

POP POLL RESULTS EDITION - SENSATIONS GALORE!!

RECORD & Radio MIRROR

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THE CARPENTERS

"Karen's
obviously the
star," says Richard
EXCLUSIVE

EXTRA SPECIAL:

Full colour poster of . . .
SLADE

PLUS: Our
controversial and
widely quoted
CHART PARADE

**DAVID
BOWIE:**
He's tops!



RRM POLL SUPPLEMENT-INTERNATIONAL

JAMES BURTON — top guitarist. **Eric Clapton**, third in the list. And **George Harrison** way down the list in eighth position, and definitely struggling on the votes pattern.

But there is, nevertheless, a tremendous range of style and ability inside the results on this section of the poll. **David Cassidy** gets in to the top ten, and is only a handful of votes behind **Elvis Presley**.

Now neither of these superstars makes a great habit of playing superstar guitar, but they are given high votes because they are **WHAT** they are. This is fair enough. But for **George Harrison**, owner of one of the most distinctive guitar styles in the business, to be so low down simply means that the Beatle syndrome has gone, once and for all. **George** was third last year, behind **Hank B. Marvin** (he of the *Shadows* and *Cliff Richard* fame), and **Jimi Hendrix**, and the first and second had been first and second the year before, too.

We didn't do a keyboard section last year, but **Glen**

Hardin won the 1973 title hands down, beating mighty **Keith Emerson** and **Rick Wakeman**. Go back a year and **Gilbert O'Sullivan** was the top keyboard man in the instrumentalist general section. He had beaten **Keith Emerson** by quite a few votes. This year, **Osmond Bros** fans had their say... so **Donny** found himself in fifth position.

When you come to miscellaneous instruments, there is fair confusion. No surprise that **Roy Wood** comes out on top, even in the international section, because nobody has a more "miscellaneous instrumental section" than he... he plays the whole ruddy lot!

And back to the **Osmonds**, for a moment. **Wayne Osmond** gets himself placed eighth in the miscellaneous instrument division, and **Jay** shows third in the percussion section. Okay, so that kind of decision will cause guffaws and near-hysteria among the progressives of pop, but it's only fair to state that the **Osmonds** DO take their music



very seriously indeed and they are all involved in trying to learn new instruments.

What's more, there's no point in trying to justify or explain how, for instance, **Jay** comes third, beating **Keith Moon**, or **Carl Palmer**, or **Slade's Don Powell** (in at ten, this year)... beauty is in the

eye of the beholder... and pop drumming is obviously in the ear of the beholder. Incidentally no drummers at all were mentioned in the general "world instrumentalist" section last year... the top twenty mostly comprised guitarists and pianists.

Tastes in instrumentalists change as fast as in singers. Missing this year in the various sections are the following who were high-rated and high-placed last year. **Jimi Hendrix**, **Hank Marvin**, **Isaac Hayes**, **Gilbert O'Sullivan**, **Cat Stevens**, **Manitas de Plata** (the Spanish gypsy of fantastic technical skills on *Flamenco* numbers), **James Taylor**, **Jose Feliciano**, trumpeter **Herb Alpert**, country guitarist **Chet Atkins** and **Phil Cordell**, who was the whole of *Springwater* and had a hit single.

Highest vote in any of our four instrumental sections this time round went to **James Burton**, which in a way is further loyalist vote for **Elvis Presley** and all who work with him. In fact, if we had a vote for *Favourite Pop Manager* it

would probably go to **Colonel Tom Parker**... despite the fact that he is blamed by many fans for being the person most responsible for **Elvis** never visiting Britain.

But **Burton** says of **Elvis**: "Working with him on a cabaret gig just has to be the most exciting thing in the business, because with **Elvis** out there you are in the shadow of a giant among singers. He has personal electricity which pulls out the very best in his musicians."

Which explains how **Burton** is top-dog guitarist. Even if he personally doesn't care for some of the **Presley** singles released over the past year or so.

Our poll seems to imply that British is best when it comes to instrumentalists. Seven British in the drumming division; six in the miscellaneous market; five in the pianistic polling; and six in the guitar arena.

Congratulations, then to the winners. To those who were not even placed... well, maybe it's a mite unfair to say: "Keep practising."

