

billboard

YEAR IN MUSIC 2015

## THE NO.1s

Adele owned the charts.  
Taylor stormed the stage.  
**NICKI MINAJ** broke the mold

**PLUS** An all-star portfolio  
starring Selena Gomez,  
Twenty One Pilots,  
Leon Bridges, Future,  
Walk the Moon,  
Shawn Mendes & more

*'Fans know my struggle.  
I was ruthless'* MINAJ

December 19, 2015  
billboard.com

# 2015

## ANOTHER EPIC YEAR AT THE GARDEN

ALT-J • RICARDO ARJONA (x2) • BLUR • BILL BURR  
ANDREA BOCELLI • LOUIS CK (x3) • ERIC CLAPTON'S 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY (x2)  
J. COLE • DADDY YANKEE & FRIENDS • DEAD & COMPANY (x2)  
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE • DISCLOSURE • DISPATCH (x2)  
FLEETWOOD MAC • FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE • JUAN GABRIEL  
JIM GAFFIGAN • ARIANA GRANDE (x2) • KEVIN HART (x3)  
GABRIEL IGLESIAS • BILLY JOEL (x12) • MIRANDA LAMBERT  
MADONNA (x2) MAROON 5 (x2) • RICKY MARTIN  
MEGATON MUNDIAL DE POLITO VEGA • BETTE MIDLER (x2)  
LUIS MIGUEL • MORRISSEY • NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK (x2)  
PHISH (x4) • ALEX SENSATION'S MEGA MEZCLA • SAM SMITH  
MARCO ANTONIO SOLIS • STROMAE • RUSH  
THE BEST LATIN URBANO • THE WEEKND • CHRIS TOMLIN  
SHANIA TWAIN • U2 (x8) • JACK WHITE • STEVIE WONDER  
Z100's JINGLE BALL 2015 • ZEDD

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**MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.**  
THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS ARENA™

     
#THEGARDEN



STELLAR SHOWS. FABULOUS FANS. COUNTLESS MEMORIES.

# THANKS FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR!

**DAVE GROHL'S BIRTHDAY SHOW: FOO FIGHTERS • LOUIS CK • SAM SMITH (x2)**  
**ABOVE AND BEYOND • POWER 106 VALENTINE'S CRUSH FEAT. JOHN LEGEND**  
**BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND • CHRIS BROWN & TREY SONGZ**  
**EPICENTER ROCK FESTIVAL • NICKELODEON KIDS' CHOICE AWARDS**  
**MAROON 5 (x2) • SYSTEM OF A DOWN • ARIANA GRANDE • FLEETWOOD MAC (x2)**  
**MEN'S FREESTYLE WRESTLING WORLD CUP (x2) • 93.5 KDAY KRUSH GROOVE**  
**MARVEL UNIVERSE LIVE! (x6) • NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK**  
**HBO BOXING: GOLOVKIN VS. MONROE • U2 (x5) • ALEJANDRA GUZMAN**  
**HELLO KITTY'S SUPERCUTE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL (x5) • JULION ALVAREZ**  
**CHICAGO & EARTH, WIND & FIRE • IMAGINE DRAGONS • PHISH • BOSTON**  
**RUSH • YURI • MUMFORD & SONS (x2) • 93.5 KDAY THE COMEDY GET DOWN**  
**INCUBUS & DEFTONES • BOXING: MOSLEY VS. MAYORGA • JUAN GABRIEL**  
**KEVIN HART • RICKY MARTIN • DEF LEPPARD • FOO FIGHTERS (x2)**  
**SCORPIONS • DON HENLEY • R. KELLY • NEIL YOUNG + PROMISE OF THE REAL**  
**JANET JACKSON • PEPE AGUILAR • MADONNA • CAMILO SESTO • G.E.M.**  
**REAL 92.3 THE REAL SHOW • POWER 106 CALI CHRISTMAS • THE WEEKND (x2)**  
**KROQ ALMOST ACOUSTIC XMAS (x2) • WWE HOLIDAY LIVE • DEAD & COMPANY(x2)**

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 **FORUM.**  
PRESENTED BY CHASE



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**ALL 10/10** TOP CHARTING SONGS  
HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SONGS  
HOT RAP SONGS  
MAINSTREAM R&B/HIP-HOP SONGS  
R&B/HIP-HOP AIRPLAY

**9/10** TOP CHARTING SONGS  
HOT 100  
HOT DANCE/ELECTRONIC SONGS  
CHRISTIAN AC SONGS  
LATIN POP AIRPLAY  
LATIN RHYTHM AIRPLAY  
MAINSTREAM TOP 40  
RADIO SONGS

CONGRATULATIONS  
OUR 2015  
SONGWRITERS

# ASCAP

GROUNDBREAKERS  
+ HITMAKERS

 **ascap** WE CREATE MUSIC

Data was compiled from Billboard's 2015 Year-End Charts. Featured songwriters made the Top 10 of the Hot 100, Hot R&B/Hip-Hop, Hot Country, Hot Latin, Hot Rock, Hot Dance/Electronic, Hot Christian or Hot Gospel Songwriter charts.

**RELATIONS TO  
CHART-TOPPING  
WRITERS**



**VANCE JOY** (APRA)  
HOT ROCK



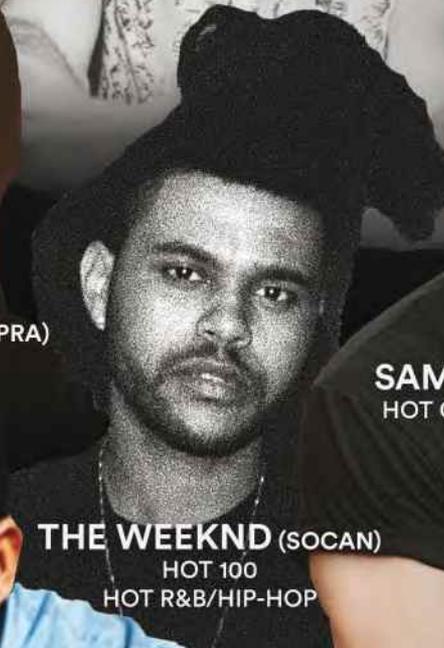
**WALK THE MOON**  
HOT ROCK



**DIPLO**  
HOT DANCE/  
ELECTRONIC



**JOEL HOUSTON** (APRA)  
#1 HOT CHRISTIAN



**SAM HUNT**  
HOT COUNTRY



**MEGHAN TRAINOR**  
HOT 100



**SAVAN KOTECHA**  
HOT 100



**THE WEEKND** (SOCAN)  
HOT 100  
HOT R&B/HIP-HOP



**JOSH OSBORNE**  
HOT COUNTRY



**DRAKE**  
HOT 100  
HOT R&B/HIP-HOP



**ASHLEY GORLEY**  
HOT COUNTRY



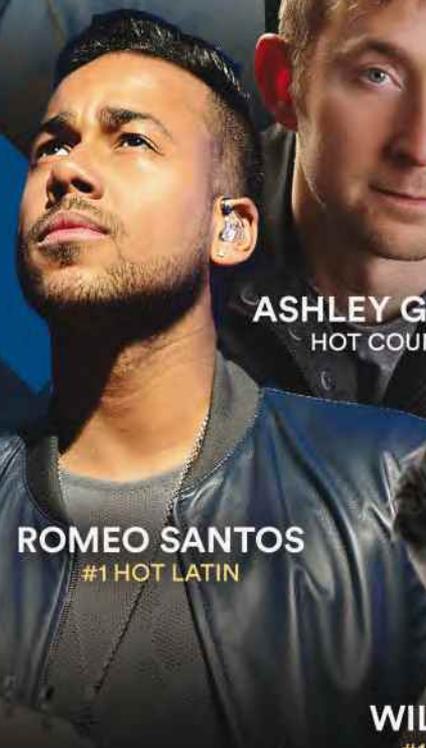
**SHELLBACK** (STIM)  
HOT 100



**MAX MARTIN** (STIM)  
#1 HOT 100



**CALVIN HARRIS**  
#1 HOT DANCE/ELECTRONIC



**ROMEO SANTOS**  
#1 HOT LATIN



**FETTY WAP**  
#1 HOT R&B/HIP-HOP  
HOT 100



**WILL REAGAN**  
#1 HOT GOSPEL

BELLY (SOCAN) | BENJAMIN BERGER | BOLO DA PRODUCER | MIA BOOKER | ANTHONY BROWN  
 MATT CROCKER (APRA) | CHRIS DESTEFANO | DJ FRANK E | DJ SNAKE (SACEM) | TONY FADD  
 DAVID GARCIA | BEN GLOVER | STEVE GUESS (SACEM) | BRETT JAMES | CHARLES JENKINS (APRA) | SALOMON LIGTHELM (APRA)  
 HILLARY LINDSEY | AARON LINES (SOCAN) | RYAN MCMAHON | PHILIP MECKSEPER (GEMA) | SERGIO MERCADO  
 JON NITE | GERARDO ORTIZ | JIHAD RAHMOUNI (BUMA) | SILENTO | BRIAN COURTNEY WILSON

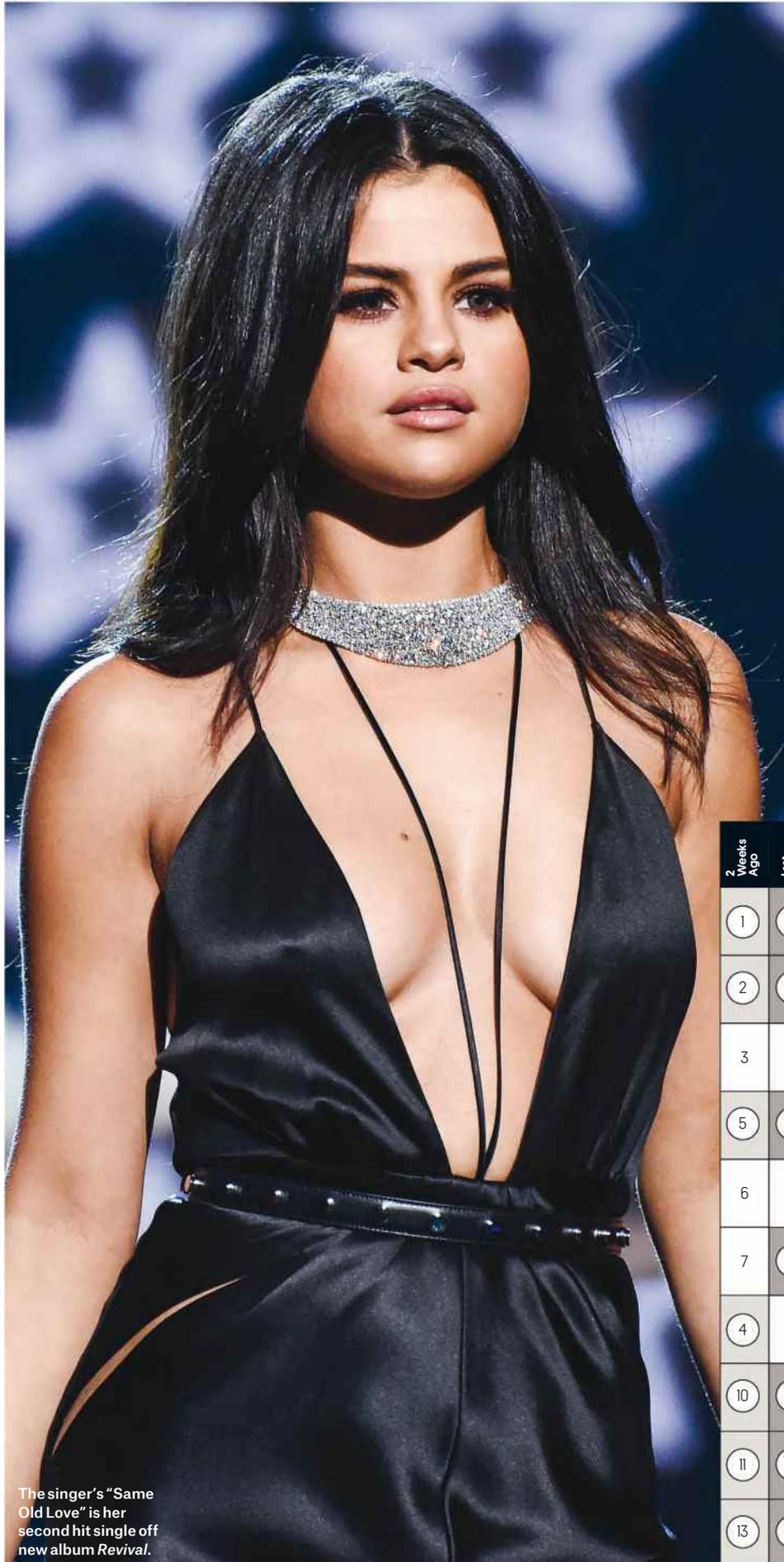


# THE NATION'S #1 LABEL FOUR YEARS STRONG



\* SOURCE: Nielsen Soundscan Current Album + TEA Sales (Nov. to Nov., 2011 to 2015)  
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# billboard HOT 100



## Selena Gomez Caps Stellar 2015 With A New Top 10

**S**ELENA GOMEZ'S FIFTH ALBUM, *REVIVAL*, IS LIVING up to its name. The set is her first studio album to generate more than one top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100, as second single "Same Old Love" moves 11-10. The song follows lead single "Good for You" (featuring **ASAP Rocky**), which became her highest-charting Hot 100 hit, reaching No. 5 in October. "Same" also enters the Radio Songs chart's top 10, rising 11-10, up by 9 percent to 83 million in all-format audience, according to Nielsen Music.

*Revival* is Gomez's second No. 1 on the Billboard 200 (debuting on the Oct. 31 chart), following her 2013 studio LP *Stars Dance*, helping her earn the honor of Chart-Topper at *Billboard's* 2015 Women in Music event, set to be televised on Lifetime on Dec. 18. "This was the first time I was able to really trust myself and go with my gut," she says of the album, which features a sexier, more mature sound for the former Disney star.

Gomez is also among the many honorees on *Billboard's* bevy of year-end charts in the Dec. 19 issue. Turn to page 84 for all the tallies, including the year-end Hot 100, Billboard 200 and top artists recaps, as well as the biggest songs, albums and more in different genres.

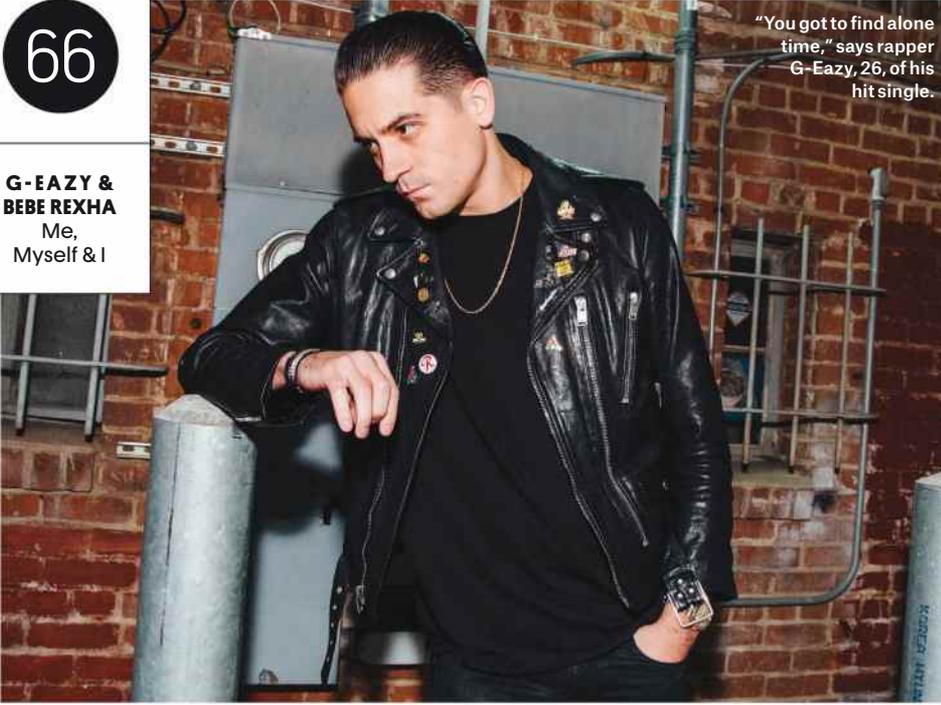
—GARY TRUST

2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week	Title	CERTIFICATION PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	IMPRINT/PROMOTION LABEL	Peak Position	Weeks On Chart
1	1	1	<b>#1</b> <b>Hello</b> ▲	G.KURSTIN [A.ADKINS,G.KURSTIN]	<b>Adele</b>	XL/COLUMBIA	1	6
2	2	2	<b>AG</b> <b>Sorry</b> ▲	BLOODSKRILLEX [BIEBER,J.MICHAELS,J.TRANTER,M.TUCKER,S.MOORE]	<b>Justin Bieber</b>	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	2	6
3	3	3	<b>Hotline Bling</b>	NINETEEN85 [A.GRAHAM,P.JEFFERIES,T.THOMAS]	<b>Drake</b>	YOUNG MONEY/CASH MONEY/REPUBLIC	2	18
5	4	4	<b>What Do You Mean?</b> ▲	MDL,JBIEBER [JBIEBER,J.BOYD,M.LEVY]	<b>Justin Bieber</b>	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	1	14
6	5	5	<b>The Hills</b> ▲	MANO,ILLANGELO [A.TESFAYE,A.BALSHE,E.NICKERSON,ILLANGELO]	<b>The Weeknd</b>	XO/REPUBLIC	1	28
7	6	6	<b>Stitches</b> ▲	DAYLIGHT,T.T.GEIGER II,D.PARKER [D.PARKER,J.T.GEIGER II,D.KYRIAKIDES]	<b>Shawn Mendes</b>	ISLAND/REPUBLIC	4	28
4	7	7	<b>Love Yourself</b>	BENNY BLANCO [E.C.SHEERAN,B.LEVIN,J.BIEBER]	<b>Justin Bieber</b>	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	4	3
10	10	8	<b>Here</b> ●	POPOAKWUD,S.KOLE [A.CARACCILO,A.WANSELW.FELDER,C.TILLMAN,J.HAYES,S.TGERONGCOR,T.GERONGCOT,LAM]	<b>Alessia Cara</b>	EP/DEF JAM	8	18
11	8	9	<b>Like I'm Gonna Lose You</b> ▲	C.GELBUDA,M.TRAINOR [M.TRAINOR,J.WEAVER,C.SMITH]	<b>Meghan Trainor</b> <small>Feat. John Legend</small>	EPIC	8	22
13	11	10	<b>Same Old Love</b>	STAR GATE,BENNY BLANCO [T.EHERMANSEN,M.S.ERIKSEN,B.LEVIN,C.AITCHISON,R.GOLAN]	<b>Selena Gomez</b>	INTERSCOPE	10	12

The singer's "Same Old Love" is her second hit single off new album *Revival*.

66

**G-EAZY & BEBE REXHA**  
Me, Myself & I



"You got to find alone time," says rapper G-Eazy, 26, of his hit single.

"Me, Myself & I" celebrates personal space and being alone. What inspired you to write a song about that?

**G-EAZY** Just never being able to escape the job. You're on 24 hours a day [in the music industry]; you got to find alone time. People always expect something from you. I've got these different personalities; I'm a Gemini. Sometimes I feel really, really gloomy.

Did you listen to other music for inspiration while recording the album?

I studied a lot of my favorite rappers' second albums, how they coped with coming off a successful debut and all of a sudden their

whole world is turned upside down — like [Kanye West's] *Late Registration* and [Eminem's] *Marshall Mathers LP*. I tried to learn from how they navigated what they were going through.

Your second LP is called *When It's Dark Out*. Between the title and "Me, Myself & I," do you consider it a dark record?

It captures the last year of my life: It has been a roller coaster of craziness and wild times, some good, some bad. Nothing can prepare you for how crazy this business gets. I pinch myself every day that I get to travel the world and make a living off it. —ADELLE PLATON



51 **DAN & SHAY**  
Nothin' Like You

The love song is the pair's first No. 1 on Country Airplay (3-1). The singer-songwriters learned of the coronation on Dec. 7 — the third anniversary of the day they met.

2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week	Title	CERTIFICATION PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	Peak Position	Weeks On Chart
8	9	11	<b>679</b>		<b>Fetty Wap</b> Feat. Remy Boyz PEOPLES (W.J.MAXWELL,A.COSME JR.,J. POPE,B.GARCIA)	4	23
12	12	12	<b>Ex's &amp; Oh's</b> ▲		<b>Elle King</b> D.BASSETT (ELLE KING,D.BASSETT)	10	22
15	15	13	<b>On My Mind</b> ▲		<b>Ellie Goulding</b> MAX MARTIN (E.I.GOULDING,MAX MARTIN,SKOTECHEA,I.SALMANZADEH)	13	11
9	13	14	<b>Wildest Dreams</b> ▲		<b>Taylor Swift</b> MAX MARTIN,SHELLBACK (T.SWIFT,MAX MARTIN,SHELLBACK)	5	15
16	18	15	<b>Jumpman</b>		<b>Drake &amp; Future</b> METRO BOOMIN (N.D.WILBURN,L.WAYNE,A.GRAHAM)	12	11
17	17	16	<b>Can't Feel My Face</b> ▲		<b>The Weeknd</b> A.PAYAMI,MAX MARTIN (THE WEEKND (A.TESFAYE, A.BALSHE,MAX MARTIN,SKOTECHEA,P.VENSSON,A.PAYAMI))	1	26
14	16	17	<b>Focus</b>		<b>Ariana Grande</b> MAX MARTIN,I.YA (SKOTECHEA,P.VENSSON,I.SALMANZADEH,A.GRANDE)	7	5
18	14	18	<b>Watch Me</b> ●		<b>Silento</b> BOLO DA PRODUCER (T.B.MINGO,R.L.HAWK)	3	41
23	20	19	<b>Antidote</b>		<b>Travi\$ Scott</b> WYONDA GURL,FESTBLOOD (WYONDA GURL,FESTBLOOD,RYAN MIERLO, T.BRINECK,D.GUY,L.MICHAELS,N.MOVSHON,H.STEINWISS)	19	13
21	19	20	<b>Lean On</b> ▲		<b>Major Lazer &amp; DJ Snake</b> Feat. MO DJ SNAKE,DIPLO (S.GUESS,K.MORSTED, W.S.EGRIGI,H.CINE,D.WPENTZ,F.MECKSEPER)	4	35

2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week	Title	CERTIFICATION PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	Peak Position	Weeks On Chart
36	28	21	<b>Confident</b>		<b>Demi Lovato</b> SAFEHOUSE/ISLAND/REPUBLIC/HOLLYWOOD	21	9
28	25	22	<b>White Iverson</b>		<b>Post Malone</b> POST MALONE (A.POST,I.M.ROBERTS)	22	13
25	29	23	<b>Die A Happy Man</b> ●		<b>Thomas Rhett</b> D.HUFF,I.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,S.DOUGLAS,JOE LONDON)	23	11
38	33	24	<b>Don't</b>		<b>Bryson Tiller</b> DOPEBOI (B.TILLER,B.STEWART,HOLLINS,IR.M.CAREY,DUPRI,B.MCCOY,J.AUSTIN)	24	10
20	24	25	<b>Locked Away</b> ▲		<b>R. City Feat. Adam Levine</b> DR.LUKE,CIRKUT (I.THOMAS,T.HOMAS,L.GOTTWALD,H.R.WALKER,TJENILLE)	6	20
RE-ENTRY			26	<b>All I Want For Christmas Is You</b> ●	<b>Mariah Carey</b> W.A.FANASIEFF,M.CAREY (M.CAREY,W.A.FANASIEFF)	21	11
37	27	27	<b>Perfect</b>		<b>One Direction</b> J.BUNETTA,I.SHATKIN,AFTER:HRS (H.STYLES,I.TOMLINSON, J.BUNETTA,I.K.HINDUN,I.RYAN,I.SHATKIN,M.A.MCDONALD)	10	7
29	26	28	<b>Trap Queen</b> ▲		<b>Fetty Wap</b> T.FADD (W.J.MAXWELL,T.FADD)	2	46
35	34	29	<b>Where Ya At</b>		<b>Future Feat. Drake</b> METRO BOOMIN (N.D.WILBURN,L.WAYNE,A.GRAHAM)	28	20
51	37	30	<b>Say It</b>		<b>Tory Lanez</b> POPTORO (D.PETERSON,A.WANSEL, A.W.HITFIELD,D.HALL,N.GILBERT,G.CHAMBERS)	30	7
34	32	31	<b>Where Are U Now</b> ▲		<b>Skillet &amp; Diplo With Justin Bieber</b> SKRILLEX,DIPLO (S.MOORE,T.W.PENTZ, J.BIEBER,L.BOYD,K.RUBIN,I.VAREZ)	8	40
44	39	32	<b>Break Up in A Small Town</b> ●		<b>Sam Hunt</b> Z.CROWELL,S.MCANALLY (S.HUNT,Z.CROWELL,S.MCANALLY)	32	9
40	30	33	<b>Drag Me Down</b>		<b>One Direction</b> J.BUNETTA,I.RYAN (J.SCOTT,I.RYAN,J.BUNETTA)	3	18
19	31	34	<b>I'll Show You</b>		<b>Justin Bieber</b> SKRILLEX,DIPLO (J.BIEBER,L.GUDWIN, S.MOORE,M.TUCKER,T.O.FEINSTER)	19	5
27	23	35	<b>Hit The Quan</b>		<b>iLoveMemphis</b> BUCK NASTY (R.M.COLBERT,R.C.M.WILLIAMS)	15	16
62	51	36	<b>Roses</b>		<b>The Chainsmokers Feat. ROZES</b> THE CHAINSMOKERS (A.TAGGART,E.MENCEL)	36	7
86	54	37	<b>In The Night</b>		<b>The Weeknd</b> A.PAYAMI,MAX MARTIN (THE WEEKND (A.TESFAYE, A.BALSHE,MAX MARTIN,SKOTECHEA,P.VENSSON,A.PAYAMI))	37	4
32	40	38	<b>Good For You</b> ▲		<b>Selena Gomez Feat. A\$AP Rocky</b> N.MONSON,SIR NOLAN,A\$AP ROCKY (H.DRACADO (J.MICHAELS, I.RANTER,N.MONSON,L.AMBROSE,A.A.MATERS,FURLEGAPO,S.GOMEZ))	5	24
41	36	39	<b>See You Again</b> ▲		<b>Wiz Khalifa Feat. Charlie Puth</b> DJ FRANK E,C.PUTH,A.CEDAR (I.FRANKS, A.CEDAR,C.THOVAZ,C.PUTH)	1	39
26	38	40	<b>Renegades</b> ▲		<b>X Ambassadors</b> ALEX DAVID (A.GRANT,S.N.HARRIS,N.FELDSHUH,C.HARRIS,A.LEVIN)	17	34
52	44	41	<b>No Role Modelz</b>		<b>J. Cole</b> D.BARNES (I.COLE,D.BARNES,M.W.HITEMON,P.BEAUREGARD, J.HOUSTON,J.STEVENS,EI.STEVENS,S.D.VENESS,B.JONES)	41	16
45	42	42	<b>Again</b>		<b>Fetty Wap</b> PEOPLES,SHY BOOGS (W.J.MAXWELL,B.GARCIA,E.J.TIMMONS)	33	17
39	35	43	<b>My Way</b>		<b>Fetty Wap Feat. Monty</b> NICK E BEATS (W.J.MAXWELL,A.COSME JR.,D.EAGLES)	7	22
33	41	44	<b>I'm Comin' Over</b> ●		<b>Chris Young</b> C.CROWDER,C.YOUNG (C.YOUNG,C.CROWDER,J.HOGE)	33	23
69	57	45	<b>Stressed Out</b> ●		<b>twenty one pilots</b> M.EUZONDO (T.JOSEPH)	45	11
47	43	46	<b>Cheerleader</b> ▲		<b>OMI</b> C.DILLON,O.PASLEY (O.PASLEY,C.DILLON, M.BRADFORD,S.DUNBAR,R.DILLON)	1	33
55	47	47	<b>Back Up</b>		<b>DeJ Loaf Feat. Big Sean</b> IROCKSAYS (D.M.TRIMBLE,K.A.ADMAN,S.M.ANDERSON,C.GOSBERRY)	47	9
58	49	48	<b>Burning House</b> ●		<b>Cam</b> J.BHASKER,J.JOHNSON (C.OCHS,T.JOHNSON,J.BHASKER)	48	21
50	50	49	<b>Lay It All On Me</b>		<b>Rudimental Feat. Ed Sheeran</b> RUDIMENTAL (A.AMOR,K.DRYDEN,I.PAGGETT, L.ROLLE,I.JEWMAN,J.HARRIS,C.SHEERAN)	48	9
46	48	50	<b>Photograph</b> ●		<b>Ed Sheeran</b> J.BHASKER (E.C.SHEERAN,I.MCDAID)	10	30

THE WEEK'S MOST POPULAR CURRENT SONGS ACROSS ALL GENRES, RANKED BY RADIO AIRPLAY AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS AS MEASURED BY NIELSEN MUSIC, SALES DATA AS COMPILED BY NIELSEN MUSIC AND STREAMING ACTIVITY DATA AS COMPILED BY NIELSEN MUSIC AND STREAMING ACTIVITY DATA. SONGS ARE RANKED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALBUM AND SINGLES SALES, INCLUDING ALBUMS, SINGLES, AND TRACKS. SONGS ARE RANKED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALBUM AND SINGLES SALES, INCLUDING ALBUMS, SINGLES, AND TRACKS. SONGS ARE RANKED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALBUM AND SINGLES SALES, INCLUDING ALBUMS, SINGLES, AND TRACKS. SONGS ARE RANKED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ALBUM AND SINGLES SALES, INCLUDING ALBUMS, SINGLES, AND TRACKS.

# BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP

*congratulates*

## FLORIDA & GEORGIA LINE

*on being named Billboard's #1  
Country Airplay Artists of 2015!*



#1 - DIRT • #1 - SUN DAZE • #1 - SIPPIN' ON FIRE • #1 - ANYTHING GOES

————— (BILLBOARD AIRPLAY/MEDIABASE AIRPLAY) ————— | ————— (MEDIABASE AIRPLAY) —————

*Brian & Tyler,  
We are so excited to share in your success! It couldn't happen to two  
better guys...here's to your record-setting year!*

*Love,  
Your Big Machine Label Group Family*

2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week	Title	CERTIFICATION PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	IMPRINT/PROMOTION LABEL	Peak Position	Weeks On Chart
60	58	51	<b>Nothin' Like You</b>	C. DESTEFANO (D.SIMYERS, S.MOONEY, A.GORLEY, C. DESTEFANO)	Dan + Shay	WARNER BROS. NASHVILLE/WAR	51	17
-	77	52	<b>DG Used To Love You</b>	J.R. ROTEM (I. TRANTER, J. MICHAELS, J.R. ROTEM, G. STEFANI, I. DOUVILLE)	Gwen Stefani	MAD LOVE/INTERSCOPE	52	3
75	61	53	<b>Hide Away</b>	NOISECASTLE III (G. BARLETTA, B. MCLAUGHLIN, B. NEWBILL)	Daya	ARTBEATZ	53	11
72	53	54	<b>Adventure Of A Lifetime</b>	STAR GATE & SIMPSON (C. R. BERRYMAN, J. M. BUCKLAND, W. G. HALPION, C. A. J. MARTIN)	Coldplay	PARLOPHONE/ATLANTIC	53	4
48	52	55	<b>How Deep Is Your Love</b>	CALVIN HARRIS (DISCIPLES, J. WROLDSEN) (CALVIN HARRIS, N. D. VALL, G. KOOLMAN, L. MCDERMOTT, J. WROLDSEN)	Calvin Harris & Disciples	FLY EYE/COLUMBIA	27	20
61	63	56	<b>Gonna</b>	S. HENDRICKS (L. LAIRD, C. WISEMAN)	Blake Shelton	WARNER BROS. NASHVILLE/WMN	56	12
31	46	57	<b>The Feeling</b>	SKRILLEX, J. KIRKPATRICK (J. BIBBER, J. MICHAELS, C. COFFEE, JR., S. HUDSON, S. MOORE, J. KIRKPATRICK)	Justin Bieber Feat. Halsey	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	31	3
59	45	58	<b>Bet You Can't Do It Like Me</b>	NUN MAJOR (D. SIMMONS)	DLOW	DLOW	45	4
22	72	59	<b>WTF (Where They From)</b>	P. WILLIAMS (M. ELLIOTT, P. WILLIAMS)	Missy Elliott Feat. Pharrell Williams	THE GOLD MIND/ATLANTIC	22	4
78	71	60	<b>Exchange</b>	THE MEKANICS (B. TILLER, M. HERNANDEZ, M. JOHNSON, J. HALL)	Bryson Tiller	TRAPSOUL/RCA	60	6
<b>HOT SHOT DEBUT</b>		61	<b>Hallelujah</b>	B. APPLEBERRY (L. COHEN)	Jordan Smith	REPUBLIC	61	1
73	68	62	<b>Gonna Know We Were Here</b>	M. KNOX (B. BEAVERS, BRETT JAMES)	Jason Aldean	BROKEN BOW	62	8
71	66	63	<b>The Fix</b>	D. MUSTARD, M. ADAMS (C. HAYNES, JR., D. MCFARLANE, M. ADAMS, C. BLANCHARD, D. BELK, K. COLLINS, O. BROWN, J. M. GAYE, RITZ)	Nelly Feat. Jeremih	RECORDS	63	10
97	55	64	<b>I Know What You Did Last Summer</b>	N. ZANCANELLA, I. DOVISH, E. WORLD (S. MENDES, C. CABELLO, I. Z. MISHLAN, Y. N. ZANCANELLA, W. WITHERS, JR.)	Shawn Mendes & Camila Cabello	ISLAND/REPUBLIC	55	3
77	69	65	<b>Stay A Little Longer</b>	J. JOYCE (J. OSBORNE, T. J. OSBORNE, S. MCANALLY)	Brothers Osborne	EMI NASHVILLE	65	9
89	85	66	<b>Me, Myself &amp; I</b>	M. KEANE, C. ANDERSSON (G. CILLUM, M. KEANE, N. C. ANDERSSON, L. E. WARD, S. BARNES, B. KOHN, J. B. REXHA)	G-Eazy x Bebe Rexha	G-EAZY/RYG/BBG/RCA	66	5
57	56	67	<b>Downtown</b>	R. LEVINS, B. HAGGERTY, R. LEWIS, S. NALLY, J. KARP, J. RAWLINGS, J. BUTTNER, K. O'ROURKE, B. BARNES, J. HAGGERTY, D. ASPLUND)	Macklemore & Ryan Lewis Feat. Eric Nally, Melle Mel, Koolhae Dee & Grandmaster Caz	MACKLEMORE/WARNER BROS.	12	15
76	75	68	<b>Big Rings</b>	METRO BOOMIN (A. GRAHAM, N. DWILBURN, L. WAYNE)	Drake & Future	A/H/FREEBANDZ/YOUNG MONEY/CASH MONEY/EPIC/REPUBLIC	52	11
-	22	69	<b>When We Were Young</b>	A. RECHTSCHAID (A. ADKINS, T. FESSO, JR.)	Adele	XL/COLUMBIA	22	2
99	83	70	<b>My House</b>	J. CARLSON (T. DILLARD, J. CARLSON, R. GOLAN, J. M. DORRER, R. HAMMOND)	Flo Rida	POE BOY/ATLANTIC	70	4
56	59	71	<b>Smoke Break</b>	J. JOYCE (C. UNDERWOOD, C. DESTEFANO, H. LINDSEY)	Carrie Underwood	19/ARISTA NASHVILLE	43	15
93	86	72	<b>Cake By The Ocean</b>	M. LARSSON, R. FREDRIKSSON (R. FREDRIKSSON, M. LARSSON, I. TRANTER, J. ONAS)	DNCE	REPUBLIC	72	7
68	67	73	<b>Back To Back</b>	D. AXZ, N. S. HEBB, D. DRAKE (A. GRAHAM, J. CARTER, N. J. SHEBIB)	Drake	YOUNG MONEY/CASH MONEY/REPUBLIC	21	18
43	62	74	<b>Purpose</b>	POOH BEAR, J. NYDER, S. JAMES (J. BIBBER, J. BOYD, S. PHILLIPS, E. WARES, J. NYDER, S. BRAUN)	Justin Bieber	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	43	3
70	65	75	<b>Strip It Down</b>	J. STEVENS, J. STEVENS (L. BRYAN, J. M. NITER, C. COPPERMAN)	Luke Bryan	CAPITOL NASHVILLE	30	18
65	64	76	<b>Come Get Her</b>	M. KE WILL MADE IT-A (A. S. BROWN, K. J. BROWN, M. WILLIAMS, A. HOGAN)	Rae Sremmurd	EARLUMA/INTERSCOPE	56	12
82	81	77	<b>I Got The Boy</b>	S. HENDRICKS (T. NICHOLS, C. HARRINGTON, J. L. SPEARS)	Jana Kramer	ELEKTRA NASHVILLE/WAR	77	8
85	82	78	<b>Top Of The World</b>	B. GALLIMORE, T. MCGRAW (J. ROBBINS, J. M. NITEL, J. OSBORNE)	Tim McGraw	MCGRAW/BIG MACHINE	78	8
92	88	79	<b>I Love This Life</b>	L. RIMES, P. BRUST, C. LUCAS (D. MYRICK, C. J. ANSON, C. LUCAS, P. BRUST)	LoCash	REVIVER	79	6
42	60	80	<b>Mark My Words</b>	BLOODPOP (J. BIBBER, J. BOYD, M. TUCKER)	Justin Bieber	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	42	3



5

**THE WEEKND**  
The Hills

**The Weeknd's former No. 1 "The Hills" holds at No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100. The Toronto native's smash is one of seven in the top 10 by Canadians. He is joined in the region by Justin Bieber (three hits), Drake, Shawn Mendes and Alessia Cara (one each). The sum isn't a record for one country, however. Americans have monopolized the entire top 10, and on the May 8, 1965 chart, British acts — including The Beatles and The Rolling Stones — held eight slots. (See page 52 for more on The Weeknd and Drake's Canadian invasion.)** —G.T.

