



Biography

CHRIS DE BURGH

Fourteen years into his remarkable career, Chris De Burgh remains true to his original vision. De Burgh's is a talent that flies in the face of superficial, short-lived pop music trends; but then, from his first album to his newest, *Flying Colours*, he never intended to compete on that level anyway.

"I'm thoroughly on the same road I set off on all those years ago," says Chris, "and this is still the way I want to go. I want to be remembered only for having made good records." With the release of *Flying Colours*, his ninth A&M album, it seems that De Burgh will be remembered for having made *hit* records as well.

When *Flying Colours* debuted at Number One on the British charts, it was obvious that the world had more than "discovered" Chris De Burgh. Two years earlier, in 1986, De Burgh had enjoyed the biggest success of his career with his *Into The Light* album, and its enormous international hit single, "The Lady In Red." "Lady" made Number One in 15 countries, and peaked at Number Two in America. By May, 1987, *Into The Light* had sold well over two million copies, and that's not even including U.S. totals, which topped the 500,000 mark, giving De Burgh his first gold album here.

De Burgh has had quite a life from which to draw his inspiration. He was born in Argentina to British parents. His father's position in the British diplomatic corps moved the family to Malta, Nigeria, Zaire, and finally Ireland, where his parents bought a 12th Century Norman castle and converted it into a hotel. Chris learned to play guitar there, often entertaining the hotel guests, but his musical career was put on hold while he pursued degrees in French and English at Trinity College in Dublin.

"I discovered that there is very little you can do with an arts degree, short of becoming a bank manager," De Burgh later recalled. "A friend eventually offered me a job singing in his restaurant, and I managed to make off with two pounds a week and a hamburger per night."

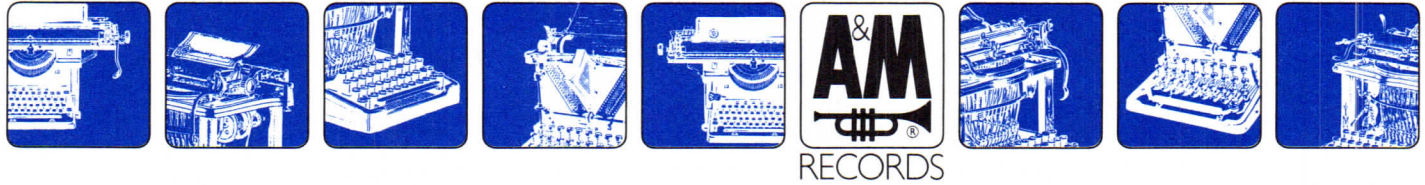
The situation soon improved. Within two years, Chris was offered a publishing contract; and in 1974, he signed with A&M as a recording artist. His first single, "Flying" (from his debut album, *Far Beyond These Castle Walls*), went to Number One in Brazil and stayed planted there for 17 straight weeks.

Subsequent albums established De Burgh as an artist with an international following as varied as his own background. He has had hits, many of them gold and platinum-sellers, in Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South America and in the U.S. as well.

De Burgh's American breakthrough actually began with *The Getaway* (1983), which featured the single "Don't Pay the Ferryman," and *Man On The Line* (1984), with its single, "High On Emotion"; both albums were produced by Rupert Hine (the Fixx, Robert Palmer). But with *Into The Light* and its enormous international hit, "The Lady In Red," De Burgh had the biggest success of his 14-year career, topping the charts in virtually every major music market.

"The Lady In Red" was quite a story, and not simply because Britain's Prince Andrew and Princess Sarah took it with them on their honeymoon. The song was inspired by Chris' wife, Diana. De Burgh glanced across the room at her one night in a disco, he told an interviewer, and "we exchanged one of those private smiles that's such an intimate thing with someone whom you're married to. I just thought how beautiful she looked, and it was like looking at her for the first time."

Continued



De Burgh began work on *Flying Colours* co-producing with Paul Hardiman, who was also on hand for *Into The Light*, after taking nearly a year off following an exhaustive, ten-month world tour. In between came "Love Is My Decision," Chris' contribution to the film "Arthur 2 On the Rocks"; co-written with Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager, the song was the film's theme song and single.

Flying Colours seems certain to build on De Burgh's ever-growing stature as a story-teller and artist of rare lyrical sensitivity. And while *Into The Light* followed the birth of his daughter Rosanna, the new album comes after another blessed event: the birth of Chris and Diana's son Hubie. De Burgh obviously has a successful life, personally and professionally, and in many ways, that's just what *Flying Colours* is all about.

"It's very much to do with that," he says, "and with the overall feeling of success. Not just in general terms, but also on a level of personal success. Coming through with flying colours applies to my feeling of personal achievement, irrespective of what other people are up to. That's what it means to me."

As always with a Chris De Burgh album, the song is the key, and *Flying Colours* is rife with stories ("Don't Look Back," "The Last Time I Cried"), a celebration of his son's birth ("Just a Word Away"), and simple, romantic moments, captured beautifully and simply ("Missing You," "I'm Not Scared Anymore," "Suddenly Love").

"The most crucial factor in all of this has been the song," says Chris. "That's what actually does the business. It doesn't matter what you look like or what your image is; the song is what counts. Always."