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What kept wham last christmas off number one

And we’re going to have a Christmas number one and I’ve just written it.”Wham! Bam! I have. Michael passed away on 25 December 2016 (with Last Christmas at number 16 and climbing to number seven the following week).In 2022, Last Christmas returned to the number one spot on 16 December and the 30th December but – once again – devilishly missed out on that elusive Christmas number one accolade in between, thanks to Lad Baby’s Food Aid.Mercifully, 2023 held better news and Last Christmas finally won Christmas number one – the prize for which it was penned – when it held the top spot across Christmas in 2023, seven years after Michael’s death and 39 years after its release. “Last Christmas has finally ascended to the much-cherished and sought-after Official Christmas number one, which was always the main goal,” Andrew Ridgeley told the Official UK Charts. Related Topics In 1984 Wham! were a band riding high, only ever snowballed, holding Last Christmas at number two for five weeks in total and extending its winning streak far into January of the following year.Last Christmas did eventually outsell Do They Know It’s Christmas?, clinging on to number eight with Band Aid at number nine on the charts of 20 January 1985. Contesting the originality of Michael’s composition and claiming plagiarism, it fell to a musicologist to throw out the claim by citing 60 further previous songs that used the same sequence.For us, however, it’s always the writers of Kool And The Gang’s Joanna, released a whole year earlier, that should have been making the call... Close your eyes and summon up a few mental sleigh bells over this one: Kool & The Gang - Joanna (Official Music Video) - YouTube Watch On Still not getting it? Wham! also made history that year by setting the record for the longest-ever journey to the UK Christmas Number One which was 39 years. After putting up a brave fight all week, Sam Ryder’s Amazon Original breakthrough festive hit You’re Christmas to Me remains at Number 2, while Mariah Carey also keeps stable with All I Want for Christmas Is You at Number 3. Plus some sleigh bells, obsvs. He’d have homey, cosy Christmas parties every year.” “George would always be there with a gift, and he’d get pleasure out of handing them over to his friends,” Pepsi added, outselling Last Christmas two to one. You can practically see his dream slipping away as he chats to Bob Geldof’s partner and later wife, UK music TV mainstay Paula Yates. “The song’s really catchy,” he ruefully admits, “a major threat to our fourth number one.” “What’s your next single?” Yates asks. “It’s called Last Christmas,” replies Michael. “Is it very Christmassy?” Yates probes. “Very,” replies an increasingly crestfallen Michael, before consoling himself that all might not be lost.” I don’t mind which gets to number one,” he offers – lying. “It might be that everyone can have a go?” suggests Yates.Visiblely cheered by this prospect, Micheal agrees. She has beaten Canadian crooner Michael Buble to the top spot as his festive album Christmas takes second place. Ridgeley told the Official Charts that his late bandmate Michael, who died on Christmas Day in 2016 at the age of 53, would be “utterly delighted” the song had become a festive classic. So next time you’re moaning about not having enough gear, think again!And with third Make It Big single Freedom hitting number one exactly as Michael had predicted, Wham! were all set to finish the year in style.Raise a glass!Despite being a band famous for their TV appearances – most specifically their extensively choreographed and energetic performances on the UK’s premier music show Top Of The Pops – it’s still doubtless that the video for Last Christmas comes to mind as soon as you hear those familiar sleigh bells strike. Last Christmas held off stiff competition in the battle for Christmas number one from rising US pop star Gracie Abrams, who clinched second place with her latest hit That’s So True. And while the video shows the band and hangers-on ascending by cable car, the house actually lies at the foot of the mountain, in the village, being easily accessible on foot.This is, of course, one of the iconic videos of the ‘80s, depicting Ridgeley romancing a girl that Michael was – as we see in flashback – intimate with just one year earlier. “Then I went downstairs and I said to Andrew, ‘I’ve done it, to number one on its first week of release, giving up the top slot for that all-important Christmas week before winning it back again at the end of December).And there was more bad news. “Tell me baby, do you recognise me?”Following Last Christmas’ release and number one failure, the song was to have another set back.Spotting the song’s use of its innately obvious chord sequence – D, B minor, E minor, A – the writers of Barry Manilow’s Can’t Smile Without You chanced their arm. In a gesture of solidarity with Band Aid, however, the duo donated all the royalties from Last Christmas to Ethiopian famine relief.At the time of its initial release, Last Christmas was part of a Wham! double A-side single, along with Everything She Wants.Although immediately after Christmas, radio stations started playing Everything She Wants and the band did a Top of the Pops appearance to promote it, the colossal sales of Do They Know It’s Christmas meant it was never to top the chart at the time.Wham have lost one chart record, and set anotherPrior to today’s chart, Last Christmas was the UK’s biggest-selling single never to have reached number one - accumulating 1.9 million sales across its lifetime, according to the Official Chart Company. Speaking about how they think the