THE WEEKND: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES; ADELE: HENNING KAISER/AP IMAGES; PSY: JUNG YEON-IL/GETTY IMAGES

2 Weeks Ago	Last Week	This Week	Title	CERTIFICATION PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist	IMPRINT/PROMOTION LABEL	Peak Position	Weeks On Chart
63	76	81	<b>Blase</b>	DRUDDICK (T. GRIFFIN, JR., N. DWILBURN, A. J. S. BROWN, K. J. BROWN, G. HILL)	Ty Dolla \$ign Feat. Future & Rae Sremmurd	ATLANTIC	63	12
79	84	82	<b>Liquor</b>	A. STITH, THE AQUARIUS (C. M. BROWN, A. STITH, O. SAMPSON)	Chris Brown	RCA	60	14
53	73	83	<b>Company</b>	A. XIDENT, B. G. TASTE, POOH BEAR, CLAUDIUS (J. BIBBER, J. BOYD, J. ABRAHART, A. SCHULLER, T. ROESEN, J. WONG, L. CLAWBETH)	Justin Bieber	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	53	3
-	97	84	<b>Home Alone Tonight</b>	J. STEVENS, J. STEVENS (J. STEVENS, C. TAYLOR, L. DREYER, T. CECELI)	Luke Bryan Feat. Karen Fairchild	CAPITOL NASHVILLE	84	2
-	91	85	<b>Stand By You</b>	J. LEVINE (R. PLATTEN, J. ANTONOFF, J. WILLIAMS, J. LEVINE, M. MORRIS)	Rachel Platten	COLUMBIA	85	3
-	98	86	<b>SG Best Friend</b>	RICKY RACKS (J. WILLIAMS, H. HARRIS, B. BALOGUN, S. MCHUGH, R. ROBINSON, K. O. ASUGHA)	Young Thug	300/ATLANTIC	86	2
<b>NEW</b>		87	<b>Down In The DM</b>	B. BENLIONS, SCHIFE (M. MIMS, K. M. KHALED, B. DIEHL, J. LEVINS)	Yo Gotti	COCAINE MUZIK/EPIC	87	1
49	74	88	<b>No Pressure</b>	THE ALDIBILES, POOH BEAR (J. BIBBER, J. BOYD, D. JORDAN, J. GIANNOS, S. M. ANDERSON)	Justin Bieber Feat. Big Sean	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	49	3
<b>NEW</b>		89	<b>One Call Away</b>	D. FRANK, E. M. PRIME (J. FRANKS, S. CARTER, M. A. MCDONALD, B. S. ISAAC, C. PUTH, J. M. PRIME)	Charlie Puth	ARTIST PARTNERS GROUP/ATLANTIC	89	1
54	78	90	<b>No Sense</b>	S. OUND, Z. M. G. DEAN (J. BIBBER, J. BOYD, K. COBY, J. W. BESTER, M. G. DEAN)	Justin Bieber Feat. Travis Scott	SCHOOLBOY/RAYMOND BRAUN/DEF JAM	54	3
-	94	91	<b>Dibs</b>	F. G. WHITEHEAD, J. MASSEY (K. BALLERINI, J. KERR, R. GRIFFIN, L. DUKE)	Kelsea Ballerini	BLACK RIVER	90	5
<b>NEW</b>		92	<b>I'd Just Love To Lay You Down</b>	B. APPLEBERRY (J. MACRAE)	Barrett Baber	REPUBLIC	92	1
91	92	93	<b>Right Hand</b>	V. NYLZ, F. RANK, DUKES (A. GRAHAM, A. HERVANDIZ, A. FEENY, V. G. LINESBERG, K. BRYANT)	Drake	YOUNG MONEY/CASH MONEY/REPUBLIC	58	12
-	99	94	<b>Play No Games</b>	KEY WANE, J. HENRY (S. M. ANDERSON, D. M. W. BRILL, J. M. JOHNSON, C. M. BROWN, T. GRIFFIN, R. T. GATLING, G. GRIFFIN, A. HALL III, E. TRILEY)	Big Sean Feat. Chris Brown & Ty Dolla \$ign	GOOD/DEF JAM	84	5
<b>RE-ENTRY</b>		95	<b>Irresistible</b>	B. WALKER, J. SINCLAIR (FALL OUT BOY)	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/ISLAND/REPUBLIC	77	3
<b>RE-ENTRY</b>		96	<b>New Americana</b>	LIDO (A. FRANGIPANE, L. PRINCIPATO, C. LUBER, J. M. TUMITE)	Halsey	ASTRALWERKS/CAPITOL	87	10
<b>NEW</b>		97	<b>Daddy</b>	Y. GUN-HYUNG, FUTURE BOUNCE (I. S. PARK, TEDDY, D. REGIACORTE, J. LIA COUES, M. DRION, W. ADAMS, Y. GUN-HYUNG, FUTURE BOUNCE)	PSY Feat. CL	YG	97	1
<b>NEW</b>		98	<b>Girls Just Want To Have Fun</b>	B. APPLEBERRY (R. HAZARD)	Madi Davis	REPUBLIC	98	1
80	90	99	<b>Let Me See Ya Girl</b>	M. CARTER (C. SWINDELL, M. CARTER, J. STEVENS)	Cole Swindell	WARNER BROS. NASHVILLE/WMN	59	18
<b>RE-ENTRY</b>		100	<b>Already Callin' You Mine</b>	N. V. (M. THOMAS, S. THOMAS, B. KNOX, P. O'DONNELL, W. KIRBY)	Parmalee	STONEY CREEK	96	2



69

**ADELE**  
When We Were Young

As "Hello" crowns the Hot 100 for a sixth week, fellow 25 ballad "When We Were Young" makes moves, debuting at No. 34 on the Adult Top 40 airplay chart.



97

**PSY**  
Daddy

The South Korean singer-rapper, who broke through with the No. 2 smash "Gangnam Style" in 2012, returns. His new single also starts at No. 6 on Hot Dance/Electronic Songs.

THE WEEK'S MOST POPULAR CURRENT SONGS ACROSS ALL GENRES, RANKED BY RADIO AIRPLAY AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS AS MEASURED BY RADIO AIRPLAY AUDIENCE IMPRESSIONS, SALES DATA AS COMPILED BY NIELSEN MUSIC AND STREAMING ACTIVITY DATA BY ONLINE MUSIC SOURCES TRACKED BY NIELSEN MUSIC. SONGS ARE DEFINED AS CURRENT IF THEY ARE NEWLY RELEASED TITLES, OR SONGS RECEIVING WIDESPREAD AIRPLAY AND/OR SALES ACTIVITY FOR THE FIRST TIME. SEE CHARTS.LEGEND@BILLBOARD.COM FOR COMPLETE RULES AND EXPLANATIONS. © 2015, PROMETHEUS GLOBAL MEDIA, LLC AND NIELSEN MUSIC, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

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## **TAYLOR SWIFT**

#1 TOP ARTIST OF THE YEAR • #1 TOP FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR • #1 HOT AC ARTIST • #1 ADULT TOP 40 ARTIST • #1 DANCE/MIX SHOW AIRPLAY ARTIST • #1 DIGITAL SONGS ARTIST • #1 RADIO SONGS ARTIST • #1 SOCIAL 50 ARTIST • #1 MAINSTREAM TOP 40 ARTIST • #1 BILLBOARD 200 ARTIST • #1 TOP ALBUM SALES ARTIST • #1 BILLBOARD 200 ALBUM – 1989 • #1 TOP ALBUM SALES – 1989 • #1 TOP CURRENT ALBUMS – 1989 • #1 INTERNET ALBUMS – 1989

## **FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE**

#1 COUNTRY AIRPLAY ARTIST • #2 TOP COUNTRY DUO/GROUP OF THE YEAR • #5 HOT COUNTRY SONGS ARTIST • #3 COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS ARTIST • #4 COUNTRY DIGITAL SONGS ARTIST • #4 HOT COUNTRY STREAMING SONG OF THE YEAR "THIS IS HOW WE ROLL" • #5 TOP DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR • #5 TOP COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR

## **ZAC BROWN BAND\***

#1 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP • #2 TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS ARTIST • #3 TOP COUNTRY ARTIST OF THE YEAR • #3 INTERNET ALBUMS – JEKYLL + HYDE

\*SOUTHERN GROUND/BMLG/REPUBLIC/JOHN VARVATOS RECORDS

## **THOMAS RHETT**

#3 HOT COUNTRY SONGS ARTIST • #4 COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS ARTIST • #5 COUNTRY DIGITAL SONGS ARTIST • #5 HOT COUNTRY SONG OF YEAR "CRASH AND BURN"

## **REBA**

#5 TOP COUNTRY FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

## **MADDIE & TAE**

#3 TOP COUNTRY NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR • #4 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

## **A THOUSAND HORSES**

#4 TOP COUNTRY NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR • #5 TOP COUNTRY DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

*Thanks to all of our incredible artists and partners  
for making our 10th anniversary year one for the history books!*



## 'Hello'... And Goodbye

**T**HERE ARE FEW REAL SURPRISES in music anymore. Sure, the success of a Fetty Wap or OMI carry little forewarning, but with much of the money boiled out of retail and streaming offering up-to-the-moment tracking, it's not as easy for success to sneak up on the industry.

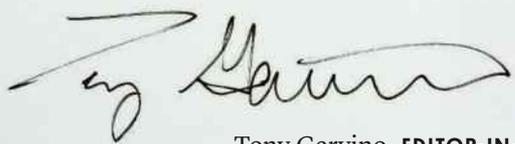
For example, we all knew Nicki Minaj's *The Pinkprint* would explode after listening to its furious mixture of rap and pop — with Minaj's skilled rhymes slicing through its rhythms. And you would've had to have been locked in a basement not to forecast that Taylor Swift would earn the highest-grossing tour of the year — especially since she turned every night into her own private variety show.

And clearly, everyone anticipated that Adele's return would top the charts. But the size and scope of her triumph? That has overwhelmed even the most critical of thinkers. The fact that an artist could still create a run on physical copies is nothing less than astonishing. And whereas other recent "big" launches (none within miles of Adele) were load-carrying affairs, where the performers behind them really hustled promoting their product, the introspective Londoner did the equivalent of inviting the world in for a cup of tea. The music did the rest.

The other big surprise in this, our annual "No. 1s" issue, is that we would even still be talking about One Direction, which, after five years on top, announced it was going on hiatus (a Latin term for "breaking up"), this despite leaving in the midst of a creative growth spurt.

You can generally judge where a boy band is in its life cycle by the number of tattoos decorating its members. When Zayn Malik left earlier this year, 1D's tattoo quotient was seriously downgraded, making it only a matter of time for the group.

But the news that the boys would actually outgrow the genre, in Timberlake-ian fashion, and leave for what some members are hoping are greener pastures? Well, actually everyone saw that coming. ●



Tony Gervino, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



One Direction photographed backstage at the Billboard Music Awards on May 17 at the MGM Grand Garden Casino in Las Vegas. Clockwise from left: Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles.

# SLAM

## ARTIST DEVELOPMENT 2015



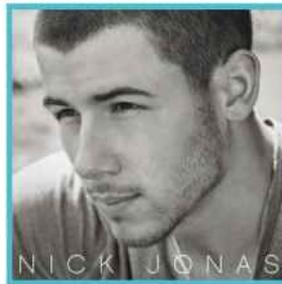
SHAWN MENDES

HANDWRITTEN  
1 MILLION ADJUSTED ALBUMS  
STITCHES 3X PLATINUM  
**#1 @ TOP 40 RADIO**  
LIFE OF THE PARTY PLATINUM  
SOMETHING BIG PLATINUM



TOVE LO

QUEEN OF THE CLOUDS  
1 MILLION ADJUSTED ALBUMS  
1 BILLION STREAMS  
HABITS 3X PLATINUM  
**#1 @ TOP 40 RADIO**  
TALKING BODY 2X PLATINUM



NICK JONAS

NICK JONAS  
1 MILLION ADJUSTED ALBUMS  
JEALOUS 3X PLATINUM  
**#1 @ TOP 40 RADIO**  
CHAINS PLATINUM  
LEVELS GOLD



FALL OUT BOY

AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO  
2 MILLION ADJUSTED ALBUMS  
CENTURIES 4X PLATINUM  
UMA THURMAN 2X PLATINUM  
IRRISISTIBLE 1X PLATINUM



DEMI LOVATO

COOL FOR THE SUMMER PLATINUM  
CONFIDENT GOLD

THANK YOU RADIO AND OUR PARTNERS AT REPUBLIC

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Volume 127 / No. 38

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### TO OUR READERS

*Billboard* will publish its next issue on Dec. 26. For 24/7 music coverage, go to [Billboard.com](http://Billboard.com).

### ON THE COVER

Nicki Minaj photographed by David Needleman on Nov. 23 at Milk Studios in Los Angeles.

### CORRECTION

In the Dec. 12 issue, Atlantic Records chairman/COO Julie Greenwald was misidentified as co-chairman. William Morris Endeavor's Samantha Kirby Yoh was incorrectly identified as co-head of WME's music division. She is a partner and manages the agency's New York music team.

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And congratulate all the other executives on Billboard's  
"Women In Music 2015:  
The 50 Most Powerful Executives in the Industry" list.

Doug Morris and Sony Music



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for a historic year.

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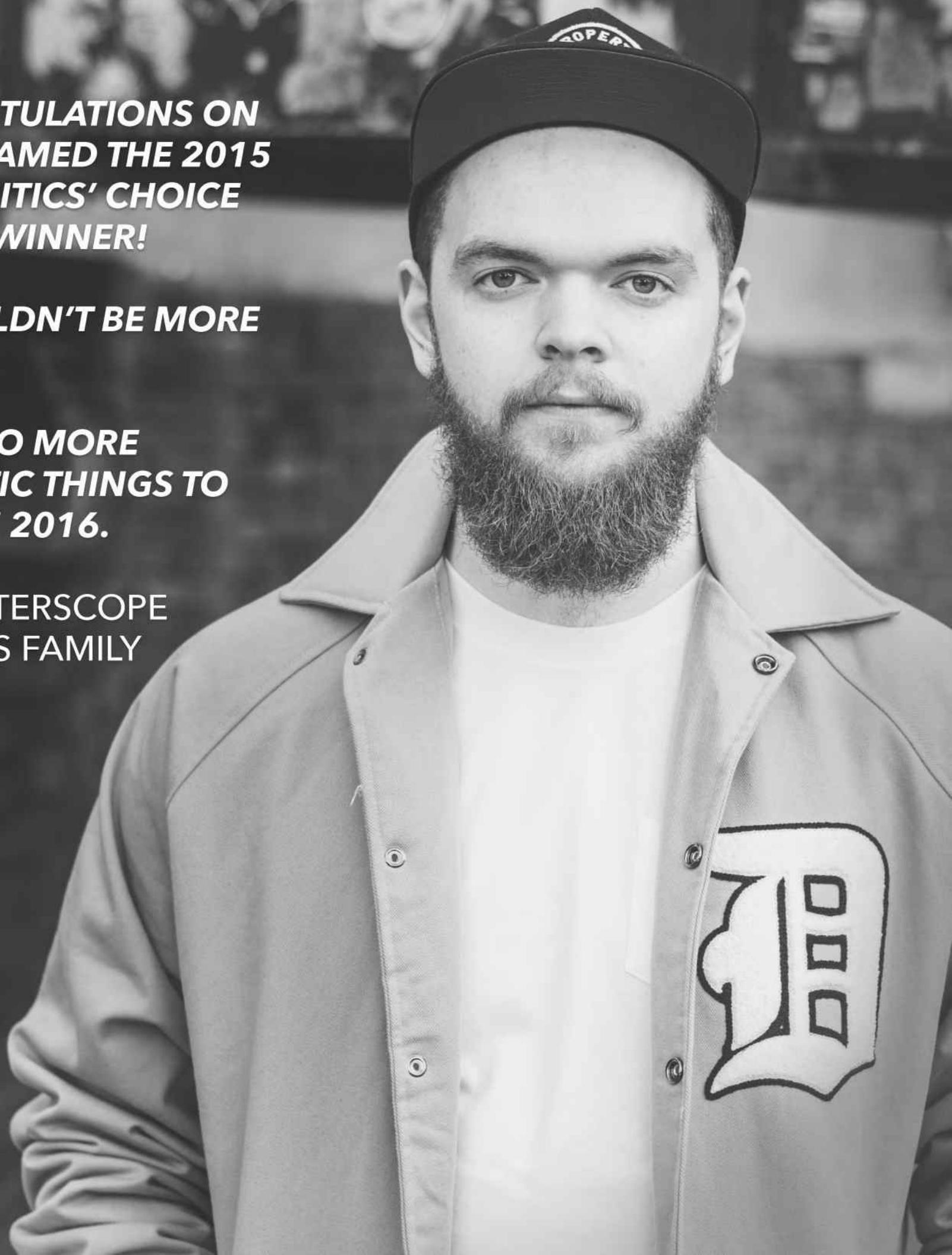
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be lamenting the closing of this chapter, which has awarded a couple of dozen major-label deals in addition to many more starts and stops. Although recording advances for *Idol* finalists long ago stabilized (the \$400,000 paydays of the **Taylor Hicks** era now come in closer to \$150,000), the investment in taking an act beyond its momentary TV fan base is still steep — and rarely pays off.

So what can the music business take away from the 15-year run of *American Idol*? Did the show rewrite the A&R rule book, for better (**Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson, Chris Daughtry, Adam Lambert**) or worse (the nonstarter victors of seasons 12, 13 and maybe 14)? **Jeff Rabhan**, chairman of New York University's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music and a former manager of Idols **Clarkson, Clay Aiken** and **Elliott Yamin**, says the show mirrored what already was happening in the music industry. "Scouting gave way to research-based A&R," he says. "Plays, chatter and views dictate who's the next 'discovery.'"

Still, the results were mixed even on the higher-rated seasons, averaging at

best one successful graduate from each successive *Idol* class — a better track record than *The Voice*, but the NBC competitor would argue it similarly boosted its coaches' profiles. (Meanwhile, *Idol* judge **Jennifer Lopez** is set to simultaneously launch a Las Vegas show in January 2016, while **Harry Connick Jr.** will host his own syndicated daytime talker in September.)

Big Machine Records' **Scott Borchetta**, who has served as in-house mentor on *Idol* since season 14, describes the show's impact as "a big door that is unfortunately slamming shut," but points to opportunities in other areas of the music business, like songwriting and featured slots. Indeed, Idols have been known to appear in the most unexpected places — recently, season-six top 12 finalist **Brandon Rogers** scored a credit on **Troye Sivan**'s Capitol Records debut, while season-six winner **Jordin Sparks** guests on **Thomas Rhett**'s new album, *Tangled Up*.

But almost as common are the ones that got away. For instance: Season eight's **Todrick Hall** never advanced beyond the

### THE IDOL WITH THE MOST...

The show's alumni make their presence known on the charts, web and Broadway

#### ALBUM SALES

With 15.7 million albums sold (according to Nielsen Music) since winning season four, **Carrie Underwood** is the ultimate *Idol* success story. Her secret? "The right records," says Urban.



**BILLBOARD NO. 1s**  
Season-one winner **Kelly Clarkson** rules the charts, having topped 98 tallies (counting all national, domestic music charts compiled by *Billboard*) since her debut in 2002.

#### DIGITAL SONG DOWNLOADS

**Phillip Phillips'** "Home" is *Idol*'s biggest download hit (5.4 million sold in the United States), partly thanks to the U.S. Olympic Women's Gymnastics team, who used it as an anthem.



**YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS**  
**Todrick Hall** didn't make the top 12 in season eight, but thanks to his over-the-top videos, he reigns supreme on YouTube, with 1.9 million subscribers to his official channel.

#### BROADWAY ROLES

*The Great White Way* belongs to season-one runner-up **Justin Guarini**, who has landed roles in Broadway productions of *American Idiot*, *Wicked* and *Romeo & Juliet*, among others.



top 24 but has since landed management by **Scooter Braun** and his own MTV series. Also in the Braun universe is season-nine reject **Tori Kelly**, who, according to multiple insiders, then-judge **Simon Cowell** tried to sign to his own Syco Entertainment just as he was about to bolt the show for a competing series, *The X Factor*, on the same network. "If ever there was a sure winner, it was **Tori Kelly**," says one show veteran.

Celebrating scandals alongside accolades is *de rigueur* in the United Kingdom, where the *Idol* concept originated, but will producers go there for its last victory lap? **Nigel Lythgoe**, who has been brought in to helm *American Idol*'s two-night finale, will only say that "it won't all be a nostalgia fest ... We've still got to crown the 15th winner."

And don't rule out an afterlife on a digital network like Hulu or Netflix. Says Kinane: "We haven't seen the end of this brand." Judge **Keith Urban**, for one, is all for it. "I'd love to see if the show can be restructured and continue forward with relevancy and potency in a rapidly changing industry," he says. "Everybody knows *American Idol*." ●

## Grammy Nominations By The Numbers

A selection of striking statistics in advance of the big show, which takes place Feb. 15 in Los Angeles



From left: West, Lamar and Trainor

2

Album of the year nominees managed by Red Light Management (Alabama Shakes, Chris Stapleton)

1

Number of 2016 best new artist nominees previously nominated for a Grammy (Meghan Trainor)

3

Number of genres in which Kendrick Lamar received his nominations (pop, rap, dance)

19/25

Number of writers/publishers credited on best rap performance nominee Kanye West's "All Day"

205

Number of nominations claimed by indie labels (according to the American Association of Independent Music)

2

Number of nominated albums originally released as mixtapes (Drake, Kehlani)

25

Average age of the best new artist nominees

60

Average age of the best traditional pop vocal album nominees

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FROM THE DESK OF

EXECUTIVE VP, PMK\*BNC

# Kristen Foster

Just in time for Grammy season: the PR maven on handling today's press crises and how to plant an effective leak

BY MELINDA NEWMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRISTOPHER PATEY

**B**EFORE HEADING TO HER office at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood every morning, **Kristen Foster**, executive vp and head of the music department for communications and marketing firm PMK\*BNC, clears her head by catching some waves. "I love surfing more than anything," says the New Jersey native, who first learned to hang ten on vacation in Costa Rica a decade ago.

No wonder: It might be the only solitude she gets all day. Since joining PMK\*BNC in 2007 — first in New York and, since 2011, in Los Angeles — Foster has overseen press for such giants as **Eric Clapton**, **Jeff Lynne**, **Tim McGraw**, **Faith Hill** and **Harry Connick Jr.**, as well as newcomers like **Twenty One Pilots**, **Austin Mahone** and **Fifth Harmony**. Other high-profile clients include Live Nation, AEG, the **Dave Grohl**-fronted projects *Sound City* and *Sonic Highways* (with Nasty Little Man's **Steve Martin**) and **John Mayer** and **Dead & Company**, who play Los Angeles' Forum on Dec. 30 and 31.

"Kristen has proven herself to be a great leader and a visionary strategist," says PMK\*BNC co-chairman/CEO **Cindi Berger**. Foster talked to *Billboard* about managing her seven-person department, press in the digital age and working with **Whitney Houston**, **R. Kelly** and **Adele Dazeem**, aka **Idina Menzel**.

**It's Grammy season. What's the last thing you check before a client steps onto the red carpet?** That their outfit is put together, they don't have lipstick or spinach on their teeth, that kind of thing. It's a

basic physical check because those photos run everywhere. I was just at a carpet with **Jennifer Nettles** and had to give her a once-over to make sure her dress, which was a lower cut, covered everything. As far as the content, we will have gone over key messages and reminders before they get out of the car.

**What was the thinking behind the firm's moves into touring PR?** It's reflective of what's going on with our artists who make their money in touring and maybe less so in recorded music. Live entertainment is something we want to be a part of.

**Your roster includes John Mayer, an early Twitter adopter, and many younger acts who grew up in the social media age. How do you advise them on discretion?** No different than what I would have said a decade ago when social media didn't exist: If you do not want to see it on the front page of tomorrow's newspaper, don't say it,



1



"Now we're our own A&R department," says Foster, photographed Dec. 2 at the PMK\*BNC office in West Hollywood. "We listen to demos and look at YouTube clips and ask if there's star potential or a story we can tell."

don't post it, don't do it.

**You had to confirm Whitney Houston's death the night of Clive Davis' 2012 Grammy party. What was on your mind then?** I am here to do a job. The greatest way to honor her and help [members of Houston's] family, was to get them through that time.



2

**1** The Al Merrick longboard was a gift from pro surfer Timmy Curran after the launch of his album *Verses*. Foster often surfs with Curran, primarily in Ventura County, Calif. "If you're going to learn to surf, learn from a pro!" says Foster. **2** Foster keeps Todd Oldham's book on longtime client Joan Jett on her credenza "to remind me of her epic journey as a woman in rock'n'roll."

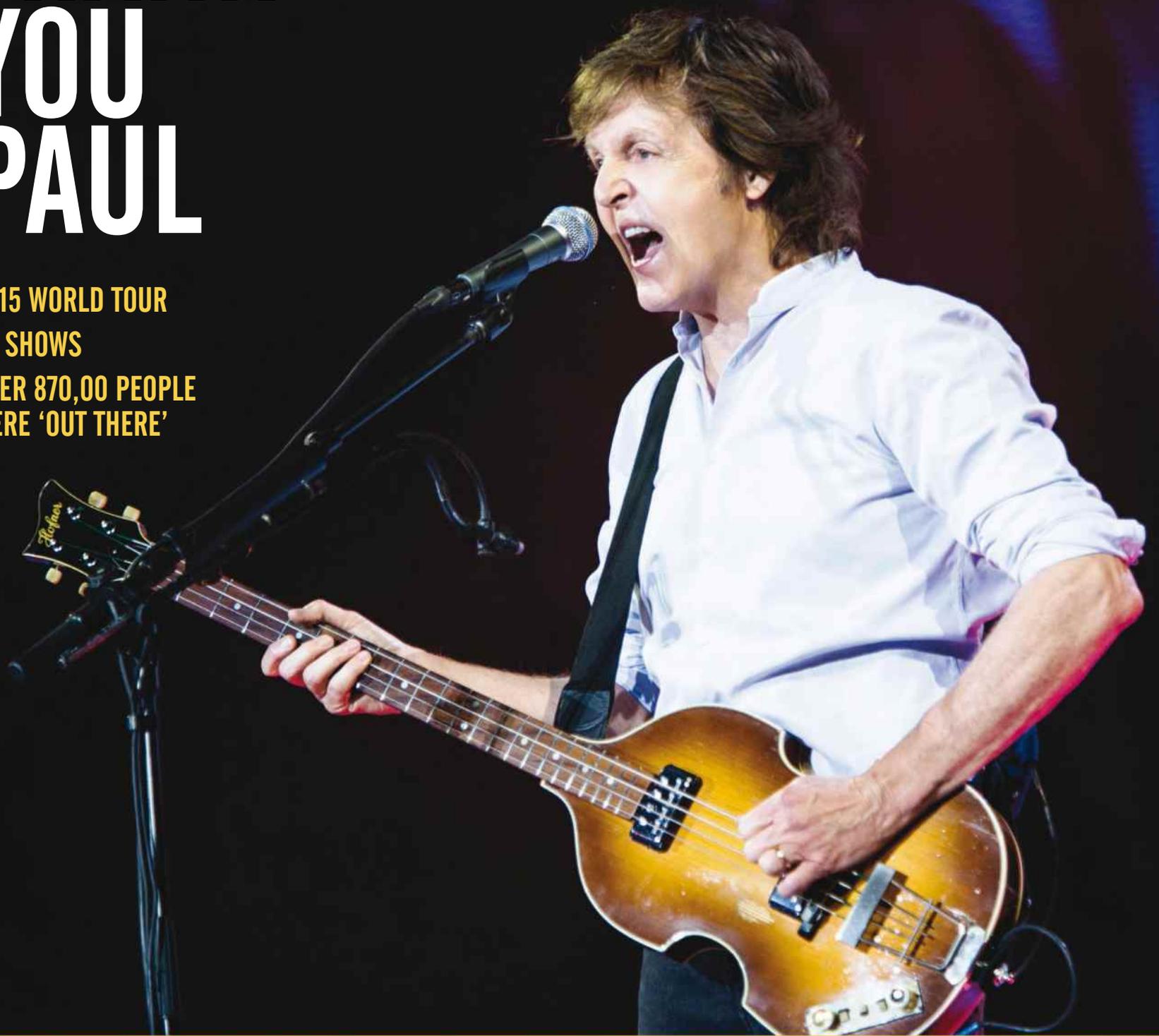
**R. Kelly was a client for years. How did you deal with writers who couldn't get past his alleged sexual misconduct?** By knowing a journalist's sensibilities in any given direction. We had to figure out who were the champions and who were the haters. And he certainly has both.

**How did you handle John Travolta mangling Idina Menzel's name at the 2014 Oscars?** Publicity is a reflection of the artist. She has a wonderful spirit and was laughing as she came offstage, so our campaign had a sense of humor about it. A year later, they walked out arm in arm [at the Oscars].

**Can you give an example of an effective info leak?** We took on **New Kids on the Block** [in 2008]. Their manager **Jared Paul** said, "We know the fans are out there, but are they *really* out there?" So we leaked to *People* that they might be reuniting and it crashed the servers on a Friday night. We said, "All right. This is going to work." ●

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23/05 The O2 London, UK  
24/05 The O2 London, UK

27/05 Barclaycard Arena Birmingham, UK  
28/05 Echo Arena Liverpool, UK  
05/06 Nouveau Stade Velodrome Marseille, France  
07/06 ZiggoDome Amsterdam, Holland  
08/06 ZiggoDome Amsterdam, Holland  
11/06 Stade De France Paris, France  
19/06 Firefly Music Festival Dover, USA  
21/06 Wells Fargo Arena Philadelphia, USA  
23/06 John Paul Jones Arena Charlottesville, USA  
25/06 Colonial Life Arena Columbia, USA

04/07 Roskilde Festival Roskilde, Denmark  
07/07 Telenor Arena Oslo, Norway  
09/07 Tele2 Arena Stockholm, Sweden  
31/07 Lollapalooza Chicago, USA  
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NOTED



Remi Romulus (right) with big sister Ryan Romulus.

11-30 →

Industry Public Relations managing partner **Tracy Nguyen Romulus** and her husband, **The Stereotypes** music producer **Ray Romulus**, welcomed baby girl **Remi Romulus**, at 7 lbs., 4 oz.

12-02 →

**Emeli Sande** launched Jupiter Management in partnership with Roc Nation.



Sande

12-03 →

Detroit Institute of Music Education named producer/label executive **Don Was** to its board of directors.

12-06 →

**Brian Fair**, owner of defunct record store St. Marks Sounds in New York, died after a brief hospitalization.

12-04 →

Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay purchased **Ringo Starr's** first Ludwig drum set at auction for \$1.75 million.

12-05 →

**Ronnie Spector** signed with 429 Records.

**Darcy Miller Lashinsky**, formerly of Warner Bros. Records, RCA and Outback Concerts and the wife of Nashville-based independent promoter **Darin Lashinsky**, died suddenly of unknown causes.

12-06 →

**Kanye West** and his wife, **Kim Kardashian**, welcomed baby boy **Saint West**, weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz.

Nashville actress/singer **Clare Bowen** confirmed her engagement to singer-songwriter **Brandon Robert Young**.



Starr's drum kit

12-07 →

**Marque "Tate" Lynche Jr.**, a former member of the revamped *Mickey Mouse Club* and an alum of *American Idol's* third season, was found dead in his New York apartment. He was 34.

Actress and transgender icon **Holly Woodlawn**, one of **Andy Warhol's** "superstars" who was immortalized in **Lou Reed's** "Walk on the Wild Side," died after a battle with brain and liver cancer. She was 69.

Sony/ATV announced worldwide publishing deals with pop-bachata singer **Leslie Grace** and **Calle 13** frontman **Rene Perez**, aka **Residente**.



Grace

**Rolling Stones** guitarist **Ron Wood**, 68, announced that he is expecting twins with his wife, **Sally Humphreys**.

**Ocean MacAdams**, formerly of MSG Networks and MTV, joined GoPro as vp original productions.



MacAdams

12-08 →

Pandora inked a multiyear licensing deal with SONGS Music Publishing.

12-09 →

Capitol Music Group announced that Harvest Records GMs **Piero Giramonti** and **Jacqueline Saturn** will serve in expanded roles as GMs of its independent-services division Caroline.

12-10 →

Fort William Artist Management brought in three new managers: **Aja Pecknold** (Fleet Foxes), **Nicky Berger** (Grouplove) and **Dave Godowsky** (Speedy Ortiz).

BIRTHDAYS

- |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Dec. 12</b><br>Dionne Warwick (75) | <b>Dec. 15</b><br>Tim Reynolds (58) |
| <b>Dec. 13</b><br>Taylor Swift (26)   | <b>Dec. 16</b><br>Paul van Dyk (44) |
| Amy Lee (34)                          | Tracy Byrd (49)                     |
| Tom DeLonge (40)                      | <b>Dec. 18</b>                      |
| Tom Verlaine (66)                     | Christina Aguilera (35)             |
| Ted Nugent (67)                       | DMX (45)                            |
| <b>Dec. 14</b><br>Tori Kelly (23)     | Alejandro Sanz (47)                 |
|                                       | Keith Richards (72)                 |

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07 KINGSHOLM STADIUM Gloucester, UK

10 MOTORPOINT ARENA Cardiff, UK

13 BANKS'S STADIUM Walsall, UK

14 WESTMORLAND COUNTY SHOWGROUND Kendal, UK

19 THE SSE HYDRO Glasgow, UK

20 OUTDOOR ARENA, AECC Aberdeen, UK



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IN MEMORIAM

# Scott Weiland

The singer, who died Dec. 4 at age 48, is remembered by David Ritz, who co-authored his memoir

In 2005, Scott Weiland invited me to meet him at The Viper Room in Los Angeles. He was looking for a writer to help him craft a memoir. He exuded an enigmatic charisma, tremendous natural charm and a deep intelligence.

I got the gig, and we became friends. What wasn't easy, though, was getting Scott to focus on the book. Separated from Stone Temple Pilots, he had recently reinvented himself with Velvet Revolver. Success, though, was always problematic.

"When I succeed I'm overwhelmed with contradictory emotions," he said. "The dangerous part is that it makes me feel entitled to reward myself with whatever I want."

In lieu of working on the book, we attended 12-step meetings. Yet the chaotic pattern of Scott's career and the rigorous demands of recovery were always at odds. He fell out with Velvet Revolver. He rejoined Stone Temple Pilots for a record and tour that ended in rancor and misunderstanding. He put out a second solo release and toured, all the while falling in and out of one rehab or another.

Meanwhile, our book was four years overdue. I had one last plan: that we go away for a couple of weeks. He agreed and said his remote cabin in Washington State would be perfect.

It was. The rural solitude did Scott a world of good. For two weeks, there was

only the crisp mountain air and long days during which he sought to understand the dizzying complexities that formed his character. That character was one of essential goodness. Scott openheartedly sought love. He also sought to be an attentive and loving father to his children, Noah and Lucy, whom he adored. He sought ultimate reconciliation with his former wives and former bandmates. He yearned for simple domestic happiness but feared that, given his untamed soul, such happiness could never be his.

Back in Los Angeles, listening to our conversations, I was struck by how often and insightfully Scott spoke of death. He was intrigued by John Keats' *Ode to a Nightingale*, in which the poet wrote, "I have been half in love with easeful death."

"Is death the muse?" asked Scott, reflecting on the poem. "Is rock the nightingale? Are opiates the key to unlocking the magical kingdom where colorful flowers fade to black? Why should anyone be drawn to such a kingdom? I don't know — except that the pull is visceral. It may also be an act of self-loathing or anger in which the promise of death shadows us from those first fresh moments of birth.

"To relive those first fresh moments," said Scott Weiland, "that's what my music, my art and my life are all about."

Not Dead & Not for Sale: A Memoir was published by Scribner in 2011.



Weiland in Park City, Utah, on Jan. 24.

## REMEMBERING A STAR

"Scott might be loud or quiet, sober or stoned, angry or sweet, but he was always painfully earnest."

— Danny Goldberg, former president of Atlantic Records

"We had our differences, but the wave of emotions you feel is more like [losing] a family member."

— Matt Sorum, Velvet Revolver

"His demons have been well-publicized, but his incredible musical legacy will be remembered for many years to come."

— Craig Kallman, chairman/CEO, Atlantic Records

"STP's third album got me hooked. I confessed to Scott, as well as the band many times, how wrong I'd [initially] been in assessing their native brilliance."

— Billy Corgan

"Scott was a brilliant artist who never fully got the respect he deserved. I hope his death causes people to revisit his work."

