

# Reviews & Previews

(Continued from preceding page)

Horne, but with more restrained delivery. In most cases, less is better here. However, artist's crisp delivery and bridled chops suggest that album's emotive qualities would have benefited from some showy vocal soaring.

## L A T I N

**RICARDO MONTANER**

**Viene Del Alma**  
PRODUCER: Not listed  
EMI Latin 35513

Once-hot Venezuelan pop singer tries to regain momentum with a sloshy, ballad-heavy package containing two pretty ballads ("Así" and "Se Enfermase El Tiempo") and one catchy, uptempo song ("La Tostaita De María") that provide album's lone highlights.

★ **TREZ RAZONES**

**Que Más Quieres**  
PRODUCER: "Ivjohaje"  
Fonovisa 9354

Promising Latino-flavored pop debut by two-boy, one-girl adolescent vocal group glides through strong, 10-song collection helmed by heralded singer/songwriter/producer Juan Gabriel (aka "Ivjohaje"). Titular leadoff single is moving nicely up Hot Latin Tracks, but best cuts feature female member Dalila singing lead on "Fue Por Tu Voz" or harmonizing on "Mi Última Canción."

## J A Z Z

★ **PHIL WOODS QUINTET**

**An Affair To Remember**  
PRODUCER: Bill Goodwin  
Evidence 22125

Alto great Phil Woods puts this offering in the best-of-'95 category before you can say, "Yipes, another movie-theme album." The axiom about old wine in new bottles holds true here, and there's no watered-down, jazzy, make-out music to be found from a man as serious about ballads as, say, Miles or Dexter Gordon. Just gorgeous treatments by Woods and his group, spotlighting trumpeter Brian Lynch. A jazz programmer's delight. Try the title track, "Laura," or the energized, re-cast "Over The Rainbow."

★ **ANITA O'DAY**

**Verve Jazz Masters 314 527 651**

Hopefully, response to this stunning compilation of Anita O'Day's classic work on Verve should serve as 76th-birthday wishes from fans of the still-working artist. Plenty of chills here as O'Day nails way-uptempo rhythm tunes that would leave lesser musicians stammering in the dark. Particular highlights are barnburner "Just In Time" and ballad "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square." The sound is gorgeous and the highest of fi. Label also has terrific offerings by Sonny Stitt and Oliver Nelson, as well as another Billie Holiday package

## WORLD MUSIC

**ROBERTINHO SILVA**

**Shot On Goal (Perigo De Gol)**  
PRODUCER: Robertinho Silva  
Milestone World Music 9241

Many genres are crossed in this second stateside release from veteran Brazilian percussionist and Milton Nascimento alumnus Robertinho Silva. In a set heavily influenced by Brazilian pop, jazz, classical, and more, highlights include his memorable treatment of lighter-than-air Nascimento tune "Exits And Flags" and the multitextured theme "Sonata De Bateras," plus the elegant, crackling "Cinema Aventura" (by pianist Tulio Mourao) and the relentless, percussive "La Papa" (by pianist Hugo Fatoroso). Cover material includes a relaxed,

Brazilliant version of Monk standard "Bemsha Swing" and a loose, Miles-reminiscent take on Wayne Shorter's "Nefertiti."

## N E W A G E

**VARIOUS ARTISTS**

**Aural Gratifications Vols. 1 & 2**

PRODUCERS: Jamie Edwards, Happy Rhodes, Kevin Bartlett, Quiet City, Bokeno, David Torn  
Aural Gratification 0033/0034

These CDs come from the musicians circle of Happy Rhodes, the singer/songwriter who has garnered a cult following for her probing lyrics and startling voice. However, on this pair of instrumental CDs, Rhodes and company explore ambient textures and slow techno rhythms. Not surprisingly, Rhodes herself offers the most melodic works, including "Like Kryptonite To Superman." Guitarist Kevin Bartlett shows his compositional side on several works, including the symphonic-techno of "Argh'n Flargh'n" and "Injudadah," the latter performed with former Phil Spector singer Bokeno. Another guitarist, David Torn, offers some quirky techno-jazz.

## G O S P E L

► **CECE WINANS**

**Alone In His Presence**

PRODUCERS: Cedric & Victor Caldwell, Greg Nelson, BeBe Winans  
Sparrow 1441

On her first outing apart from her famous brother, BeBe, CeCe Winans emerges with the confidence and command of a woman who knows exactly who she is and what she wants to say. While splashes of traditional gospel, urban contemporary, and even big-band jazz flavor the mix, the album is built largely on gentle balladry in both classic hymns and contemporary songs of the church, with Winans' marvelous voice both whispering and soaring in all its glory. Already a star in gospel and contemporary Christian markets, Winans has succeeded in dramatically expanding her fan base while keeping her credentials—both creative and spiritual—intact.

