

## 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 and other releases of special interest

**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: Jean Rosenbluth, Billboard 1515 Broadway New York, N.Y. 10036

and Chris Morris, Billboard 9107 Wilshire Blvd. Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

Country, gospel albums should go to: Ed Morris, Billboard 14 Music Circle E. Nashville, Tenn. 37203

## POP

RECOMMENDED

### HERB ALPERT

**Keep Your Eye On Me**

PRODUCERS: Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, Herb Alpert, Roy Bittan, Shelly Yakus  
A&M SP-5125

Alpert is already hit-bound with funky title track, cut by Grammy-winning Jam & Lewis. The production duo has grooved a sure-thing follow-up in "Diamonds," which features label goldmine Janet Jackson on backup. Trumpeter has an altogether commercial package in this one.

### K.D. LANG & THE RECLINES

**Angel With Aariat**

PRODUCER: Dave Edmunds  
Sire 25441-1

Big-voiced Canadian country-rocker has already scored a Juno in her homeland; she'll win favor stateside with her hopped-up brand of traditionalism—reminiscent of the original Lone Justice—which gets a hefty production assist from roots-conscious Edmunds.

### LITTLE AMERICA

PRODUCER: John Punter  
Geffen GHS 24113

New group gets out of the gate like a shot, with a surging twin-guitar sound, strong vocals from Mike Magrisi and Andy Logan, and hooky tunes that will catch programmers' attention.

### SIOUXSIE & THE BANSHEES

**Through The Looking Glass**

PRODUCERS: the Banshees, Mike Hedges  
Geffen GHS 24134

Banshees do a "Pin-Ups," serving up covers of Bob Dylan, Iggy Pop, the Doors, John Cale, and Television, among others. Listeners won't forget the originals, but alternative programmers will find some easy segues here.

### OVERKILL

**Taking Over**

PRODUCERS: Overkill  
Megaforce/Atlantic 81735

First release to fall under Atlantic's recent pact with Megaforce will undoubtedly score big with the

fervent metal underground. Project shows no speed limits, as quartet goes full-throttle on such cuts as "Deny The Cross" and "Overkill II."

### RAVEN

**Life's A Bitch**

PRODUCERS: Raven  
Atlantic 81734

Fourth album from U.K. trio takes a more lighthearted approach than past releases. Witty title track will amuse fans, while "Fuel To The Fire" shows the band at its best; however, not likely to catapult it into the mainstream limelight.

### ROOMFUL OF BLUES

**Live At Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel**

PRODUCERS: Greg Piccolo, Doug James, Roomful Of Blues  
Varrick/Rounder VR-024

Sweet'n'sweaty blues band has finally been captured in its element—live in a bar. Core following will buy this next-best-thing-to-being-there with zeal, and guest appearance by half of Los Lobos on one track could push sales into the fringes of the mainstream.

### FRANK TOVEY

**The Fad Gadget Singles**

PRODUCERS: Various  
Sire 25549

Electroweirdness reigns here—how many performers can you recall listing Black & Decker V-8 double-speed electric drills among their instruments? Tovey's 1979-84 singles, many cut with Daniel "the Normal" Miller, will appeal to outside programmers and cultists.

### MANOWAR

**Fighting The World**

PRODUCERS: Manowar  
Atco/Atlantic 90563

Self-proclaimed metal purists parade their talents in this debut album for Atco. Thrash/melodic hard rock—despite its pretensions—stands a shot at album rock radio. Best bets: title track and "Blow Your Speakers."

### CHRIS SPHEERIS

**Desires Of The Heart**

PRODUCER: Chris Spheeris  
Columbia FC 40478

New-ageish mood music with a commercial bent. Adventurous AC programmers should give careful consideration to "Playtime."