— Angelica Cob-Baehler, former publicist

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## FEBRUARY 2015

05 ZIGGO DOME Amsterdam, Netherlands  
07 KOPI ARENA Oberhausen, Germany  
08 TUI ARENA Hannover, Germany  
10 NURNBERG ARENA Nurnberg, Germany  
11 SCHLEYERHALLE Stuttgart, Germany  
13 MEDIOLANUMFORUM Milan, Italy  
14 STADTHALLE Vienna, Austria  
16 FESTHALLE Frankfurt, Germany  
17 O2 WORLD BERLIN Berlin, Germany  
19 O2 WORLD HAMBURG Hamburg, Germany  
21 FALCONER SALEN Copenhagen, Denmark  
22 ERICSSON GLOBE Stockholm, Sweden  
24 LANXESS ARENA Koln, Germany  
28 MANCHESTER ARENA Manchester, UK

## MARCH 2015

01 THE O2 London, UK  
04 FIRST DIRECT ARENA Leeds, UK  
06 THE SSE HYDRO Glasgow, UK

07 METRO RADIO ARENA Newcastle, UK  
10 ODYSSEY ARENA Belfast, UK  
11 3ARENA Dublin, Ireland  
13 ECHO ARENA Liverpool, UK  
14 BARCLAYCARD ARENA Birmingham, UK  
16 MOTORPOINT ARENA Cardiff, UK  
17 CAPITAL FM ARENA Nottingham, UK  
19 SPORTPALEIS Antwerp, Belgium  
21 SPORTING CLUB Monte Carlo, Monaco  
23 HALLENSTADION Zurich, Switzerland  
24 OLYMPIAHALLE Munich, Germany  
26 ARENA LEIPZIG Leipzig, Germany  
27 ROCKHAL Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
29 LE ZENITH Paris, France  
31 THE O2 London, UK

## JUNE 2015

19 SCHLOSSPLATZ MÜNSTER Münster, Germany  
22 KURPARK CLASSIX Aachen, Germany

27 LIVE AT THE MARQUEE Cork, Ireland  
28 GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL Pilton, UK

## JULY 2015

01 BLUETONE FESTIVAL Straubing, Germany  
03 ST PETER AT SUNSET Kestenholz, Switzerland  
04 STADTWERKE FEST Potsdam, Germany  
07 LIVE AT SUNSET Zurich, Switzerland  
09 HENLEY FESTIVAL Henley, UK  
11 MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL Montreux, Switzerland  
12 NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL Rotterdam, Holland  
15 STIMMEN FESTIVAL Loerrach, Germany  
16 JAZZ A JUAN Brittany, France  
19 VIELLES CHARRUES FESTIVAL Antibes, France  
20 ARACHON EN SCENE Arachon, France  
22 EDINBURGH CASTLE Edinburgh, UK  
24 SALEM CASTLE Salem, Germany  
29 STARLITE FESTIVAL Marbella, Spain  
30 COOL JAZZ FESTIVAL Oeiras, Portugal

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**7**  
**DAYS**  
*on the*  
**SCENE**

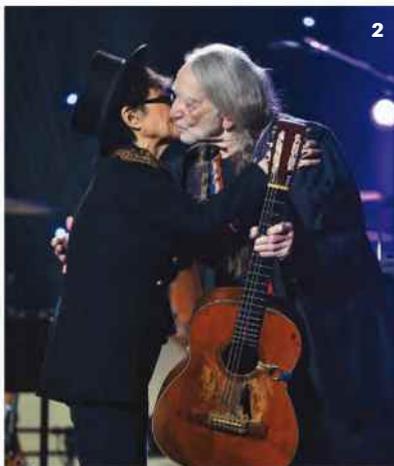




Eagles of Death Metal joined U2 onstage at AccorHotels Arena, located a few miles from the Bataclan club, in Paris on Dec. 7. They closed the night with a solo performance of their song "I Love You All The Time."



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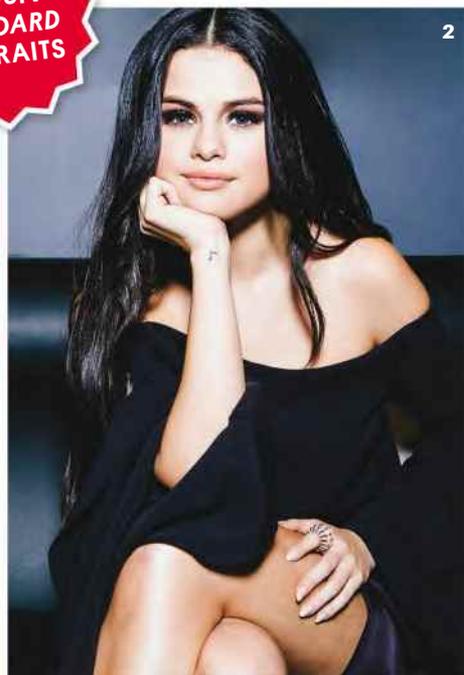
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1 From left: Mick Fleetwood, Stevie Nicks, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Sting hung out backstage at New York's Winter Garden Theatre for opening night of *School of Rock* on Dec. 6. 2 Yoko Ono and Willie Nelson celebrated what would have been John Lennon's 75th birthday at a concert held in his honor at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York on Dec. 5. 3 Ricky Martin during his set at Grand Slam Party Latino at Marlins Park in Miami on Dec. 5. 4 Debbie Harry performed at the "An Evening Honoring Valentino" gala, hosted by the Lincoln Center Corporate Fund, at Alice Tully Hall in New York on Dec. 7. 5 Tyler Glenn of Neon Trees during the band's show in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 5. 6 Lady Gaga performed at the "Sinatra 100: An All-Star Grammy Concert" celebrating the late Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday at the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas on Dec. 2. The show aired Dec. 6 on CBS.

EXCLUSIVE  
BILLBOARD  
PORTRAITS



2

# KIIS-FM's Jingle Ball

LOS ANGELES, DEC. 4

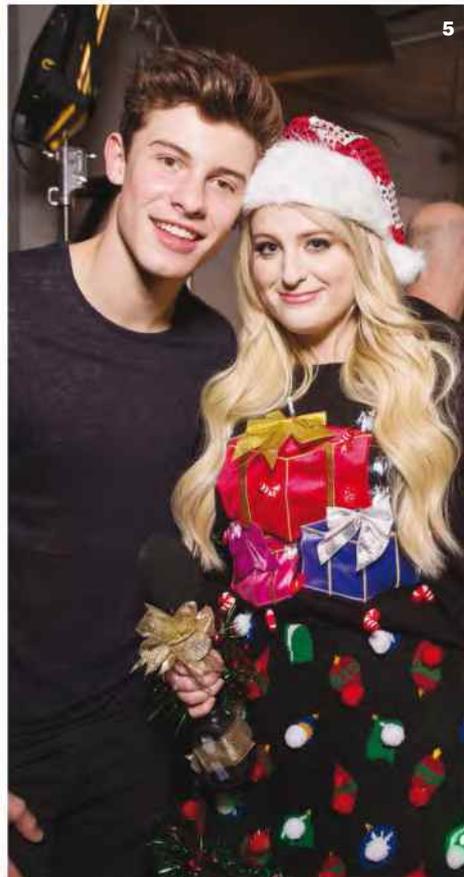
FROM ONE DIRECTION GOOFING OFF OUTSIDE ITS dressing room to **Meghan Trainor** palling around with **Tove Lo** and **Shawn Mendes**: The backstage scene at KIIS-FM's Jingle Ball played out like one star-studded holiday party. "A lot of artists are really shy," Mendes told *Billboard*. "So this is a really good opportunity to meet people." During the annual A-list bash, headliners **Selena Gomez**, 1D and **5 Seconds of Summer** dominated with triumphant sets for a sold-out Staples Center crowd of more than 18,000, while relative newcomers **Hailee Steinfeld**, **Charlie Puth** and **DNCE** charmed with the best of their debut releases. The **Joe Jonas**-led DNCE toasted the gig by jokingly carrying a trophy across the stage to the tune of **Queen's** "We Are the Champions." But for **Fifth Harmony's Camila Cabello**, who performed new single "I Know What You Did Last Summer" alongside Mendes, the evening was all about catching **The Weeknd**, whose work she praised as "honest pop." —MALORIE MCCALL



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1 The Weeknd. 2 Gomez. 3 From left: 5SOS' Luke Hemmings, Michael Clifford, Calum Hood and Ashton Irwin. 4 Ellie Goulding. 5 Mendes (left) and Trainor. 6 "We're with you for the next 23 minutes," One Direction's Harry Styles teased of the band's exact set length. The performance marked the last stop in the United States on the group's tour and featured earlier hits like "What Makes You Beautiful" and "Story of My Life." 7 From left: DNCE's Cole Whittle, Jonas and JinJoo Lee with Sergio Flores, aka "Sexy Sax Man," backstage.

# THE **NEW** COLISEUM



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# Miami Art Basel

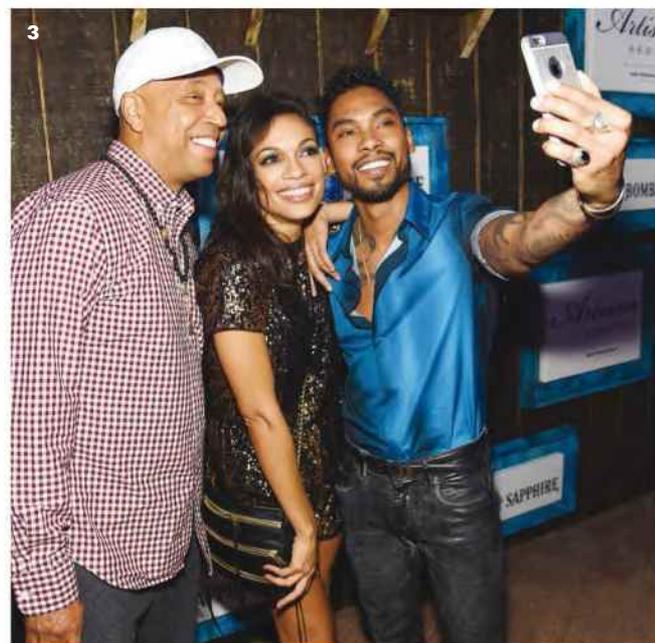
MIAMI, DEC. 1-4

ONE WAY TO KICK OFF THE ANNUAL CONTEMPORARY art fair? At an intimate celebration hosted by **Jorge Perez** of the Perez Art Museum in Miami, **Wyclef Jean** led a conga line — but only after riding on the real estate developer and art collector’s shoulders first. **Solange Knowles**, who spun at **Aby Rosen**’s annual Dom Perignon bash on Dec. 3, took a moment to deliver a message of substance from her perch in the club’s DJ booth, declaring, “Honestly, anybody who’s at Basel this weekend, we’re all very privileged to be here in light of what’s happening in the world right now.” The party continued well past 2 a.m., when **Lenny Kravitz**, who debuted his “Flash” photographic exhibit earlier in the week, surprised partygoers with a live performance of “American Woman.” But it may have been **Swizz Beatz** who drew the most attention of any party; the musician-cum-collector teamed up with Bacardi to host a three-day admission-free fair of his own to benefit emerging artists, and at night turned the space into a concert venue with a lineup that included wife **Alicia Keys**, **Pusha T** and **DMX**.

—CARSON GRIFFITH



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**1** Beatz (left) and Keys at an installation by artist Gabriel Dawe at Casa Bacardi’s art fair and Untameable House Party on Dec. 3. **2** Lionel Richie (left) supported Kravitz at the opening of the latter’s exhibit on Dec. 1. **3** Russell Simmons (left) and Rosario Dawson (center) co-hosted the annual Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series Grand Finale held Dec. 4 at the Nautilus Hotel, where they snapped a selfie with Miguel. **4** VIP stragglers who hadn’t yet left Miami on Dec. 5 caught a performance by DMX at The Dean Collection and Bacardi house party. **5** Knowles at the Around Town: Art Basel With DXP event on Dec. 4.

# Kennedy Center Honors

WASHINGTON, D.C., DEC. 6

**1** Before attending the 38th annual Kennedy Center Honors gala, Sony Music chief creative officer Clive Davis and Aretha Franklin stopped by the White House for a reception honoring the recipients. **2** Usher. **3** From left: honorees Carole King, Rita Moreno and George Lucas following a dinner hosted by Secretary of State John F. Kerry at the Department of State on Dec. 5. **4** Miranda Lambert.



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4/3 HOUSTON, TX CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL  
4/4 DALLAS, TX GEXA ENERGY PAVILION  
4/6 TULSA, OK BOK CENTER  
4/7 LITTLE ROCK, AR VERIZON ARENA  
4/9 NEW ORLEANS, LA ZEPHYR FIELD  
4/10 BIRMINGHAM, AL LEGACY ARENA AT THE BJCC  
4/11 ATLANTA, GA INFINITE ENERGY (SOLD OUT)

4/12 ATLANTA, GA INFINITE ENERGY (JUST ADDED)  
4/14 CHARLOTTE, NC TIME WARNER CABLE  
4/15 NASHVILLE, TN BRIDGESTONE (SOLD OUT)  
4/16 ST. LOUIS, MO SCOTTRADE CENTER  
4/18 KANSAS CITY, MO SPRINT CENTER  
4/19 OMAHA, NE CENTURYLINK CENTER  
4/21 SAINT PAUL, MN XCEL ENERGY (SOLD OUT)  
4/22 MADISON, WI ALLIANT ENERGY (SOLD OUT)  
4/23 INDIANAPOLIS, IN BANKERS LIFE FIELDHOUSE





Let's call it the return of the superstar: Taylor Swift lit up stadiums, Drake and his wingman The Weeknd turned hip-hop inside out, Justin Bieber apologized his way back on top, and Adele had millions of fans — and a grateful music industry — at "Hello."

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRÉ BEATO

# The Great Adele Debate

The singer has proved she can tug at buyers' heartstrings and hand them a tissue all at once, but does her historic sales performance mark a turning point for a suddenly canny music industry, or is it merely a blip in the business' inexorable evolution?

## SHE CHANGES EVERYTHING!

BY CHRIS WILLMAN

**A** IS FOR ADELE. IT ALSO STANDS FOR anomaly, if you listen to the quiet rationalizing coming out of some record-label circles about why the jaw-dropping success of *25* is an essentially unrepeatable phenomenon. Every few years, the thinking goes, we get a coffee-table album — an outlier disc that the grown-up, generally non-record-buying population has to have — and Adele's album is just a *Come Away With Me* or *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* writ particularly large and front-loaded.

Maybe we could better rationalize away the Adele explosion if the case for a real sea change hadn't also been signaled by the album that *25* replaced at the top of the Billboard 200: Chris Stapleton's *Traveller*, which had a startling two-week run at No. 1 after the little-known Southern powerhouse captivated the public in a TV duet with Justin Timberlake. (Adele and Stapleton have a rarely mentioned connection: She released a song of his four years ago, on her *Live at the Royal Albert Hall* set.) The message is clear: Soul never goes out of style — as a genre influence, a vocal character reference or a state of being. Likewise, neither Adele nor Stapleton fulfill anyone's idea of what a pop star should look like in 2015, and you could see each sale as a protest, of sorts, against pop music's hypersexualized, hard-body, youth-obsessed ideal. But crucially, Adele, like Stapleton, has more in common with the Taylor Swifts and Beyoncé's of the world than many top 40 haters would care to admit: *25* counts just as many splashy, A-list songwriters as did, say, *1989*. By seamlessly blending the auteur and hit-factory approaches to music-making, *25* became the rare record that everyone in the carpool could agree upon.

Also not *pas* as rumored: buying albums. The fact that roughly half of Adele's first-week sales were in physical form led to some comical jousts, like a BuzzFeed visual tutorial "For Those Who Bought Adele's CD and Don't Know How to Play It." But what Adele has really revived, more than any style, is the primacy of the album as an emotional experience that a single digital track is not equipped to provide. Fans essentially got "Hello" for free on YouTube, but when the option came to download another track or two on release day, the vast majority wanted all 11 (or 14, deluxe). Because who ever thought they were due for a good cry and then wanted that cry wrapped up in five minutes? That most fans aren't content to compartmentalize their bawling into 99-cent installments may be the best news the industry has had all year.

Voices matter. Albums, against all odds, still matter. Honestly jerked tears still matter. And when you can give a parched populace all these things, we've now learned, they will follow you to the ends of the earth ... which we now know to be the downsized CD section at Target. If an entire nation is listening, the bonus good news is that the recorded-music business has to be too.

## SHE CHANGES NOTHING!

BY ROBERT LEVINE

**W**HEN ELVIS PRESLEY DIED, THE critic Lester Bangs wrote, "We will never again agree on anything as we agreed on Elvis." In a more demographically diverse country, in an era of pop culture supposedly fragmented by the "long tail," how could we? Then again, The King likely never commanded a 42 percent share of all albums sold in the United States, as Adele did the week she released *25*, according to Nielsen Music. In its second week, the album again sold more than a million copies, the only release to do so since at least 1991 (when sales figures were first officially recorded).

It's tempting to see the success of *25* as great news for a business that still needs some — a sign that even casual music fans will still buy albums, not just stream or download individual songs. But while Adele's success is champagne-popping news for her labels, XL Recordings and Columbia Records, it's unlikely to change any of the business' underlying problems. In decades past, a hit big enough to draw consumers into stores — think *Thriller* or even *Born in the U.S.A.* — would boost the entire business if enough record buyers walked out with another album as well. But that was when buying albums meant walking into a record store — and when there were far more record stores to walk into. Adele? She just leads to more Adele sales.

What labels need more than anything is a way to get casual music fans to pay for streaming services — but for now, *25* isn't on them. Keeping new releases from certain services makes economic sense for megastars like Adele and Taylor Swift, although this will become harder as physical retail and download sales decline. In this case, what's good for Adele may actually be bad for the music business.

It's not clear what lessons labels could learn from Adele. The extraordinary success of *25* seems to defy explanation, let alone repetition. Labels have signed other retro-leaning British singers, with mixed results. Sony Music and XL deserve credit for their minimalist-marketing campaign, but it's hard to imagine any CEO, no less a manager, doing minimal advance promotion or social media marketing for other artists.

Recently, labels haven't had much success selling music to anyone besides teenagers, 20-somethings and dedicated fans. Adele's success shows that grown-ups and casual music fans buy albums too. When two out of four music buyers purchase a single album, the audience for it is everyone. It's hard to think of any precedent for this — Elvis and The Beatles became iconic at least partly because they alienated older generations, whereas Adele tugs at their heartstrings and then hands them a tissue. Success like hers is difficult to predict, and — ominously for the music business — almost impossible to repeat.



Tylin  
2015

While Adele's success is champagne-popping news for her labels, it's unlikely to change any of the business' underlying problems.

Adele onstage at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Nov. 17.

Tylin  
2015

# 'Like A Shonda Rhimes Show... No Dull Moments'

How did Adele sell more than 4 million albums in two weeks? By captivating and energizing a "diaper-changing, lunch-packing" female audience that most artists and labels typically ignore

BY ROB TANNENBAUM

AS ADELE continues to obliterate modern sales records, we need to look outside the music business to find parallels for her dominance.

To whom should we compare her? Barry Bonds hitting 73 home runs, 12 more than the previous record? Squash star Jahangir Khan, who won 555 matches in a row?

The out-of-the-gate pace of 25, Adele's third album, has established her as a singer of almost freakish popularity. In her first week, Adele sold 3.38 million copies, according to Nielsen Music, a 40 percent increase from the previous debut sales record of 'N Sync's 2000 album *No Strings Attached*. (That was the year total album sales for the industry peaked. Adjusted for the constant deflation in CD sales since then, *Billboard* calculates that her 3.38 million copies sold equal 12.1 million in 2000.) 25 is also the first album to sell a million copies in consecutive weeks. "No one saw this coming," says Nielsen analyst Dave Bakula. "The highest forecast was a million short of what she sold."

For everyone who hopes Adelemania

Adele broke these records the same way Barack Obama and Bill Clinton won two terms as president: with support from women.

presents a case study on how to end the record business' 15-year slump, the questions are: How did she do it, and can we do it too?

She broke these records the same way Barack Obama and Bill Clinton won two terms as president: with support from women. According to a Nielsen study, 62 percent of Adele fans are women, compared with 59 percent for Beyoncé and 54 percent for Taylor Swift.

"Adele's music is very feminine," says Meredith Rollins, editor-in-chief of *Redbook*, a mainstream-leaning women's

magazine. "It's passionate, and there's a bit of relatable rage, as well as heightened emotional content — like a Shonda Rhimes show, there are no dull moments. Adele is beautiful, not teeny-tiny, and talks about her failings. It comes at a perfect moment when women are sick of seeing people who seem perfect or unattainable."

According to Nielsen, most female Adele fans are 25 to 44, with children. And because Adele's base is slightly older and significantly more female-skewed, her decision to withhold 25 from streaming sites (which skew male) wasn't much of a factor, says Bakula. "Only a small percentage of people buy a record if they can't find it streaming — generally, they move on to something else. She's an outlier of outliers because she brings in people who are not regular music buyers. Maybe they haven't bought a record since Adele's 21," which has sold 11.3 million copies in the United States.

Because Adele isn't active on social media — only six tweets in the first half of 2015 — some observers have concluded that Twitter and Facebook are overrated as marketing tools. But Maria Bailey, author of eight books about marketing to mothers, says Adele's success reinforces the importance of social media: "Moms share, on average, six times more on social media than any other demographic. By appealing to moms, Adele had a built-in

marketing machine in place." She didn't need to tweet because she had an army of surrogates who sense a kindred set of values in the singer, much as they do, says Bailey,

with Etsy sellers or Jessica Alba's Honest Company products. They're happy to buy a record they love, rather than stream it, because it's a treat that's affordable, as opposed to, say, a Coach bag.

Adele's fans have "moved into the executive function of life — you change diapers and pack lunches," Bailey continues. "As a mom, you become a functionary, as opposed to a visionary. Thus, you're nostalgic for what could've been. And Adele sings like a middle-aged woman — her lyrics are the soul of nostalgia."

"Lyrics are important to my listeners," says Heidi O'Brien, who programs The Blend, SiriusXM's "bright pop hits" station, where Adele is a core artist. "They want to hear songs they can relate to. Her lyrics reflect my feelings if they were put to song."

When mothers discuss Adele, the words "authentic" and "relatable" come up frequently, as do her voice, sense of humor, unfiltered honesty and contentment at being plus size, as well as the dignified way she has kept her 3-year-old son away from paparazzi, while also saying her schedule is now "built around my kid."

"She's a good role model for my daughters," says Anastasia Weis, 48, a mother of three in Louisville, Ky., "because she has been successful without antics or wearing weird outfits. She seems like one of my friends from carpool, a normal person who happens to be incredibly successful."

Many moms express a distaste for current female celebrities — especially, but not only, Kim Kardashian. "Rihanna's fun but not someone I can relate with," says Jen Rabulan-Bertram, 39, a New Jersey mother of two who bought 25 at Target. ("I had no idea where to even buy a CD anymore!") "We can feel the pain Adele feels. Her songs are cathartic."

The family-friendly factor is another part of the appeal. "My children and I can all enjoy Adele's music together," says Susan Pazera, a mother of four from Long Island, N.Y. "You don't get that a lot. When I play Guns N' Roses, my kids are like, 'Turn that off. I can't stand it,'" she says with a laugh.

Every day, Dave Bakula, the Nielsen analyst, gets phone calls from music executives asking him to explain Adele's success. Labels hope her success is repeatable; maybe the lessons can be transferred to a new signing or a comeback album. But Adele doesn't work as a case study because she's an anomaly that can't be simulated. The record business loves to sign "nexts" — the next One Direction, the next Luke Bryan — but the best-selling artists have never been imitators. When The Beatles started, they sounded like no one else. Same with Elvis Presley, Garth Brooks, Metallica, Madonna, U2, Adele and others.

If there's one lesson to be taken from the success of 25, it's this: Success is a lot easier when your previous record sold 11 million copies. And women adore you.

## Adele's Army: In Their Own Words



"She seems like one of my friends from carpool."

—Anastasia Weis, Louisville, Ky.



"We can feel the pain Adele feels."

—Jen Rabulan-Bertram, Jersey City, N.J.



"My children and I can enjoy Adele's music together."

—Susan Pazera, Long Island, N.Y.



1 Adele obliged a fan at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Nov. 17. 2 Outside London's BBC Radio 2 on Oct. 23. 3 Selfie time in New York on Nov. 16. 4 Matt Lauer welcomed Adele to Today on Nov. 25. 5 A display of 25 CDs at the checkout of a Target in

Jersey City, N.J. 6 From left: Saturday Night Live's Cecily Strong, Jay Pharoah and Kate McKinnon starred in the Adele-centered "Thanksgiving Miracle" sketch on Nov. 21. 7 Adele posed with fans outside the Today studios

in New York. 8 Ellen DeGeneres spoofed the "Hello" video on Oct. 28. 9 More selfies! Adele and well-wishers outside her hotel in New York on Nov. 15. 10 Adele visited The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on Nov. 23.

## MAD FOR MAX MARTIN



Schlesinger

Everyone was feeling The Weeknd's "Can't Feel My Face," one of three 2015 No. 1s by Swedish super-producer-songwriter Max Martin. Fans include pop savant/songwriter

Adam Schlesinger, the Fountains of Wayne bassist who is earning raves for his work on The CW's new musical comedy *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. Schlesinger breaks down Martin's genius on "Face," second by second.

**0:01** "The quick intro with synth pads tells you this record is going to have a lot of atmosphere. It sets the mood efficiently."

**0:08** "There's nothing except the voice, and it draws you in."

**0:44** "The chorus is lower on the scale than the pre-chorus. You're taught that the chorus should be where you're really going for it with high notes. This is the opposite; the hook is kind of relaxed. It's the contrast that makes it work."

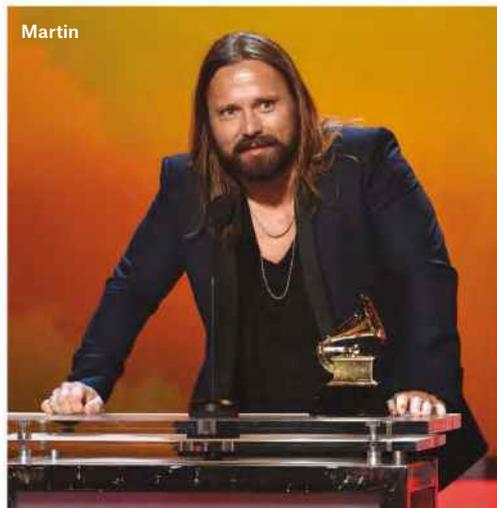
**1:19** "In the second pre-chorus, we have harmonies, which we didn't the first time, then the second chorus brings in countermelodies. There's all this new sonic information, so it doesn't feel like you're treading water."

**2:13** "Instead of a bridge, everything drops out. You're back to this world of atmosphere."

**2:21** "The half time implied in the rhythm track makes it feel like the song is slowing down. Then there's this big rise. They make you wait an extra bar for the last chorus. The danger is that the chorus doesn't sound exciting anymore, so you make people wait for it a little longer."

**2:42** "Everything we've heard in the song finally comes together, but there's still lots of space."

**3:18** "They clip the vocal and go to an instrumental jam-out, which is unusual. The groove is so great, and you get a couple of bonus bars at the end."



Martin

# Who Needs An Album?

Two of the most-teased LPs in recent memory never came, but Kanye West and Rihanna made headlines without them



### COVER GIRL

Rihanna fronted 15 glossies this year, transforming for each: fiery locks in Cuba for *Vanity Fair*, platinum for *V* and in the mouth of a shark for *Harper's Bazaar*.



### DIOR'S DARLING

RiRi became the first black woman to land a Dior campaign, one of fashion's most prestigious houses, for a reported \$2 million.

### SOCK IT TO HER

The singer collaborated with Stance on a line of 15 pairs of fall socks with phrases like "Broke Bitch" on them and then released a new collection for winter.



### QUEEN OF THE CARPET

An omelet? A piece of pizza? A crepe? Big Bird? Rihanna sparked a thousand memes with the canary yellow Guo Pei gown she wore at the Met Gala in May.



### SET SIGHTS ON WASHINGTON

After accepting the Michael Jackson Vanguard Award, a rambling, admittedly high Yeezy dominated post-Video Music Awards talk by announcing his run for president in 2020.



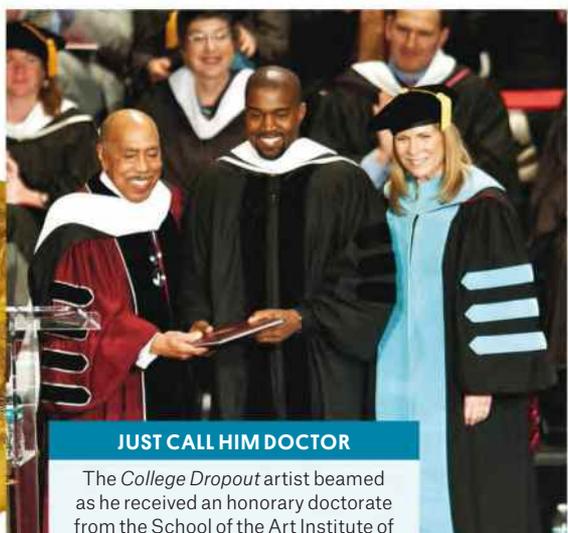
### THE FACE OF TIME

Named one of *Time*'s most influential people, Kanye and Kim were less than impressed at the Time 100 Gala in April when Amy Schumer jokingly face-planted in front of them.



### NEW YORK FASHION WEEK TAKEOVER

Celebs like Beyoncé and Justin Bieber sat front row at the rapper-turned-designer's debut Adidas collection in February, for which he reportedly received \$10 million. The Yeezy Boost 350 sneaker, which retailed for \$350, sold out stateside in a mere 12 minutes.



### JUST CALL HIM DOCTOR

The *College Dropout* artist beamed as he received an honorary doctorate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in May. —BROOKE MAZUREK



# THANK YOU KATY!

## You made South America ROAR!

### SEPTEMBER

22nd Lima-Peru, Jockey Club. **Sold Out**  
26th Sao Paulo-Brazil, Allianz Stadium. **Sold Out**  
30th Curitiba Brazil - Pedrera. **Sold Out**

### OCTOBER

2nd Buenos Aires-Argentina, Palermo Hippodrome. **Sold Out**  
6th Santiago-Chile, Pista Atlética. **Sold Out**  
9th Bogota-Colombia, Parque 222. **Sold Out**  
12th San Juan-Puerto Rico, Coliseo de Puerto Rico. **Sold Out**  
15th Panama City-Panama, Figali Convention Center. **Sold Out**  
18th San Jose-Costa Rica, Parque Viva Amphitheater. **Sold Out**

Over 164,000 tickets sold, tour gross of \$ 13,922,000

Special thanks to  
Steve Jensen, Bradford Cobb, Martin Kirkup &  
Ngoc Hoang-DelVecchio @ Direct Management,  
Emma Banks @ CAA London,  
Frankie Enfield and Jay Schmit

**MOVE**  
CONCERTS

## MY YEAR HALSEY

From becoming a “click-bait-y wormhole” to selling out Madison Square Garden, the singer had a life-changing 2015

I don't know how to wrap my brain around anything that has happened in the past year. Every time I think the craziest thing ever happened to me, something crazier happens — whether it's *Badlands* debuting at No. 2 [on the Billboard 200 in September] or selling out Madison Square Garden in New York. It has gotten to the point where simply stating facts feels like I'm being arrogant.

It happened so fast. I moved into my apartment in Los Angeles in March, right around the time I was supposed to deliver the album. I just became obsessed; *Badlands* became my life. I had an air mattress, no furniture, nothing. There were just dry-erase boards and pieces of paper. It looked like inspiration art at a

serial killer's house. “New Americana” is very much of this generation. We kind of make fun of ourselves. I made it as click-bait-y, nursery rhyme-y as I could. I was making this comment on how we have this click-bait culture, but a lot of people took

it seriously, like, “Wow, she's being so buzzword-y!” Ding, ding, ding — that's on purpose! People missed the intent, and then I watched the irony of that song growing as I turned into a click-bait-y wormhole where everything I was making fun of in the song were things that

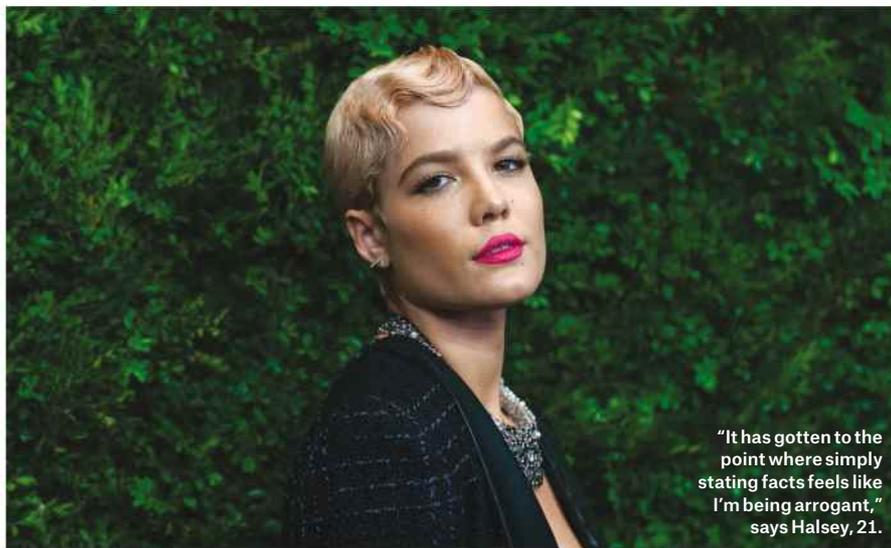
I was becoming in the eyes of the media. I'm lucky I have those people that'll ask, “Are you OK?” Dan Reynolds from Imagine Dragons would stop me in the hallway when I was on tour with them and be like, “Are you sleeping? You can't do

radio before noon. Don't eat after 10 p.m. — you'll get acid reflux.” Totally being my dad.

If I reacted with a normal amount of emotion, I would probably spontaneously combust. You numb yourself so you're not terrified when you're on TV at 7 o'clock in the morning with Justin Bieber, who you just met a couple of days before, having to perform in front of millions of people.

When you're an artist, you're expected to describe yourself in interviews every day in five words. It's like, what does that do for your psyche? It dwindles you down to those five words, and the five everyone has been using to describe me are “bisexual,” “biracial,” “bipolar,” “brash” and “opinionated.” I had to fight tooth and nail out of that — I was becoming the click-bait of the year.

—AS TOLD TO RAY ROGERS



“It has gotten to the point where simply stating facts feels like I'm being arrogant,” says Halsey, 21.

## STREAMING SCORECARD

The ups, the downs, the numbers, the names — how each service made out in music's new fiercely competitive frontier

STREAMING SERVICE	BIGGEST WIN	BIGGEST SETBACK	KEY STAT	SECRET WEAPON	OUTLOOK
APPLE MUSIC	The February hiring of former BBC DJ <b>Zane Lowe</b> to become the face of Apple Music's online radio station, Beats 1.	Confused users complain about difficulties merging Apple Music with their iTunes libraries.	6.5 million: the number of Apple Music subscribers obtained globally within three weeks of the three-month free trial ending.	Launched in November, the Apple Music app for <b>Android</b> makes the service accessible by the majority of the world's smartphones.	<b>Sunny.</b> Apple has the product and global presence to stay in it for the long haul — not to mention an army of loyal customers.
SPOTIFY	Media coverage around Taylor Swift deciding to remove her catalog in late 2014 helped generate brand awareness in Middle America through 2015, according to CEO Daniel Ek.	Adele and <b>Coldplay</b> withhold their new albums from Spotify, bringing to question the service's clout when it comes to highly anticipated releases.	\$8.5 billion: Spotify's valuation in June, when it raised \$526 million from Swedish telecom TeliaSonera and other investors.	<b>Gustav Soderstrom</b> , the chief product officer behind the service's intuitive, lightning-fast user experience.	<b>Bright.</b> Spotify has a sizable lead, a big war chest and the ability to get more money if necessary.
TIDAL	Getting 16 superstar artists to become equity owners and leverage their popularity and exclusive content to gain market share.	Getting 16 superstar artists to become equity owners and appear together at an awkward, widely panned launch event.	1 million: the number of Tidal subscribers six months after its launch — although it had more than 500,000 when purchased by <b>Jay Z</b> .	Jay Z's <b>Tidal-branded concerts</b> provide perks to subscribers and generate significant (and positive) media attention.	<b>Possible thunderstorms.</b> Tidal is rumored to be shopping itself fewer than nine months after its launch.
PANDORA	Purchase of some assets of on-demand service <b>Rdio</b> for \$75 million, which will speed Pandora's launch of an on-demand subscription service.	Apple Music's launch contributed to flat listener growth that worried analysts and investors. <b>Pandora shares dropped</b> as much as 40 percent the next day.	78.1 million: the number of Pandora's monthly users, all of whom are potential customers for its upcoming on-demand service.	CFO <b>Mike Herring</b> is leading negotiations with rights owners required to launch an on-demand service and expand to new markets.	<b>Partly sunny.</b> Pandora has made a big bet with the \$450 million purchase of Ticketfly. But can it successfully integrate ticketing into music streaming?
AMAZON PRIME	Amazon Prime Music ended its last major holdout by securing <b>Universal Music Group's</b> music nearly 15 months after launching.	Amazon has had only small speed bumps: The launch of discount e-tailer Jet.com could eventually lure away customers.	50 million: estimated number of U.S. subscribers to Prime, Amazon's \$99-per-year benefits program that provides access to Prime Music.	<b>Amazon Echo</b> , the wireless speaker that plays music and voice-commanded information, is getting a big push this Christmas.	<b>Bright.</b> Amazon Prime Music gets too little credit for finding a unique take on music streaming. —GLENN PEOPLES

A man with dark curly hair, wearing a red blazer over a dark t-shirt, is seated on an airplane. He is looking down at a tablet computer he is holding in his hands. The airplane's interior lighting is warm and focused on him. A window is visible behind him, showing a bright light source.

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“WHAT A GREAT F—ING DAY! THANK YOU, AMERICA, FOR NOT CUTTING MY CHANCES OF FINDING TRUE LOVE FOREVER AND EVER BY 50 PERCENT.”

