis (Atlantic)
2. "Missing," Everything But The Girl (Atlantic)
3. "Change The World," Eric Clapton (Reprise)
4. "Wonderwall," Oasis (Epic)
5. "Fastlove," George Michael (DreamWorks)
6. "That Girl," Maxi Priest featuring Shaggy (Virgin)
7. "Back For Good," Take That (Arista)
8. "Don't Cry," Seal (ZTT/Sire)
9. "Roll To Me," Del Amitri, (A&M)
10. "Glycerine," Bush (Trauma/Interscope)

TOP 10 U.K. SINGLES ACTS IN THE U.S.

1. Donna Lewis (Atlantic)
2. Everything But The Girl (Atlantic)
3. Eric Clapton (Reprise)
4. George Michael (DreamWorks)
5. Oasis (Epic)
6. Seal (ZTT/Sire)
7. Bush (Trauma/Interscope)
8. Take That (Arista)
9. The Beatles (Apple)
10. Del Amitri (A&M)

(Information compiled from Billboard charts by Music & Media chart editor Bob Macdonald. All rankings shown are for Billboard's 1996 chart period of Dec. 2, 1995 through Nov. 30, 1996. Labels shown are those that released these artists in the U.S.)

Who's Selling Where

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KULA SHAKER, "K" (COLUMBIA)
Worldwide Sales: 1 million
Top Markets: U.K., Japan, Germany, Italy, Holland, Canada, U.S.

LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY, "OCEAN DRIVE" (WILD CARD/POLYDOR)
Worldwide Sales: 1.2 million
Top Markets: U.K., Germany

LOUISE, "NAKED" (1ST AVENUE/EMI)
Worldwide Sales: 750,000
Top Markets: U.K., Continental Europe, Japan

GEORGE MICHAEL, "OLDER" (VIRGIN)
Worldwide Sales: 5 million
Top Markets: U.K., U.S., Japan, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Singapore, Spain

MIKE & THE MECHANICS, "HITS" (VIRGIN)
Worldwide Sales: 1 million
Top Markets: U.K., Germany, Denmark, South Africa, Ireland, New Zealand, Portugal

"MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE SOUNDTRACK" (MOTHER/POLYDOR)
Worldwide Sales: 1.8 million
Top Markets: U.S., U.K., Germany, Japan, Canada, Taiwan

OASIS, "(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY?" (CREATION/SONY)
Worldwide Sales: 11 million
Top Markets: U.S., Canada, France, Germany, and Australia, Asia, Japan

OCEAN COLOUR SCENE, "MOSELEY SHOALS" (MCA)
Worldwide Sales: 1 million
Top Markets: U.K., Europe

MIKE OLDFIELD, "VOYAGER" (WEA)
Worldwide Sales: 600,000 (excluding U.S., where album is released this month)
Top Markets: Spain, Germany, U.K., Norway, Czech Republic

PET SHOP BOYS, "BILINGUAL" (PARLOPHONE)
Worldwide Sales: 1.5 million
Top Markets: Italy, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Asia

PULP, "DIFFERENT CLASS" (ISLAND)
Worldwide Sales: 1.3 million
Top Markets: U.K., Japan, Germany, Sweden, France, U.S.

QUEEN, "MADE IN HEAVEN" (PARLOPHONE)
Worldwide Sales: 7.5 million in EMI territories, which excludes North America.
Top Markets: U.K., Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Spain, Portugal

RADIOHEAD, "THE BENDS" (PARLOPHONE)
Worldwide Sales: 2 million
Top Markets: U.S., Europe, Japan

ROLLING STONES, "STRIPPED" (VIRGIN)
Worldwide Sales: 3 million
Top Markets: U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia, Argentina

SIMPLY RED, "GREATEST HITS" (EASTWEST)
Worldwide Sales: 4 million
Top Markets: U.K., Germany, Italy, France

SUEDE, "COMING UP" (NUDE/SONY)
Worldwide Sales: 600,000
Top Markets: U.K., Scandinavia, Japan

SPICE GIRLS, "SPICE" (VIRGIN)
Worldwide Sales: 3.5 million
Top Markets: U.K., Ireland, Japan, Denmark, Italy, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain

TAKE THAT, "GREATEST HITS" (RCA)
Worldwide Sales: 3 million
Top Markets: U.K., Germany, Japan, Asia

TRICKY, "MAXINQUAYE" (ISLAND)
Worldwide Sales: 600,000
Top Markets: U.K., Germany, U.S., France, Italy

TINA TURNER, "WILDEST DREAMS" (PARLOPHONE)
Worldwide Sales: 3 million
Top Markets: Europe, U.S., Australia, South Africa, Mexico

WORLD'S APART, "EVERYBODY" (EMI)
Worldwide Sales: 1 million
Top Markets: Germany, France, Spain ■

Brit Picks

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minor sensation. According to Hiro Noz, A&R coordinator of EMI Japan, "Mansun are probably the biggest U.K. group in Japan since Blur, and they haven't released their album yet!" Although the band has yet to visit America, where it is signed to Epic, it will be touring the U.K. in March and then returning to Japan in April. Meanwhile, Mansun's curiously titled debut album, "Attack Of The Grey Lantern," released Feb. 17, is virtually a greatest-hits collection already.

GARY BARLOW

Although hardly a "newcomer" in Britain, where his debut single, "Forever Love" (RCA), topped the chart last July, Gary Barlow has yet to make his solo mark on the world stage. And even in the U.K., few people seem fully clued-up as to just how massive the former Take That member seemed destined to become. Although widely acknowledged as the talented one in Take That (he wrote five of the group's eight No. 1 singles), Barlow has been criticized for his lack of drive and charisma, which actually says more about the industry he works in than it does about Barlow himself. And there have clearly been hiccups in the recording of his debut album; a collection provisionally titled "Open Road" was slated for release last September but never materialized. Be that as it may, Barlow is a class act, and those who doubt his ability to become as big an international star as George Michael are likely to end up eating their words. Arista president Clive Davis, who has signed Barlow in America, is now taking a personal interest in the singer's debut album, which is being recorded with David Foster in the producer's chair.



SYMPOSIUM

The most exciting new band in Britain? Symposium has barely gotten off the starting blocks, but already alarming claims are being made on its behalf. Four teenagers and a 20-year-old from Shepherds Bush, West London (home of Bush), Symposium has so far released just one single, "Drink The Sunshine" (Infectious), a supercharged barrage of pop melody and cranked guitars that sounds like London's answer to Green Day. But it is Symposium's hugely energetic and entertaining live shows—both in its own right and as support to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Redd Kross and labelmate Ash—that have generated the tremendous industry buzz around the band. Signed in America to Red Ant, the new company set up by the former chairman/CEO of MCA, Al Teller, Symposium has also negotiated an enviable publishing deal with EMI Publishing in the U.K. The band is currently recording its debut album for release later this year.

(With thanks to the Picks To Click Panel: Thom Duffy, Dominic Pride, Paul Sexton and Adam White.)