

## POP

### THE ICICLE WORKS

**Blind**  
PRODUCER: Boots  
Beggars Banquet/RCA 8424-H

On a new label, the "Whisper To A Scream" lads return to the U.S. with their strongest effort in some years. Evoking Spandau Ballet ("Little Girl Lost") and the Violent Femmes ("The Kiss Off") all on one album, the Liverpool trio delivers something for everyone who listens to progressive radio. Also recommended: "High Time."

### COLIN JAMES

PRODUCERS: Various  
Virgin 90931

With choice of covers and producer (primarily Danny Kortchmar) young Canadian positions himself as a blues rocker, but that's clearly not where his talents lie. Best track by far is "Five Long Years," a slice of straightforward pop-rock produced by Bob Rock of Bon Jovi fame.

### HUNTERS & COLLECTORS

**Fate**  
PRODUCERS: Greg Edwards, Hunters & Collectors  
I.R.S. 42110

Fourth stateside stab by fine but hitherto unsung Aussie band sports H&C's cleanest production job and most tuneful and accessible songs to date. Tracks like "Wishing Well" (neither the Free nor the Terence Trent D'Arby tune) and "You Can Have It All" are ready for U.S. radio. Maybe the afterglow of Midnight Oil's success will help its mates here.

### VOIVOD

**Dimension Hatross**  
PRODUCERS: Voivod & Harris Johns  
Noise International/Epic FW44262

Self-described "weird psychedelic metal" foursome lands with more bizarre thrash on fourth sortie. Zany concept scenario about atomic science gone amok is blazed across with the thrashing brio that has made this unit a big-time cult object among bangers in the know.

### PETE BARDENS

**Speed Of Light**  
PRODUCER: Pete Bardens  
Cinema/Capitol C-48967

Though there's nothing here as accessible to rock outlets as last year's "In Dreams," former Camel man offers up plenty of atmospheric, primarily instrumental music for adult alternative airwaves. Mick Fleetwood, who first drummed with Bardens a quarter-century ago, sits in on the delightful "Whisper In The Wind."

### JAMES

**Strip-mine**  
PRODUCERS: Various  
Sire 25657

Excellent follow-up to '86 debut finds group honing its alternative-radio skills to a fine pop sheen. Each cut is compelling and upbeat; group could find a following here akin to Echo & the Bunnymen's.

### JOE JACKSON/ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

**Tucker The Man And His Dream**  
PRODUCER: Joe Jackson  
A&M 3917

Score from film, which stars Jeff Bridges, allows Jackson to indulge in jazz licks, in some cases evoking memories of "Jumpin' Jive." Typical soundtrack caveats: vocal tracks are minimal and there's lots of incidental music.

### THE ROSE OF AVALANCHE

**In Rock**  
PRODUCER: The Rose Of Avalanche  
Restless 7 72284

Leeds, England-based quintet gives lovers of moody guitar-bash something to cheer about on fine U.S.

debut. Heavy currents of Joy Division-like gloom are churned around by thick axework on forbiddingly appealing work that should go far in alternative circles.

### DJAVAN

**Bird Of Paradise**  
PRODUCER: Ronnie Foster  
Columbia C44276

Infectious melodies, irresistible swing, and superb vocals (three songs are in quite acceptable English) should break Brazilian vocalist with black and AC audiences. Standout sidemen include Nathan East, Greg Phillinganes, Larry Williams, and Harvey Mason.

### EDIE BRICKELL & NEW BOHEMIANS

**Shooting Rubber Bands At The Stars**  
PRODUCER: Pat Moran  
Geffen 24192

Engaging debut from U.K. pop unit rocks admirably courtesy of Brickell's sassy, well-controlled lead vocals and co-writer Kenny Withrow's excellent guitar work. Among the highlights of this smooth, stylish effort are "Nothing," "The Wheel," "Circle," and "Air Of December."

### SPARKS

**Interior Design**  
PRODUCERS: Ron Mael & Russell Mael  
Rhino R 70841

Quirk-popsters supreme, the Mael brothers hop to their umpteenth label with another collection of slightly deranged ditties. Biggest laugh-getter here may be "Madonna," which imagines an assignation with the pop superstar. Sparks' music remains an acquired taste, but new album should perform well in the left-field marketplace.