—Miley Cyrus, responding to June’s landmark Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage



# Copyright Or Wrong?

Billboard revisits the landmark legal disputes that shook music this year — and assesses what the results mean for the industry

CASE	DETAILS	GOOD OR BAD?	WHY
“Happy Birthday” goes royalty-free	In a class-action suit, a judge ruled a filmmaker didn’t have to pay Warner/Chappell for “Happy Birthday to You” because the publisher no longer had rights to it.		Although Warner/Chappell will lose about \$2 million annually, the world’s most popular track, a touchstone with murky 19th-century authorship, now can be used royalty-free in films, TV, commercials and more.
Marvin Gaye vs. Robin Thicke & Pharrell Williams	The Gaye estate sued the “Blurred Line” creators for aping the “sound” and “feel” (not melodies or lyrics) of “Got to Give It Up.” The jury awarded it \$7.4 million.		Timbric and rhythmic similarities between songs are hard to define and avoid. Questlove and others warned of a wave of lawsuits and chilling effects on creativity.
Jay Z and Timbaland’s “Big Pimpin’” trial	Nephew of Egyptian composer Baligh Hamdi unsuccessfully sued the pair for sampling “Khosara Khosara” on a song with lyrics that offended him.		No double-dipping was allowed: Timbaland already had paid EMI \$100,000 for the sample. And if the plaintiff’s argument of “moral rights” had won, artists would have been open to an array of similar lawsuits.
“Oops! Upside Your Head” vs. “Uptown Funk!”	Publisher Minder Music claimed Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars copied the Gap Band hit. The parties settled instead of dealing with an expensive lawsuit.		The two songs share a vaguely similar feel and a rhythm on the chorus, but that’s it. “Uptown Funk!” is arguably the first notable casualty in a post-“Blurred Lines” world. —GLENN PEOPLES

## MY YEAR CHRIS STAPLETON

An “overnight” sensation a decade in the making whose career skyrocketed after one awards show

Before this year a lot of people knew me better as a guy who was in a bluegrass band. But people who read liner notes knew I was a songwriter. I wanted to make a record that I would enjoy playing every night. Just to put *Traveller* out was my expectation — I didn’t have any beyond that. The commerce of it was not as much of a factor for me. That’s not necessarily my job either. My job is to make the best music that I can and let people a lot smarter than me figure out how to get it to other people.

For the Country Music Association Awards, I called up Justin Timberlake. It wasn’t something the producers threw together. We’ve known each other for a couple of years. His wife had called me to fly out for his



Stapleton (right) onstage with Timberlake at the CMA Awards in November.

birthday party and wanted me to play. That was our first meeting, and we kept up with each other after that.

At the CMAs, I got the first award for new artist of the year, and then I had to immediately go back and get ready to play. I didn’t have

time to digest the moment. It was a fairytale, dark-horse night. No one really expected it to be happening, but it did.

I certainly have sold some more records since then. I keep waiting for someone to jump out from behind a curtain and be on *Candid*

*Camera* or something, because it seems like these numbers aren’t real. If there’s anything that came out of it, it’s “try to find your own path.” There’s not really a right and a wrong way to do things. But if you’re being as authentic as you can be

with what you want to do, hopefully the stars line up and someone takes notice. To be recognized [with three Grammy nominations] is a good feeling, but I don’t like to celebrate — I like to continue working. We could maybe go have dinner or a couple cocktails, but today? We don’t have time for that.

The low points are being gone from home longer than I would like. Missing the children — that’s hard. My wife, Morgane, is there every time I step onstage. She is kind of my secret weapon. She certainly elevates things. I’m used to looking over to my left and seeing her there. That’s the way it should be and will always be if I can help it. We just had fun making music with people this year. It is the most of that that I’ve gotten to do — probably ever.

—AS TOLD TO JEWELRY HIGHT



From left: One Direction's Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson and Harry Styles photographed by Austin Hargrave on May 17 in Las Vegas.

## Bye Bye Bye?

As One Direction takes a bow and *American Idol* goes dark, this may be the end of the Simon Cowell era

**W**ith the November release of One Direction's rumored-to-be-farewell album, *Made in the A.M.*, and Fox's *American Idol* kicking off its final season in January, music fans might be witness to the quiet end of a 21st-century pop phenomenon: the Simon Cowell era.

Consider this: Beginning with season-one *Idol* winner Kelly Clarkson, an artist discovered through a TV vehicle starring or created by Cowell has topped a major *Billboard* chart virtually every

year since 2002. In addition to Clarkson and One Direction, Cowell helped make platinum-sellers out of Carrie Underwood, Susan Boyle, Leona Lewis and Chris Daughtry and momentary stars out of everyone from Fantasia Barrino to Taylor Hicks.

The power base of Cowell's empire is that distinctly antediluvian phenomenon, broadcast TV. There may never be a more profitable star factory than *Idol*, on which he served as its most famous judge, and whose influence nearly ceased when he left the show in 2010. Meanwhile, the flagship U.K.

edition of his *X Factor* talent program combined five contestants, *Voltron*-style, into One Direction.

Cowell can't be counted out: His Syco Entertainment just signed a six-year extension with its joint-venture partner, Sony Music Entertainment. But the more meaningful development may have occurred in November, when Justin Bieber's *Purpose* elbowed aside One Direction for the No. 1 album spot. Bieber, one might recall, was discovered not on Cowell's beloved boob tube, but on its digital-age spinoff: YouTube. —CHRIS MOLANPHY



### THEATER KIDS



### CLASS CLOWNS



### SUPER SENIORS



# Taylor High, Class Of 1989

Swift's blockbuster 53-city worldwide trek featured star cameos nearly every night. As pop music's reigning class president, here's how her 78(!) BFFs fit in among the usual high school cliques

#### THEATER KIDS

- 1. Julia Roberts (Aug. 15, Santa Clara, Calif.); 2. Idina Menzel (Oct. 31, Tampa, Fla.); 3. Lena Dunham (July 10, East Rutherford, N.J.); 4. Uzo Aduba (July 11, East Rutherford, N.J.; Aug. 22, Los Angeles); 5. Serayah McNeill (July 18, Chicago); 6. Lisa Kudrow (Aug. 26, Los Angeles); 7. Matt LeBlanc (Aug. 22, Los Angeles); 8. Mariska Hargitay (June 12, Philadelphia)

#### CLASS CLOWNS

- 9. Ellen DeGeneres (Aug. 24, Los Angeles); 10. Chris Rock (Aug. 22, Los Angeles)

#### SUPER SENIORS

- 11. Mick Jagger (Sept. 26, Nashville); 12. Steven Tyler (Sept. 25, Nashville); 13. Joan Baez (Aug. 15, Santa Clara, Calif.); 14. Alanis Morissette (Aug. 24, Los Angeles); 15. Mary J. Blige (Aug. 22, Los Angeles)

#### PROM KINGS

- 16. Ricky Martin (Oct. 27, Miami); 17. Nick Jonas (July 11, East Rutherford, N.J.); 18. Jason Derulo (July 14, Washington, D.C.); 19. Nelly (Sept. 29, St. Louis); 20. Justin Timberlake (Aug. 26, Los Angeles); 21. John Legend (Aug. 25, Los Angeles); 22. Pitbull (Oct. 27, Miami)

#### BESTIES

- 23. Lily Aldridge (July 10-11, East Rutherford, N.J.); 24. Lorde (July 13, Washington, D.C.); 25. Hailee Steinfeld (July 10, East Rutherford, N.J.); 26. Haim (Sept. 29, St. Louis); 27. Karlie Kloss (June 27, London); 28. Ellie Goulding (Oct. 17, Arlington, Texas); 29. Gigi Hadid (June 27, London; July 10, East Rutherford, N.J.); 30. Cara Delevingne (June 12, Philadelphia; June 27, London); 31. Selena Gomez (Aug. 26, Los Angeles)

#### JOCKS

- 32. Abby Wambach and the (33, 34) U.S. Women's Soccer Team (July 10, East Rutherford, N.J.); 35. Serena Williams (June 27, London); 36. Russell Wilson (Aug. 8, Seattle); 37. Kobe Bryant (Aug. 21, Los Angeles); 38. Dwyane Wade (Oct. 27, Miami)

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL PALS

- 39. Kelsea Ballerini (Sept. 25, Nashville); 40. Dierks Bentley (Sept. 21, Kansas City, Mo.); 41. Alison Krauss (Sept. 25, Nashville); 42. Keith Urban (Oct. 2, Toronto); 43. Little Big Town (June 5, Pittsburgh); 44. Miranda Lambert (Oct. 21, Greensboro, N.C.); 45. The Band Perry (Sept. 16, Indianapolis); 46. Natalie Maines (Aug. 24, Los Angeles); 47. Sam Hunt (July 19, Chicago)

#### STONERS

- 48. Charli XCX (Oct. 3, Toronto); 49. The Weeknd (July 10, East

- Rutherford, N.J.); 50. Tove Lo (Oct. 24, Atlanta); 51. Wiz Khalifa (Sept. 9, Houston)

#### FRESHMEN

- 52. MKTO (July 25, Foxborough, Mass.); 53. Fetty Wap (Aug. 8, Seattle); 54. Sydney Sierota (Sept. 18, Columbus, Ohio) and Echosmith (July 12, Philadelphia); 55. Alessia Cara (Oct. 31, Tampa, Fla.); 56. Shawn Mendes (Aug. 8, Seattle); 57. Rachel Platten (June 13, Philadelphia)

#### DANCE TEAM

- 58. Fifth Harmony (Aug. 14, Santa Clara, Calif.); 59. Ciara (Aug. 8, Seattle); 60. Little Mix (Aug. 15, Santa Clara, Calif.)

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- 61. OMI (Aug. 29, San Diego); 62. Avril Lavigne (Aug. 29, San Diego); 63. Leona Lewis (Sept. 26, Nashville); 64. Nico & Vinz (Aug. 1, Vancouver)

#### BAND GEEKS

- 65. Walk the Moon (July 24, Foxborough, Mass.); 66. Imagine Dragons' Dan Reynolds (May 30, Detroit); 67. Beck (Aug. 25, Los Angeles); 68. Andy Grammer (July 18, Chicago); 69. Ryan Tedder (Aug. 21, Los Angeles); 70. St. Vincent (Aug. 25, Los Angeles)

#### CHEERLEADERS

- 71. Martha Hunt (June 27, London); 72. Sean O'Pry (Aug. 22, Los Angeles); 73. Behati Prinsloo Levine (July 11, East Rutherford, N.J.); 74. Kendall Jenner (June 27, London); 75. Heidi Klum (July 10, East Rutherford, N.J.); 76. Candice Swanepoel (July 11, East Rutherford, N.J.); 77. Andreja Pejic (July 19, Chicago); 78. Lily Donaldson (July 19, Chicago)

### JOCKS



### STONERS



### FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Haters gonna Hate!



#1989



# Tylin 2015

## PROM KINGS



16 17 18 19 20 21 22

## BESTIES



23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PALS



37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

## FRESHMEN



54 55 56 57

## DANCE TEAM



58 59 60

## BAND GEEKS



65 66 67 68 69 70

## CHEERLEADERS



71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78

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Tylin  
2015

Left: Drake headlined Coachella on April 12. Right: The Weeknd played *Saturday Night Live* on Oct. 10.



# Drake, The Weeknd's Great [Not So] White North

What does it mean that the year's dominant R&B/hip-hop stars are multicultural meme machines from Toronto?

BY CARL WILSON

**T**HE CHART pop of the century's first dozen years was like a roving strip bar and dance club inside a giant Escalade, fleeing 9/11 fear and financial-crisis loathing in one very long lost weekend. But when the comedown hits, you call on the Canadians, the stealth outsiders with a line in bummed-out ambivalence. *Voila*, here's Drake and The Weeknd to counterbalance Jay Z and R. Kelly, the way that early-1970s Neil Young and Joni Mitchell cast rueful shade across the paisley-speckled sunshine of the previous decade. At least, that's one reading. But there are as many meanings as you choose to draw from the fact that two Torontonians, Drake, 29 (real name: Aubrey Graham) and The Weeknd, 25 (Abel Tesfaye), were dominant and defining figures of 2015 in two distinctly American genres.

Officially, Drake did not even release an album this year, but he escalated his reigning status in hip-hop when his "mixtapes" *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* and the collaborative *What a Time to Be Alive* (with Future) reached multiple charts. Social media revolved around his beef with Meek Mill, and then

he produced the year's most viral video with "Hotline Bling." But "Bling" was blocked from becoming Drake's first-ever solo No. 1 by his former wingman, The Weeknd. "The Hills" inherited the spot on lock from The Weeknd's summertime smash, "Can't Feel My Face," catapulting him from arty specialty fare to Max Martin-produced superstar. Between them, The Weeknd and Drake netted 12 2016 Grammy nominations.

Coming from a country where "Sorry" is the de facto national slogan, they both also complicate hip-hop's standard masculine aggression with maple-sugared passive-aggression: See Drake being booty-slammed by Nicki Minaj in the "Anaconda" video, or the way that his slut-shaming and controlling in "Hotline Bling" are undercut by a video that suggests his plea may be to a sex-line operator whom Drake doesn't even know. He and The Weeknd boast of sexual potency but also late-night regrets. After Beyoncé and Taylor Swift made 2014 a highly womanhood-conscious year, much of 2015 belonged to two Canadian dudes — three, if you add the very "Sorry" Justin Bieber — who seemed almost eager to submit to historic correction. Emphasis on the almost.

For both artists, the medium always has been the message. (Marshall McLuhan? Canadian too.) Drake and The Weeknd are as much digital adepts as countrymen Bieber, the biggest star

ever to spring from YouTube's forehead, and Shawn Mendes, plucked straight from Vine. The Weeknd first surfaced online anonymously, with 2011's *House of Balloons*, and he has carefully managed his slow transition from avatar to human form. Drake, meanwhile, for years has been not only hip-hop's leading living meme but its most aggressive content scout. Like Google swallowing startups, the Drake brand seeks and assimilates newer innovators.

Drake and The Weeknd unsettle the fixed black-white dichotomies that usually organize American music.

Finally, there is the postmodern-identity-renegade status specific to Drake and The Weeknd due to both hailing from Toronto, one of the world's most diverse cities, where multiple groups of immigrants meet from all over the globe. Drake is both African-American and Jewish-Canadian, while The Weeknd's family is Habesha, part of the Ethiopian-Eritrean diaspora. These categories unsettle the fixed black-white dichotomies that usually organize American music and culture. And that seems freshly urgent in 2015. Amid issues of mass migration — Who is welcome? Who should be turned away? — their music holds up ID cards stamped with question marks. ●

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# The Injury Index

The year (actually, mostly just June) in star slips, falls, tumbles and trips, as ranked by *Billboard's* own Band-Aid scale

## FLORENCE WELCH

WHEN/WHERE  
April, Coachella

**OUCH** The Florence & The Machine singer leapt from the stage and broke her foot.

**SHOW MUST GO ON** Welch never let on she was hurt, but the next week, she was carried to the stage by a bandmate.



## ENRIQUE IGLESIAS

WHEN/WHERE  
June, Mexico

**OUCH** Iglesias reached out to grab a drone and sliced up his fingers.

**SHOW MUST GO ON** The singer drew a heart on his shirt with blood and finished the show.

## DAVE GROHL

WHEN/WHERE  
June, Sweden

**OUCH** Grohl lost his footing and fell off the stage, telling the crowd, "I think I really broke my leg."

**SHOW MUST GO ON** He returned an hour later with his leg in a cast and finished the concert.



## RAE SREMMURD

WHEN/WHERE  
June, Governors Ball

**OUCH** Slim Jimmy fell off a speaker into — his words — "a big-ass piece of glass."

**SHOW MUST NOT GO ON** Went to the ER but told the crowd: "If you got video, put that shit on Instagram."  
—ROB LEDONNE



## ARIANA'S DONUTGATE

After a video surfaced of Grande saying "I hate Americans" while licking the offerings at a donut shop, a series of apologies ensued

**JULY 8 PRESS STATEMENT** "I love my country, but the fact that the U.S. has the highest child obesity rate in the world frustrates me."

**JULY 9 VIDEO STATEMENT** "I could have expressed myself in a different way, so here I am apologizing again."

**SEPT. 15 ON GOOD MORNING AMERICA** "My behavior was very offensive and I apologize. There is no excuse or nothing to justify it."

## MY YEAR GRIMES

The indie star made pop weirder (and better) with *Art Angels*, one of 2015's most acclaimed albums

I was accused of being a Satanist a few times this year. I spent May through June opening for Lana Del Rey and 70 percent of the crowd probably hadn't heard of Grimes. When you're performing a really aggressive set in broad daylight for a crowd of sober 13-year-olds and people wearing flower crowns, it's like a test. I wanted to win everyone over, but there were times when I just thought: "Shit. Sorry, guys."

But it was touring with Lana that I think I finally got good at playing live. I never walk onto the stage and worry that something might go really wrong now. Although I did get seriously hurt when we did a show in Toronto. My brothers and a whole group of friends came onstage during my set, and I

fell down at one point. I was having so much fun that I didn't notice I had twisted my ankle and torn my ACL. We all drank beer and watched Lana's show, and I danced on the injury for the entire time. It was the best day ever — and then in the

middle of the night I woke up and had to go to the hospital. The toughest part of the year overall was finishing *Art Angels*. It's hard to make your hobby your job. It had been two-and-a-half years since I'd put out something new, and I had been casually

making songs that obviously sound very, very different. The whole time I had this feeling like it might all blow up in my face and people might hate it. I worried that what I was going to put out into the world might be the worst decision ever.

When a notion like that looms in your head for such a long time, it becomes a huge source of stress. I just needed to get it out so I could not have that feeling anymore. Then, at least, you know the outcome. The not knowing is worse.

But I also think that experience might be the most difficult thing I will ever have to go through on a creative level. Because I now know people accept change. In a way, the future becomes less daunting.

For now though, I just really want to focus on doing more music videos and being more ambitious with them. Learning how to ride a horse would be pretty sick, too. And if I get the chance, I want to go to Mongolia. I'm really into Genghis Khan right now.

—AS TOLD TO BROOKE MAZUREK

"It's hard to make your hobby your job," says Grimes, aka Claire Boucher, 27.



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# Whip It Good

Wanted a hit in 2015? All it took was a dance step

PANDAS. KIDS. CLINTONS. IN 2015, EVERYONE AND THEIR grandmother made videos dancing to rapper-singer Silento's "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)." The song, which hit No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100, led a wave of top 20 tracks from indie-rap unknowns (ILoveMemphis' "Hit the Quan," T. Wayne's "Nasty [Freestyle]") powered by user-made online clips. "Before it was even a song, it was an a cappella on Instagram — I got 200 comments," says Silento. "It's called 'Watch Me,' but I made it so everyone would think it's talking to them, telling them to dance."

Now the question is: Can he and his peers parlay viral hits into careers? After signing with Capitol this summer, Silento is about to find out. "I know how to go viral, but I want people to see another side of me — I don't want to be 'the dance kid,'" says the 17-year-old, who recently released a more traditional R&B track, "All About You." "But if one of my regular songs doesn't get popping? I'm going to make another dance song."

—PAUL CANTOR

Silento



## MY YEAR PETER SHAPIRO

For this promoter, putting together The Grateful Dead's farewell shows was a dream come true — literally

**M**y year started in an outdoor shower in Jamaica.

I was vacationing there with my family when Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann called to talk over the final details for the Fare Thee Well shows: two at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., in June and three at Chicago's Soldier Field in July.

During the next five months, the 50th anniversary of The Grateful Dead was in my head all the

time, even in my dreams. From organizing global broadcasts to clearing blimps and fireworks to planning movie-theater simulcasts, Fare Thee Well was bigger than a concert — it was a cultural event.

For me, a Grateful Dead fan since age 20, bringing together Phish's Trey Anastasio and The Dead's Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Mickey Hart and Kreutzmann was a big moment. But it also held symbolic significance for the next generation of Deadheads to see Trey

take the baton in such a public way.

With attendance of 360,000-plus and a total gross of \$52 million, we pulled off the biggest concert run by a single band in rock'n'roll history. I remember thinking, "If this goes well, I'll be happy forever." For a few weeks after, I was feeling light as a Deadhead. But fast forward a couple of months and I started to get antsy about what's next. I can see that getting addictive.

—AS TOLD TO SHIRLEY HALPERIN



Weir (left) and Shapiro, 42, backstage at Fare Thee Well in Chicago in July.

# DONALD TRUMP VS. LATINOS

How the Republican presidential frontrunner became the most contentious figure in Latin music

June 16



**Trump** announces his presidential bid, declaring: "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists ... It's coming from all over South and Latin America."

June 18



**Fher Olvera** of Mexican rock band Mana is first to speak up: "I have never heard a speech as violent or as filled with hatred — not since Hitler."

June 24



**J Balvin** pulls out of his scheduled TV performance at the Trump-owned Miss USA pageant. "This [is] about showing leadership through social responsibility."

June 25



**Univision** announces it will end its business relationship with Trump's Miss Universe Organization and won't air the 2015 Miss USA pageant.

June 26



**Trump** sends a letter to Univision CEO Randy Falco banning the company's employees from the Trump National Doral resort (golf course included).

Aug. 17



During a *Meet the Press* interview, Trump says that a wall should be built along the Mexican border.

Aug. 26



Trump ejects Univision anchor Jorge Ramos from a press conference. **Ricky Martin** pens an op-ed in response, saying, "Enough is enough!"

Sept. 15

**Marc Anthony** blasts "that son of a bitch" Trump during a concert in Las Vegas.

Sept. 21



**Emilio Estefan** releases "Todos Somos Mexicanos," a star-studded video celebrating Latino accomplishments. Estefan insists the video is not a direct response to Trump but tells *Billboard*: "He can have whatever opinion he wants, as long as he doesn't humiliate my people."

Oct. 7



**Julio Iglesias** says he'll never perform at a Trump-owned property again. "I don't like his voice or his performances anymore anyhow," replies Trump.

Nov. 19

While performing together at the Latin Grammys, **Mana** and **Los Tigres del Norte** unfurl a sign on live TV that reads: "Latinos United: Don't vote for the racists!" —LEILA COBO



## MY YEAR LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

The creator of smash musical *Hamilton* on Barack, Busta and becoming a Genius



Miranda (center), 35, stars as Alexander Hamilton in the hip-hop Broadway musical.

I don't know how many really good ideas you get in a lifetime, but the idea of telling *Hamilton* as a hip-hop story was definitely one. Because you get to do everything: love and death and a war and duels and revenge and affairs and sex scandals. At opening night at the Public Theater in February, I remember thinking, "Soon everything will go back to normal" — and that just never happened.

Two things have saved me from having a swelled head: One, before we started rehearsals, my wife and I had our first child. And two, the show itself: I'm rapping for two hours and 45 minutes every night. Ask any MC — that is not easy. The discipline it takes to do that has kept my feet firmly on the ground even when I'm in a hallway surrounded by Secret Service about to perform for President Barack Obama at a fundraiser. Which was a very full-circle moment — the first time I performed material from *Hamilton* was at the White House in 2009.

But the person in the audience I was most nervous to perform for was Busta

Rhymes — another full-circle moment, since I remember getting in a fist fight with my middle-school friend at a Nobody Beats the Wiz over the last cassette single of A Tribe Called Quest's "Scenario," featuring Busta. And then years later, Busta is in the front row at the show. My hope was that the hip-hop community would embrace *Hamilton* for the love letter to the art form that it is, and Busta was the first real litmus test of that. He really flipped for the show and has been in touch ever since.

sucked, and I thought, "This is probably them trying to get me back." So I picked up the phone just mad, like, "What do you want? Your box breaks every 20 minutes!" "Hi. This is Christina from the MacArthur Foundation." It was crazy.

Since we opened, everyone who comes to the show says, "Why didn't I learn about history like this?" So that has been a priority for us. We're going to have matinees for students from Title 1 high schools who are studying American history — 20,000

"I remember thinking, 'Soon everything will go back to normal' — and that just never happened."

It is a hit show, so your life changes, but I'm trying not to let it change me too much. I still live like a grad student. When the MacArthur Foundation called me [to inform Miranda he had won a \$625,000 "Genius grant"], I picked up the phone thinking it was the cable company. I had just dumped them because their service

kids a year will attend for free. It's really exciting: These kids are going to grow up in a world in which *Hamilton* existed, and this is just what a musical sounds like. It tells them, "Even if the people who founded it don't look like you, it's your country. We get to tell this story, too, and we get to tell it our way."

—AS TOLD TO ALEX GALE

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## MY YEAR MARK RONSON

The “Uptown Funk!” producer on the year’s biggest hit (and being the white guy from the Bruno Mars video)

**I**t was do or die. My last album, *Record Collection*, hadn’t done well. And I really respect [RCA heads] Peter Edge and Tom Corson. I didn’t want to make them another quirky, eccentric album that they have no idea how they’re going to break. I wanted to deliver them *this f—ing record* so that they can have some ammunition this time. But I was surprised at every crazy notch that “Uptown Funk!” kept achieving. Anytime you’re doing something that sounds different, it’s a battle to get it through the door, but people just reacted to it. It’s a good lesson: Just do the shit that you really love, and make sure you make it incredible.

But the highlight of my year was the Glastonbury Festival. I was like “F—, if I’m going to do this, I’ve got to



Mars (at mic) and Ronson (far right), 40, at the MTV Video Music Awards in August.

pull off the best live show I’ve ever done.” We rehearsed our asses off — up until when I found out Bruno Mars wasn’t coming. I was in the pub with [XL Recordings owner] Richard Russell, like, “What am I going to do?” He says, “Let’s look at the lineup,”

and starts reading: “Mary J. Blige, Grand Master Flash, George Clinton — that’s who you need.” I was like, “Holy f—ing shit. That’s the best idea ever.” I made some polite phone calls, and it all came together. We didn’t even get a rehearsal. Afterward I had

a wild weekend reliving my 20s. Apparently I was walking around the hotel swimming pool naked.

It’s great to do these festivals and have people come to your shows, but I can still ride the subway with no paparazzi shaking down my

door. I’m sure it’s different for Bruno. I was doing a photo shoot in February, and the photographer told me he didn’t really know who I was. He said his wife was like, “Who are you going to shoot?” And he said, “The white guy from the Bruno Mars video.” That’s about an accurate read on the whole thing.

On the other hand, when you have a hit record, your phone starts lighting up. I did a track for Adele’s album. I’ve been in the studio with Haim, Lorde, Royal Blood, Paloma Faith and Lily Allen.

I consider myself a producer before an artist, so it’s weird for me to go out on the road and see my friends playing me shit they’ve been working on and I’ve got nothing to show for myself. I’m like, “What have I been doing for three months?”

—AS TOLD TO ALEX GALE

## NAME THAT METAL BAND

To fans, they’re gods. But to the mainstream? Anonymous white dudes with tats. See if you can match the photo with the impressive CV



1



2



3



4

**A**

Named after the lead singer, **Breaking Benjamin** had a surprise No. 1 debut on the Billboard 200 with *Dark Before Dawn* and scored 2.8 million YouTube views for the track “Angels Fall.”

**B**

**Bring Me the Horizon’s** *That’s the Spirit* moved 62,000 equivalent-album units its first week, according to Nielsen Music. BMTH also nabbed the Alternative Press Music Award for best video for its “Drown” clip.

**C**

After a four-year-long hiatus, **Disturbed** logged its fifth consecutive No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 and had its song “Prayer” included in the *Rock Band 4* video game.

**D**

**Five Finger Death Punch** notched its best sales week (114,000 copies) with *Got Your Six*, its third straight album to debut at No. 2 on the Billboard 200.

ANSWERS: 1C, 2A, 3B, 4D

## Compton’s Comeback

From Kendrick Lamar’s culture-shifting album to the smash *N.W.A* biopic *Straight Outta Compton* to *Suge Knight* being back in the news (not in a good way), the SoCal rap hub was on everyone’s lips again



Lamar

“Stuck a flag in my city, everybody’s screamin’ ‘Compton!’” —**KENDRICK LAMAR**

The rapper on “King Kunta,” off his critically beloved Billboard 200 No. 1 album, *To Pimp a Butterfly*.

“Before we came out, people wouldn’t even admit they was from Compton.” —**ICE CUBE**

The MC-actor to *Billboard*, on his group N.W.A’s legacy after *Straight Outta Compton* became a box-office smash.

“*Straight Outta Compton*, I’m the f—in’ movie poster to it, n—a.”

—**THE GAME**

The rapper on “L.A.,” the closing track on his acclaimed album *Documentary 2*, which debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200.

“No chains, no reins, this my home/N—a this Hub City, no fly zone.” —**DR. DRE**

The legendary MC-producer-executive on “Just Another Day,” from his first album in 16 years, *Compton*.

# Count Down the Hits.

Hear the songs that take you  
back through the decades.

With exclusive countdown shows powered by

**billboard**®

◦ **'60s Satellite Survey**

Each week, Lou Simon looks back at a top 40 chart from "this week in the '60s." You'll hear the hits as well as long-forgotten singles, plus plenty of Motown, British stars, novelty records, instrumentals, folk rock, and lots more.

◦ **Casey Kasem's American Top 40**

The music show that became a worldwide gold standard, with the immortal Casey Kasem — the "King of the Countdowns." Hear authentic '70s time capsules, pulled from the AT40 vaults and re-mastered.

◦ **Big 40 Countdown**

Original MTV VJs Mark Goodman, Nina Blackwood, Alan Hunter and Martha Quinn count down the Big 40 hits of the '80s, highlighting a specific week of a particular year from the "decade of excess!"

◦ **The Back in The Day Replay Countdown**

Former MTV VJ Downtown Julie Brown counts down the 30 biggest songs of the week from a particular year in the '90s.

◦ **The Pop2Kountdown on Pop2K**

Every week, we play the top 30 songs of that week — from a different year of the 2K decade.

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CH. 7

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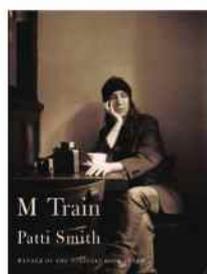
CH. 9

POP2K\*

CH. 10

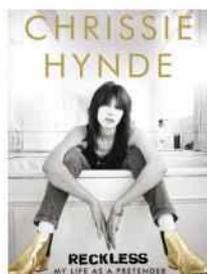
# True Confessions

Love, loss and weirdness revealed themselves in a host of memoirs by some of music's most notable women



**1 Patti Smith meets up with chess grandmaster Bobby Fischer in *M Train*.**

I received a call from a man identifying himself as Bobby Fischer's bodyguard. He had been charged with arranging a midnight meeting. Bobby Fischer arrived in a dark, hooded parka. He began testing me immediately by issuing a string of obscene and racially repellent references that morphed into paranoid conspiracy rants.



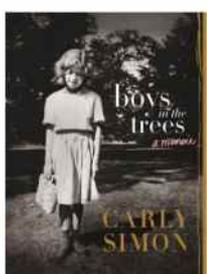
**2 Sexual assault victim Chrissie Hynde blames herself in *Reckless: My Life as a Pretender*.**

Now let me assure you that, technically speaking, however you want to look at it, this was all my doing, and I take full responsibility. You can't f— around with people, especially people who wear "I Heart Rape" and "On Your Knees" badges.



**3 Jewel learns her mom bankrupted her in *Never Broken: Songs Are Only Half the Story*.**

We both looked at my mom. "Where did it all go?" My mom sat still as a desert day. Her hands peacefully folded in her lap. A Buddha's smile on her face. Calm. Tranquil.



**4 Carly Simon identifies Warren Beatty as one of three men who inspired "You're So Vain" in *Boys in the Trees: A Memoir*.**

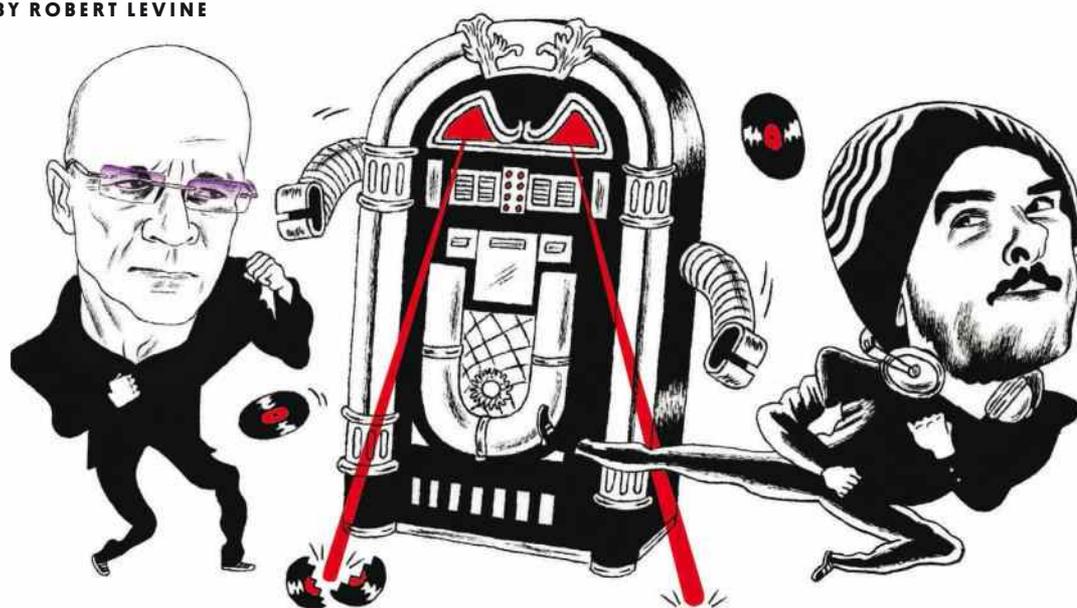
You must give Warren credit for loving women. He's not alone, but he is privileged by being universally attractive. He became compulsive because he could.

—ANDY LEWIS

# 'YOU CAN'T GET EMOTION FROM A MACHINE'

With Apple Music's Jimmy Iovine and Zane Lowe leading the way, streaming services are utilizing live tastemakers as humans battle algorithms for dominance

BY ROBERT LEVINE



**I**N THE BRAVE NEW WORLD of streaming, finding music to listen to is rarely a problem — but sifting through it certainly is. That's why helping listeners locate songs and artists they like has become so important, for both a music biz looking to break hits on this new platform and for streaming services needing to stand out from competitors. The tech world first took on curation with Pandora's Music Genome Project, which analyzed songs by up to 450 different characteristics, then used algorithms to create personalized online radio. Other services adopted a similarly technical approach. In 2014 Spotify bought The Echo Nest, a startup that analyzes music in order to provide more advanced recommendations. In 2015, however, it started to seem like human tastemakers would be just as important as algorithms for streaming. For now, at least, computers still can't hear a hit.

"We look at music discovery as a problem for humans to solve and algorithms to help scale," says Scott Plagenhoef, who oversees programming for Apple Music. The service caused a stir this summer by giving a big role to an old-school kind of curator: a star DJ, former BBC Radio personality Zane Lowe, who hosts a show on Apple's Beats 1 web radio station. Apple Music's editorial team not only makes playlists, it oversees the algorithm that recommends them to users. It also gives Apple the cred to secure exclusives from acts like Drake (who also hosts an influential Beats 1 show), most notably his "Hotline Bling" video and his chart-topper with Future, *What a Time to Be Alive*. (Presumably, advance payments also help.)

"For Jimmy Iovine, emotion is everything," says Plagenhoef, referring to the former label executive who runs Apple Music, "and you can't

get emotion from a machine."

In parts of Silicon Valley, this borders on blasphemy. In September, Google chairman Eric Schmidt took a thinly veiled swipe at Apple's approach. (Schmidt is now chairman of parent company Alphabet.) While creating a digital music service might have once required "a handful of elite tastemakers to pick the hottest new music," wrote Schmidt in a BBC News article about artificial intelligence, software could now predict tastes more efficiently. "It's a much less elitist tastemaking process — much more democratic — allowing everyone to discover the next big star through our own collective tastes and not ... the individual preferences of a select few."

Perhaps. But even Spotify, for all its impressive tech, relies on the whims — some might say the vision — of tastemakers. "We have this reputation, based on sound bites, that we're a company of robots," says global head of curation Doug Ford. Playlists are actually created by a 32-person editorial team of genre experts who sift through the catalog with software created by the "Keanu" team (a nod to the man vs. machine conflict of *The Matrix*), but humans are still in charge. Even the algorithms that build the much-praised personalized "Discover Weekly" playlists are fed with data created by people. "The tools help the programmers pick songs," says Ford.

Big Data seems to have limits when it comes to guessing tastes: With all their viewing data, Netflix and Amazon have mixed records of picking hit shows. It will be worth watching whether Pandora runs Rdio, from which it recently bought assets, with a different kind of recommendation engine than its current one. And for better or worse, a reliance on humans will let labels do more to ensure their music ends up on the right playlists (*Billboard* called this "playola" in an August article). It could lead to playlists shaped by data, influenced by promoters and ultimately determined by tastemakers. Which is ironic — because it sounds a lot like good old radio. ●



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## THE NEW CLASS OF ARENA STARS

Lots of acts have hits — but only a select few can fill Madison Square Garden. These are the artists who made the leap from theater to arena headliner in 2015

ZONE: GA  
SEAT: 140  
DATE: 01/24/2015

### ED SHEERAN



**VIP** TOTAL GROSS: \$42,542,273  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 631,862  
BIGGEST BANK: \$11,590,800 (Croke Park, Dublin, July 24-25)

NO. OF SHOWS: 46

ZONE: GA  
SEAT: 140  
DATE: 06/12/2015

### 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER



**VIP** TOTAL GROSS: \$37,427,494  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 782,982  
BIGGEST BANK: \$1,662,460 (SSE Arena, London, June 12-14)

NO. OF SHOWS: 69

ZONE: GA  
SEAT: 140  
DATE: 03/20/2015

### ARIANA GRANDE



**VIP** TOTAL GROSS: \$23,380,920  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 468,737  
BIGGEST BANK: \$1,455,122 (Madison Square Garden, New York, March 20-21)

NO. OF SHOWS: 43

ZONE: GA  
SEAT: 140  
DATE: 08/12/2014

### J COLE



**VIP** TOTAL GROSS: \$17,712,897  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 499,054  
BIGGEST BANK: \$1 million (Madison Square Garden, New York, Aug. 4)

NO. OF SHOWS: 43

ZONE: GA  
SEAT: 140  
DATE: 07/26/2015

### NICKI MINAJ



**VIP** TOTAL GROSS: \$15,513,598  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 328,059  
BIGGEST BANK: \$1,388,680 (Barclays Center, Brooklyn, July 26)

NO. OF SHOWS: 23



Bieber

## Tropical House Heated Up

The beachy EDM subgenre became pop's favorite new sound, led by these Billboard Hot 100 hits

**MR. PROBZ "Waves (Robin Schulz Remix)"** German producer Schulz set the table for tropical house's 2015 takeover with this reinvention of the Dutch singer-rapper's single, peaking at No. 14 on the Hot 100 in December 2014 and staying hot through the new year.

