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Bookies take bets on new Band Aid

Bookmakers have begun taking bets on a new version of Band Aid being Christmas number one even before an official announcement it is being re-recorded.

There are reports the likes of Coldplay and Travis want to be involved with a third version the charity hit Do They Know It's Christmas?.



Midge Ure co-wrote the song with Bob Geldof

Midge Ure, who co-wrote the track, is expected to reveal plans for the song on Thursday.

Coldplay's Chris Martin confirmed he had been approached by Ure.

Ladbrokes reports a surge in people placing bets on Band Aid III being the 2004 festive chart-topper, making it odds-on at 4/6 favourite.

The bookmakers said one punter had even tried to place a £10,000 stake on it.

"There is no official word on whether a single will be released but money screams there is something going on behind the scenes," said a Ladbrokes spokesman.

"We have been inundated with requests and have no choice but to make it the red hot odds-on favourite."

The Sun newspaper reported bands including The Darkness were top of Ure's wish list to take part in a revamped Do They Know it's Christmas?.

Famine relief

The first Band Aid record, written by Ure and Bob Geldof, was recorded in 1984 and featured artists including Duran Duran, U2, Bananarama and George Michael.

It raised £8m for famine relief in Africa and preceded the massive Live Aid concert which went on to collect £40m in donations.

A DVD of the Live Aid concert has just been released to coincide with its 20th anniversary.

In 1989 a new crop of pop stars re-recorded the song including Kylie Minogue, Wet Wet Wet and Bros, as well as Sir Cliff Richard.

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