### SLEEPY LaBEEF

**Nothin' But The Truth**

PRODUCER: Scott Billington  
Rounder 3072

First-rate live album is a lesson in what rock'n'roll is all about; onomatopoeic LaBeef vocals are in fine form, and cookin' band drives them home on excellent material, from "My Toot Toot" to "Let's Talk About It." Peter Guralnick's liner notes eloquently explain why this is such an important record.

### D.O.A.

**True (North) Strong & Free**

PRODUCERS: D.O.A., Cecil English  
Rock Hotel/Profile PRD 1228

Pacific Northwest hardcore band has built a strong following with releases on several indie imprints. Move to Profile's subsidiary label augurs further exposure. Band's penchant for picking good cover tunes (it had an early version of "War" several years ago) is borne out by BTO's "Takin' Care Of Business."

## BLACK

### SMOKEY ROBINSON

**One Heartbeat**

PRODUCERS: Peter Bunetta, Rick Chudacoff  
Motown 6226ML

Hot on the heels of his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Smokey proves how he got there.

Sweet'n'funky collection has already spawned a chart hit in "Just To See Her"; nostalgics will get kicks out of "It's Time To Stop Shoppin' Around," a sequel to the early Miracles hit. A strong showing that cuts across most radio formats.

### PATRICE RUSHEN

**Watch Out!**

PRODUCERS: Charles Mims Jr., Jerry Knight, Aaron Zigan  
Arista AL-8401

Rushen has had a spotty commercial career as a vocalist, and although "Watch Out!" fails to coalesce into a uniformly strong showcase for her abilities, the possibilities for adult contemporary and quiet storm acceptance are here, especially on "Somewhere."

### GEORGE DUKE

PRODUCER: George Duke  
Elektra 60480

Latest offering from Duke, who has primarily made his mark as a producer and instrumentalist, is a mixed bag of current black music fare. Best results are on "Good Friend," which boasts vocal turns by Jeffrey Osborne, Stephanie Mills, Irene Cara, Joyce Kennedy, Kenny Loggins, Deniece Williams, and Duke.

### KOOL MOE DEE

PRODUCER: M. Dewese  
Jive/RCA 1025-J

Young but far from innocent, this blunt rapper grinds it out street-style on hardcore "Go See The Doctor" (clean version available). Carries sticker warning of explicit lyrics. Not pretty, but powerful.

## COUNTRY

### JUDY RODMAN

**A Place Called Love**

PRODUCER: Tommy West  
MTM ST-71060

Rodman has a handful of potential hit singles on this one, which towers over her impressive debut effort. Among the songs with the most "siren" melodies and memorable lyrics are "Early Fall," "Love Is A Winding Road," and the title cut; there's also a suitably dreamy version of Bob Dylan's "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight."

### RICHARD OOBSON

**True West**

PRODUCERS: Richard Dobson, Mike Dunbar  
RJD 1004

Dobson is a thoughtful songwriter and a moving interpreter of his own material, the best of which here are "She Almost Reminds Me Of You," a great jukebox number, and "Master Of Love," a wry bit of chest-beating. Contact: 615-799-0615.

## JAZZ

### ASTRUD GILBERTO PLUS JAMES LAST ORCHESTRA

PRODUCERS: James Last, Astrud Gilberto  
Verve/PolyGram Classics 831123

Best-selling samba vocalist returns to the U.S. recording scene with a lushly orchestrated date. Quality results are sure to appeal to MOR fans and the singer's followers.

### JOHN SCOFIELD

**Blue Matter**

PRODUCER: Steve Swallow  
Gramavision/PolyGram 18-8702

As the title suggests, Scofield takes his fusion band for a blues-inspired ride. A fun trip, dotted by rhythmic surprises (especially on "Trim") and his always articulate guitar style.

### THE SAXOPHONE CHOIR

**The Saxophone Shop**

PRODUCER: Odean Pope  
Soul Note/PolyGram Special Imports SN 1129

Superb band of eight saxophonists provides twice the thrills of the World Saxophone Quartet, with bonus rhythm section. Center of attention is tenor player Odean Pope, most recently with Max Roach. Cleverly arranged, eminently listenable. In-store play will sell.