**LILLYWOOD & ROBIN SCHULZ "Prayer in C"** Schulz followed up with worldwide smash single "Prayer in C" with French-Israeli duo Lillywood. The song went to No. 1 in more than 30 countries and peaked at No. 23 on the Hot 100 in March.

**OMI "Cheerleader"** Tropical house's first Hot 100 chart-topper reached No. 1 in July, courtesy of German producer Felix Jaehn, who breathed new life into Jamaican singer OMI's 2012 tune by adding woodblock percussion and a trumpet line.

**JUSTIN BIEBER "What Do You Mean?"** Like Britney Spears' "Hold It Against Me" did for dubstep and Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" did for trap, Bieber's comeback single cemented tropical house's place in pop's pecking order when it gave him his first No. 1 in September.

**KYGO FEATURING CONRAD "Firestone"** The single from the subgenre's Norwegian flag-bearer peaked at No. 92 in October and showed why the DJ-producer is one of EDM's most promising rising stars.

—MATT MEDVED

## THE OLDS ARE ALRIGHT

Legendary stars rang up big chart numbers this year with long-awaited comeback albums



**DR. DRE**  
Age: 50

**16**  
YEARS SINCE LAST ALBUM

**295K**

Equivalent-album units *Compton* moved week one — although it was blocked from No. 1 by Luke Bryan's *Kill the Lights*.

**INSPIRATIONAL LYRIC**  
"Goddammit, I'm too old, I forgot I got it all/But Andre young enough to still get involved"  
—"Talk About It"



**JAMES TAYLOR**  
Age: 67

**7**  
YEARS SINCE LAST ALBUM

**96K**

First-week sales of *Before This World*, JT's first-ever No. 1 album (1971's *Mud Slide Slim and the Blue Horizon* reached No. 2).

**INSPIRATIONAL LYRIC**  
"Days go by, and I wish that I could slow the whole thing down/Have it all back again"  
—"You and I Again"



**JANET JACKSON**  
Age: 49

**7**  
YEARS SINCE LAST ALBUM

**116K**

Equivalent-album units Jackson's *Unbreakable* netted in its first week, securing the star her seventh No. 1 on the Billboard 200.

**INSPIRATIONAL LYRIC**  
"I lived through my mistakes/It's just a part of growing"  
—"Unbreakable"



**DON HENLEY**  
Age: 68

**15**  
YEARS SINCE LAST ALBUM

**87K**

First-week sales of Henley's *Cass County*, the highest-charting album (No. 3) of the Eagles drummer's solo career.

**INSPIRATIONAL LYRIC**  
"Wear it like a royal crown, when you get old and grey/It's the cost of living, and everyone pays"  
—"The Cost of Living"



Hughes visited a memorial outside Le Bataclan on Dec. 8.

'Our friends went there to see rock'n'roll and died. I want to go back there and live'

— Jesse Hughes, co-founder, Eagles of Death Metal

Hughes was among the survivors of the terrorist attack that killed 89 during the band's performance at Le Bataclan nightclub in Paris on Nov. 13. In total, 130 people died that night.

**Billboard remembers the victims:**

- |                                |                         |                       |                            |                           |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stephane Albertini             | Aurilie de Peretti      | Julien Galisson       | Mohamed Amine              | Fanny Minot               | Sebastien Proisy              |
| Nick Alexander                 | Matthieu de Rorthais    | Suzon Garrigues       | Ibnolmobarak               | Yannick Minvielle         | Richard Rammant               |
| Jean-Jacques Amiot             | Guillaume B. Decherf    | Mayeul Gaubert        | Pierre Innocenti           | Cecile Misse              | Valentin Ribet                |
| Armelle Pumir Anticevic        | Nicolas Degenhardt      | Michelli Gil Jaimez   | Nathalie Jardin            | Lamia Mondeguer           | Estelle Rouat                 |
| Anne-Laure Arruebo             | Elsa Veronique Delplace | Cedric Ginstou        | Marion Jouanneau           | Marie Mosser              | Raphael Ruiz                  |
| Thomas Ayad                    | Alban Denuit            | Matthieu Giroud       | Milko Jozic                | Justine Moulin            | Halima Saadi                  |
| Chole Boissinot                | Vincent Detoc           | Cedric Gomet          | Jean-Jacques Kircheim      | Quentin Mourier           | Hodda Saadi                   |
| Emmanuel Bonnet                | Asta Diakite            | Nohemi Gonzalez       | Hyacinthe Koma             | Victor Munoz              | Madeleine Sadin               |
| Maxime Bouffard                | Manuel Dias             | Juan Alberto Gonzalez | Thibault Rousse Lacordaire | Christophe Mutez          | Kheireddine Sahbi             |
| Quentin Boulenger              | Romain Didier           | Garrido               | Nathalie Lauraine          | Helene Muyal-Leiris       | Lola Salines                  |
| Ludovic Boubas                 | Lucie Dietrich          | Stephane Gregoire     | Marie Lausch               | Romain Naufle             | Patricia San Martin Nunez     |
| Elodie Breuil                  | Elif Dogan              | Anne Cornet Guyomard  | Gilles Leclerc             | Bertrand Navarret         | Hugo Sarrade                  |
| Ciprian Calciu                 | Fabrice Dubois          | Pierre-Yves Guyomard  | Guillaume Le Dramp         | Christopher Neuet-Shalter | Djalal-Eddin Sebaa            |
| Claire Camax                   | Romain Dunet            | Stephane Hache        | Renaud Le Guen             | Lola Ouzounian            | Maud Serrault                 |
| Nicolas Catinat                | Thomas Duperron         | Thierry Hardouin      | Christophe Lellouche       | David Perchirin           | Sven Alejandro Silva Perugini |
| Baptiste Chevreau              | Justine Dupont          | Olivier Hauducoeur    | Claire Maitrot-Tapprest    | Manuel Perez              | Valeria Solesin               |
| Nicolas Classeau               | Mathias Dymarski        | Frederic Henninot     | Cecile Martin              | Anna Petard Liefrrig      | Fabian Stech                  |
| Precelia Correia               | Salah Emad El-Gebaly    | Pierre-Antoine Henry  | Antoine Mary               | Marion Petard Liefrrig    | Ariane Theiller               |
| Cecile Coudon Peccadeau        | Germain Ferey           | Raphael Hilz          | Cedric Mauduit             | Franck Pitiot             | Eric Thome                    |
| de l'Isle                      | Romain Feuillade        | Mathieu Hoche         | Charlotte Meaud            | Lacramioara Pop           | Olivier Vernadal              |
| Marie-Aimee Dalloz             | Gregory Fosse           | Djamila Houd          | Emilie Meaud               | Caroline Prenat           | Stella Verry                  |
| Veronique Geoffroy de Bourgies | Christophe Foultier     |                       | Isabelle Merlin            | Francois-Xavier Prevost   | Luis Felipe Zschoche Valle    |

Tylin  
2015

# The No. 1s

Every artist dreams of topping a *Billboard* chart, but the 15 wildly diverse performers featured in this portfolio — from **FUTURE** to **JILL SCOTT, SELENA GOMEZ** to **LITTLE BIG TOWN** — pulled off that feat in 2015 thanks to two things they all share: a relentless, razor-sharp support team and, according to hip-hop superstar **NICKI MINAJ** — whose 2015 included a public feud and romance — stadium-sized ambition: “You have to be bigger than your music. I was never settling. I was ruthless”





From left: Cash Money Records co-founder/co-CEO Ronald "Slim" Williams, The Blueprint Group co-CEO Gee Roberson, Republic Records chairman/CEO Monte Lipman, Minaj, Republic Records president/COO Avery Lipman, Young Money Entertainment president Mack Maine, Cash Money Records attorney/business manager Vernon Brown and Republic Records executive vp Charlie Walk photographed by David Needleman on Nov. 23 at Milk Studios in Los Angeles.

# THE BOSS

*In a year bookended by blockbusters from Taylor Swift and Adele, Nicki Minaj set her own standard for success, ticking off triumphs (No. 1 album, Grammy noms, massive tour, high-profile relationship) even as she fearlessly spoke her mind and openly challenged other superstars*

BY JODY ROSEN

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To be clear: Nicki Minaj is a better musician than she is a celebrity. But she's an awfully good celebrity. For Minaj, 33, it's a job that entails more than the routine duties of 21st century multimedia fame — spreading your stardust across dozens of platforms, from recording studio to concert stage to red carpet to Instagram feed. Minaj's brand of megastardom means inhabiting the eye of a storm that sweeps up contentious issues of race and gender and sexuality, while tending to more quotidian controversies like rap beefs and diva rivalries.

During the past 12 months, Minaj has found herself playing the role of fearsome pop-culture provocateur — often, but not always, intentionally. She has scorned racialized beauty standards, one statement prompting a Twitter riposte, then a hasty apology, from Taylor Swift. She called out Miley Cyrus for cavalier appropriation of black culture. She stayed above the fray when a feud broke out between her new boyfriend, Meek Mill, and her longtime comrade and labelmate Drake; and she navigated the political thickets of the dispute that continues to roil that record label, Cash Money.

Oh, yeah — she also spent the year holding down her day job, barnstorming arenas in the United States and Europe in support of her third album, the vibrantly genre-defying *The Pinkprint*. In 2015, that album spent four weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Rap Albums chart and was just edged from the top spot on the *Billboard* 200 by Swift's titanic *1989*.

*The Pinkprint* has sold 682,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen Music, and spawned multiple hit singles including a pair of witty, lewd rap tracks, "Truffle Butter" and "Only," which reached No. 1 on the Mainstream R&B/Hip-Hop and R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay charts. Both singles earned Grammy nominations, and *The Pinkprint* is up for best rap album. In short, it was a banner year in a career for which there is no precedent: that of a glamorous, politically engaged black female star who churns out extravagantly glitzy top 40 pop while maintaining as good a claim to the mantle of Greatest Rapper Alive as anyone, of any gender.

One could add another title to Minaj's résumé: Most Forbidding Interviewee. Her reputation for bluntness — a tetchy truth-teller who brooks no nonsense and lets no slight go unanswered — was confirmed by the publication, in October, of a *New York Times Magazine* profile that ended with Minaj tossing the story's author, journalist Vanessa Grigoriadis, out of her hotel room, punishment for a line of questioning that the star deemed sexist and belittling.

No one is ejected from the room during *Billboard's* audience with Minaj (although just after our interview, she clashed with *Billboard's* photo team over a series of issues, some of which could not be resolved to her satisfaction). The conversation is, as ever, forthright and provocative. Minaj weighs in on Hillary Clinton's "struggles as a woman" and lambastes the war on drugs as a form of "slavery." She drops hints about an imminent return to her mixtape-rap roots, and dishes on everything from her taste in decor to double dates with Beyoncé and Jay Z. The interview takes place at a studio in Los Angeles, where the Trinidad-born, Queens-reared star recently moved into a swank home with Meek Mill. Minaj wears

a pink chiffon dress and fuzzy slippers, padding around the space chatting with friends and associates. At one point, an employee of Minaj's asks her how she came up with one of the rhymes in "Only," a zinger that spins a naughty punchline out of a reference to the L.A. Clippers' small forward Lance Stephenson. "I had just finished cooking," she said. "I always like to season stuff really good before I cook it — I let it soak. 'Let it soak in, like seasonin'/'And tell 'em, tell 'em blow me, Lance Stephenson.' See? Let it soak in."



"We were asking their opinions on [relationships] and they gave us a lot of jewels," says Minaj of herself and Meek Mill on a double date with Jay Z and Beyoncé. From left: Jay Z, Beyoncé, Minaj and Mill in May.

## What validation means the most to you? No. 1 records? The respect of fellow artists?

The people's reaction — when I'm on tour, how they scream when a song comes on. Obviously, I always want an album to debut at No. 1. But in terms of songs — for instance, "Super Bass" was so culturally effective. It never went No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, but that song still makes people happy. Six years old to 80 years old, when people hear it, they know it and they love it. And, in terms of rap, stuff like "Did It on 'Em." Whether or not that song goes to No. 1, I'd

still be proud of it. Because when it comes on, I could be in the middle of West Bubba and people still screw their faces up and do the head nod.

**You're a New Yorker, but people don't think of you as a regional rapper, exactly. Maybe because you signed to [New Orleans-based] Cash Money. Do you consider yourself a New York rapper?**

Definitely. The way I focus on metaphors and punchlines — that's a very New York, Philly, East Coast thing. When I started, we were very battle-driven, so every line mattered. We had to try to destroy

## The Year Of *The Pinkprint*: Execs Weigh In

### HER EVOLUTION AS AN ARTIST

"I appreciate artists where you cannot reference one genre. That's where Nicki is right now. She can essentially be anything she wants. If you told me she wanted to cut a country record, I'd say, 'Let's go.'"

—MONTE LIPMAN, CHAIRMAN/CEO, REPUBLIC RECORDS

### THE MAKING OF THE ALBUM

"It was a return to her roots, but she still gave her fans an evolved Nicki, with the singing, and she still reached the pop culture. The hardest thing we had to do was narrow the songs down."

—MACK MAINE, PRESIDENT, YOUNG MONEY ENTERTAINMENT

### THE VMAs CONFRONTATION WITH MILEY CYRUS

"I'm riding with Nicki. She did what she had to do. She isn't just going to mess with you. You have to do something for her to get into that."

—RONALD "SLIM" WILLIAMS, CO-FOUNDER/CO-CEO, CASH MONEY RECORDS



Styling by Jason Rembert. Minaj wears a Michael Costello dress and Giuseppe Zanotti shoes.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: SET DESIGN BY WARD ROBINSON AT WOODEN LADDER, GROOMING BY YVESSELLE PARRY AND SIENBEE AT CELESTINE AGENCY, ON-SET STYLING BY SIMONA SABO, MINAJ: HAIR BY OSCAR JAMES AT KEN BARBOZA ASSOCIATES, MAKEUP BY SHEKA DALEY, MANICURE BY SARAH CHIE AT EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT USING NAILS, INC. THIS SPREAD, LEFT: COURTESY OF @NICKIMINAJ

your life, and we were ruthless and very smart with wordplay. To make anything with a double meaning, you've got to be smart.

**Have you heard Missy Elliott's new record, "WTF"?**

Yeah — I think it's great. I think she's great.

**Are there current artists you're especially into?**

**Can I ask you about certain artists?**

I'd rather not. Because then I may not have heard of them, and I don't want to be rude. So.

**You've been working on a sitcom for ABC about your childhood. How's that going?**

I am maybe too involved. Two days ago I was in casting. I'm going back tomorrow. I found one girl who I'm obsessed with who might play me, and

someone who could rival her. So I've been coaching them both. I do a beat, let them rap. I do little dances with them. It has been magical. I didn't even know I had it in me, but I love children so much.

**Are there models for the show? Have you seen any of the new ones that depict people of color, like *Fresh Off the Boat* or *Master of None*?**

Well, I narrate this show, like Chris Rock narrates *Everybody Hates Chris*. It was little differences that made that show stand out. I want to have those nuances. My first day, I said to the casting director: "This will not be a cliched black show."

**You began your career as an actress. You're in the upcoming *Barbershop* sequel. Is acting something you want to do more of in coming years?**

Absolutely. I want to do something very serious. Meryl Streep is one of my favorite artists of all time. She blows me away in just about everything she does. I love how she can go from *The Devil Wears Prada* to *The Iron Lady* — she's so incredible in that. My dream would be to have that type of acting career, where I can do both things believably.

**“Once a song is no longer hot, you're no longer hot. It's important that you are bigger than your music.”**

**Do you watch a lot of TV?**

I watch Investigation Discovery all day. All day. Like, I know everything about law and crime-solving. Everybody that comes to my house, they're like: "Do you not take it off this channel?" Meek thinks that I'm planning on killing him. We live together now, and every time he wakes up, it's on. Every time he goes to sleep, it's on.

**Do you watch *Empire*?**

I remember seeing the first episode and being like, "Oh, my God. I wasn't expecting it to be this real and dope." But I haven't seen it in a while.

**The end of the Obama era is approaching. Are there things about his presidency that have especially impressed you, or disappointed you?**

I do want to speak about something specific, which just melted my heart. I thought it was so important when he went to prisons and spoke to people who got 20 and 30 and 40 and 50 years for drugs. There are women who are raped, people who are killed and [offenders] don't even serve 20 years. I was blown away, watching the footage of him speaking to the prisoners. They never felt like anyone in the White House cared about them. I loved that he made them people again. Because we all make mistakes. I think about how many men may have made a mistake to feed their families and then had to pay for it forever.

**Many critics of the United States' drug enforcement policies have pointed out that they disproportionately target people of color.**

What it has become is not a war on drugs. It has become slavery. Or something crazier. When I see how many people are in jail, I feel like, "Wait a minute. Our government is aware of these statistics and thinks it's OK?" The sentences are inhumane. I love the president for trying to be a voice for people who no other person has ever tried to be a voice for.

**What do you think of Hillary Clinton?**

I support her as a woman. Am I convinced that she should be the next president? I still want to be open-minded about everyone. Obviously, I identify with her struggles as a woman. I identify with the fact

that when she's in that room and there are nothing but men there — there's sometimes something in her that must feel intimidated. But I think that she uses that and turns it into a strength. Because that's what I've always done. And so I love her for sticking it out. She has gone through horrifying things, even within her marriage. She has been brave and weathered the storm. And continued being a boss. That's something that every woman should feel inspired by, no matter if you're voting for her or not.

**You're from New York, so you also must have an opinion on Donald Trump.**

(Laughs.) There are points he has made that may not have been so horrible if his approach wasn't so childish. But in terms of entertainment — I think he's hilarious. I wish they could just film him running for president. That's the ultimate reality show. [The interview was conducted prior to Trump's Dec. 7 comments about halting immigration by Muslims into the United States.]

**The country is going through a period of heightened protest and conversation about racial justice. You've been vocal about Black Lives Matter, the Sandra Bland case, Eric Garner and Trayvon Martin.**

I did research on the Sandra Bland case. That's why it hit me so hard. I remember speaking to other women at the time. This could have been me. I'm a sassy woman. I may have given a little bit of attitude to a police officer. I could have never come home.

**“Obviously, I identify with Clinton's struggles as a woman.”**

**You recently appeared at “Shining a Light: A Concert for Progress on Race in America” and recited the Maya Angelou poem “Still I Rise.” What made you choose it?**

It was the most spot-on poem that Nicki Minaj could have ever read. And it's funny; it ended up proving a point. Because I remember going online after and lots of people said such beautiful things. But there was one lady, an older black woman, who said, “She shouldn't be reading that poem.” And she discussed how I dressed. I love that she said that, because she doesn't even realize the poem is discussing sexiness, owning your sex appeal. “Does my sexiness upset you?/Does it come as a surprise/That I dance like I've got diamonds/At the meeting of my thighs?” And this woman, she was discussing her PhDs, all this education she had — but she couldn't put two and two together about the theme of the poem. My entire career has been that poem in a nutshell.

**You moved into a new house in Los Angeles just a couple of months ago. What is it like? What's the Nicki Minaj aesthetic?**

I'm not, like, the vintage girl. I like it to look plush.



There's one room where I want everything to be in white leather. And the bedroom, I want a beautiful canopy with lots of drapery all over it. I want to feel like Princess Jasmine.

**Do you miss New York?**

I love it [in Los Angeles]. I spoke to Beyoncé about it, because she came out here recently too. She said exactly what I used to say when I first moved here. We just feel happier. She was saying that simple things that would normally feel like a task, they don't [feel that way] out here. She told me it's not bothersome to get up super early and have to take Blue to school, because it looks so beautiful. I'm a New Yorker, but there are times in New York when you wake up and it's, like, a dreary day. I know my London fans can identify with this. When I'm in London or Paris, I think the same thing. Part of the beauty is in the grayness — but it's an acquired taste.

**You're wearing a diamond on your ring finger.**

Yeah. Meek gave me that.

**Is it an engagement ring?**

He and I are not engaged. But he said he would like to give me three rings before we get married. My birthday's coming up, and he better get the new one, because he got [the first one] for my last birthday. So let's see what happens.

**You're in a high-profile relationship. That presents some unique challenges. Is this something you and Meek discuss?**

Yeah, we speak about it. We actually spoke with Jay Z and Beyoncé about it, too. After our show at [Brooklyn's] Barclays Center [in October], we had dinner together. They were so giving with advice. I love them so much. It was just a beautiful conversation to have with people we love and we look up to as a couple. They're so strong.

**Is there anything you would care to share from that conversation?**

I'd rather keep it private. I know Meek — he understood a couple things that I was explaining to

him more when we spoke about it in front of them. We were all laughing so much. It was very late — you know when you get so tired, and it's just like the giggles portion of the evening?

I don't know what's going to happen with he and I. I just know right now we are really, really enjoying each other's company. So, shout out to everybody in the world that's just trying to find love or be happy. Everybody should have someone to hold at night. It really, really changes your energy. I find that my energy is very different afterward — if I'm in the bed with him, just hugging him all day. It's just, like, something about love. You transfer it. It's infectious.

**What is it like dating another rapper? Do you and Meek share works in progress? Will you spit bars at each other?**

Meek doesn't let me hear his music. Right now, he's about to put out a mixtape, and I haven't heard it. We laugh about this all the time. Just yesterday I was like, “Oh, am I going to get to come in and hear the secret music or not?” And he was like, “Not yet. It's not done.” But I respect it because I'm an artist. I'm like that too.

**Speaking of mixtapes, you began your career as a mixtape artist. Do you ever want to just release a mixtape and destroy the game?**

I'll definitely drop a mixtape. I have to.

**You have to? Why?**

Well, I want to touch a couple of beats that I wasn't on. I could have bodied a lot of the records that came out in the last year. But the main thing is, I have to set an example for female rappers. I'm at the top of that food chain, and it's important to lead by example. And because I came into the game doing mixtapes, I want to make sure women do not forget the importance of that grind, that walk up to the top. You can't get there with a song. Because once that song is no longer hot, you're no longer hot. It's important that you are bigger than your music. Some fans are going to f— with me for the rest of my life because they know where I came from. Fans know my struggle. How hungry I was. That I was not settling, I was not giving up. I was on everybody's beat. I was ruthless. ●

Photographed by  
Austin Hargrave on Oct. 7  
at Universal Music  
Group in Santa Monica.

## THE GRADUATE BIG SEAN

[ FROM LEFT ]

BIG SEAN, STEVE BARTELS, NO I.D.

**DARK SKY PARADISE**

1 Week On The Billboard 200

Led by the boisterous breakup anthem "I Don't F— With You" featuring E-40 — No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart — Big Sean charmed his way to the top with his third album, *Dark Sky Paradise*. The G.O.O.D. Music/Def Jam release netted the 27-year-old his first No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and best-ever first-week sales (173,000 units, according to Nielsen Music). Collaborating with an A-list crew that also included Kanye West, DJ Mustard, Drake and John Legend, Big Sean deepened his imprint on 2015 with "Blessings" and "One Man Can Change the World," featuring West and Legend and nominated for a best rap/sung collaboration Grammy.

**BIG SEAN** *Dark Sky Paradise* was recorded in the studio I built in my house. No I.D. gave me the idea, saying I needed to be able to work on my own terms. It was the best thing I ever did. This time I didn't let anything but the music be my No. 1 focus. That's the difference between this and my other projects: I got to live out the music.

**NO I.D.**, executive vp A&R, Def Jam: This was about Sean growing into his perspective, into his taste and being comfortable with his identity beyond just being the young kid found by Kanye. As an executive, part of the recording process is knowing when to get out of the way and let the artist's energy take control. Sean really graduated in my eyes.

**STEVE BARTELS**, CEO, Def Jam: There's a texture to Sean's sonic delivery that people like, talk about and then pass word on to their friends.

**NO I.D.** I really fought for "I Don't F— With You" as the single. This record was very timely.

**BIG SEAN** My privacy is out there on this album — all my ups, downs, flaws, best days, worst days — and people were able to connect. Making this album was emotional because my grandma was dying. She was a true OG if I ever met one; a big influence. I'm happy she got to see it start happening for me. —GAIL MITCHELL

For exclusive video of Big Sean and all of this year's chart-toppers telling the stories behind their hits, go to [Billboard.com](http://Billboard.com) or [Billboard.com/ipad](http://Billboard.com/ipad).

Tylin  
2015

Photographed by  
Aaron Richter on  
Nov. 3 at Sony Music  
Entertainment in  
New York.



# THE VISIONARY FUTURE

**[FROM LEFT]**  
FUTURE, ANTONIO "L.A." REID

**DS2**  
1 Week On The Billboard 200

**WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE (WITH DRAKE)**  
1 Week On The Billboard 200

"This is the house that Future built," Epic Records chairman/CEO Antonio "L.A." Reid, 59, says one November afternoon at the label's offices in Manhattan. He's toasting the efforts of his staff for helping the rapper, 32, send not one, but *two* albums to the top of the Billboard 200 in 2015, an especially notable triumph after the disappointing performance of 2014's scattershot *Honest*. Returning to his core sound but utilizing an up-to-the-minute surprise-release rollout strategy, the Atlanta native dialed down the pop-leaning fare for the releases *DS2* and *What a Time to Be Alive*, his collaborative album with Drake. The subsequent No. 1s came just weeks apart.

**FUTURE** The way that people received [*Honest*] was a big disconnect. Sonically, I wasn't telling the story that I wanted to tell. I just did it my way this time [with *DS2*]. I didn't have any expectations. It's a blessing to have a No. 1 album.

**REID** Many of us can't decode it, but Future and his fans, they all speak in code, so they knew [*DS2*] was coming. I could bullshit if you'd like, but the truth is I knew it would be the No. 1 album. Future had figured it out. *This* album probably should have been called *Honest*. This is just the tip of the iceberg. I really believe that — pun intended — he is the future.

**FUTURE** Music is a competition between me and myself. I have to do better, make better songs. Other artists, they compete with themselves. I always try to top myself to be the MVP, to get the championship. After the championship, you get the hall of fame. You have to think ahead of the curve. That's my 2016 plan. I want to continue moving at a certain pace, be consistent with what I'm doing. Not trying anything new, not just pull a trick out of the bag. Everything I do, I just want to be perfect. —STEVEN J. HOROWITZ

Photographed by David McClister on Oct. 23 at Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.



## THE STORYTELLER JASON ISBELL

**[FROM LEFT]**  
ANDREW COLVIN [AGENT, BILLIONS CORP.], DAVE COBB, ISBELL, TRACI THOMAS, DAVID MACIAS, JIM FLAMMIA [FOUNDER/PRESIDENT, ALL EYES MEDIA]

**SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE**  
1 Week On Top Country Albums And Top Rock Albums, And 4 Weeks On Folk Albums

Two years ago, Jason Isbell established himself as a critic's darling with the addiction-haunted narratives of his fourth album, *Southeastern*. This summer's follow-up, *Something More Than Free*, not only reflected the 36-year-old singer-songwriter's hard-won personal peace, it elevated him to multiformat force: The album reached No. 1 on the Top Rock Albums, Top Country Albums and Folk Albums charts, even edging out a new album from icon Alan Jackson. It also earned him a Grammy nomination for best Americana album; "24 Frames" is up for best American roots song.

**DAVE COBB**, producer: Jason and I, we barely talked about what the record would be until we got in the studio. I think we did that on purpose. You could angle and plot all you want, but it doesn't matter until you actually get in there and see what the songs are.

**TRACI THOMAS**, manager: When he first tweeted that some of these songs were better than *Southeastern's* people were like, "That's blasphemy." But when they heard them, they said, "You may be right."

**DAVID MACIAS**, president, Thirty Tigers: It feels like what he writes is very close to who he is and how he feels. So fans perceive that they're getting the real, unvarnished Jason when they're listening to his music, and they are.

**ISBELL** I think a lot of the shows that we did leading up to the release of the record made people feel like they had a connection with the music. If you go out every night and try to put yourself in a place you were in when you wrote the songs and still manage to have a really good time, that's something that connects with people on a very basic human level. They'll buy multiple copies of an album if that album reminds them of that experience.

**MACIAS** Jason is so engaging in his use of social media that he's able to bring his intelligence, his humor and all that to his fans every day. He's a consistent presence in their lives above and beyond the music. —JEWEL HIGHT

Tylin  
2015

Jill Scott — singer, songwriter, actress and, for many devoted fans, mother confessor — has come a long way since her platinum introduction in 2000, *Who Is Jill Scott?* For her fifth album, Scott, 43, recorded in both Los Angeles and Nashville. The creative merger spawned *Woman*, her second consecutive No. 1 debut on her Blues Babe/Atlantic label.

**JULIETTE JONES**, executive vp urban promotion, Atlantic: Jill was coming off her last No. 1 album [2011's *The Light of the Sun*] and its two No. 1 singles, so it was a very friendly environment.

**SCOTT** We started with the blues track "You Don't Know." It was a huge statement about

the album's title: a female who isn't afraid of the hurt or growth that comes with being a woman. Then came first single "Fool's Gold" — R&B with some swing on it, and a great story.

**JULIE GREENWALD**, chairman/COO, Atlantic: I don't know who keeps saying that R&B is dead, but Jill performed to

## THE VOICE JILL SCOTT

{ FROM LEFT }

SHAWN GEE [MANAGER; PARTNER, MAVERICK],  
JULIE GREENWALD, SCOTT, JULIETTE JONES

*WOMAN*

1 Week On The Billboard 200

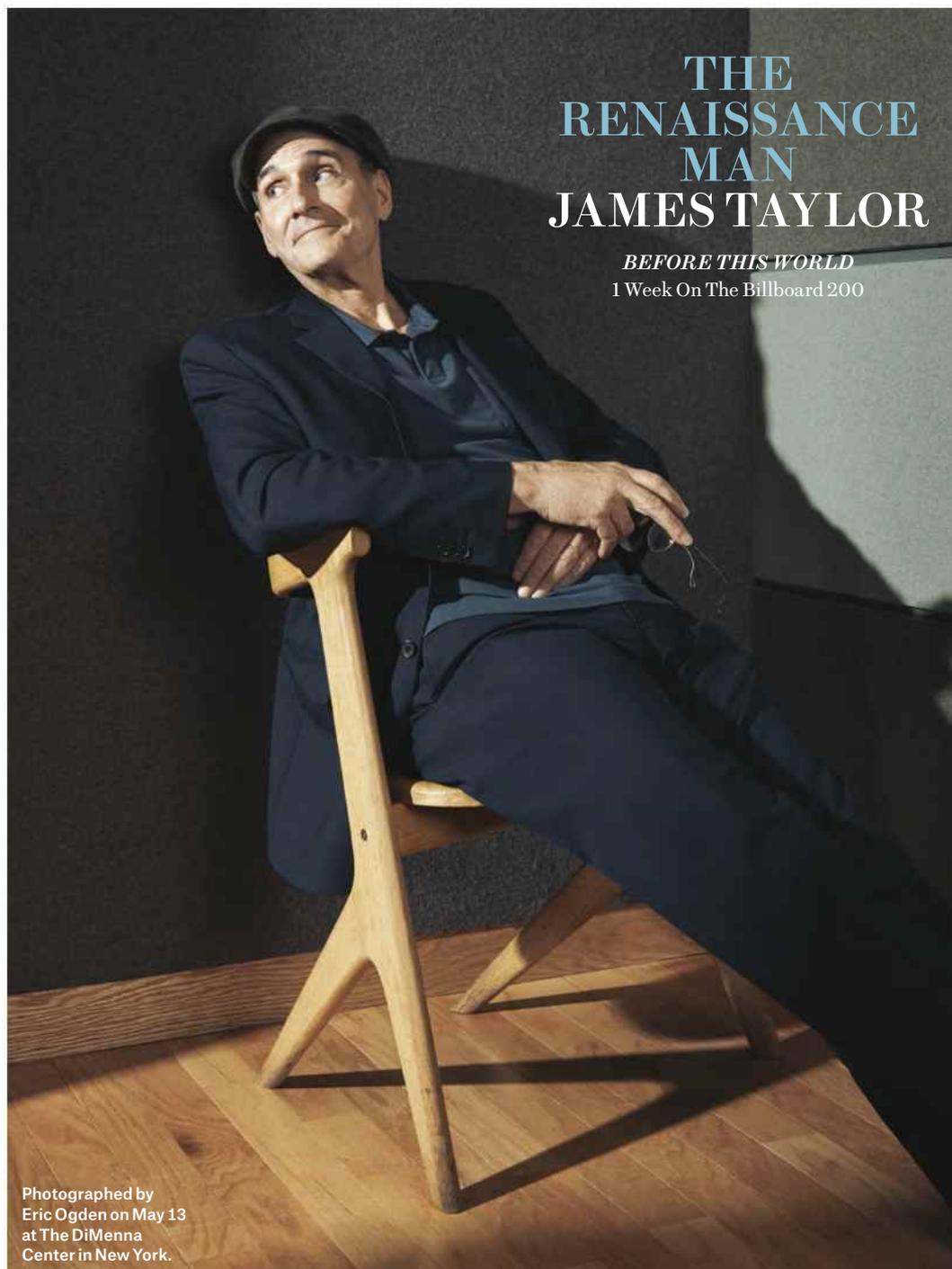


huge audiences on tour. At multiple shows I attended, people were trying to buy my ticket going in.

**SCOTT** With its musical energy and guts, *Woman* is my favorite album. It also represents 15 years of longevity and tenacity: Music still feels like home to me. —GAIL MITCHELL



Photographed by Eric Ogden on Oct. 20 at House of Blues Studios in Nashville.



When James Taylor's managers Sam Feldman and Michael Gorfaine called the artist to say *Before This World* hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200, Taylor, 67, revealed that he had never had a No. 1 album in the 45 years since he first charted with his 1970 LP, *Sweet Baby James*. Those who worked on the release attribute its success — including two Grammy nominations, one for best pop vocal album — in part to Concord Records' willingness to give Taylor the time he needed to make the album he wanted and an astute marketing and promotion strategy.

**DAVE O'DONNELL**, producer: Right from the first song we recorded there was a special feeling. James' voice was in great shape.

**FELDMAN** We had set up a world tour well off into the future to give him time to finish the record, but he ended up having to tour prior to it being done. In a funny way it worked out: Because of the touring, he was on people's minds when the record was finally released.

**GORFAINE** We took a deliberately prismatic

approach to getting this record to as many people as possible via radio, TV, print and social media. James embraced it all, but a few things stood out: The candid interview he did with Howard Stern, the "Two James Taylors on a Seesaw" skit with Jimmy Fallon and the "In My Pants" record commercial with Jimmy Kimmel.

**TAYLOR** You've got to be game for all of those opportunities. Occasionally, one will get some notice in our great, distracted popular culture.

**MARGI CHESKE**, president, Fantasy Label Group: A Boston Red Sox executive named Charles Steinberg, who is a friend of James and myself, helped us premiere "Angels of Fenway" at Fenway Park. We wanted the Red Sox to have some ownership because it's a tribute to them.

**TAYLOR** When they called [to tell me the album had hit No. 1], I think I said, "Well, how about that." I was surprised at how much it meant to me to have a success like this. It used to be sort of uncool to be motivated by sales and by chart position and stuff like that. —FRANK DIGIACOMO

Tyln  
2015

Photographed  
by Austin Hargrave  
on Sept. 18 at  
MGM Grand Garden  
Arena in Las Vegas.



## THE SHOWSTOPPER TORI KELLY

[FROM LEFT]  
KELLY, SCOOTER BRAUN

“NOBODY LOVE”  
Trending 140

“UNBREAKABLE SMILE”  
Trending 140

“SHOULD’VE BEEN US”  
Trending 140

Tori Kelly’s debut studio album, *Unbreakable Smile*, helped establish the singer-songwriter as a rising talent, but it was the 22-year-old’s memorable awards-show performances that catapulted her from YouTube curio to best new artist Grammy nominee this year. Her first national TV breakthrough was the May 17 Billboard Music Awards: When the talent-

show alumna played a soulful acoustic version of “Nobody Love,” the track surged to No. 1 on the real-time Billboard + Twitter Trending 140 chart twice the following day. At the MTV Video Music Awards in August, when Kelly burned through her breakup anthem “Should’ve Been Us” — a song that already had hit No. 1 on the Trending 140 on six different days — the tune resurfaced at No. 4 on the chart. By the time Kelly arrived at the MTV European Music Awards in October to deliver an exuberant medley of “Should’ve Been Us” with TLC’s “No Scrubs” and The Fugees’ “Ready or Not,” she had not only accumulated three No. 1 hits on the Trending 140 but earned the respect of her Grammy-voting peers. Recalls her manager Scooter Braun, “All the established artists came out from the back of the room to watch Tori perform — and they gave her a standing ovation.”