frontman would have reacted to the track finally earning the Number One spot on the charts, Shirlie shared: “We’d have been at his house having a party ‘cause he loved having Number Ones! And he loved Christmas. Christmas songs rising from last week include: Bobby Helms’ Jingle Bell Rock (11), Dean Martin’s Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! (13), Jorja Smith’s Stay Another Day (16), and Elton John’s Step Into Christmas (17). Pop icon Cher bags her highest-charting single in over 22 years as DJ Play a Christmas Song rises to Number 18 - her highest charting track in the UK since The MusiQ No Good Without You which peaked at Number 8 in November 2001. (24), Wizard’s I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday (25) and Laufey’s Winter Wonderland (26). There was an expense account to blow and they were determined to make the most of it.”Off camera, Michael would grill his fake love interest Hill about the working methods of her then real life boyfriend, the composer Vangelis.Meanwhile in order to boost the conviviality and visible sense of fun between all those taking part, director Andrew Morahan insisted that the booze being consumed on camera was 100% genuine, with his assistant director instructed to keep all glasses filled to the brim. “It is incredible to think that four years ago, Last Christmas was the biggest-selling single never to hit number one - then it finally hit the top in January 2021, finally became a Christmas number one in December 2023 and is now the first consecutive Christmas number one in history, with nine weeks at the summit (in five separate runs) to its name,” he added. December 15, 2023! WHAM! Have scored the top spot in the UK Official Singles Chart, with their enduring hit ‘Last Christmas’ reaching No.1 for the fifth time. “I wrote it on one of those little four track portastudios,” he explained in Netflix’s 2023 Wham! Documentary. He would be relaxed and happy, opening the door with an excited, ‘Right! Come and see my tree!’ It reached number two again in 2018. After all these years, finally to attain the Christmas number one. To mark three decades since its release in 1994, the singer also released a limited edition of her album Merry Christmas, but it will have to settle for a third place finish this year, Chris Rea’s Driving Home For Christmas (19), The Ronettes’s Sleigh Ride (20), John Lennon & Yoko Ono’s Plastic Band’s Happy Xmas (War Is Over) (21), Paul McCartney’s Wonderful Christmastime (22), José Feliciano’s Feliz Navidad (23), Kelly Clarkson & Ariana Grande’s Santa Can You Hear Me? Try this... ‘Number one with a mule’?So did Michael get his much craved-for fourth number one? He said: “Thirty-seven years to get to number one, 39 years to Christmas number one, and then like London buses they all come along at once! Andrew Ridgeley right, said bandmate George Michael’s festive composition was ‘almost as much a part of Christmas as mince pies, turkey and pigs in blankets.’ (PA)“I’m especially pleased for George, he would have been utterly delighted, his fabulous Christmas composition has become such a classic, almost as much a part of Christmas as mince pies, turkey and pigs in blankets. It was recorded in London at Advision Studios just days after it was written. Michael decorating the studio with Christmas decorations in order to inject a little festive cheer into the session taking place at the height of the UK’s summer.The recording is 100% the work of George Michael without the attendance or input of Ridgeley or Wham! backing singers Pepsi DeMacque and Shirlie Holliman. “It is surely, undeniably, established now as the British nation’s all-time favourite Christmas song.” He also applauded Carpenter for topping off an “incredible year” with the Christmas title. Wham! - Last Christmas (Official Video) - YouTube Watch On The video was shot in late November of 1984, in and around a house hired for the occasion in Saas-Fee in the Swiss Alps. “George would be beside himself. The Christmas staple, which was originally beaten to the top spot in 1984 by Band Aid’s charity single Do They Know It’s Christmas?, secured the record last year for completing the longest ever journey to make it to number one in time for Christmas Day. The previous record-holder was Tony Christie’s (Is This The Way To) Amarillo? To view this content choose ‘accept and continue’.The singer jetted back from the film shoot to record his vocals for Do They Know It’s Christmas - which would eventually hold Wham!’s song off the top spot. Andrew Ridgeley told Official Charts: “Christmas has indeed come early in 2023. Sabrina Carpenter capped off a standout year securing the Christmas number one album title (Doug Peters/PA)US star Chappell Roan, who has also had a breakout year, serves third with her smash hit debut The Rise And Fall Of A Midwest Princess. Eventually, yes... But that track was Edge Of Heaven. Wham!’s final single, released to officially mark the duo’s split and which held the number one slot for two weeks over a year later, in June 1986.Last Christmas would however, impressively, go on to chart again in 1985 and 1986, reaching numbers 2 and 14 respectively, then disappear, unreleased, until 2007 after which it has mercifully charted every year since. So is there a happy ending?Previously well known as the UK’s highest-selling single never to reach number one (with over 2m physical sales to date), Last Christmas did finally reach the number one slot on 1 January 2021, meaning that it took 36 years from its original release to finally make it - a new record. However, this dream finally coming true was something George Michael never lived to see. 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