### PRECIOUS METAL

**That Kind Of Girl**  
PRODUCER: Paul Sabu  
Chameteon/Capitol D2-74753

All-girl group delivers a surprisingly solid set of melodic bubble-metal, sort of like a distaff Poison. Practically every song has something to recommend it for top 40 play, but "Stand Up And Shout" and "All Fall Down" may do best.

### HAROLD BUDD

**The White Arcades**  
PRODUCER: Harold Budd  
Opal/Warner Bros. 25766

One of first four releases on Brian Eno's Warner-distributed custom label; keyboardist/synthesist Budd's atmospheric work comes close to a pure new age foray. Alternative-music fans who were buying Budd's albums on Eno's old Discreet imprint long before new age reared its mellow head will also welcome the project.

### HUGO LARGO

**Drum**  
PRODUCERS: Hugo Largo, Michael Stipe  
Opal/Warner Bros. 25768

Eno's Opal label adds some new tracks to last year's Relativity debut by this New York avant-rock quartet fronted by performance artist Mimi Goese. Acoustic drone-pop is seldom up-tempo but will be welcomed by college radio, especially such tracks as "Second Skin" and "Eureka."

### THE WEATHER PROPHETS

**Judges, Juries And Horsemen**  
PRODUCER: Peter Astor  
Creation/Relativity 88561-8244

Second release from English trio betrays heavy influence of the Jesus & Mary Chain, Dream Syndicate, and other post-Velvet Underground rockers. Vocalist Astor is a striking presence, and tunes such as "Always The Light" and "Hollow Heart" are ripe for college airplay and alternative sales.

### PAUL McCANDLESS

**Heresay**  
PRODUCERS: Cookie Marengo, Paul McCandless  
Windham Hill WH-1075

First label solo project by ex-Oregon

## SPOTLIGHT



**EUROPE**  
**Out Of This World**  
PRODUCER: Ron Nevison  
Epic 44185

Europe continues its expansionist ways with a rock-solid effort certain to take over the world. First single, "Superstitious," made a high bow on the Hot 100; potential follow-ups include "Open You Heart," a power ballad in the Journey mold, and "Ready Or Not," a red-hot rocker. Not a clinker in the bunch.

woodwind ace McCandless is a genre-defying effort that leaps pop, new age, and jazz boundaries. Leader's work on oboe, French horn, soprano sax, and clarinets is as lush and seductive as ever; he gets superb support from a solid group of sidemen led by jazz pianist and former ECM stable mate Art Lande.

### VARIOUS ARTISTS

**Number One With A Bullet**  
PRODUCERS: Various  
Cypress YL 0112

Novel package annotated by Paul Grein contains original demo versions of tunes that hit No. 1 on Billboard's charts. Some tracks ("Walk Like An Egyptian" by Marti Jones) are amusing, some ("We Built This City" by Martin Page) are execrable, but entire enterprise is never less than fascinating. A truly original behind-the-scenes look at the hit-making process.

### THE PALADINS

**Years Since Yesterday**  
PRODUCERS: Steve Berlin, Mark Linett, the Paladins  
Alligator Records AL 4762

San Diego trio echoes George Thorogood and Stray Cats with its gut-bucket blues power; guitarist Dave Gonzales drives the house-rocking sound. Choice cuts include title track and "Good Lovin'."

## BLACK

### RAHEEM

**The Vigilante**  
PRODUCERS: Karl Stephenson, James Smith  
A&M SP 5212

A&M's first rapper gets down'n'dirty on exceedingly catchy first single, "Dance Floor"; otherwise, the majestic-sounding "You're The Greatest," with what appears to be a toy piano scratching in the background, stands out.

## COUNTRY

### HIGHWAY 101

**2**  
PRODUCERS: Paul Worley & Ed Seay  
Warner Bros. 25742

Pop-oriented quartet that hit with its

'87 debut is back with a less consistent but still very chartable follow-up. Paulette Carlson's strong vocals remain the band's trump card; though material is somewhat uneven this time out, "Honky Tonk Heart" and Mark Knopfler's "Setting Me Up" are highly attractive radio items.