**KELLY** The Billboard Music Awards started this domino effect for the other award shows. Last

minute, Scooter and I were like, “This has to be a special moment.” It had to be just me and a guitar because that’s how it all started. It was a cool tie-in to the YouTube days.

**BRAUN** I looked at Tori and said, “Just do what you do.” I told the production team, “Put one single spotlight on her and let’s see what happens.” Right after the rehearsal, everyone looked at each other and said, “Holy shit.” And that was that. It was huge.

**KELLY** I remember Ludacris coming up to me backstage. John Legend came up to me, which was awesome.

**BRAUN** I’ve had some of the biggest musicians in the world hang out around a fire in my backyard and jam. When Tori would pick up the guitar, it didn’t matter who was there — everyone got quiet. If that’s the case in my backyard, why wouldn’t it be the case on national television? —SHARON STEEL

# THE UPSTARTS WALK THE MOON

[FROM LEFT]

SEAN WAUGAMAN, AARON BORNIS [SENIOR VP MARKETING, RCA RECORDS], KEVIN RAY, TOM CORSON, NICHOLAS PETRICCA [FOREGROUND], ELI MAIMAN, MICHAEL McDONALD, DAVID WOLTER [SENIOR VP A&R/ARTIST DEVELOPMENT, RCA RECORDS]

**"SHUT UP AND DANCE"**  
27 Weeks On Hot Rock Songs

When Walk the Moon's snappy new-wave throwback "Shut Up and Dance" reached No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100, it marked the rare instance of an alternative rock band successfully crossing over to the pop charts. The Cincinnati four-piece — singer Nicholas Petricca, 28; guitarist Eli Maiman, 29; bassist Kevin Ray, 29; and drummer Sean Waugaman, 28 — had an inkling that the boy-meets-girl tune, released two months ahead of the band's second album for RCA Records, *Talking Is Hard*, was "special"; 27 weeks atop the Hot Rock Songs chart proved it.

**RAY** The first time we played "Shut Up and Dance" live, the audience started singing along by the second chorus.

**TOM CORSON**, president/COO, RCA Records: The song is super catchy and the lyrics are fun, which can be a good thing and a challenge. We figured that it would take a minute.

**MICHAEL McDONALD**, Mick Management: The goal is always to cross to pop, but not everyone gets there. This is textbook artist development — the band spent six years building on the live front and taking songs to radio. When they hit, it wasn't their first time at the radio station.

**RAY** Now that it's a "record-breaking record," you realize the power of a song like that. It's almost addictive. You want to do it again.

—SHIRLEY HALPERIN

Photographed by  
Amanda Friedman on  
Oct. 29 at The Greek  
Theatre in Los Angeles.



# Typh 2015

Photographed by  
Jeffery Salter on  
Oct. 29 at Sony Music  
Entertainment in  
Coconut Grove, Fla.



## THE COMEBACK KING NICKY JAM

[FROM LEFT]

JUAN DIEGO MEDINA, JAM

**"EL PERDON"**  
(NICKY JAM & ENRIQUE IGLESIAS)  
30 Weeks On Hot Latin Songs

Juan Diego Medina was in his management office when client Nicky Jam (real name: Nick Rivera Caminero, 35) called from the studio, humming a new melody. Recalls Medina, 27, "Nicky said, 'I'll send you a hit in two hours.' The next day, we put the chorus up on his Instagram, and that's all it took."

Fans went wild for "El Perdon," the story of a man lamenting the loss of his lover to another. At the time, "Travesuras," Jam's comeback hit after a 10-year absence from the charts, was No. 4 on Hot Latin Songs. The uniqueness of the sound had caught Enrique Iglesias' ear, and Jam sent him "El Perdon."

As a duet, the track, released on Sony Music U.S. Latin, debuted on Hot Latin Songs on Feb. 21 at No. 50 and on March 21 hit No. 1, where it remained for 30 straight weeks. An English-language version — "Forgiveness" — helped the song peak at No. 56 on the Billboard Hot 100 in September.

**JAM** To do a song with Enrique changes the game. When we hit No. 1, I called my father and he told me that for him I was always No. 1. I recorded a video for my fans and started crying. Ten years off the music game and to come back with a No. 1 song? I could have erased the video and done a new one, but I like to show my emotions. I'm a real man. I can suffer.

**MEDINA** Enrique gave the song a cleaner, more pop sound. When Nir [Seroussi, president of Sony Music U.S. Latin] called and said we were No. 1, I cried with happiness. Reaching No. 1 seemed so far out of reach. I'm no one, really. I didn't study to be a manager, I just learned along the way. God gave me the opportunity and opened the doors.

—LEILA COBO

## THE NOISEMAKERS TWENTY ONE PILOTS

[FROM LEFT]

PETE GANBARG, JOSH DUN,  
CHRIS WOLTMAN, TYLER JOSEPH,  
MIKE EASTERLIN

**BLURRYFACE**

1 Week On The Billboard 200

Twenty One Pilots are actually two guys on a big stage. Tyler Joseph, 27, sings, raps, plays the piano and plinks a ukulele. Josh Dun, 27, drums, crowd-surfs and crowd-surfs while playing drums. During the last three years, the alt duo's manic performances became its lure — festival spectacles that drew fans away from other stages. "Their live shows just got bigger and bigger," recalls Mike Easterlin, GM of Fueled by Ramen. "Every kid who came back brought 10 friends, not just one." In turn, those friends bought *Vessel*, the band's 2013 LP, which peaked at No. 48 on the Billboard 200 but since has averaged weekly sales of 2,000 copies, according to Nielsen Music. All those gradual discoveries crescendoed in May, when the group released fourth album *Blurryface* — and suddenly a Midwestern synth-emo band was No. 1, selling 134,000 albums in the first week.

**JOSEPH** *Blurryface* was recorded on the road and very much inspired by our live show.

**EASTERLIN** I was getting four songs at a time. Every new batch kept getting better.

**PETE GANBARG**, head of A&R, Atlantic: We were doing our in-office handicapping: "Do you think we can go top 10?" Then it was, "We might be able to go top five." Then, selling that amount the first week? Whoa.

**CHRIS WOLTMAN**, manager: Not only was it a No. 1 album, but it also was an extremely strong No. 1 — the kind that makes our industry stop, pause and say, "What actually is happening here?"

**DUN** You know what was almost cooler than being No. 1? Seeing people's confused reactions to our being No. 1.

—CAMILLE DODERO

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**CHICKEN TENDER COMBO** CHICKEN TENDERS FRENCH FRIES SODA 13.50  
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SMALL SODA 3.50  
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ATE 4.00  
4.00  
4.00  
6.00



Photographed by Smallz & Raskind on Oct. 15 at The Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.



Tylin  
2015

At a moment when feel-good party jams ruled the country airwaves, Little Big Town — Karen Fairchild, 46; Kimberly Schlapman, 46; Jimi Westbrook, 44; and Phillip Sweet, 41 — dared to release a spare, sensual ballad about woman-on-woman jealousy that became 2015's most talked-about country single. "Girl Crush," written by Liz Rose, Lori McKenna and Hillary Lindsey, even weathered a trumped-up controversy over its lyrics — misinterpreted as an expression of same-sex lust — to reach No. 1 on Hot Country Songs, where it stayed for 13 weeks, the longest reign by a group of at least three members in the chart's history. "Girl Crush" went on to capture three Grammy nominations including for song of the year and best country song. (Meanwhile, *Pain Killer* is up for best country album.)

**MCKENNA** Hillary picked up a guitar and sang the first verse as it is. So she set the tone for the feel of the song. If she had started that song as an uptempo or something, it would have gone in a different direction.

**LINDSEY** There wasn't any overthinking, that's for sure. Little Big Town was coming over to write an hour after we finished it. They asked what had we been writing, and Liz was ballsy enough to play the song for them.

**ROSE** I said, "God, we love this song, but there's no way y'all would cut this, because it's kind of a solo artist song." And they looked at us like, "Why wouldn't we cut this song?"

**FAIRCHILD** There are lots of songs about jealousy, but nothing that had been written in such a provocative way. We knew right off the bat. There was no discussion about whether or not we were cutting it, and even whether or not it would be a single. We just felt like it was that important a moment.

**WESTBROOK** We were willing to take the chance on it. We didn't know how it would play out, especially when the so-called controversy started happening. Pretty quickly the tide started turning. All the people who loved it started speaking louder than the handful of people who didn't. —JEWEL HIGHT

## THE PROVOCATEURS LITTLE BIG TOWN

{ FROM LEFT }

KAREN FAIRCHILD, LORI MCKENNA,  
HILLARY LINDSEY, KIMBERLY SCHLAPMAN,  
JIMI WESTBROOK, PHILLIP SWEET, LIZ ROSE

"GIRL CRUSH"

13 Weeks On Hot Country Songs

Photographed by  
Robby Klein on Nov. 2 at  
Houston Station in Nashville.

Tylin  
2015

In October 2014, Leon Bridges, 26, couldn't stop checking the Internet. The soul singer had been a fixture at open mics in Fort Worth, Texas, but few outside the state knew his name until MP3 blog *Gorilla vs. Bear* streamed his debut single, "Coming Home." The post triggered an online frenzy and a major-label bidding war. Columbia won the latter just before Christmas. Bridges' *Coming Home* LP made its charmed debut six months later, eventually scoring a Grammy nomination for best R&B album.

**BRIDGES** The first time I met [Columbia chairman Rob Stringer], we played "Lisa Sawyer" and he lost it, which surprised me, knowing he has seen so much great music. Afterward I asked my management, "What department does he work in?," not knowing that he's the head man.

**STRINGER** He had a record that was organic, and some of it was out in the world. He already had a story to tell — he had a huge number of blogs talking about his music. We knew how to magnify that. We played the record for more people, and more people liked it. He started playing shows, and more people liked the shows. It just grew beautifully. It doesn't always work like this, but with Leon it did.

**BRIDGES** I love when the older generation comes up to me and says [the album] reminds them of growing up. I was in downtown Fort Worth, and this older black lady, she's like, "Are you Leon Bridges?" I think one of her co-workers sent her the link. I was like, "Yes." She's like, "I love your record. It just reminds me of growing up with my mother." That's one of the reasons why I started to do this sound. —NICK MURRAY

## THE SOUL SENSATION LEON BRIDGES

{ FROM LEFT }

ROB STRINGER, BRIDGES

*COMING HOME*

1 Week On Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums



Photographed by Miller Mobley on Nov. 16  
at Ninth Ward in New York.



Photographed by Ramona Rosales on Nov. 6 at Harlowe Bar in West Hollywood.

## THE POP SIREN SELENA GOMEZ

[FROM LEFT]

JOHN JANICK, ZACK MORGENROTH [MANAGER, BRILLSTEIN ENTERTAINMENT], GOMEZ, AARON BAY-SCHUCK [PRESIDENT OF A&R, INTERSCOPE], ALEEN KESHISHIAN [PARTNER, BRILLSTEIN ENTERTAINMENT], SARA NEWKIRK SIMON

**"GOOD FOR YOU" (FEAT. ASAP ROCKY)**  
2 Weeks On Mainstream Top 40 And 1 Week On Hot Digital Songs

**REVIVAL**  
1 Week On The Billboard 200

With its bedroom vocals and ASAP Rocky cameo, "Good for You" announced the arrival of Selena Gomez, grown-ass woman. How that song, co-written with rising studio stars Justin Tranter and Julia Michaels, wound up topping the charts (and launching a No. 1 album, *Revival*) is a testament to the 23-year-old artist taking the reins of her career.

**GOMEZ** It was the third song I heard while Interscope and I were getting to know each other. The demo was just a skeleton, but Justin and Julia bring this sexiness

to everything they touch. She has a great way of seeing relationships. I know I wasn't necessarily viewed as an artist, so this No. 1 is a validation.

**SARA NEWKIRK SIMON**, partner/co-head, WME music division: It was so great to witness this metamorphosis, knowing she was unapologetically feeling herself.

**GOMEZ** I had put so much pressure on myself, figuring out what my album was going to be, that I was exhausted when I went in to record. That's why

you can hear cracks in my voice, but the song took on this emotion I didn't realize I could tap into.

**ALEEN KESHISHIAN**, co-manager: We weren't ever thinking this would be a No. 1 song.

**JOHN JANICK**, CEO, Interscope: When we got the record, it was like, "This is amazing, but is it right for a single?" I mean, even the idea of Selena and Rocky doing a song together: I'm sure it looked odd when it went out, but now it feels meant to be. —CHRIS MARTINS

Tylin  
2015

Photographed by  
Smallz & Raskind on  
Nov. 20 at Tunnel Bar in  
Sherman Oaks, Calif.



## THE CROWD- PLEASERS FALL OUT BOY, SHAWN MENDES

**[FROM LEFT]**

ERIC WONG, ANDREW GERTLER,  
DAVID MASSEY, MENDES,  
PETE WENTZ, JOE TROHMAN,  
PATRICK STUMP, ANDY HURLEY,  
JONATHAN DANIEL

**FALL OUT BOY: AMERICAN BEAUTY/  
AMERICAN PSYCHO**  
1 Week On The Billboard 200

**SHAWN MENDES: HANDWRITTEN**  
1 Week On The Billboard 200

In February 2013, Fall Out Boy had just announced its return from a nearly three-year hiatus, Shawn Mendes was a ninth grader who had yet to discover a new app called Vine, and Island Records was still Island Def Jam. Flash forward to 2015, and Fall Out Boy — Patrick Stump, 31; Pete Wentz, 36; Joe Trohman, 31; and Andy Hurley, 35 — and Mendes, 17, are two of the top acts for Island, which has been on a hot streak since its split from Def Jam in April 2014.

**ANDREW GERTLER**, manager (Mendes): Shawn created a foundation most artists don't have: There were Shawn Mendes fans before he had even put out a debut single. But the whole notion of "Vine star" went away as soon as he started having radio success.

**DAVID MASSEY**, president, Island Records: When I met Shawn he sang

me some songs, and I knew within the first two minutes he was a star.

**GERTLER** One day Shawn posted a video of him applying some skin cream to his face and I immediately texted him, "Hey, dude, was that really necessary?" Ten minutes later it became one of the most-liked things on his Instagram.

**MENDES** Sometimes it feels like my fans know me better than I know myself.

**GERTLER** More and more, social media is how artists are discovered. But to have staying power — that's about the artist and who they are.

**ERIC WONG**, executive vp/GM, Island Records: Shawn had a No. 1 album in April and No. 1 [radio] single in November. It's an amazing feat for a new artist.

**JONATHAN DANIEL**, partner, Crush Management: Fall Out Boy is one of the few new-generation rock bands that does real arena concerts, with explosions and hit songs.

**MASSEY** Other bands of their stature have fallen by the wayside, but Fall Out Boy have managed to stay relevant and keep their fans with them.

**DANIEL** They are absolutely fearless. In the course of a couple of weeks, they released "Irresistible" with Demi Lovato, played the Country Music Association Awards with Thomas Rhett and put out a remix album with Meek Mill and ASAP Ferg.

**WENTZ** This whole thing is an art project, and that sometimes means turning right, even when the GPS said to turn left. —JEM ASWAD

# WWHHAAT AYEAR!

**BIG HITS** BEACH HOUSE\* DEPRESSION CHERRY CANAAN SMITH (BRETT BEAVERS\*) LOVE YOU LIKE THAT CHRIS STAPLETON (DAN WILSON\*) WHEN THE STARS COME OUT DARIUS RUCKER (TIM JAMES\*) SOUTHERN STYLE FIDLAR TOO JASON ALDEAN (BRETT BEAVERS\*) GONNA KNOW WE'RE HERE JERROD NIEMANN (BEN GOLDSMITH) BLUE BANDANA KENNY CHESNEY (BRAD TURSI) SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY MY MORNING JACKET (JIM JAMES, DAN WILSON\*) BIG DECISIONS NICK JONAS (DANNY PARKER) CHAINS OLD DOMINION (BRAD TURSI) BREAK UP WITH HIM ONE DIRECTION (JOHN RYAN\*) DRAG ME DOWN (SINGLE) MADE IN THE A.M. (ALBUM) RACHEL PLATTEN (MATT MORRIS) STAND BY YOU SHAKEY GRAVES DEARLY DEPARTED SHAWN MENDES (TEDDY GEIGER, DANNY PARKER, DAYLIGHT) STITCHES SLEATER-KINNEY\* NO CITIES TO LOVE THOMAS RHETT (JOE LONDON) DIE A HAPPY MAN TYLER FARR (BRAD TURSI) A GUY WALKS INTO A BAR WHO IS FANCY (STEPH JONES\*) GOODBYE **BIG AWARDS & NOMINATIONS** ST. VINCENT GRAMMY WINNER, ASCAP VANGUARD AWARD WINNER, BRIT AWARD NOMINEE SYLVAN ESSO AMP AWARD WINNER SHAKEY GRAVES AMERICANA AWARD WINNER BRAD TURSI ASCAP AWARD WINNER, NSAI AWARD WINNER, MUSIC ROW NOMINEE TIM JAMES\* BMI AWARD WINNER

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# CHARTS

## A Year Of Pop-Music Nostalgia

FROM THE RETRO-SOUL HOT 100 BLITZ OF 'UPTOWN FUNK!' TO TAYLOR SWIFT'S CULTURE-DEFINING LATE-'80S HOMAGE *1989*, 2015'S TOP CHART STARS LOOKED BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

BY KEITH CAULFIELD

A THREAD OF NOSTALGIA WEAVES together the year's biggest artist, album and song: Taylor Swift, her late-'80s-pop retrofit *1989* and the soul throwback "Uptown Funk!" by Mark Ronson, featuring Bruno Mars.

Swift rules as *Billboard's* top artist of 2015, thanks largely to the runaway success of *1989* (named for her birth year), the record's smash singles and the squad leader's sold-out stadium tour. It also marks the second time that Swift, who turns 26 on Dec. 13, is the year's top artist, making her only the second woman to claim that crown twice, following Adele in 2011 and 2012. Swift last ruled in 2009, after her second record, *Fearless*, spent 11 nonconsecutive weeks atop the *Billboard* 200.

But back then, the singer-songwriter was still firmly a country act. Fast-forward to 2014, when Swift easily, and deliberately, made the transition from Nashville darling to full-on pop star, releasing the relentlessly upbeat "Shake It Off" (which debuted directly at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100) as *1989's* lead single. Haters were gonna hate on Swift, but few could ultimately resist her fifth album's synthy pop incandescence: *1989* debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 with 1.3 million copies sold in its first week, according to Nielsen Music, marking her third straight album to bow with 1 million sold (and making Swift the first act to notch three million-selling weeks). The Big Machine release then spent 11 nonconsecutive frames leading the

*Billboard* 200 and lingered in the top 10 for its first 53 weeks — becoming only the fifth album to spend its first year in the chart's top 10.

Given all those feats, it's no surprise that *1989* is the *Billboard* 200's biggest album of 2015 — the second time Swift has earned the distinction. (*Fearless* also reigned on this chart in 2009.) She's only the fourth act to earn top year-end honors with two albums, joining 50 Cent (*Get Rich or Die Tryin'* in 2003 and *The Massacre* in 2005), Whitney Houston (her self-titled debut in 1986 and the soundtrack to *The Bodyguard* in 1993) and Elton John (*Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* in 1974 and *Greatest Hits* in 1975). Swift also dominated the singles universe in 2015, finishing as the No. 2 Hot 100 Artist — behind only The Weeknd — and claiming five entries on the year-end Hot 100 (Nos. 7, 15, 18, 29 and 57).

But the champion of this year's Hot 100 roundup is Ronson, whose retro workout juggernaut "Uptown Funk!," featuring Mars, trumped all else. Channeling the likes of vintage Prince and The Gap Band, the "ice cold" track zoomed to No. 1 on the weekly Hot 100 dated Jan. 17 and spent a near-record 14 weeks there — landing the RCA single in a seven-way tie for the second-longest run at No. 1, behind only the 16-week reign of Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day." Still, "Funk!" made chart history, securing the most weeks at No. 1 in the 2010s and the longest No. 1 run since The Black Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling" scored 14 weeks at No. 1 in 2009.

Notably, "Funk!" is the first year-end Hot 100 No. 1 in which the lead artist doesn't actually sing the song. Ronson co-produced and co-wrote the tune, and also played guitar, but Mars voices it. "Funk!" also gives Mars his first year-end chart-topper, after scoring a pair of top 10s — one in 2013 ("When I Was Your Man," No. 8) and one in 2011 ("Grenade," No. 6). Following "Funk!" on the Hot 100 recap, respectively, are Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud," Wiz Khalifa's "See You Again" (featuring Charlie Puth) and Fetty Wap's "Trap Queen."

Fetty Wap is also 2015's biggest discovery: The New Jersey rapper leads the top new artists recap, courtesy of a whopping seven Hot 100 hits during the chart year — including the top 10s "Trap Queen" (which spent three weeks at No. 2), "679" (No. 4) and "My Way" (No. 7) — and his self-titled debut, which opened at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200. Following close behind on the new artist list are Columbia's singer-songwriter Hozier and MCA Nashville's college football player-turned-country star Sam Hunt, who both enjoyed top-three-charting albums on the *Billboard* 200.

*Billboard's* year-end music recaps are based on chart performance between the Dec. 6, 2014 and Nov. 28, 2015 charts. The year-end top artist category ranks the best-performing acts of the year derived from activity on the *Billboard* 200 albums tally and the *Billboard* Hot 100 singles list, as well as streaming, social and boxscore data.

Swift's 1989 World Tour played  
Shanghai on Nov. 10.



# TOP ARTISTS

**no. 1**  
**TAYLOR SWIFT**  
Big Machine/BMLG



POS / ARTIST / LABEL

2	ED SHEERAN	Atlantic/AG
3	THE WEEKND	XO/Republic
4	DRAKE	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
5	ONE DIRECTION	SYCO/Columbia
6	MAROON 5	222/Interscope/IGA
7	MEGHAN TRAINOR	Epic
8	FETTY WAP	RGF/300/AG
9	SAM SMITH	Capitol
10	NICKI MINAJ	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
11	ARIANA GRANDE	Republic
12	SELENA GOMEZ	Interscope/IGA
13	MARK RONSON	RCA
14	LUKE BRYAN	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
15	JUSTIN BIEBER	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
16	WIZ KHALIFA	Taylor Gang/Atlantic/AG
17	WALK THE MOON	RCA
18	HOZIER	Rubyworks/Columbia
19	FALL OUT BOY	DCD2/Island

## NO ALBUM, NO PROBLEM

Rihanna — the No. 26 top artist — may not have released an album during the 2015 chart year, but no matter, the global superstar still was busy, logging three singles on the Billboard Hot 100.

20	ELLIE GOULDING	Cherrytree/Interscope/IGA
21	KATY PERRY	Capitol
22	KENNY CHESNEY	Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville/SMN
23	SAM HUNT	MCA Nashville/UMGN
24	BEYONCÉ	Parkwood/Columbia
25	J. COLE	Dreamville/Roc Nation/Columbia
26	RIHANNA	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
27	NICK JONAS	Safehouse/Island
28	JASON DERULO	Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
29	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE	Republic Nashville/BMLG
30	BRUNO MARS	Atlantic/AG
31	SILENTO	Bolo/Capitol
32	THE ROLLING STONES	The Rolling Stones/Republic
33	OMI	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
34	U2	Island/Interscope/IGA
35	TOVELO	Island



## SAM SMITH

The British singer's upward mobility continued in 2015, moving him up four slots from No. 13 in last year's top artists list to No. 9.

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**53** TOTAL NUMBER OF ALBUMS THE ROLLING STONES (NO. 32) CHARTED ON THE BILLBOARD 200 THROUGH 2015.

36	DEMILOVATO	Safehouse/Island/Hollywood
37	KENDRICKLAMAR	Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
38	CHRISBROWN	RCA
39	FUTURE	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
40	BIGSEAN	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
41	RAESREMMURD	Eardruma/Interscope/IGA
42	5SECONDSOFSUMMER	Hi Or Hey/Capitol
43	ERICCHURCH	EMI Nashville/UMGN
44	BLAKESHELTON	Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
45	SHAWNMEENDES	Island
46	SIA	Monkey Puzzle/RCA
47	ZACBROWNBAND	John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic
48	JASONALDEAN	Broken Bow/BBMG
49	IMAGINEDRAGONS	KiDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
50	RACHELPLATTEN	Columbia
51	CARRIEUNDERWOOD	19/Arista Nashville/SMN
52	FIFTHHARMONY	SYCO/Epic
53	ANDYGRAMMER	S-Curve
54	PITBULL	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA/Famous Artist/Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
55	PENTATONIX	RCA
56	FLEETWOODMAC	LMJS
57	MEEKMILL	Maybach/Atlantic/AG
58	DAVIDGUETTA	What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic/AG
59	CHARLIEPUATH	Artist Partners Group/Atlantic/AG
60	ADELE	XL/Columbia
61	JUSTINTIMBERLAKE	RCA
62	IGGYAZALEA	Turn First/Hustle Gang/Def Jam
63	EMINEM	Web/Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
64	FOOFIGHTERS	Roswell/RCA

65	MILEYCYRUS	RCA
66	FLORIDA	Poe Boy/Atlantic/AG
67	LITTLEBIGTOWN	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
68	TREYSONGZ	Songbook/Atlantic/AG
69	BILLYJOEL	Columbia
70	THOMASRHETT	Valory/BMLG
71	CALVINHARRIS	Fly Eye/Columbia
72	JENNIFERLOPEZ	Capitol
73	SHANIATWAIN	Mercury Nashville/UMGN
74	AC/DC	Columbia
75	MADONNA	Live Nation/Interscope/IGA
76	OMARION	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/AG



**5SOS ON TOP**

The Australian rock act's sophomore release, *Sounds Good Feels Good*, opened at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, making 5 Seconds of Summer the first band to debut atop the chart with its first two full-length studio albums. The pop-punk foursome finishes 2015 as the No. 42 top artist and the No. 9 duo/group.



**MEGHAN TRAINOR**

This year, the singer-songwriter — *Billboard's* No. 7 top artist — scored a No. 1 on the Billboard 200 with her full-length debut, *Title*, and multiple hit singles on the Billboard Hot 100.

86	NEILDIAMOND	Capitol
87	MUMFORD&SONS	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
88	LANADELREY	Polydor/Interscope/IGA
89	A\$APROCKY	A\$AP Worldwide/Polo Grounds/RCA
90	USHER	RCA
91	GRATEFULDEAD	Grateful Dead/Rhino
92	GARTH BROOKS	Pearl/RCA Nashville/SMN
93	KELLY CLARKSON	19/RCA
94	KANYE WEST	G.O.O.D./Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam
95	LADYGAGA	Streamline/Interscope/IGA
96	COLESWINDELL	Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
97	JEREMIH	Mick Schultz/Def Jam
98	T-WAYNE	WeRunt/Unauthorized/300
99	ELLE KING	RCA
100	ENRIQUE IGLESIAS	Sony Music Latin

**SURPRISE Hip-Hop SUCCESSES**

A bevy of rappers opted for the sneak attack album-release strategy this year as (above, from left) Meek Mill, Dr. Dre, Kendrick Lamar, Future and Drake dropped new records with little or no warning. Among them, the most spectacular triumph was Drake's *If You're Reading This It's Too Late*, which was announced Feb. 12, the same day it went on sale — and still debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 with 535,000 equivalent-album units (495,000 were pure sales) in less than four days.

77	DJSNAKE	DJ Snake/Interscope/IGA
78	NE-YO	Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
79	TWENTYONEPILOTS	Fueled By Ramen/AG
80	XAMBASSADORS	KiDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
81	VANCEJOY	F-Stop/Atlantic/AG
82	KIDINK	Tha Alumni Group/88 Classic/RCA
83	RICH HOMIEQUAN	Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
84	MAJORLAZER	Mad Decent
85	TIM MCGRAW	McGraw/Big Machine/BMLG

**Top 5 Independent Albums Of 2015**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>JASON ALDEAN</b> <i>Old Boots, New Dirt</i></p> <p>The country LP led the Independent Albums chart for 14 weeks.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>ALABAMA SHAKES</b> <i>Sound &amp; Color</i></p> <p>The record's first single, "Don't Wanna Fight," was a No. 1 Triple A hit.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>TYRESE</b> <i>Black Rose</i></p> <p>The actor-singer scored his first Billboard 200 No. 1 with this set.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH</b> <i>Got Your Six</i></p> <p>The act's fourth No. 1 on the Independent Albums chart.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>JANET JACKSON</b> <i>Unbreakable</i></p> <p>Her first indie-distributed release bowed at No. 1 on the Billboard 200.</p>
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SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)

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# LEGACY

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Of Our  
Legacy

For Booking Information

Susette Hunter | Director of Sales & Marketing

205-458-8441 | [susette.hunter@bjcc.org](mailto:susette.hunter@bjcc.org)



# TOP ARTISTS MALE



**no. 1**  
**ED SHEERAN**  
 Atlantic/AG

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
2	<b>THE WEEKND</b>	XO/Republic
3	<b>DRAKE</b>	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
4	<b>FETTY WAP</b>	RGF/300/AG
5	<b>SAM SMITH</b>	Capitol
6	<b>MARK RONSON</b>	RCA
7	<b>LUKE BRYAN</b>	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
8	<b>JUSTIN BIEBER</b>	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
9	<b>WIZ KHALIFA</b>	Taylor Gang/Atlantic/AG
10	<b>HOZIER</b>	Columbia

# TOP ARTISTS FEMALE

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
1	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b>	Big Machine/BMLG
2	<b>MEGHAN TRAINOR</b>	Epic
3	<b>NICKI MINAJ</b>	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
4	<b>ARIANA GRANDE</b>	Republic
5	<b>SELENA GOMEZ</b>	Interscope/IGA
6	<b>ELLIE GOULDING</b>	Cherrytree/Interscope/IGA
7	<b>KATY PERRY</b>	Capitol
8	<b>BEYONCÉ</b>	Parkwood/Columbia
9	<b>RIHANNA</b>	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
10	<b>TOVELO</b>	Island



# TOP ARTISTS DUO/GROUP

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
1	<b>ONE DIRECTION</b>	SYCO/Columbia
2	<b>MAROON 5</b>	222/Interscope/IGA
3	<b>WALK THE MOON</b>	RCA
4	<b>FALL OUT BOY</b>	DCD2/Island
5	<b>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE</b>	Republic Nashville/BMLG
6	<b>THE ROLLING STONES</b>	The Rolling Stones/Republic
7	<b>U2</b>	Island/Interscope/IGA
8	<b>RAE SREMMURD</b>	Eardrum/Interscope/IGA
9	<b>5 SECONDS OF SUMMER</b>	Hi Or Hey/Capitol
10	<b>ZAC BROWN BAND</b>	John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic



**1D'S LONG GOODBYE**  
 One Direction sails off for a sabbatical as the year's top artist, duo/group: Harry, Liam, Niall and Louis shove off with 2015's No. 10 Billboard 200 album, *Four*, and the No. 2 tour — the biggest for a group and second only to Taylor Swift's blowout 1989 Tour.

**NO. 1 KID ARTIST**  
*Kidz Bop Kids*

# TOP NEW ARTISTS

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
1	<b>FETTY WAP</b>	RGF/300/AG
2	<b>HOZIER</b>	Columbia
3	<b>SAM HUNT</b>	MCA Nashville/UMGN
4	<b>SILENTO</b>	Bolo/Capitol
5	<b>OMI</b>	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
6	<b>RACHEL PLATTEN</b>	Columbia
7	<b>CHARLIE PUTH</b>	Artist Partners Group/Atlantic/AG
8	<b>X AMBASSADORS</b>	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
9	<b>T-WAYNE</b>	WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
10	<b>ELLE KING</b>	RCA



## SELENA GOMEZ

She went five-for-five in 2015: Her fifth studio album, *Revival*, marked her fifth Billboard 200 top 10, debuting at No. 1.

**NO. 1 MUSIC VIDEO SALES**  
*Where We Are: Live From San Siro Stadium*  
 One Direction

SILENTO, THE 17-YEAR-OLD BEHIND THE VIRAL-DANCE SMASH "WATCH ME," SAYS HE "NEVER TOOK DANCE CLASSES." CLEARLY, THE YOUNG ARTIST DIDN'T NEED THE TRAINING — THE WHIP/NÆ NÆ PHENOM IS THE NO. 4 TOP NEW ARTIST.

# TOP LABELS

POS	LABEL
1	<b>REPUBLIC</b>
2	<b>ATLANTIC GROUP</b>
3	<b>RCA</b>
4	<b>INTERSCOPE GEFLEN A&amp;M</b>
5	<b>COLUMBIA</b>
6	<b>UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE</b>
7	<b>BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP</b>
8	<b>CAPITOL</b>
9	<b>EPIC</b>
10	<b>WARNER BROS.</b>

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)



# FIRST IN THE NATION STATUS REQUIRES THE RIGHT RUNNING MATES

In the past, we've been lucky enough to have performers like Maroon 5, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and many others on our ticket. Our ability to host world-class acts has resulted in an overwhelming approval rating from fans. Over the past 14 years, the Verizon Wireless Arena has become a bright spot on the entertainment horizon. Audiences find the Verizon Wireless Arena to be the perfect venue for concerts, sporting events and shows. As a result, we've shined with a

Top 5 Ranking in the Americas from a leading industry magazine, for arenas of 15,000 or less seats. They also ranked us within the Top 10 in the world. Verizon Wireless Arena, New Hampshire's premier sports and entertainment facility is conveniently located in the city of Manchester, halfway between Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine. Call us before you hit the trail on your next tour.



# HOT 100 SONGS



## no. 1 UPTOWN FUNK!

Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars RCA

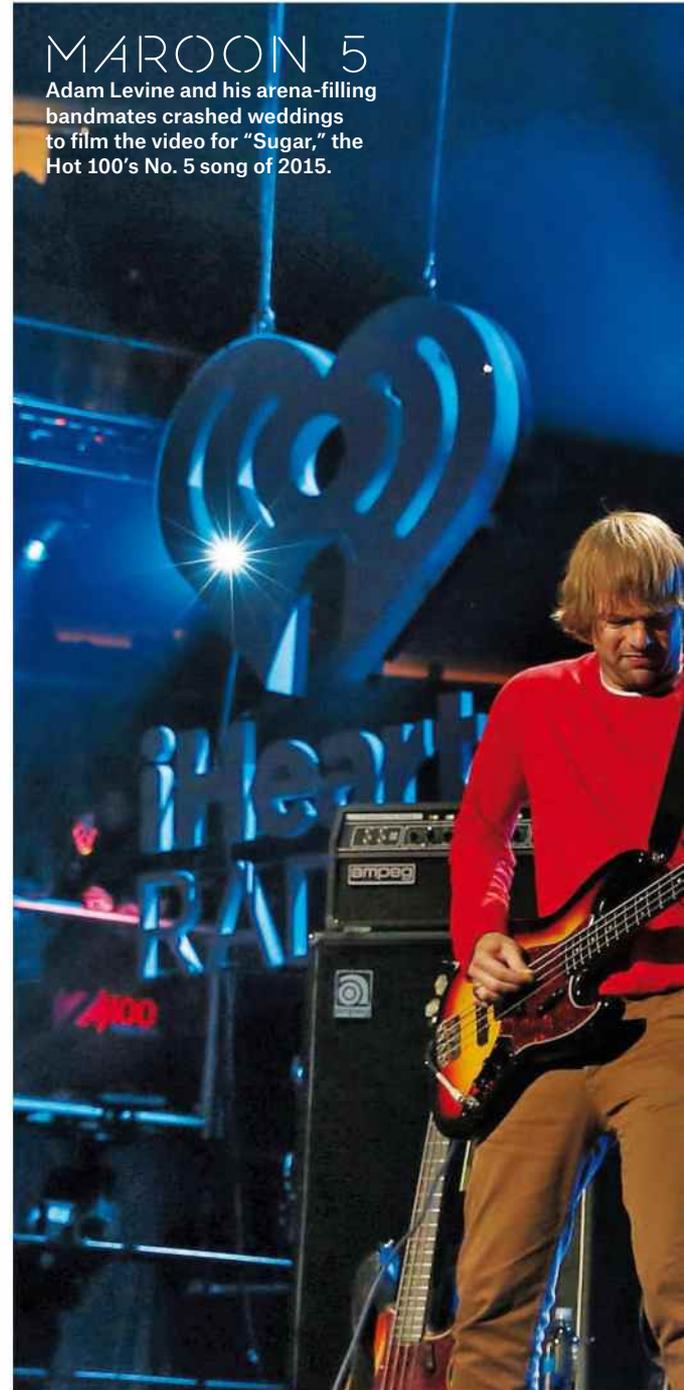
POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

- 2 **THINKING OUT LOUD** Ed Sheeran Atlantic
- 3 **SEE YOU AGAIN** Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth Universal Studios/Atlantic/RRP
- 4 **TRAP QUEEN** Fetty Wap RGF/300
- 5 **SUGAR** Maroon 5 222/Interscope
- 6 **SHUT UP AND DANCE** WALK THE MOON RCA
- 7 **BLANK SPACE** Taylor Swift Big Machine/Republic
- 8 **WATCH ME** silento Bolo/Capitol
- 9 **EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)** The Weeknd Universal Studios/Republic
- 10 **THE HILLS** The Weeknd XO/Republic
- 11 **CHEERLEADER** OMI Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
- 12 **CAN'T FEEL MY FACE** The Weeknd XO/Republic
- 13 **LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO** Ellie Goulding Universal Studios/Republic/Interscope
- 14 **TAKE ME TO CHURCH** Hozier Rubyworks/Columbia
- 15 **BAD BLOOD** Taylor Swift Featuring Kendrick Lamar Big Machine/Republic
- 16 **LEAN ON** Major Lazer & DJ Snake Featuring MØ Mad Decent
- 17 **WANT TO WANT ME** Jason Derulo Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
- 18 **SHAKE IT OFF** Taylor Swift Big Machine/Republic
- 19 **WHERE ARE U NOW** Skrillex & Diplo With Justin Bieber Mad Decent/OWSLA/Atlantic
- 20 **FIGHT SONG** Rachel Platten Columbia
- 21 **679** Fetty Wap Featuring Remy Boyz RGF/300
- 22 **LIPS ARE MOVIN'** Meghan Trainor Epic
- 23 **WORTH IT** Fifth Harmony Featuring Kid Ink SYCO/Epic
- 24 **POST TO BE** Omarion Featuring Chris Brown & Jhene Aiko ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/RRP

- 25 **HONEY, I'M GOOD.** Andy Grammer S-Curve/Hollywood
- 26 **I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE** Sam Smith Capitol
- 27 **GOOD FOR YOU** Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP Rocky Interscope
- 28 **ALL ABOUT THAT BASS** Meghan Trainor Epic
- 29 **STYLE** Taylor Swift Big Machine/Republic
- 30 **HOTLINE BLING** Drake Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 31 **HEY MAMA** David Guetta Featuring Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha & Afrojack What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic
- 32 **G.D.F.R.** Flo Rida Featuring Sage The Gemini & Lookas Poe Boy/Atlantic
- 33 **WHAT DO YOU MEAN?** Justin Bieber SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
- 34 **PHOTOGRAPH** Ed Sheeran Atlantic
- 35 **HELLO** Adele XL/Columbia
- 36 **STITCHES** Shawn Mendes Island/Republic
- 37 **TALKING BODY** Tove Lo Island/Republic
- 38 **JEALOUS** Nick Jonas Safehouse/Island/Republic
- 39 **TIME OF OUR LIVES** Pitbull & Ne-Yo Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
- 40 **LOCKED AWAY** R. City Featuring Adam Levine Kemosabe/RCA
- 41 **SOMEBODY** Natalie La Rose Featuring Jeremih I.M.G./Republic
- 42 **FOUR FIVE SECONDS** Rihanna & Kanye West & Paul McCartney Westbury Road/Roc Nation
- 43 **CENTURIES** Fall Out Boy DCD2/Island/Republic
- 44 **MY WAY** Fetty Wap Featuring Monty RGF/300
- 45 **TAKE YOUR TIME** Sam Hunt MCA Nashville/Capitol
- 46 **ANIMALS** Maroon 5 222/Interscope
- 47 **IDON'T F\*\*K WITH YOU** Big Sean Featuring E-40 G.O.O.D./Def Jam
- 48 **B\*\*\*\* BETTER HAVE MY MONEY** Rihanna Westbury Road/Roc Nation

*"I wrote 'Fight Song' at a real low moment. But something in me — this tiny little crazy voice — would not let me quit."*

— Singer Rachel Platten, whose breakthrough hit came 12 years after her 2003 debut album and ranks as the Billboard Hot 100's No. 20 song of the year.