## GOSPEL

### DELLA REESE & BRILLIANCE

PRODUCERS: Della Reese, Larry Farrow  
Atlanta International AIR 10112

This is an absolutely stunning album recorded live at a theater, which makes the response (and sound) a bit different from those done in black churches. Name singers—O.C. Smith, Merry Clayton, Vermettya Royster, and Eric Strom—deliver the goods with strong songs and smooth production for a very commercial, soul-based sound.

### JOHN GIBSON

**On The Run**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Sam Conti  
Frontline RD 9015

Record has gotten plenty of dance-club action (for "Ain't It Pretty") as well as AC/quiet storm play (on "God Loves A Broken Heart"), never mind airtime on Christian outlets; promising prospects for this well-executed if somewhat uninspired effort. Contact: 415-626-5974.

## CLASSICAL

### ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER: VARIATIONS

Julian Lloyd Webber, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Maazel  
Philips 420 342

"Variations," an eclectic and entertaining grab bag that samples a wide range of pop and classical styles, is pegged to the 24th caprice of Paganini. An earlier version was featured in the musical "Song And Dance." Cellist Julian Webber is a persuasive soloist. Attractive filler, "Aurora," is by the father of the Webber brothers.

### FAURÉ: REQUIEM/RAVEL: PAVANE POUR UNE INFANTE DEFUNTE

Kathleen Battle, Andreas Schmidt, Philharmonia Orchestra, Giulini  
Deutsche Grammophon 419 243

Battle sings only in one movement of the Requiem, but her presence is likely to direct special attention to this superb reading of the much-recorded work. Giulini is a committed interpreter in the Ravel as well, an apt companion piece on this fine-sounding disk.

### TCHAIKOVSKY: VIOLIN CONCERTO/SIBELIUS: VIOLIN CONCERTO

Viktoria Mullova, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Ozawa  
Philips 416 821

The advance hoopla was more than

## SPOTLIGHT



### DOLLY PARTON, LINDA RONSTADT, EMMYLOU HARRIS

Trio

PRODUCER: George Massenburg  
Warner Bros. 25491

If the "new traditionalists" in country music still have a body of work to draw from, it's largely because these three celestial songbirds kept it alive and vibrant throughout the adulterated '70s. But the members of the trio are not resting on their reputations here; their album is stunningly beautiful on every cut. Crossover is certain and will most likely be instantaneous, fueled by Ronstadt's current ride atop the Hot 100—in a duet with James Ingram—with "Somewhere Out There."

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

### VARIOUS ARTISTS

**Sun Records—The Rocking Years**

PRODUCERS: Various  
Charly Sun Box 106

Lavish sequel to U.K. label's 1985 blues compilation is a 12-disk set with 50-page booklet. Collectors will grab this near-definitive look at Sun's rockabilly roster, including Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Charlie Rich, and many lesser-known talents. Many alternates and previously unreleased gems here. As usual, label shows care with presentation and annotation (by Sun experts Colin Escott and Martin Hawkins). Distributed by Street Level Trading. Contact: 213-222-6665.

justified for these powerful performances by the émigré Soviet prize-winner. The Sibelius is particularly impressive; it easily ranks among the best available. A big career looms.

### HANSON: SYMPHONY NO. 2/BARBER: VIOLIN CONCERTO

Elmar Oliveira, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Slatkin  
Angel DS-47850

Another strong entry in the label's survey of American music with Slatkin. The once-popular—but currently poorly represented—Hanson receives a glowing reading, as does the Barber. Excellent sound.

### BEETHOVEN: SYMPHONY NO. 3; CORIOLAN OVERTURE

Vienna Philharmonic, Abbado  
Deutsche Grammophon 419 597

Release is perfectly timed to wrest full promotional advantage from Abbado's stateside appearances with the Vienna ensemble. These are large-scale, passionate performances—no period pussyfooting here.