



1999 brings new talent to spotlight while older trends become obsolete

By Jeff Wolfshohl
Photos by Kimber Huff

The trends in music today are a reflection of society, and looking back at what music has dominated the pop charts of '99, teens were in charge.

Latin fever struck America with a vengeance. The first steam engine was Ricky Martin. His high-energy performance at the 1999 Grammy Awards earned him a standing ovation as well as viewers' attention.

At the time, Martin was working on his first English-language album and his performance at the awards gave him a respectable platform from which to leap.

His first single, "Livin' La Vida Loca," quickly climbed the charts and was heard on radio stations every other 10 minutes.

According to Billboard magazine, Martin's self-titled album has sold more than seven million copies, opening the door to other Latin artists.

The single, "If You Had My Love," by Jennifer Lopez, had a chart performance that mimicked that of Ricky Martin's.

The third contender for Latin artist extraordinaire is Enrique Iglesias who has released two singles, "Alabao" and "Bailamos" which have performed as strongly as Lopez's and Martin's.

In addition to the "Latin invasion," there was also the resurrection of bubble-gum music led by Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, and others who rushed to join the onslaught of teenage artists that broke onto the music charts.

Though the college-educated person may be apprehensive about going to the store and purchasing that ... *Baby One More Time* CD, apparently many others are not.

According to Billboard magazine, the Backstreet Boys' *Millennium* has sold more than 11 million copies followed closely by Britney Spears, who has sold 11 million copies.

'N Sync's debut album sold most of its nine million copies this year and Christina Aguilera's debut has garnered multi-platinum status in less than four months.

Another trend in the music of '99 was toward the apathetic, "I do it my way" rockers.

Chris Rock, while hosting the 1999 MTV Music Video Awards, best described the attitude that propels this genre when he compared Kid Rock's presentation at the awards ceremony to that of a "ghetto pimp."

Music enthusiasts who were searching for an alternative to the "boy bands" received these rock bands with open arms.

Speaking of alternatives, alternative music and other proven artists such as Will Smith and Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot,

did not have the same level of success as it had in the past.

Recording artists relied on the strength of older songs, hoping to reach an equal or better level of success than the original.

But alternative itself has undergone a dramatic change in its sound which has allowed it to be categorized under pop or rock.

Even so-called alternative bands, such as Blink 182, have been placed in the pop category by fans who are still true to Nirvana and other "original" alternative bands that focused on rock more than pop.

However, because of its absence, there could be a resurgence of alternative music in the future, if the life cycle of alternative music follows that of the bubble-gum genre which has taught listeners that things that die always have a way of coming back.

The "circle of life" of music also proved true for songs this year.

Recording artists relied on the strength of older songs, hoping to reach an equal or better level of success than the original.

The year 2000 will most likely see more covers, as well as repeats and crossovers.

Repeats have proven to be successful endeavors; radio listeners may be familiar with the process: a country artist will sing the same song of a pop artist (example: Alabama sang "God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You," which was also recorded 'N Sync).

With crossovers, more non-pop artists will hit the adult contemporary radio stations with the same song, but perhaps with a bass-line alteration (example: Shania Twain's "Man, I Feel Like a Woman").

While there was not much art or creativity involved in the hits of 1999, perhaps in the year ahead a breakthrough artist will appear that will help musicians emerge from the formulaic pop that dominated last year's charts.

But if the merciless "circle of life" of the music industry holds true, in the year 2001 listeners will be singing "Backstreet's back, alright!" again.

Whitney Houston found with Marijuana

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — Whitney Houston was caught with 15.2 grams of marijuana at an airport security checkpoint last week but boarded her departing flight before police arrived, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The *Tribune-Herald* of Hilo, Hawaii said an airport security officer at Keahole-Kona International Airport found the marijuana Tuesday after he asked the Grammy-winning singer to open her bag for inspection.

The bag was seized, but the singer walked away when security officers tried to detain her, Police Lt. Robert Hickcox said.

Houston's United Airlines flight to San Francisco departed 45 minutes before police arrived, Hickcox said.

Airport security officers, employed by a private company, can only arrest passengers for crimes related to airport security. The firm, Wackenhut of Hawaii, declined comment to the Associated Press on Sunday night.

An answering service for Houston's spokesperson, Carol Stone,

said Stone was out of the country and could not immediately be reached for comment. A message left with her answering service was not immediately returned on Sunday night to The Associated Press.

According to the newspaper, the Hawaii County Police Department's daily police bulletin noted 15.2 grams of marijuana was recovered at the airport on Tuesday, but did not identify a suspect.

Police planned to refer the case to the Hawaii County prosecutor's office, a process that could take a month, Hickcox told the newspaper.

Police declined to comment to the AP late Sunday. Officials at Arista Records, Houston's record label, could not be reached for comment in either Los Angeles or New York on Sunday night.