### TANYA TUCKER

**Strong Enough To Bend**  
PRODUCER: Jerry Crutchfield  
Capitol C-48865

With little fanfare, Tucker has firmly reasserted the soulful artistic presence she first achieved in the early '70s. This album is a no-nonsense emotional masterpiece, beginning with the title cut and extending to "You're Not Alone," "As Long As I'm Dreaming," "Lonely At The Right Time," and "Daddy And Home."

### ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

**Western Standard Time**  
PRODUCER: Ray Benson  
Epic FE 44213

Made up entirely of old pop and country standards; album does well resurrecting such light fare as "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Hot Rod Lincoln," and "That's What I Like About The South," but it flops in trying to revive "That Lucky Old Sun," "Walk On By," and other serious numbers.

### THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND

**Still Holdin' On**  
PRODUCERS: Larry Butler, Billy Sherrill  
Mercury 832 794

MTB strikes a fine balance here between the melodic and the merely energetic. Best cuts: "Dancin' Shoes," the current single; the ironic "Why Didn't I Think Of That"; and the gently assuring "The Same Old Moon."

## DANCE

### THOMPSON TWINS

**Greatest Mixes: Best Of Thompson Twins**  
PRODUCERS: Various  
Arista AL 8542

Thorough retrospective on dance/pop ensemble includes all the hits plus a remixed version of "In The Name Of Love," group's '82 debut dance smash. If that catches on as a single, look for some retail action; otherwise, fine collection will sell to devotees only.

## JAZZ

### BOB JAMES

**Ivory Coast**  
PRODUCER: Bob James  
Warner Bros. 25757

It's probably a given that this latest by keyboardist James will remain a fixture on the jazz and pop charts for several months. That said, it should be noted that while there is some clean and technically adept playing here by the leader, saxophonist Kirk Whalum, flutist Alexander Zonjic, and others, James' music remains emotionally vapid and blandly programmatic.

### THE HOOPS McCANN BAND

**Plays The Music Of Steely Dan**  
PRODUCER: Joe Rocisano

### MCA 42202

Former session players on various Steely Dan albums resurrect some of the group's jazzier compositions on this all-instrumental outing. Rocisano's charts are fluid and vibrant.

### CARMEN McRAE & BETTY CARTER

**The Carmen McRae-Betty Carter Duets**  
PRODUCERS: Tom Bradshaw, Betty Carter, Carmen McRae  
Great American Music Hall Records GAM-2706

Digitally recorded January '87 concert piece is noteworthy for several reasons—not least of which is that it puts a new album by underrated (and underheard) vocalist Carter into general distribution. Fine showing by both performers; CD carries an extra track.

### RONALD SHANNON JACKSON

**Texas**  
PRODUCER: Bill Laswell  
Caravan Of Dreams CDP85012

Guided by the always vital hand of producer Laswell, drummer kicks up his heels with a guitar- and horn-driven sextet whose sound falls somewhere between Miles Davis' bands of the early '70s and Ornette Coleman's Prime Time incarnations. Contact: 817-877-3332

## CLASSICAL

### ELLY AMELING SINGS SCHUBERT AT

**TANGLEWOOD**  
Elly Ameling, Rudolf Jansen  
Omega OCD 1001

New label bows with a fine live recording of a beautifully paced recital by the eminent singer. Nineteen songs, including encores, for nearly an hour of elite entertainment.

### RACHMANINOV: 'CHOPIN' VARIATIONS; 5

**PRELUDES; ETC.**  
Jorge Bolet, piano  
London 421 061

The rarely encountered set of variations on a Chopin Prelude may well be due for a recognition surge as a result of this marvelously effective performance. Bolet is in excellent form, and that's recommendation enough for an attractive program that also includes transcriptions of Kreisler's "Liebesleid" and "Liebesfreud."

### BRAHMS: VIOLIN CONCERTO

**Ginette Neveu, North German Radio Symphony, Schmidt-Isserstedt**  
Acanta 43314 (Harmonia Mundi USA)

A riveting live performance, long known to collectors but now transferred effectively to CD. Recorded in 1948, little more than a year before Neveu's death in a plane crash at age 30, it reveals an intense personal style too often absent from today's concert hall or recording studio.

**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 and other releases of special interest.

**PICKS:** 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.

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