**MAROON 5**  
 Adam Levine and his arena-filling bandmates crashed weddings to film the video for "Sugar," the Hot 100's No. 5 song of 2015.



### THE HOT 100 GENDER GAP

After women dominated the Billboard Hot 100 in 2014 — for a record-tying 19 weeks, the ladies even blocked the dudes from the No. 1 position — men wrested back control of the pop-song throne, leading the chart for all but eight weeks in 2015. Thank Wiz Khalifa (near left) for the patriarchy: His Paul Walker homage "See You Again" (featuring Charlie Puth) occupied the top spot for 12 nonconsecutive weeks to become the year's No. 3 song.

- 49 **FLEX(OOHOHOH)** Rich Homie Quan Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
- 50 **NASTY FREESTYLE** T-Wayne WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
- 51 **ONLY** Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake, Lil Wayne & Chris Brown Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 52 **ELASTIC HEART** Sia Monkey Puzzle/RCA
- 53 **COOL FOR THE SUMMER** Demi Lovato Safehouse/Island/Republic/Hollywood
- 54 **RENEGADES** x Ambassadors KIDinaKORNER/Interscope
- 55 **IDON'T MIND** Usher Featuring Juicy J RCA
- 56 **LOVEME HARDER** Ariana Grande & The Weeknd Republic
- 57 **WILDEST DREAMS** Taylor Swift Big Machine/Republic
- 58 **STAY WITH ME** Sam Smith Capitol
- 59 **YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT** DJ Snake & AlunaGeorge Interscope
- 60 **UMATHURMAN** Fall Out Boy DCD2/Island/Republic
- 61 **7/11** Beyoncé Parkwood/Columbia
- 62 **THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS** Selena Gomez Hollywood
- 63 **GIRL CRUSH** Little Big Town Capitol Nashville/Interscope
- 64 **SLOW MOTION** Trey Songz Songbook/Atlantic
- 65 **DRAG ME DOWN** One Direction SYCO/Columbia
- 66 **TRUFFLE BUTTER** Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake & Lil Wayne Young Money/Cash Money/Republic





**35** THE YEAR-END HOT 100 RANK OF ADELE'S "HELLO," WHICH BECAME THE FIRST SONG TO SELL 1 MILLION DOWNLOADS IN A WEEK AND MADE THE 2015 LIST AFTER ONLY THREE WEEKS.

MARS: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; RONSON: DAVID M. BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES; PLATTEN: KEVIN MAZUR/FOCUS/WIREIMAGE; PUTH: MATT BARON/REX  
 SHUTTERSTOCK; MAROON 5: KEVIN KANE/GETTY IMAGES; BEYONCÉ: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

<b>67</b> <b>ONE LAST TIME</b> Ariana Grande Republic	<b>78</b> <b>THE HANGING TREE</b> James Newton Howard Featuring Jennifer Lawrence Lions Gate/Republic	<b>90</b> <b>CHANDELIER</b> Sia Monkey Puzzle/RCA
<b>68</b> <b>CHAINS</b> Nick Jonas Safehouse/Island/Republic	<b>79</b> <b>COCO</b> O.T. Genasis Conglomerate/Atlantic	<b>91</b> <b>HEARTBEAT SONG</b> Kelly Clarkson 19/RCA
<b>69</b> <b>ALLEYES ON YOU</b> Meek Mill Featuring Chris Brown & Nicki Minaj Maybach/Atlantic	<b>80</b> <b>BANG BANG</b> Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj Lava/Republic	<b>92</b> <b>DON'T</b> Ed Sheeran Atlantic
<b>70</b> <b>NOTYPE</b> Rae Sremmurd Eardruma/Interscope	<b>81</b> <b>LAY ME DOWN</b> Sam Smith Capitol	<b>93</b> <b>GHOST</b> Ella Henderson SYCO/Columbia
<b>71</b> <b>RIPTIDE</b> Vance Joy F-Stop/Atlantic	<b>82</b> <b>TUESDAY I LOVE MAKONNEN</b> Featuring Drake OVO Sound/Warner Bros.	<b>94</b> <b>HERE</b> Alessia Cara EP/Def Jam
<b>72</b> <b>CLASSIC MAN</b> Jidenna Featuring Roman GianArthur Wondaland/Epic	<b>83</b> <b>HIT THE QUAN</b> iLoveMemphis Palm Tree/Rush Hour/RECORDS	<b>95</b> <b>WAVES</b> Mr. Probz Left Lane/Ultra/RCA
<b>73</b> <b>EX'S &amp; OH'S</b> Elle King RCA	<b>84</b> <b>DOWNTOWN</b> Macklemore & Ryan Lewis Featuring Eric Nally, Melle Mel, Kool Moe Dee & Grandmaster Caz Macklemore/Warner Bros.	<b>96</b> <b>EL PERDON (FORGIVENESS)</b> Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias Codiscos/La Industria/RCA/Sony Music Latin
<b>74</b> <b>DEAR FUTURE HUSBAND</b> Meghan Trainor Epic	<b>85</b> <b>HOUSE PARTY</b> Sam Hunt MCA Nashville	<b>97</b> <b>SHE KNOWS</b> Ne-Yo Featuring Juicy J Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
<b>75</b> <b>MARVIN GAYE</b> Charlie Puth Featuring Meghan Trainor Artist Partners Group/Atlantic	<b>86</b> <b>AYO</b> Chris Brown & Tyga Young Money/Cash Money/RCA	<b>98</b> <b>NIGHT CHANGES</b> One Direction SYCO/Columbia
<b>76</b> <b>LIKE I'M GONNA LOSE YOU</b> Meghan Trainor Featuring John Legend Epic	<b>87</b> <b>KICK THE DUST UP</b> Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville	<b>99</b> <b>BACK TO BACK</b> Drake Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
<b>77</b> <b>HABITS (STAY HIGH)</b> Tove Lo Island/Republic	<b>88</b> <b>BLESSINGS</b> Big Sean Featuring Drake G.O.O.D./Def Jam	<b>100</b> <b>HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE</b> Calvin Harris & Disciples Fly Eye/Columbia
	<b>89</b> <b>BUDAPEST</b> George Ezra Columbia	

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)

# HOT 100 ARTISTS

## no. 1 THE WEEKND

XO/Republic

**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

2	TAYLOR SWIFT	Big Machine/Republic
3	FETTY WAP	RGF/300
4	ED SHEERAN	Atlantic
5	DRAKE	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
6	MARON 5	222/Interscope
7	MEGHAN TRAINOR	Epic
8	MARK RONSON	RCA
9	SAM SMITH	Capitol
10	WALK THE MOON	RCA
11	ELLIE GOULDING	Universal Studios/Republic/Interscope
12	NICKI MINAJ	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
13	SILENTO	Bolo/Capitol
14	WIZ KHALIFA	Universal Studios/Atlantic/RRP
15	OMI	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
16	JUSTIN BIEBER	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
17	SELENA GOMEZ	Interscope
18	JASON DERULO	Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
19	NICK JONAS	Safehouse/Island/Republic
20	HOZIER	Rubyworks/Columbia
21	FALL OUT BOY	DCD2/Island/Republic
22	TOVE LO	Island/Republic
23	SAM HUNT	MCA Nashville/Capitol
24	ONE DIRECTION	SYCO/Columbia
25	RAE SREMMURD	Eardrum/Interscope
26	ARIANA GRANDE	Republic
27	RACHEL PLATTEN	Columbia
28	BRUNO MARS	RCA
29	CHARLIE PUTH	Universal Studios/Atlantic/RRP
30	SIA	Monkey Puzzle/RCA
31	LUKE BRYAN	Capitol Nashville
32	ANDY GRAMMER	S-Curve/Hollywood
33	FUTURE	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
34	RIHANNA	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
35	FIFTH HARMONY	SYCO/Epic
36	BIG SEAN	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
37	SHAWN MENDES	Island/Republic
38	ADELE	XL/Columbia
39	CHRIS BROWN	Young Money/Cash Money/RCA
40	FLO RIDA	Poe Boy/Atlantic
41	DJ SNAKE	Mad Decent
42	DEMI LOVATO	Safehouse/Island/Republic/Hollywood
43	FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE	Republic Nashville
44	RICH HOMIE QUAN	Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
45	DAVID GUETTA	What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic
46	KENDRICK LAMAR	Big Machine/Republic
47	THOMAS RHETT	Valory
48	OMARION	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/RRP
49	BEYONCÉ	Parkwood/Columbia
50	TREY SONGZ	Songbook/Atlantic

NO. 1 MAINSTREAM TOP 40 SONG

### "Uptown Funk!"

Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars



### 'FACE' OF THE HOT 100

The Weeknd first became a regular on the R&B/hip-hop lists after collaborating with fellow Canadian Drake on the 2011 track "Crew Love." But this year, Abel Tesfaye transformed from supporting player to star performer, notching his first two Hot 100 No. 1s: "Can't Feel My Face" and "The Hills."



NO. 1 ADULT CONTEMPORARY SONG

### "Thinking Out Loud"

Ed Sheeran

## HOT 100 LABELS

**POS / LABEL**

1	REPUBLIC
2	RCA
3	INTERSCOPE
4	ATLANTIC
5	COLUMBIA
6	EPIC
7	CAPITOL
8	300
9	DEF JAM
10	ROADRUNNER RECORDS PROMOTIONS

**3** NUMBER OF TIMES (IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS) REPUBLIC ENDED THE YEAR AS THE HOT 100'S NO. 1 LABEL, FOLLOWING 2012 AND 2014.

## HOT 100 PUBLISHING CORPORATIONS

**POS / PUBLISHING CORPORATION**

1	SONY/ATV MUSIC
2	WARNER/CHAPPELL MUSIC
3	UNIVERSAL MUSIC
4	BMG
5	KOBALT MUSIC

## HOT 100 PRODUCERS

**POS / PRODUCER**

1	MARTIN KARL "MAX MARTIN" SANDBERG
2	JOHAN "SHELLBACK" SCHUSTER
3	HENRY "CIRKUT" RUSSELL WALTER
4	JAKE GOSLING
4	KEVIN KADISH
6	ALI PAYAMI
7	JEFFREY BHASKER
8	TONY FADD
9	TIM PAGNOTTA
10	GREG KURSTIN

## HOT 100 SONGWRITERS

**POS / SONGWRITER**

1	MARTIN KARL "MAX MARTIN" SANDBERG
2	JOHAN KARL "SHELLBACK" SCHUSTER
3	EDWARD "ED" CHRISTOPHER SHEERAN
4	TAYLOR SWIFT
5	WILLIE J. "FETTY WAP" MAXWELL
6	AUBREY "DRAKE" GRAHAM
6	ANDREW HOZIER-BYRNE
8	MEGHAN TRAINOR
9	ABEL "THE WEEKND" TEFAYE
10	SAVAN KOTECHA



## HOT 100 PUBLISHERS

**POS / PUBLISHER**

1	WB MUSIC, ASCAP
2	KOBALT MUSIC PUBLISHING AMERICA, ASCAP
3	EMI APRIL MUSIC, ASCAP
4	WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING, BMI
5	SONY/ATV SONGS, BMI
6	UNIVERSAL MUSIC, ASCAP
7	SONGS OF UNIVERSAL, BMI
8	MXMMUSIC, ASCAP
9	SONY/ATV ALLEGRO, ASCAP
10	BMG GOLD SONGS, ASCAP



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# RADIO SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	UPTOWN FUNK!	Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars	RCA
2	SHUT UP AND DANCE WALK THE MOON	RCA	
3	THINKING OUT LOUD	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic
4	SUGAR	Maroon 5	222/Interscope
5	BLANK SPACE	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
6	SEE YOU AGAIN	Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth	Universal Studios/Atlantic/RRP
7	WANT TO WANT ME	Jason Derulo	Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
8	CAN'T FEEL MY FACE	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
9	EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)	The Weeknd	Universal Studios/Republic
10	LOVEME LIKE YOU DO	Ellie Goulding	Universal Studios/Republic/Interscope
11	STYLE	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
12	BAD BLOOD	Taylor Swift Featuring Kendrick Lamar	Big Machine/Republic
13	CHEERLEADER	OMI	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
14	I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE	Sam Smith	Capitol
15	LEAN ON	Major Lazer & DJ Snake Featuring MØ	Mad Decent
16	TAKE ME TO CHURCH	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
17	PHOTOGRAPH	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic
18	THE HILLS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
19	FIGHT SONG	Rachel Platten	Columbia
20	HEY MAMA	David Guetta Featuring Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha & Afrojack	What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic
21	JEALOUS	Nick Jonas	Safehouse/Island/Republic
22	HONEY, I'M GOOD	Andy Grammer	S-Curve/Hollywood
23	ANIMALS	Maroon 5	222/Interscope
24	SOMEBODY	Natalie La Rose Featuring Jeremih	I.M.G./Republic
25	LOCKED AWAY	R. City Featuring Adam Levine	Kemosabe/RCA

26	TIME OF OUR LIVES	Pitbull & Ne-Yo	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
27	GOOD FOR YOU	Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP Rocky	Interscope
28	LIPS ARE MOVIN	Meghan Trainor	Epic
29	TALKING BODY	Tove Lo	Island/Republic
30	WILDEST DREAMS	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
31	LOVE ME HARDER	Ariana Grande & The Weeknd	Republic
32	SHAKE IT OFF	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
33	WHERE ARE U NOW	Skrillex & Diplo With Justin Bieber	Mad Decent/OWSLA/Atlantic
34	POST TO BE	Omarion Featuring Chris Brown & Jhene Aiko	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/RRP
35	WORTH IT	Fifth Harmony Featuring Kid Ink	SYCO/Epic
36	TRAP QUEEN	Fetty Wap	RGF/300
37	WHAT DO YOU MEAN?	Justin Bieber	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
38	COOL FOR THE SUMMER	Demi Lovato	Safehouse/Island/Republic/Hollywood
39	HABITS (STAY HIGH)	Tove Lo	Island/Republic
40	RENEGADES	xAmbassadors	KiDinaKORNER/Interscope
41	IDON'T MIND	Usher Featuring Juicy J	RCA
42	TAKE YOUR TIME	Sam Hunt	MCA Nashville/Capitol
43	STITCHES	Shawn Mendes	Island/Republic
44	UMA THURMAN	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island/Republic
45	STAY WITH ME	Sam Smith	Capitol
46	WAVES	Mr. Probz	Left Lane/Ultra/RCA
47	HOTLINE BLING	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
48	YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT	DJ Snake & AlunaGeorge	Interscope
49	RIPTIDE	Vance Joy	F-Stop/Atlantic
50	EX'S & OH'S	Elle King	RCA



**6** WEEKS THAT OMI'S "CHEERLEADER" SPENT ATOP THE HOT 100, HELPING IT BECOME THE NO. 1 SONG OF THE SUMMER.

# DIGITAL SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	UPTOWN FUNK!	Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars	RCA
2	THINKING OUT LOUD	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic/AG
3	SEE YOU AGAIN	Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth	Universal Studios/Atlantic/AG
4	BLANK SPACE	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/BMLG
5	TAKE ME TO CHURCH	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
6	SUGAR	Maroon 5	222/Interscope/IGA
7	SHUT UP AND DANCE WALK THE MOON	RCA	
8	CHEERLEADER	OMI	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
9	TRAP QUEEN	Fetty Wap	RGF/300/AG
10	BAD BLOOD	Taylor Swift Featuring Kendrick Lamar	Big Machine/BMLG
11	FIGHT SONG	Rachel Platten	Columbia
12	THE HILLS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
13	LOVEME LIKE YOU DO	Ellie Goulding	Interscope/Universal Studios/IGA/Republic
14	HONEY, I'M GOOD	Andy Grammer	S-Curve
15	HELLO	Adele	XL/Columbia
16	CAN'T FEEL MY FACE	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
17	EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)	The Weeknd	Universal Studios/Republic
18	WATCH ME	Silento	Bolo/Capitol
19	LIPS ARE MOVIN	Meghan Trainor	Epic
20	FOUR FIVE SECONDS	Rihanna & Kanye West & Paul McCartney	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
21	G.D.F.R.	Flo Rida Featuring Sage The Gemini & Lookas	Poe Boy/Atlantic/AG
22	WANT TO WANT ME	Jason Derulo	Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
23	TAKE YOUR TIME	Sam Hunt	MCA Nashville/UMGN
24	GIRL CRUSH	Little Big Town	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
25	SHAKE IT OFF	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/BMLG

26	WORTH IT	Fifth Harmony Featuring Kid Ink	SYCO/Epic
27	CENTURIES	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island
28	STYLE	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/BMLG
29	HEY MAMA	David Guetta Featuring Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha & Afrojack	What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic/AG
30	LEAN ON	Major Lazer & DJ Snake Featuring MO	Mad Decent
31	WHERE ARE U NOW	Skrillex & Diplo With Justin Bieber	Mad Decent/OWSLA/AG
32	I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE	Sam Smith	Capitol
33	STITCHES	Shawn Mendes	Island
34	ALL ABOUT THAT BASS	Meghan Trainor	Epic
35	679	Fetty Wap Featuring Remy Boyz	RGF/300/AG
36	THE HANGING TREE	James Newton Howard Featuring Jennifer Lawrence	Lions Gate/Republic
37	HOTLINE BLING	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
38	JEALOUS	Nick Jonas	Safehouse/Island
39	GOOD FOR YOU	Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP Rocky	Interscope/IGA
40	TALKING BODY	Tove Lo	Island
41	WHAT DO YOU MEAN?	Justin Bieber	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
42	TIME OF OUR LIVES	Pitbull & Ne-Yo	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
43	PHOTOGRAPH	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic/AG
44	ANIMALS	Maroon 5	222/Interscope/IGA
45	CHAINS	Nick Jonas	Safehouse/Island
46	LOCKED AWAY	R. City Featuring Adam Levine	Kemosabe/RCA
47	UMA THURMAN	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island
48	DRAG ME DOWN	One Direction	SYCO/Columbia
49	KICK THE DUST UP	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
50	IDON'T MIND	Usher Featuring Juicy J	RCA



SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)

NO. 1 ON-DEMAND  
 STREAMING SONG  
*"Trap Queen"*  
 Fetty Wap

# STREAMING SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	TRAP QUEEN	Fetty Wap	RGF/300
2	UPTOWN FUNK!	Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars	RCA
3	WATCH ME	Silento	Bolo/Capitol
4	SEE YOU AGAIN	Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth	Universal Studios/Atlantic/RRP
5	THINKING OUT LOUD	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic
6	THE HILLS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
7	SUGAR	Maroon 5	222/Interscope
8	EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)	The Weeknd	Universal Studios/Republic
9	CHEERLEADER	OMI	Louder Than Life/Ultra/Columbia
10	CAN'T FEEL MY FACE	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
11	679	Fetty Wap Featuring Remy Boyz	RGF/300
12	SHAKE IT OFF	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
13	POST TO BE	Omarion Featuring Chris Brown & Jhene Aiko	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/RRP
14	LEAN ON	Major Lazer & DJ Snake Featuring MØ	Mad Decent
15	BLANK SPACE	Taylor Swift	Big Machine/Republic
16	WHERE ARE U NOW	Skrillex & Diplo With Justin Bieber	Mad Decent/OWSLA/Atlantic
17	ALL ABOUT THAT BASS	Meghan Trainor	Epic
18	TAKE ME TO CHURCH	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
19	LOVEME LIKE YOU DO	Ellie Goulding	Universal Studios/Republic/Interscope
20	HOTLINE BLING	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
21	NASTY FREESTYLE	T-Wayne	WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
22	WHAT DO YOU MEAN?	Justin Bieber	SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
23	WORTH IT	Fifth Harmony Featuring Kid Ink	SYCO/Epic
24	GANGNAM STYLE	PSY	SchoolBoy/Republic
25	NO TYPE	Rae Sremmurd	Eardrum/Interscope
26	MY WAY	Fetty Wap Featuring Monty	RGF/300
27	GOOD FOR YOU	Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP Rocky	Interscope
28	7/11	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia
29	HOT BOY	Bobby Shmurda	GS9/Epic
30	IDON'T F**K WITH YOU	Big Sean Featuring E-40	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
31	SHUT UP AND DANCE WALK THE MOON	RCA	
32	HELLO	Adele	XL/Columbia
33	ONLY	Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake, Lil Wayne & Chris Brown	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
34	G.D.F.R.	Flo Rida Featuring Sage The Gemini & Lookas	Poe Boy/Atlantic
35	BAD BLOOD	Taylor Swift Featuring Kendrick Lamar	Big Machine/Republic
36	FLEX [OOH OOH OOH]	Rich Homie Quan	Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
37	LIPS ARE MOVIN	Meghan Trainor	Epic
38	CHANDELIER	sia	Monkey Puzzle/RCA
39	B**** BETTER HAVE MY MONEY	Rihanna	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
40	ELASTIC HEART	sia	Monkey Puzzle/RCA
41	I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE	Sam Smith	Capitol
42	STITCHES	Shawn Mendes	Island/Republic
43	HIT THE QUAN	iLoveMemphis	Palm Tree/Rush Hour/RECORDS
44	LET IT GO	Idina Menzel	Walt Disney
45	OFTEN	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
46	COCO	O.T. Genasis	Conglomerate/Atlantic
47	SLOW MOTION	Trey Songz	Songbook/Atlantic
48	HEY MAMA	David Guetta Featuring Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha & Afrojack	What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic
49	CENTURIES	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island/Republic
50	ALL EYES ON YOU	Meek Mill Featuring Chris Brown & Nicki Minaj	Maybach/Atlantic





Tacoma Dome would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to the agents, managers and promoters who helped make 2015 a **GIGANTIC** year.

MAROON 5  
LUKE BRYAN  
MIRANDA LAMBERT  
GABRIEL IGLESIAS  
MÖTLEY CRÜE  
IMAGINE DRAGONS  
ABOVE & BEYOND  
MONSTER JAM  
ARENA CROSS  
NKOTB

TIESTO  
DEADMAU5  
DIPLO  
LIFE IN COLOR  
GO HARD TOUR  
NITRO CIRCUS  
WINTER JAM  
JUAN GABRIEL  
DENNIS MILLER  
DANA CARVEY  
KEVIN NEALON



Kim Bedier, Director / Tom Alexander, Booking  
253.593.7627 or [talexander@tacomadome.org](mailto:talexander@tacomadome.org)



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# BILLBOARD 200 ALBUMS

**no. 1**  
 1989

**Taylor Swift**  
 Big Machine/BMLG



POS	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
2	X	Ed Sheeran	Atlantic/AG
3	IN THE LONELY HOUR	Sam Smith	Capitol
4	IF YOU'RE READING THIS IT'S TOO LATE	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
5	TITLE	Meghan Trainor	Epic
6	V	Maroon 5	222/Interscope/IGA
7	THE PINK PRINT	Nicki Minaj	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
8	2014 FOREST HILLS DRIVE	J. Cole	Dreamville/Roc Nation/Columbia
9	FIFTY SHADES OF GREY	Soundtrack	Universal Studios/Republic
10	FOUR	One Direction	SYCO/Columbia
11	MONTEVALLO	Sam Hunt	MCA Nashville/UMGN
12	HOZIER	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
13	BEAUTY BEHIND THE MADNESS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
14	THAT'S CHRISTMAS TOME	Pentatonix	RCA
15	AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island
16	TO PIMP A BUTTERFLY	Kendrick Lamar	Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
17	MY EVERYTHING	Ariana Grande	Republic
18	KILL THE LIGHTS	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
19	FURIOUS 7	Soundtrack	Universal Studios/Atlantic/AG
20	DREAMS WORTH MORE THAN MONEY	Meek Mill	Maybach/Atlantic/AG
21	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: AWESOME MIX VOL. 1	Soundtrack	Marvel/Hollywood
22	DARK SKY PARADISE	Big Sean	G.O.O.D./Def Jam

23	ANYTHING GOES	Florida Georgia Line	Republic Nashville/BMLG
24	JEKYLL + HYDE	Zac Brown Band	John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic
25	OLDBOOTHS, NEW DIRT	Jason Aldean	Broken Bow/BBMG
26	WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE	Drake & Future	A-1/Freebandz/Young Money/Cash Money/Epic/Republic
27	UPTOWN SPECIAL	Mark Ronson	RCA
28	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1	Carrie Underwood	19/Arista Nashville/SMN
29	SMOKE + MIRRORS	Imagine Dragons	KiDinAKORNER/Interscope/IGA
30	FROZEN	Soundtrack	Walt Disney
31	BLURRYFACE	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/AG
32	TALKING IS HARD	WALK THE MOON	RCA
33	WILDER MIND	Mumford & Sons	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
34	HANDWRITTEN	shawn Mendes	Island
35	THE OUTSIDERS	Eric Church	EMI Nashville/UMGN
36	CRASH MY PARTY	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
37	EMPIRE: ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM SEASON 1	Soundtrack	20th Century Fox/Columbia
38	PAIN KILLER	Little Big Town	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
39	SREMM LIFE	Rae Sremmurd	Eardrum/Interscope/IGA
40	1000 FORMS OF FEAR	Sia	Monkey Puzzle/RCA
41	NICK JONAS	Nick Jonas	Safehouse/Island
42	DS2	Future	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
43	GLOBALIZATION	Pitbull	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
44	STAGES	Josh Groban	Reprise/Warner Bros.



**PENTATONIX**  
 The a cappella group with 1.2 billion YouTube views achieved its first Billboard 200 No. 1 with its self-titled album.

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)

- 45 **COMPTON** Dr. Dre Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 46 **ROCKORBUST** AC/DC Columbia
- 47 **NIGHTVISIONS** Imagine Dragons KiDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
- 48 **REFLECTION** Fifth Harmony SYCO/Epic
- 49 **QUEEN OF THE CLOUDS** Tove Lo Island
- 50 **MAN AGAINST MACHINE** Garth Brooks Pearl/RCA Nashville/SMN
- 51 **NOW 53** Various Artists Universal/Sony Music/Legacy
- 52 **PITCH PERFECT 2** Soundtrack Republic/UME
- 53 **LISTEN** David Guetta What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic/AG
- 54 **BRINGING BACK THE SUNSHINE** Blake Shelton Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
- 55 **JUST AS I AM** Brantley Gilbert Valory/BMLG
- 56 **AT LONG LAST. A\$AP** A\$AP Rocky A\$AP Worldwide/Polo Grounds/RCA
- 57 **BEYONCÉ** Beyoncé Parkwood/Columbia
- 58 **NATIVE** OneRepublic Mosley/Interscope/IGA
- 59 + **Ed Sheeran** Elektra/AG
- 60 **FETTY WAP** Fetty Wap RGF/300/AG
- 61 **HERE'S TO THE GOOD TIMES** Florida Georgia Line Republic Nashville/BMLG
- 62 **BORN TO DIE** Lana Del Rey Polydor/Interscope/IGA
- 63 **GREATEST HITS SO FAR...** Zac Brown Band ROAR/Southern Ground/Atlantic/AG
- 64 **SKRILLEX AND DIPLO PRESENT JACK U** skrillex & Diplo Mad Decent/OWSLA/AG
- 65 **MAGAZINES OR NOVELS** Andy Grammer S-Curve
- 66 **DREAM YOUR LIFE AWAY** Vance Joy F-Stop/Atlantic/AG
- 67 **NOW 52** Various Artists Sony Music/Universal/UME
- 68 **TRAVELLER** Chris Stapleton Mercury Nashville/UMGN
- 69 **NOTHING WAS THE SAME** Drake Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 70 **LEGEND: THE BEST OF...** Bob Marley And The Wailers Tuff Gong/Island/UME
- 71 **GREATEST HITS** Fleetwood Mac Warner Bros.
- 72 **GOOD KID, M.A.A.D. CITY** Kendrick Lamar Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 73 **5 SECONDS OF SUMMER** 5 Seconds Of Summer Hi Or Hey/Capitol
- 74 **21** Adele XL/Columbia
- 75 **MOTION** Calvin Harris Fly Eye/Columbia
- 76 **PLATINUM** Miranda Lambert RCA Nashville/SMN
- 77 **CHRISTMAS** Michael Bublé 143/Reprise/Warner Bros.
- 78 **JOURNEY'S GREATEST HITS** Journey Columbia/Legacy
- 79 **AM** Arctic Monkeys Domino
- 80 **FIRST KISS** Kid Rock Top Dog/Warner Bros.
- 81 **DARK BEFORE DAWN** Breaking Benjamin Hollywood
- 82 **COLE SWINDELL** Cole Swindell Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
- 83 **PRISM** Katy Perry Capitol
- 84 **THE BIG REVIVAL** Kenny Chesney Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville/SMN
- 85 **X** Chris Brown RCA
- 86 **HOW BIG HOW BLUE HOW BEAUTIFUL** Florence + The Machine Republic
- 87 **PEACE IS THE MISSION** Major Lazer Mad Decent
- 88 **SPRING BREAK... CHECKIN' OUT** Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 89 **THESE THINGS HAPPEN** G-Eazy G-Eazy/RVG/BPG/RCA
- 90 **TRIGGA** Trey Songz Songbook/Atlantic/AG
- 91 **SAVEROCK AND ROLL** Fall Out Boy Decaydance/Island
- 92 **SOUND & COLOR** Alabama Shakes ATO
- 93 **NO FIXED ADDRESS** Nickelback Republic
- 94 **DOO-WOPS & HOOLIGANS** Bruno Mars Elektra/AG
- 95 **IGNITE THE NIGHT** Chase Rice Columbia Nashville/Dack Janiels

## SOUNDTRACKS SCORE BIG

In 2015, nine film and TV companion albums reached the top 10 on the weekly Billboard 200, including four that hit No. 1 (*Empire*, *Furious 7*, *Pitch Perfect 2* and *Descendants*) — the most chart-leading soundtracks in a year since 2009.

- 96 **THE MARSHALL MATHERS LP 2** Eminem Web/Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 97 **TRILOGY** The Weeknd XO/Republic
- 98 **BADLANDS** Halsey Astralwerks
- 99 **THE EMINEM SHOW** Eminem Web/Aftermath/Interscope/UME
- 100 **HOLIDAY WISHES** Idina Menzel Warner Bros.
- 101 **PARTNERS** Barbra Streisand Columbia
- 102 **TAKE CARE** Drake Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 103 **WANTED ON VOYAGE** George Ezra Columbia
- 104 **SHADY XV** Various Artists Shady/Interscope/IGA
- 105 **PIECE BY PIECE** Kelly Clarkson 19/RCA
- 106 **BLACCC HOLLYWOOD** Wiz Khalifa Rostrom/Atlantic/AG
- 107 **CURTAIN CALL: THE HITS** Eminem Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 108 **STORYTELLER** Carrie Underwood 19/Arista Nashville/SMN
- 109 **MY HOUSE [EP]** Flo Rida Poe Boy/Atlantic/AG
- 110 **KIDZ BOP 27** Kidz Bop Kids Razor & Tie
- 111 **RED** Taylor Swift Big Machine/BMLG
- 112 **FIGHT SONG [EP]** Rachel Platten Columbia
- 113 **NOW 55** Various Artists Universal/Sony Music/Legacy
- 114 **BACK IN BLACK** AC/DC Columbia/Legacy
- 115 **BEFORE THIS WORLD** James Taylor Concord
- 116 **NOW 54** Various Artists Sony Music/Universal/UME
- 117 **RECLASSIFIED** Iggy Azalea Turn First/Hustle Gang/Def Jam
- 118 **BLACK MESSIAH** D'Angelo And The Vanguard RCA
- 119 **VESSEL** twenty one pilots Fueled By Ramen/AG
- 120 **2015 GRAMMY NOMINEES** Various Artists Grammy/RCA
- 121 **LOVE STUFF** Elle King RCA
- 122 **THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART I** Soundtrack Lions Gate/Republic
- 123 **BECAUSE THE INTERNET** Childish Gambino Glassnote
- 124 **TALKING DREAMS** Echosmith Warner Bros.
- 125 **CHEEK TO CHEEK** Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga RPM/Columbia/Streamline/Interscope/IGA
- 126 **SONIC HIGHWAYS [SOUNDTRACK]** Foo Fighters Roswell/RCA
- 127 **THE ALBUM ABOUT NOTHING** Wale Every Blue Moon/Maybach/Atlantic/AG
- 128 **SUNDOWN HEAVENTOWN** Tim McGraw McGraw/Big Machine/BMLG
- 129 **UNORTHODOX JUKEBOX** Bruno Mars Atlantic/AG
- 130 **PURE HEROINE** Lorde Lava/Republic
- 131 **BLACK ROSE** Tyrese Volttron Recordz
- 132 **UNBREAKABLE SMILE** Tori Kelly SchoolBoy/Capitol
- 133 **GOT YOUR SIX** Five Finger Death Punch Prospect Park
- 134 **INTO THE WOODS** Soundtrack Walt Disney
- 135 **EVERYTHING IS 4** Jason Derulo Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
- 136 **SOUNDS GOOD FEELS GOOD** 5 Seconds Of Summer Hi Or Hey/Capitol
- 137 **REVIVAL** Selena Gomez Interscope/IGA
- 138 **FROZEN: THE SONGS** Soundtrack Walt Disney



- 139 **VHS X** Ambassadors KiDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
- 140 **NON-FICTION** Ne-Yo Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
- 141 **TANGLED UP** Thomas Rhett Valory/BMLG
- 142 **FOR YOU** Selena Gomez Hollywood
- 143 **BASED ON A TRUE STORY ...** Blake Shelton Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
- 144 **FAN OF A FAN: THE ALBUM** Chris Brown & Tyga Young Money/Cash Money/RCA
- 145 **SWEET TALKER** Jessie J Lava/Republic
- 146 **GREATEST HITS** Foo Fighters Roswell/RCA
- 147 **ANYBODY WANNA BUY A HEART?** K. Michelle Atlantic/AG
- 148 **GREATEST HITS** 2Pac Amaru/Death Row/Interscope/UME
- 149 **TALK DIRTY** Jason Derulo Beluga Heights/Warner Bros.
- 150 **ANNIE** Soundtrack Columbia Pictures/Roc Nation/Overbrook/Madison Gate/RCA
- 151 **REBEL HEART** Madonna Live Nation/Interscope/IGA
- 152 **THE ENDLESS RIVER** Pink Floyd Columbia
- 153 **DESCENDANTS** Soundtrack Walt Disney
- 154 **RODEO** Travis Scott Grand Hustle/Epic
- 155 **GREATEST HITS** Guns N' Roses Geffen/UME
- 156 **THE WRONG SIDE OF HEAVEN... VOLUME 1** Five Finger Death Punch Prospect Park
- 157 **IDONT DANCE** Lee Brice Curb
- 158 **IMMORTALIZED** Disturbed Reprise/Warner Bros.
- 159 **UNBREAKABLE** Janet Rhythm Nation/BMG
- 160 **RISER** Dierks Bentley Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 161 **LOVE IN THE FUTURE** John Legend G.O.O.D./Columbia
- 162 **TAILGATES & TANLINES** Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 163 **CHRONICLE THE 20 GREATEST HITS** Creedence Clearwater Revival Fantasy/Concord
- 164 **THE LONDON SESSIONS** Mary J. Blige Matriarch/Capitol
- 165 **HONEYMOON** Lana Del Rey Polydor/Interscope/IGA
- 166 **TEENAGE DREAM** Katy Perry Capitol
- 167 **CHAOS AND THE CALM** James Bay Republic
- 168 **THRIVE** Casting Crowns Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
- 169 **TITLE [EP]** Meghan Trainor Epic
- 170 **KIDZ BOP 28** Kidz Bop Kids Razor & Tie
- 171 **GREATEST HITS: WE WILL ROCK YOU** Queen Hollywood
- 172 **DRONES** Muse Helium-3/Warner Bros.
- 173 **WILDHEART** Miguel ByStorm/Black Ice/RCA
- 174 **THE ESSENTIAL MICHAEL JACKSON** Michael Jackson Epic/Legacy
- 175 **RECOVERY** Eminem Web/Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 176 **LIVESOS** 5 Seconds Of Summer Hi Or Hey/Capitol
- 177 **MIDNIGHT MEMORIES** One Direction SYCO/Columbia
- 178 **COLD BEER CONVERSATION** George Strait MCA Nashville/UMGN
- 179 **CASS COUNTY** Don Henley Past Masters Holdings/Capitol
- 180 **SADNECESSARY** Milky Chance Lichtdicht/Neon/Republic
- 181 **PAGEANT MATERIAL** Kacey Musgraves Mercury Nashville/UMGN
- 182 **MASTER OF PUPPETS** Metallica Blackened/Warner Bros.
- 183 **THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON** Pink Floyd Parlophone/Rhino
- 184 **ULTRAVIOLENCE** Lana Del Rey Polydor/Interscope/IGA
- 185 **THE COWBOY RIDES AWAY: LIVE FROM AT&T STADIUM** George Strait MCA Nashville/UMGN
- 186 **STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON** N.W.A Ruthless/Priority/UME
- 187 **IT'S THE GIRLS!** Bette Midler Warner Bros.
- 188 **FULL SPEED** Kid Ink Tha Alumni Group/88 Classic/RCA
- 189 **SOUTHERN STYLE** Darius Rucker Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 190 **PENTATONIX** Pentatonix RCA
- 191 **747** Lady Antebellum Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 192 **SPECIAL EFFECTS** Tech N9ne Strange/RBC
- 193 **LOVE SOMEBODY** Reba Starstruck/Nash Icon/BMLG
- 194 **PTXMAS [EP]** Pentatonix RCA
- 195 **THE DOCUMENTARY 2** The Game Fifth Admendment/Blood Money/eOne
- 196 **LUCA BRASI 2: A GANGSTA GRILLZ SPECIAL EDITION** Kevin Gates Bread Winners' Association/Gangsta Grillz/Atlantic/AG
- 197 **HOOD BILLIONAIRE** Rick Ross Maybach/Slip-N-Slide/Def Jam
- 198 **HOW CAN IT BE** Lauren Daigle Centricity/Capitol CMG
- 199 **TRUE COLORS** zedd Interscope/IGA
- 200 **GO:ODAM** Mac Miller Warner Bros.