Possession of 15 grams of marijuana could lead to a drug charge of promotion of a detrimental drug, Hickcox said. The petty misdemeanor is punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Houston has sold millions of records is one of the world's most successful recording artists. She has also starred in such films as *The Bodyguard* and *Waiting to Exhale*.

She was nominated this month for four Grammy awards for her latest album, *My Love Is Your Love*.



HOUSTON

Next Friday leads slow box office weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Ice Cube comedy *Next Friday* topped the box office for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend with \$17 million in earnings, according to industry estimates released Monday.

Stuart Little was No. 2 for the Friday-through-Monday period with an estimate of \$12.6 million in ticket sales.

The Hurricane was in third place with \$10.7 million, and *Girl, Interrupted* was fourth at \$9.6 million. They moved into wide circulation after opening in limited release last month to be eligible for Oscar consideration.

Next Friday opened Wednesday and was No. 1 despite playing in just 1,103 theaters, compared to 3,092 for *Stuart Little*.

Next Friday earned about \$4.8 million per day from Friday to Sunday. New Line Cinema estimated Monday's pace would slip to about \$2.5 million but had hopes for the film's long-term success.

"The original film stayed on the list of top 100 video rentals and sales for 100 weeks, so we knew we had a strong crossover audience for this picture, not just African-Americans," David Tuckerman, New Line's executive vice president for distribution, said Monday.

Stuart Little has grossed nearly \$110 million in five weeks.

"We are getting a lot of repeat business, and family groups," Ed Russell, a spokesperson for Sony's Columbia Pictures said. "We anticipate better than \$140

million for the length of its run."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at North American theaters, according to studios and Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures were to be released Tuesday.

1. *Next Friday*, \$17 million.
2. *Stuart Little*, \$12.6 million.
3. *The Hurricane*, \$10.7 million.
4. *Girl, Interrupted*, \$9.6 million.
5. *The Green Mile*, \$8.7 million.
6. *Galaxy Quest*, \$8 million.
7. *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, \$7 million.
8. *Supernova*, \$6.6 million.
9. *Toy Story 2*, \$6.5 million.
10. *Any Given Sunday*, \$5.7 million.

Santana wins top honors at annual American Music Awards for latest album, *Supernatural*

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carlos Santana's band won best-album honors at Monday's American Music Awards for *Supernatural*, a commercial comeback that put the rock guitar maestro on top of the charts for the first time in his 30-year career.

Supernatural, mixing Santana's searing instrumentals with vocals by such collaborators as Dave Matthews and Lauryn Hill, beat out two teen sensations, the Backstreet Boys' *Millennium* and Britney Spears' *Baby One More Time*.

Santana took the stage to a standing ovation. After thanking his parents, siblings and wife, he invited his producer,

Clive Davis, to join him. "Your music has soared," Davis told Santana. "To musicians everywhere, this is a special moment, because it's this man."

Garth Brooks won for best country album for *Double Live*.

"They say live albums never do anything," Brooks said. "Thank you once again for not listening to the rules."

DMX won for favorite rap-hop artist. "I wouldn't have done this without Lord and savior Jesus Christ," he said.

Three awards were announced before the show. Red Hot Chili Peppers beat Kid Rock and Limp Bizkit for favorite alterna-

tive artist, and Phil Collins won for favorite adult contemporary artist over Cher and country star Shania Twain. *Wild Wild West* was the favorite soundtrack, beating *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* and *Runaway Bride*.

Spears, Twain and soul singer Whitney Houston led the field with three nominations each. And all three were in the running for favorite pop-rock female artist at the 27th annual awards show, which aired on ABC from the Shrine Auditorium.

Besides adult contemporary artist, Twain was nominated for favorite female country artist. Houston was nominated for

favorite pop-rock band, duo or group. Other nominees in that category were the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync. The pop-rock male artist nominees were Lenny Kravitz, Ricky Martin and Will Smith.

The nominees were chosen by music industry representatives. The winners were decided by about 20,000 music fans nationwide.

Besides awards in 20 regular categories, the show was to feature results of an Internet poll on listeners' favorite musical artists for each decade from the '50s through the '80s.

The show also included an Award of Merit for Gloria Estefan, who was honored with a musical tribute featuring 'N Sync.

Past winners of the award, given in recognition for American musical contributions, include Benny Goodman, Stevie Wonder, Loretta Lynn and Paul McCartney.

Mariah Carey received an Award of Achievement for her "rare and distinguished accomplishments." Michael Jackson and Prince are the only previous winners of that award.

Performers scheduled to appear on the three-hour show included Carey, Kravitz, Christina Aguilera and Enrique Iglesias. Comedian Norm Macdonald was the host.

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