## C O N T E M P O R A R Y C H R I S T I A N

► **CARMAN**

**R.I.O.T. Righteous Invasion Of Truth**

PRODUCERS: Brown Bannister, Tommy Sims  
Sparrow 1422

With his latest album, Carman reinforces his standing as Christian music's most enigmatic artist. Lyrically direct yet stylistically diverse, Carman delivers a unique blend of pop, rap, R&B, and rock rhythms, all laced with passionate, overtly spiritual lyrics. Carman is a visual artist whose flair for the dramatic propels his live shows and videos and energizes this album, from the opening dialog to the horror-show drama of "No Monsters." The title cut, the reggae-tinged "My Story," and the bouncy "Step Of Faith" are among the best cuts. Album will please devotees, but probably won't change the minds of those who don't appreciate his unconventional style.

## C L A S S I C A L

★ **KISSIN: THE LEGENDARY 1984 MOSCOW CONCERT**

**Evgeny Kissin, Moscow Philharmonic, Dmitri Kitaenko**

RCA Victor Red Seal 68378

Kissin was 12 when he played the two Chopin piano concerti in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, and this live recording of that event is truly legendary. The spirit of Rubinstein lives in these performances: The playing, while virtuosic, is lyrical and Romantic in the best sense of the word. Who cares if the orchestra sounds scrappy—this is a major document, and the pianist, now 24, continues to live up to that early promise.

## S I N G L E S

EDITED BY LARRY FLICK

## P O P

► **NATALIE MERCHANT Wonder** (3:59)

PRODUCER: Natalie Merchant  
WRITER: N. Merchant  
PUBLISHER: Indian Love Bride, ASCAP  
REMIXER: Dave Bianco  
**Elektra 9287** (cassette single)

The follow-up to the top 10 hit "Carnival" shows Merchant's endearing, languid vocal style settling nicely into a guitar- and piano-anchored rock instrumental setting. This single from the album "Tigerlily" will stand among the more intelligent and ponderous efforts to sneak onto top 40 airwaves—a refreshing change of pace from the "ooh, baby baby" fare that tends to dominate.

► **FAITH EVANS Soon As I Get Home** (4:16)

PRODUCER: Chucky Thompson  
WRITERS: F. Evans, S. Combs  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
**Bad Boy 9041** (c/o BMG) (cassette single)  
Evans will have no trouble affirming her status as the next queen of hip-hop/soul with this gloriously romantic slow jam. The chorus lingers in the mind long after the song has faded, and Evans' vocals demand comparison to the early work of Gladys Knight and Mary Wells. Producer Chucky Thompson ties all these lovely threads together into a cohesive piece that will win the hearts of top 40, R&B, and even AC radio programmers. For those who need a more frisky, funky groove, there is the equally potent flip-side jam "No Other Love."

► **DON HENLEY The Garden Of Allah** (6:03)

PRODUCERS: Don Henley, Stan Lynch, John Corey  
WRITERS: D. Henley, S. Lynch, J. Corey, P. Gurian  
PUBLISHERS: Warner/WB/Music City Haze, ASCAP  
**Geffen 4812** (c/o Uni) (cassette single)  
This is one several new tunes on "Actual Miles: Henley's Greatest Hits," and it is typically literate and pungent. Henley's distinctive voice has developed quite the narrative scowl, which befits this song's storyline, in which the Devil visits a Western city and learns that he is obsolete. Factor in crisp Southern California-styled rock instrumentation and you have a compelling Henley concoction. Although it's an instant album rock hit, whether this six-minute-plus epic will find a home at radio remains to be seen. If not, seek it out on your own.

► **EXPOSE I'll Say Goodbye For The Two Of Us** (4:35)

PRODUCERS: Keith Thomas, Guy Roche  
WRITER: D. Warren  
PUBLISHER: Realsongs, ASCAP  
**Arista 2912** (c/o BMG) (cassette single)  
It seems like a lifetime ago when this trio was at the top of the freestyle/dance heap. Time has treated their voices well, as evident on this new tune featured on their forthcoming greatest-hits package. Within this heart-wrenching Diane Warren ballad, they exude maturity and increased vocal range. Be ready for this to become one of the surprise hits of the holiday season on top 40 and AC radio.

**LENNY KRAVITZ Circus** (4:10)

PRODUCER: Lenny Kravitz  
WRITERS: G. Deveaux, T. Brittan  
PUBLISHERS: Muziekuitgeverij Artemis B.V., BUMA; Bahama Rhythm/Myaxe, PRS; WB, ASCAP  
**Virgin 11045** (c/o Cerna) (cassette single)  
The title track from Kravitz's latest album is among the more solid songs on his latest offering. A whirlwind of retro-rock riffs surround Kravitz's now trademark trembling rock vocals. Do not overlook the acoustic version, which is also contained on the CD promo single. Freaky good fun.