INTERNATIONAL GUITARISTS

1	JAMES BURTON	645	6	MICK RONSON	109
2	MARC BOLAN	248	7	DAVE HILL	102
3	ERIC CLAPTON	163	8	GEORGE HARRISON	92
4	RONNIE WOOD	142	9	ELVIS PRESLEY	88
5	JAN AKKERMAN	118	10	DAVID CASSIDY	81

INTERNATIONAL KEYBOARDS

	GLEN HARDIN	609	6	STEVIE WONDER	148
2	KEITH EMERSON	358	7	JERRY LEE LEWIS	131
3	RICK WAKEMAN	321	8	IAN McLAGAN	127
4	ELTON JOHN	187	9	MIKE GARSON	109
5	DONNY OSMOND	162	10	BILLY PRESTON	98

INTERNATIONAL MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS

1	ROY WOOD	549	6	STEVIE WONDER	174
2	MICKY FINN	268	7	ENO	170
3	PAUL McCARTNEY	219	8	WAYNE OSMOND	158
4	THIJS VAN LEER	206	9	JIMMY LEA	138
5	RONNIE TUTT	187	10	IAN ANDERSON	120

RRM POLL SUPPLEMENT-INTERNATIONAL

LOOKS LIKE our pop poll caught the Elvis Presley fans on the hop a little. They were okay in the international album-of-the-year division, voting Aloha From Hawaii into top place with a commanding lead over the kay output of the likes of T Rex and David Bowie and even the Osmonds.

But the singles? Trouble was that Elvis had several singles out over the year under review. Burning Love, Fool, Polk Salad Annie, Steamroller Blues, Always On My Mind . . . but which one to block-vote into the top spot?

It ended with a split-vote decision. Like having the aforementioned five titles voted one, two, three, four and five . . . in the order as printed! It's a remarkable result, no matter how you judge it.

However there is just one warning note. While it can be argued that no ONE Elvis single really stood out as being the best of a good batch, it can also be argued that no ONE Elvis single stood out as

being the least poor of a BAD batch!

For it's no secret that the fans have been grumbling about the standard of some of the Elvis singles. Not to vote for one of his records would be unthinkable. But as one fan wrote recently to Record and Radio Mirror: "If he carries on producing such poor records, he'll be finished as far as the charts are concerned. Then it would take a real personal appearance tour to put the matter right again."

And, of course, Elvis doesn't look like touring. Not for two years at least because of all his commitments in big-money cabaret.

For those who like a touch of nostalgia, last year's top three albums were, in order: Electric Warrior; That's The Way It Is; and Imagine.

And the top eight was completed by: Every Picture Tells A Story; A Nod's As Good As A Wink; Bangla Desh; Tapestry; Teaser And The Firecat.

No prizes awarded . . . but just see if you can think back



and remember which artists and bands performed those albums. We can't complete the 1972 top ten because ninth and tenth were: Motown Chartbusters volume four, and Led Zeppelin IV.

A mention here for Diana Ross, who remains one of the best-supported girl singers in the business. She's the only girl to figure in the top singles section — that's with Touch Me In The Morning, which was taken from the album of the same name . . . and that album is the only female contribution to the LP division. However, a half-mention for Karen of the Carpenters' duo, whose Now and Then album comes in at number six.

Mind you, there's always the bi-sexual image of Alice Cooper . . . so maybe he merits half-a-mention, too.

And while we're in analytical mood: what do Elvis Presley, Diana Ross, T Rex, the Osmonds and David Bowie have in common? And the snappy answer is: all five have both single and album in the poll sections!

INTERNATIONAL PERCUSSION

1	RONNIE TUTT	530
2	MICKEY FINN	271
3	JAY OSMOND	198
4	KEITH MOON	174
5	RINGO STARR	140

6	MICK WOODMANSEY	138
7	CARL PALMER	122
8	KENNY JONES	109
9	JERRY ALLISON	98
10	DON POWELL	92

INTERNATIONAL SINGLES

1	Burning Love — Elvis Presley	382
2	Fool — Elvis Presley	270
3	Polk Saladannie — Elvis Presley	230
4	Steamroller Blues — Elvis Presley	204
5	Always On My Mind — Elvis Presley	140

6	Touch Me In The Morning — Diana Ross	129
7	The Groover — T. Rex	108
8	Power To All Our Friends — Cliff Richard	91
9	Going Home — Osmonds	84
10	Life On Mars — David Bowie	81

INTERNATIONAL ALBUMS

1	Aloha From Hawaii — Elvis Presley	890
2	Tan — T. Rex	268
3	Aladdin Sane — David Bowie	239
4	The Plan — The Osmonds	207
5	Billion Dollar Babies — Alice Cooper	176

6	Now And Then — Carpenters	143
7	Ooh La La — Faces	131
8	Touch Me In The Morning — Diana Ross	104
9	Rock Me Baby — David Cassidy	91
10	Slayed — Slade	49