**T.R.D. Harden My Heart** (no timing listed)

PRODUCER: Mr. Decibal  
WRITER: V. Ross  
PUBLISHER: Warner/Chappell, BMI  
**Thump 2221** (cassette single)

The 1981 Quarterflash hit is revived as fodder for the Euro-NRG dance music trend. Although it does not sound like a happy communion of song and style, this actually works extremely well. Mr. Decibal's deep-throated bass colors enhance the angst of the lyric, while an uncredited female singer bares a remarkable resemblance to the original vocals by Rindy Ross. Cool for crossover formats.

## R & B

**JEUNE Ghetto** (3:55)

PRODUCERS: Shiro, Jeune  
WRITER: not listed  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
**Shiro 19391** (CD single)  
This indie funk throwdown will surprise many R&B and top 40 radio programmers with its solid production and deep grooves. Heavy funk bass riffs and light acoustic guitar strumming combine to form an unforgettable melody. A winner. Contact: 8228 Sunset Blvd., 1st floor, Los Angeles, Calif. 90046.

## C O U N T R Y

► **GARTH BROOKS The Fever** (2:36)

PRODUCER: Allen Reynolds  
WRITERS: S. Tyler, J. Perry, B. Kennedy, D. Roberts  
PUBLISHER: not listed  
**Capitol 10317** (c/o Cerna) (CD promo)  
Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Brooks did not get where he is today by playing it safe, and this single is an adventurous slice of fast-paced fun. Forget the fact that it was written and previously recorded by Aerosmith, the lyric and the fiddle help define it as a country anthem. Brooks has never sounded better, and the sheer energy of this tune is sure to perk up country radio and easily catch listener attention. Play it long and loud.

► **TRISHA YEARWOOD On A Bus to St. Cloud** (3:51)

PRODUCER: Garth Fundis  
WRITER: G. Peters  
PUBLISHERS: Sony Cross Keys/Purple Crayon, ASCAP  
**MCA 55141** (c/o Uni) (7-inch single)  
Gretchen "Independence Day" Peters, one of Nashville's strongest, most affecting tunesmiths, wrote this powerful ballad outlining the trials of love lost. The vivid imagery in the lyric is brought to life by Yearwood's wistful vocals. A fine performance of a beautiful song that further proves what a treasure Yearwood is to the country format.

► **JOE DIFFIE Bigger Than The Beatles** (3:56)

PRODUCERS: Johnny Slate, Joe Diffie  
WRITERS: J.S. Anderson, S. Dukes  
PUBLISHERS: Timbuk One/M.R.B.I./Chickasaw Roan/Emdar/Texas Wedge, ASCAP  
**Epic 78202** (c/o Sony) (7-inch single)  
The first single from Diffie's forthcoming "Life's So Funny" album is a slice of American life illustrated with lyrical clichés that Diffie manages to make sound rather endearing. It has a radio-ready melody and sing-along chorus that should have no trouble finding a home on country airwaves.

**DARYLE SINGLETARY Too Much Fun** (2:45)

PRODUCERS: James Stroud, Randy Travis, David Malloy  
WRITERS: C. Wright, T.J. Knight  
PUBLISHERS: Hamstein Stroudvarious/Curtis Wright Songs, ASCAP, Maypop/Wildcountry, BMI  
**Giant 7931** (c/o Warner Bros.) (CD promo)  
Singletary's most recent single, "I Let Her Lie," established him as a contender within country music's new crop of young traditionalists. This fun, uptempo romp should further solidify his position with radio programmers and listeners. The track has lots of energy and is highlighted by some blazing harmonica, and Singletary's voice rides

the crest of fun with good old-fashioned down-home charm. Another winning release from this Randy Travis protégé that signals a bright future.

## D A N C E

**SCANDAL-US FEATURING DYONNE I Want Your Love** (6:07)

PRODUCER: not listed  
WRITERS: M. Noll, G. Crescenzo, M. Thornhill, G. Oliveri, I. Pavin  
PUBLISHERS: Gi-Notte/Xsentrax/So Good, ASCAP  
**ZYX 66040** (12-inch single)  
The Canadian club community rarely gets the props it deserves for turning out substantial, hip-swaying music. That could change with the onset of this peppy, disco-framed house anthem. Featured singer Dyonne is a pleasant presence, comfortably holding her own against a hearty groove and rattling percussion. The pop edit of this jam would be a fine addition to crossover radio. Something to consider. Contact: 516-253-0820.

## R O C K T R A C K S

► **ROLLING STONES Like A Rolling Stone** (4:19)

PRODUCERS: Don Was, the Glimmer Twins  
WRITER: B. Dylan  
PUBLISHER: Special Rider, SESAC  
**Virgin 11044** (c/o Cerna) (CD single)  
It was bound to happen sooner or later. The Rolling Stones perform the classic Bob Dylan track that bears their name with well-seasoned flair. This live track, recorded at the Olympia Theatre in Paris, adequately captures the energy and spirit of the rock legends. From the imminent album "Stripped."

**RUBY Paraffin** (4:25)

PRODUCERS: Mark Walk, Ledley Rankine  
WRITERS: L. Rankine, M. Walk  
PUBLISHER: London  
**Creation/Work 78188** (c/o Sony) (CD single)  
Ruby merges a strange brew of musical styles, including industrial, dance, pop, and modern rock. The mellow, shrilly female vocals conflict sharply with the morbid lyrics, which sound as if they were inspired by Nine Inch Nails. The catchy pop hook is crammed into an industrial-flavored hip-hop beat. Demented, but devastatingly good.

**RIDE From Time To Time** (no timing listed)

PRODUCER: not listed  
WRITERS: M. Gardner, S. Queralt  
PUBLISHER: EMI, ASCAP  
**Mutiny 80002** (CD cut)  
Live tracks have rarely been known to jump-start a flagging career; but the latest offering from British rockers Ride could very easily be the exception to the rule. A straightforward rock melody is formed by soft-spoken vocals and passive guitar riffs. Taken from the band's new Mutiny album, "Live Light."

**FOR SQUIRRELS Mighty K.C.** (4:44)

PRODUCER: Nick Launay  
WRITERS: For Squirrels  
PUBLISHER: Revolver, ASCAP  
**550 Music/Epic 7519** (c/o Sony) (CD promo)  
This anxious rock ode to Kurt Cobain remains a bit of an oddity for modern rock radio. Earlier this year, a tragic car accident killed and injured some members of this rock band before it even had a chance to properly release its debut album. Its first single only hints at the bright musical future that might have followed. Worth a listen.

## R A P

► **KRIS KROSS Tonight's Tha Night** (3:19)

PRODUCER: Jermaine Dupri  
WRITERS: J. Dupri, C. Wolfe, Snoop, Dr. Dre  
PUBLISHERS: So So Def/EMI-April/Sony Tunes, ASCAP  
**Columbia 7429** (c/o Sony) (12-inch single)  
Kris Kross has ditched its sprite style in favor of a sexy, tough, new image. With a little help from Snoop Doggy Dogg and Dr.

(Continued on next page)

**ALBUMS:** SPOTLIGHT: Releases deemed by the review editors to deserve special attention on the basis of musical merit and/or Billboard chart potential. VITAL REISSUES: Rereleased albums of special artistic, archival, and commercial interest, and outstanding collections of works by one or more artists. PICKS (►): New releases predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the corresponding format. CRITICS CHOICES (★): New releases, regardless of chart potential, highly recommended because of their musical merit. MUSIC TO MY EARS (♫): New releases deemed Picks which were featured in the "Music To My Ears" column as being among the most significant records of the year. All albums commercially available in the U.S. are eligible. Send review copies to **Paul Verna**, Billboard, 1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036. Send R&B albums to **J.R. Reynolds**, Billboard, 5055 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. Send country albums to **Chet Flippo**, Billboard, 49 Music Square W., Nashville, TN 37203. Send Latin albums to **John Lannert**, 1814 Fern Valley Road, Louisville, KY 40219. Other contributors: **Marilyn Gillen** (L.A.); **Havelock Nelson** (rap/N.Y.); **Irv Lichtman** (Broadway/cabaret/N.Y.); **Heidi Waleston** (classical/N.Y.); **Drew Wheeler** (jazz/N.Y.); **Deborah Evans Price** (contemporary Christian/Nashville); **Gordon Ely** (gospel); **John Diliberto** (new age).

**SINGLES:** PICKS (►): New releases with the greatest chart potential. CRITICS CHOICE (★): New releases, regardless of potential chart action, which the reviewer highly recommends because of their musical merit. NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: Highlights new and developing acts worthy of attention. Cassette, vinyl or CD singles equally appropriate for more than one format are reviewed in the category with the broadest audience. All releases available to radio and/or retail in the U.S. are eligible for review. Send copies to **Larry Flick**, Billboard, 1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036. Country singles should be sent to **Deborah Evans Price**, Billboard, 49 Music Square W., Nashville, Tenn. 37203. Contributor: **Brett Atwood** (L.A.).