## The Classic Albums That Won't Go Away



**BOB MARLEY**  
**LEGEND**  
This 1984 collection endures at No. 70 on the year-end Billboard 200.



**JOURNEY**  
**GREATEST HITS**  
"Don't Stop Believin'," indeed: The 1988 compilation is No. 78 for 2015.



**AC/DC**  
**BACK IN BLACK**  
Rock isn't dead (yet): This 1980 essential ranks No. 114 for the year.

# BILLBOARD 200 ARTISTS

**no. 1**  
**TAYLOR SWIFT**

Big Machine/BMLG

**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

2	<b>DRAKE</b>	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
3	<b>ED SHEERAN</b>	Atlantic/AG
4	<b>SAM SMITH</b>	Capitol
5	<b>LUKE BRYAN</b>	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
6	<b>MEGHAN TRAINOR</b>	Epic
7	<b>MAROON 5</b>	222/Interscope/IGA
8	<b>PENTATONIX</b>	RCA
9	<b>ONE DIRECTION</b>	SYCO/Columbia
10	<b>J. COLE</b>	Dreamville/Roc Nation/Columbia
11	<b>THE WEEKND</b>	XO/Republic
12	<b>NICKI MINAJ</b>	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
13	<b>FALL OUT BOY</b>	DCD2/Island
14	<b>SAM HUNT</b>	MCA Nashville/UMGN
15	<b>KENDRICK LAMAR</b>	Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
16	<b>HOZIER</b>	Rubyworks/Columbia
17	<b>IMAGINED DRAGONS</b>	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
18	<b>ZAC BROWN BAND</b>	John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic
19	<b>FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE</b>	Republic Nashville/BMLG
20	<b>EMINEM</b>	Web/Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
21	<b>BLAKE SHELTON</b>	Warner Bros. Nashville/WMN
22	<b>CARRIE UNDERWOOD</b>	19/Arista Nashville/SMN
23	<b>ARIANA GRANDE</b>	Republic
24	<b>FUTURE</b>	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
25	<b>TWENTY ONE PILOTS</b>	Fueled By Ramen/AG
26	<b>MEEK MILL</b>	Maybach/Atlantic/AG
27	<b>ERIC CHURCH</b>	EMI Nashville/UMGN
28	<b>AC/DC</b>	Columbia
29	<b>5 SECONDS OF SUMMER</b>	Hi Or Hey/Capitol
30	<b>KIDZ BOP KIDS</b>	Razor & Tie
31	<b>BIG SEAN</b>	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
32	<b>JASON ALDEAN</b>	Broken Bow/BBMG
33	<b>LANA DEL REY</b>	Polydor/Interscope/IGA
34	<b>MARK RONSON</b>	RCA
35	<b>MUMFORD &amp; SONS</b>	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
36	<b>DR. DRE</b>	Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
37	<b>WALK THE MOON</b>	RCA
38	<b>JOSH GROBAN</b>	Reprise/Warner Bros.
39	<b>SHAWN MENDES</b>	Island
40	<b>LITTLE BIG TOWN</b>	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
41	<b>RAE SREMMURD</b>	Eardruma/Interscope/IGA
42	<b>SIA</b>	Monkey Puzzle/RCA



NO. 1 CAST ALBUM  
*Hamilton*

## BILLBOARD 200 LABELS

**POS / LABEL**

1	ATLANTIC GROUP
2	REPUBLIC
3	COLUMBIA
4	INTERSCOPE GEFLEN A&M
5	RCA
6	BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP
7	UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE
8	CAPITOL
9	UNIVERSAL MUSIC ENTERPRISES
10	WARNER BROS.

## BILLBOARD 200 DISTRIBUTORS

**POS / LABEL**

1	UNIVERSAL
2	SONY MUSIC
3	WEA
4	INDEPENDENTS

43	<b>BRUNO MARS</b>	Elektra/AG
44	<b>BEYONCÉ</b>	Parkwood/Columbia
45	<b>PITBULL</b>	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
46	<b>NICK JONAS</b>	Safehouse/Island
47	<b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b>	Epic/Legacy
48	<b>KATY PERRY</b>	Capitol
49	<b>GARTH BROOKS</b>	Pearl/RCA Nashville/SMN
50	<b>A\$AP ROCKY</b>	A\$AP Worldwide/Polo Grounds/RCA

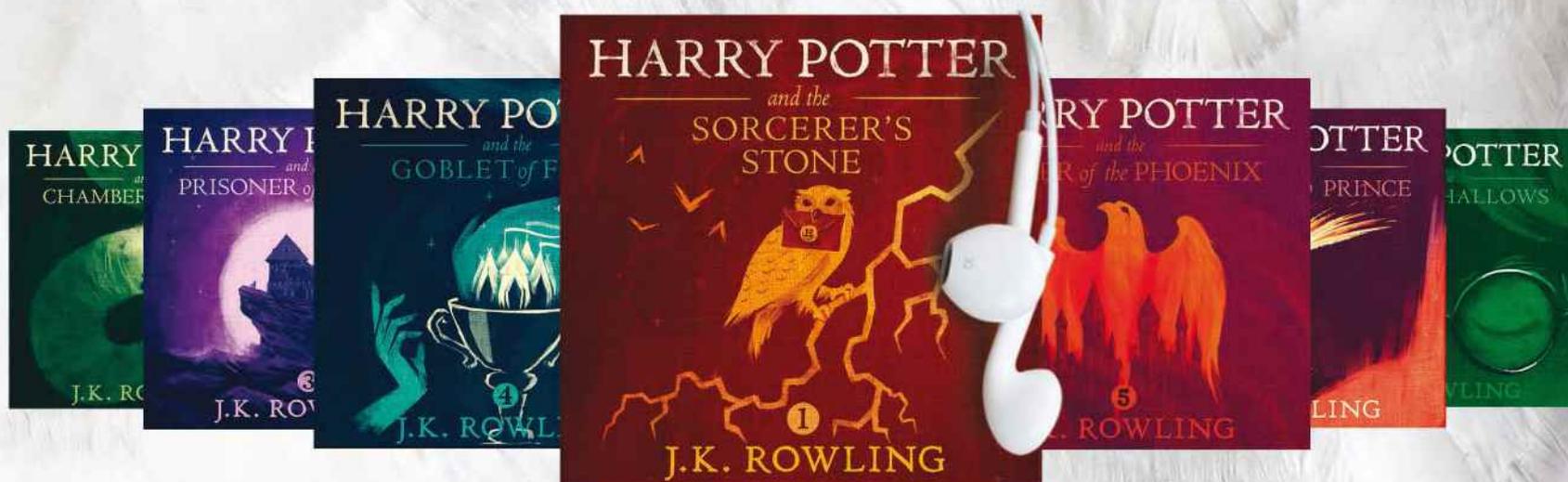


**JOSH GROBAN**

The No. 38 artist on the Billboard 200 year-end chart scored his eighth top 10 album in 2015 with the No. 2-peaking *Stages*.

# Harry Potter

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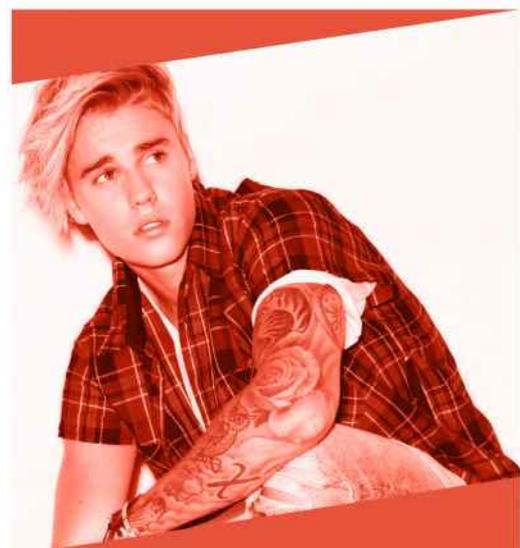


**ONE DIRECTION**  
In 2015, 1D lost a member but finally joined Snapchat. The British/Irish boy band finishes at No. 11 on the Social 50 Artists recap and places six titles on the year-end Billboard + Twitter Top Tracks list.

## TOP BILLBOARD + TWITTER TRACKS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST

- 1 **WORTH IT** Fifth Harmony Featuring Kid Ink
- 2 **THINKING OUT LOUD** Ed Sheeran
- 3 **WHAT DO YOU MEAN?** Justin Bieber
- 4 **LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO** Ellie Goulding
- 5 **SEE YOU AGAIN** Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth
- 6 **BAD BLOOD** Taylor Swift Featuring Kendrick Lamar
- 7 **BLANK SPACE** Taylor Swift
- 8 **SUGAR** Maroon 5
- 9 **UPTOWN FUNK!** Mark Ronson Featuring Bruno Mars
- 10 **DRAG ME DOWN** One Direction
- 11 **NIGHT CHANGES** One Direction
- 12 **GOOD FOR YOU** Selena Gomez Featuring A\$AP Rocky



### BIEBER STRIKES BACK

The freshly redeemed star wraps the year as the Social 50's No. 2 artist. His tropical-house single "What Do You Mean?" led Billboard + Twitter Top Tracks for a record six weeks and finishes overall at No. 3.

- 13 **COOL FOR THE SUMMER** Demi Lovato
- 14 **STEAL MY GIRL** One Direction
- 15 **SHE'S KINDA HOT** 5 Seconds Of Summer
- 16 **I REALLY LIKE YOU** Carly Rae Jepsen
- 17 **BLACK MAGIC** Little Mix
- 18 **STITCHES** Shawn Mendes
- 19 **NO CONTROL** One Direction
- 20 **ONE LAST TIME** Ariana Grande
- 21 **TOU** Skrillex & Diplo Featuring AlunaGeorge
- 22 **PHOTOGRAPH** Ed Sheeran
- 23 **SLEDGEHAMMER** Fifth Harmony
- 24 **CONFIDENT** Demi Lovato
- 25 **LOVE ME HARDER** Ariana Grande & The Weeknd
- 26 **THE HILLS** The Weeknd
- 27 **LEAN ON** Major Lazer & DJ Snake Featuring MO
- 28 **I WANT YOU TO KNOW** Zedd Featuring Selena Gomez
- 29 **SORRY** Justin Bieber
- 30 **B\*\*\*\* BETTER HAVE MY MONEY** Rihanna
- 31 **STYLE** Taylor Swift
- 32 **SHAKE IT OFF** Taylor Swift
- 33 **7/11** Beyonce
- 34 **CAN'T FEEL MY FACE** The Weeknd
- 35 **EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)** The Weeknd
- 36 **FOUR FIVE SECONDS** Rihanna & Kanye West & Paul McCartney
- 37 **JEALOUS** Nick Jonas
- 38 **ALL ABOUT THAT BASS** Meghan Trainor
- 39 **WILDEST DREAMS** Taylor Swift
- 40 **PERFECT** One Direction
- 41 **HEY EVERYBODY!** 5 Seconds Of Summer
- 42 **WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU** 5 Seconds Of Summer
- 43 **SAME OLD LOVE** Selena Gomez
- 44 **18** One Direction
- 45 **FLASHLIGHT** Jessie J
- 46 **FIGHT SONG** Rachel Platten
- 47 **ONLY** Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake, Lil Wayne & Chris Brown
- 48 **HELLO** Adele
- 49 **DIRTY WORK** Austin Mahone
- 50 **MUSIC TO WATCH BOYS TO** Lana Del Rey



### SOCIAL ADDITION

On the chart dated June 27, Vine and Tumblr metrics were added as contributing factors to an artist's ranking on the Social 50. In the year-end roundup, Tumblr-friendly Beyoncé finishes at No. 10.

## SOCIAL 50 ARTISTS

POS / ARTIST / LABEL

- 1 **TAYLOR SWIFT** Big Machine/BMLG
- 2 **JUSTIN BIEBER** SchoolBoy/Raymond Braun/Def Jam
- 3 **ARIANA GRANDE** Republic
- 4 **SELENA GOMEZ** Interscope/IGA
- 5 **NICKI MINAJ** Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 6 **MILEY CYRUS** RCA
- 7 **KATY PERRY** Capitol
- 8 **RIHANNA** Westbury Road/Roc Nation
- 9 **DEMI LOVATO** Safehouse/Island/Hollywood
- 10 **BEYONCÉ** Parkwood/Columbia
- 11 **ONE DIRECTION** SYCO/Columbia
- 12 **5 SECONDS OF SUMMER** Hi Or Hey/Capitol
- 13 **JENNIFER LOPEZ** Capitol
- 14 **DRAKE** Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 15 **WIZ KHALIFA** Taylor Gang/Atlantic/AG
- 16 **SHAWN MENDES** Island
- 17 **JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE** RCA
- 18 **CHRIS BROWN** RCA
- 19 **ED SHEERAN** Atlantic/AG
- 20 **LADY GAGA** Streamline/Interscope/IGA
- 21 **SHAKIRA** Sony Music Latin/RCA
- 22 **SAM SMITH** Capitol
- 23 **LUCY HALE** DMG Nashville
- 24 **SNOOP DOGG** Doggystyle/Columbia
- 25 **AUSTIN MAHONE** Chase/Cash Money/Republic
- 26 **ZENDAYA** Hollywood
- 27 **ELLIE GOULDING** Cherrytree/Interscope/IGA
- 28 **BRUNO MARS** Atlantic/AG
- 29 **BECKY G** Kemosabe/RCA
- 30 **MARTIN GARRIX** SchoolBoy/Spinnin/Silent/Casablanca/Republic
- 31 **FIFTH HARMONY** SYCO/Epic
- 32 **MEEK MILL** Maybach/Atlantic/AG
- 33 **LITTLE MIX** SYCO/Columbia
- 34 **IGGY AZALEA** Turn First/Hustle Gang/Def Jam
- 35 **THE WEEKND** XO/Republic
- 36 **ROMEO SANTOS** Sony Music Latin
- 37 **EMINEM** Web/Shady/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
- 38 **DESTORM POWER** Unsigned
- 39 **MAROON 5** 222/Interscope/IGA
- 40 **PRINCE ROYCE** RCA/Sony Music Latin
- 41 **TYGA** Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
- 42 **MEGHAN TRAINOR** Epic
- 43 **ENRIQUE IGLESIAS** Sony Music Latin
- 44 **KANYE WEST** G.O.O.D./Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam
- 45 **CALVIN HARRIS** Fly Eye/Columbia
- 46 **BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS** Tuff Gong/Island/UMe
- 47 **RITA ORA** Roc Nation/Columbia
- 48 **LANA DEL REY** Polydor/Interscope/IGA
- 49 **LUDACRIS** DTP/Def Jam
- 50 **TROYESIVAN** Capitol

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# TOP COUNTRY ARTISTS

**no. 1**  
**LUKE BRYAN**  
 Capitol Nashville/UMGN



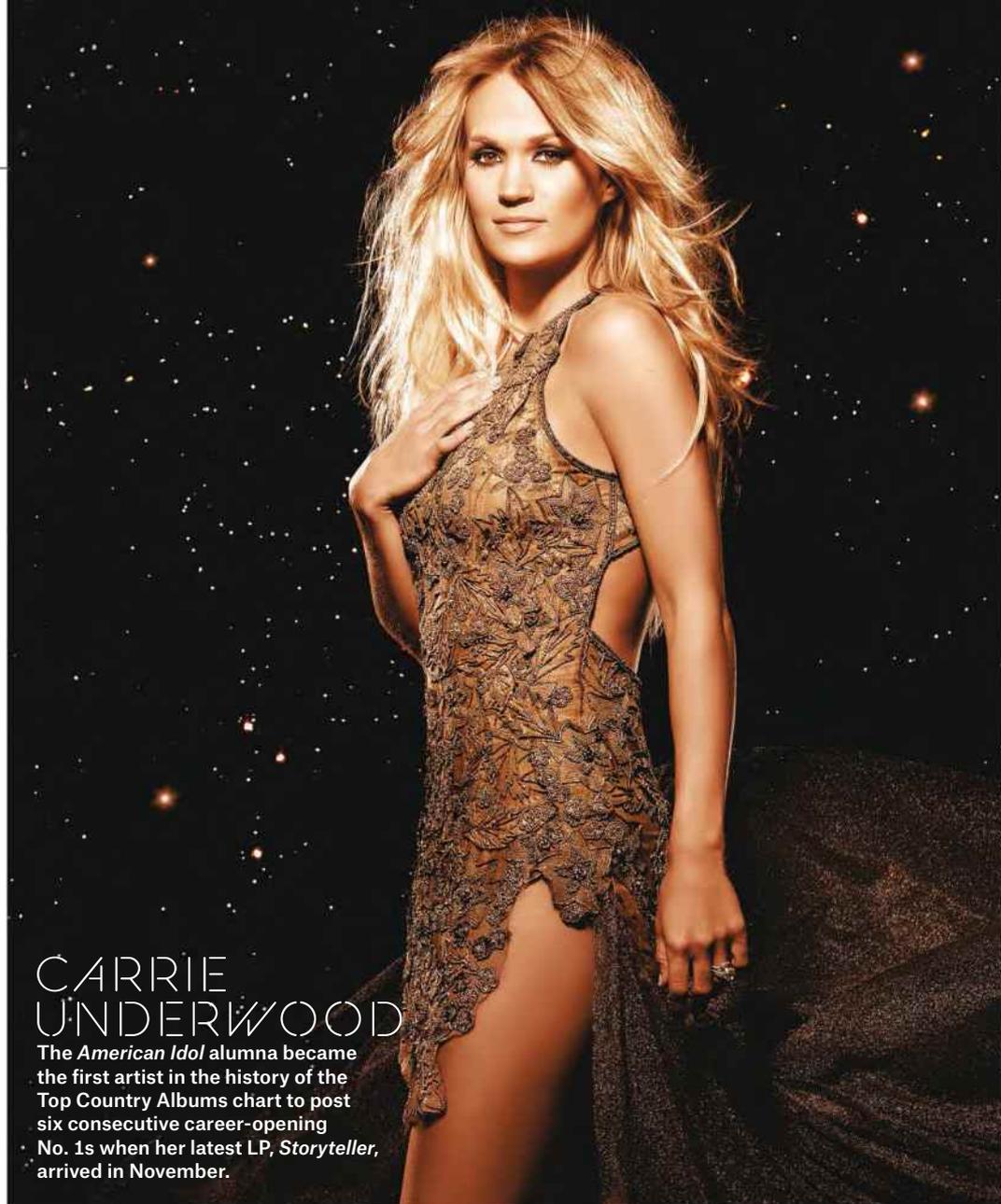
**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

- 2 **SAM HUNT** MCA Nashville/UMGN
- 3 **ZAC BROWN BAND** John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic
- 4 **CARRIE UNDERWOOD** 19/Arista Nashville/SMN
- 5 **FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE** Republic Nashville/BMLG
- 6 **JASON ALDEAN** Broken Bow/BBMG
- 7 **ERIC CHURCH** EMI Nashville/UMGN
- 8 **BLAKE SHELTON** Warner Bros./WMN
- 9 **KENNY CHESNEY** Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville/SMN
- 10 **LITTLE BIG TOWN** Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 11 **THOMAS RHETT** Valory/BMLG
- 12 **TIM MCGRAW** McGraw/Big Machine/BMLG
- 13 **COLE SWINDELL** Warner Bros./WMN
- 14 **BRETT ELDRIDGE** Atlantic/WMN
- 15 **KEITH URBAN** Hit Red/Capitol Nashville
- 16 **GARTH BROOKS** Pearl/RCA Nashville/SMN
- 17 **DARIUS RUCKER** Capitol Nashville/UMGN
- 18 **CHRIS YOUNG** RCA Nashville/SMN
- 19 **BRANTLEY GILBERT** Valory/BMLG
- 20 **BRAD PAISLEY** Arista Nashville/SMN
- 21 **LEE BRICE** Curb
- 22 **CHRIS STAPLETON** Mercury/UMGN
- 23 **MIRANDA LAMBERT** RCA Nashville/SMN
- 24 **CHASE RICE** Columbia Nashville/Dack Janiels
- 25 **DIERKS BENTLEY** Capitol Nashville/UMGN



**FIRST 'LOVE'**

When Kelsea Ballerini's debut hit, "Love Me Like You Mean It," topped Country Airplay in July, the 22-year-old smashed Nashville's glass ceiling. The last launch single by a solo female to hit No. 1? Carrie Underwood's "Jesus, Take the Wheel" in 2006.



**CARRIE UNDERWOOD**

The *American Idol* alumna became the first artist in the history of the Top Country Albums chart to post six consecutive career-opening No. 1s when her latest LP, *Storyteller*, arrived in November.

## HOT COUNTRY SONGS

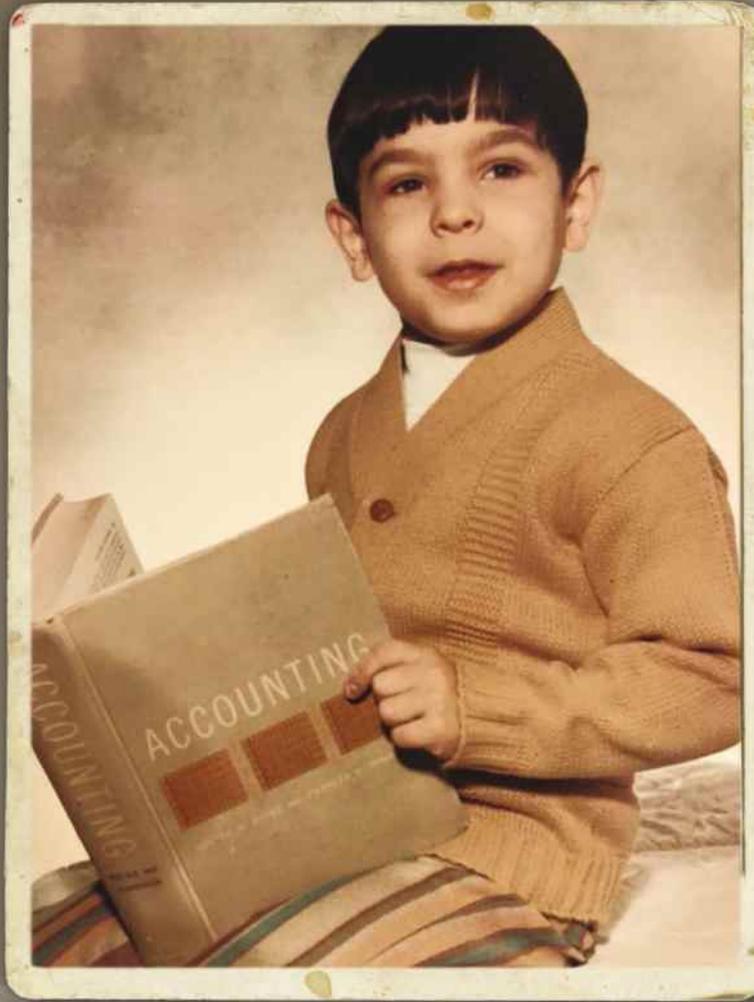
**POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL**

- 1 **TAKE YOUR TIME** Sam Hunt MCA Nashville
- 2 **GIRL CRUSH** Little Big Town Capitol Nashville
- 3 **HOUSE PARTY** Sam Hunt MCA Nashville
- 4 **KICK THE DUST UP** Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville
- 5 **CRASH AND BURN** Thomas Rhett Valory
- 6 **SANGRIA** Blake Shelton Warner Bros./WMN
- 7 **HOMEGROWN** Zac Brown Band John Varvatos/Republic/BMLG/Southern Ground
- 8 **BUY ME A BOAT** Chris Janson Warner Bros./WAR
- 9 **JOHN COUGAR, JOHN DEERE, JOHN 3:16** Keith Urban Hit Red/Capitol Nashville
- 10 **LIKE A WRECKING BALL** Eric Church EMI Nashville
- 11 **BREAK UP WITH HIM** Old Dominion RCA Nashville
- 12 **STRIP IT DOWN** Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville
- 13 **I'M COMIN' OVER** Chris Young RCA Nashville
- 14 **LOSE MY MIND** Brett Eldredge Atlantic/WMN
- 15 **DRINKING CLASS** Lee Brice Curb
- 16 **LOVING YOU EASY** Zac Brown Band John Varvatos/Republic/BMLG/Southern Ground
- 17 **LOVE YOU LIKE THAT** Canaan Smith Mercury
- 18 **I SEE YOU** Luke Bryan Capitol Nashville
- 19 **BURNING HOUSE** Cam Arista Nashville
- 20 **SMOKE** A Thousand Horses Republic Nashville
- 21 **SIPPIN' ON FIRE** Florida Georgia Line Republic Nashville
- 22 **LITTLE TOY GUNS** Carrie Underwood 19/Arista Nashville
- 23 **LET ME SEE YA GIRL** Cole Swindell Warner Bros./WMN
- 24 **TONIGHT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU** Jason Aldean Broken Bow
- 25 **LONELY TONIGHT** Blake Shelton Featuring Ashley Monroe Warner Bros./WMN
- 26 **SAVE IT FOR A RAINY DAY** Kenny Chesney Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville
- 27 **LOVE ME LIKE YOU MEAN IT** Kelsea Ballerini Black River
- 28 **KISS YOU IN THE MORNING** Michael Ray Atlantic/WEA
- 29 **ONE HELL OF AN AMEN** Brantley Gilbert Valory
- 30 **A GUY WALKS INTO A BAR** Tyler Farr Columbia Nashville
- 31 **NOTHIN' LIKE YOU** Dan + Shay Warner Bros./WAR
- 32 **HELL OF A NIGHT** Dustin Lynch Broken Bow
- 33 **DON'T IT** Billy Currington Mercury
- 34 **AIN'T WORTH THE WHISKEY** Cole Swindell Warner Bros./WMN
- 35 **SUN DAZE** Florida Georgia Line Republic Nashville
- 36 **SOMETHING IN THE WATER** Carrie Underwood 19/Arista Nashville
- 37 **SAY YOU DO** Dierks Bentley Capitol Nashville
- 38 **ANYTHING GOES** Florida Georgia Line Republic Nashville
- 39 **LONELY EYES** Chris Young RCA Nashville
- 40 **SHOTGUN RIDER** Tim McGraw McGraw/Big Machine
- 41 **TALLADEGA** Eric Church EMI Nashville
- 42 **FLY** Maddie & Tae Dot
- 43 **JUST GETTIN' STARTED** Jason Aldean Broken Bow
- 44 **YOUNG & CRAZY** Frankie Ballard Warner Bros./WAR
- 45 **BABY BE MY LOVE SONG** Easton Corbin Mercury
- 46 **DIAMOND RINGS AND OLD BARSTOOLS** Tim McGraw With Catherine Dunn McGraw/Big Machine
- 47 **I GOT THE BOY** Jana Kramer Elektra Nashville/WAR
- 48 **GONNA WANNA TONIGHT** Chase Rice Dack Janiels/Columbia Nashville
- 49 **CRUSHIN' IT** Brad Paisley Arista Nashville
- 50 **MEAN TO ME** Brett Eldredge Atlantic/WMN



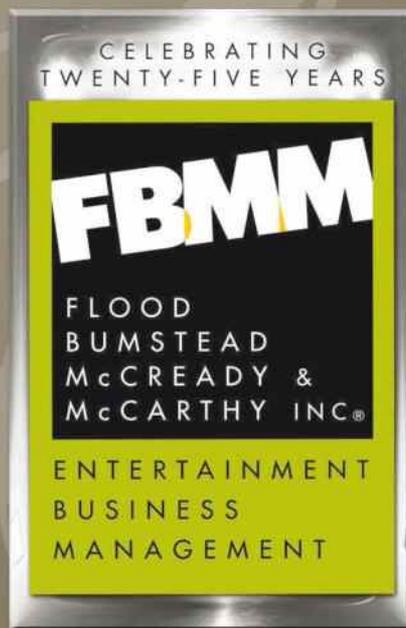
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# TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	MONTEVALLO	Sam Hunt	MCA Nashville/UMGN
2	KILL THE LIGHTS	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
3	JEKYLL + HYDE	Zac Brown Band	John Varvatos/Southern Ground/BMLG/Republic
4	OLD BOOTS, NEW DIRT	Jason Aldean	Broken Bow/BBMG
5	MAN AGAINST MACHINE	Garth Brooks	Pearl/RCA Nashville/SMN
6	ANYTHING GOES	Florida Georgia Line	Republic Nashville/BMLG
7	GREATEST HITS: DECADE #1	Carrie Underwood	19/Arista Nashville/SMN
8	THE OUTSIDERS	Eric Church	EMI Nashville/UMGN
9	TRAVELLER	Chris Stapleton	Mercury/UMGN
10	PAIN KILLER	Little Big Town	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
11	CRASH MY PARTY	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
12	JUST AS I AM	Brantley Gilbert	Valory/BMLG
13	SPRING BREAK... CHECKIN' OUT	Luke Bryan	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
14	STORYTELLER	Carrie Underwood	19/Arista Nashville/SMN
15	PLATINUM	Miranda Lambert	RCA Nashville/SMN
16	BRINGING BACK THE SUNSHINE	Blake Shelton	Warner Bros./WMN
17	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...	Zac Brown Band	ROAR/Southern Ground/Atlantic/AG
18	THE BIG REVIVAL	Kenny Chesney	Blue Chair/Columbia Nashville/SMN
19	THE COWBOY RIDES AWAY: LIVE FROM AT&T STADIUM	George Strait	MCA Nashville/UMGN
20	IGNITE THE NIGHT	Chase Rice	Columbia Nashville/Dack Janiels
21	LOVESOMEBOY	Reba	Starstruck/Nash Icon/BMLG
22	SOUTHERN STYLE	Darius Rucker	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
23	CASS COUNTY	Don Henley	Past Masters Holdings/Capitol...
24	COLE SWINDELL	Cole Swindell	Warner Bros./WMN
25	COLD BEER CONVERSATION	George Strait	MCA Nashville/UMGN
26	PAGEANT MATERIAL	Kacey Musgraves	Mercury/UMGN



27	TANGLED UP	Thomas Rhett	Valory/BMLG
28	SUNDOWN HEAVEN TOWN	Tim McGraw	McGraw/Big Machine/BMLG
29	747	Lady Antebellum	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
30	HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS	Darius Rucker	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
31	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY, VOLUME 8	Various Artists	Sony Music/Universal/UMe
32	ANGELS AND ALCOHOL	Alan Jackson	ACR/EMI Nashville/UMGN
33	MR. MISUNDERSTOOD	Eric Church	EMI Nashville/UMGN
34	IDONT DANCE	Lee Brice	Curb
35	DJANGO AND JIMMIE	Willie Nelson / Merle Haggard	Legacy
36	METAMODERN SOUNDS IN COUNTRY MUSIC	Sturgill Simpson	High Top Mountain/Thirty Tigers
37	RISER	Dierks Bentley	Capitol Nashville/UMGN
38	SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE	Jason Isbell	Southeastern/Thirty Tigers
39	SUFFER IN PEACE	Tyler Farr	Columbia Nashville/SMN
40	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL ACM AWARDS: 50 YEARS	Various Artists	Universal/Sony Music/UMe
41	ILLINOIS	Brett Eldredge	Atlantic/WMN
42	THE FIRST TIME	Kelsea Ballerini	Black River
43	SECOND HAND HEART	Dwight Yoakam	Via/Reprise/Warner Bros.
44	MOONSHINE IN THE TRUNK	Brad Paisley	Arista Nashville/SMN
45	ABOUT TO GET REAL	Easton Corbin	Mercury/UMGN
46	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL COUNTRY: VOLUME 7	Various Artists	Universal/Sony Music/UMe
47	RELOADED: 20 #1 HITS	Blake Shelton	Warner Bros./WMN
48	ELVIS PRESLEY FOREVER	Elvis Presley	USPS/RCA/Sony Commercial Music Group
49	WILD ONES	Kip Moore	MCA Nashville/UMGN
50	SOUTHERNALITY	A Thousand Horses	Republic Nashville/BMLG



NO. 1 COUNTRY AIRPLAY SONG  
*“Drinking Class”*  
 Lee Brice

# TOP COUNTRY LABELS

POS / LABEL

1	UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE
2	SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE
3	BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP
4	WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE
5	BROKEN BOW MUSIC GROUP
6	REPUBLIC
7	CURB
8	SOUTHERN GROUND
9	THIRTY TIGERS
10	UNIVERSAL MUSIC ENTERPRISES

NO. 1 COUNTRY DIGITAL SONG  
*“Girl Crush”*  
 Little Big Town

## SAM HUNT

Two years ago, this former college quarterback couldn't afford a touring drummer. Now, he's the hottest new singer in country music with the top song and album of the year.



HENLEY: ANIELA WEISS/GETTY IMAGES; CHURCH: TERRY WYATT/GETTY IMAGES; HUNT: RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES

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**SHANE MCANALLY**



**#1 – Hot Country Songwriter**

**#4 – Hot Country Producer**

**#7 – Hot Country Songs Publishing Corporation  
SMACKSongs**

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# TOP ROCK ARTISTS



Pete Wentz

## no. 1 FALL OUT BOY

DCD2/Island

POS / ARTIST / LABEL

2	HOZIER	Rubyworks/Columbia
3	WALK THE MOON	RCA
4	TWENTY ONE PILOTS	Fueled By Ramen/AG
5	IMAGINE DRAGONS	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
6	MUMFORD & SONS	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
7	X AMBASSADORS	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
8	VANCE JOY	F-Stop/Atlantic/AG
9	GEORGE EZRA	Columbia
10	ELLE KING	RCA
11	FOO FIGHTERS	Roswell/RCA
12	AC/DC	Columbia
13	MILKY CHANCE	Lichtdicht/Neon/Republic
14	FLORENCE + THE MACHINE	Republic
15	BREAKING BENJAMIN	Hollywood
16	FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH	Prospect Park
17	JAMES BAY	Republic
18	U2	Island/Interscope/IGA
19	KID ROCK	Top Dog/Warner Bros.
20	ALABAMA SHAKES	ATO
21	MUSE	Helium-3/Warner Bros.
22	THE ROLLING STONES	The Rolling Stones/Republic
23	NICKELBACK	Republic
24	PANIC! AT THE DISCO	DCD2/Fueled By Ramen/AG
25	BECK	Fonograf Records/Capitol

NO. 1 TRIPLE A SONG  
*"Blame It on Me"*  
 George Ezra

## TOP ROCK LABELS

POS / LABEL

1	COLUMBIA
2	REPUBLIC
3	ATLANTIC GROUP
4	RCA
5	INTERSCOPE GEFFEN A&M
6	WARNER BROS.
7	HOLLYWOOD
8	GLASSNOTE
9	ISLAND
10	CONCORD



ELLE KING

The New York singer-songwriter, 26, is the No. 10 Top Rock Artist — and the only female soloist in the top 25.

WENTZ: GABRIEL OLSEN/FILMMAGIC; KING: DUSTIN COHEN

# A Heart for the CHARTS

The Billboard's Music Popularity Charts . . .



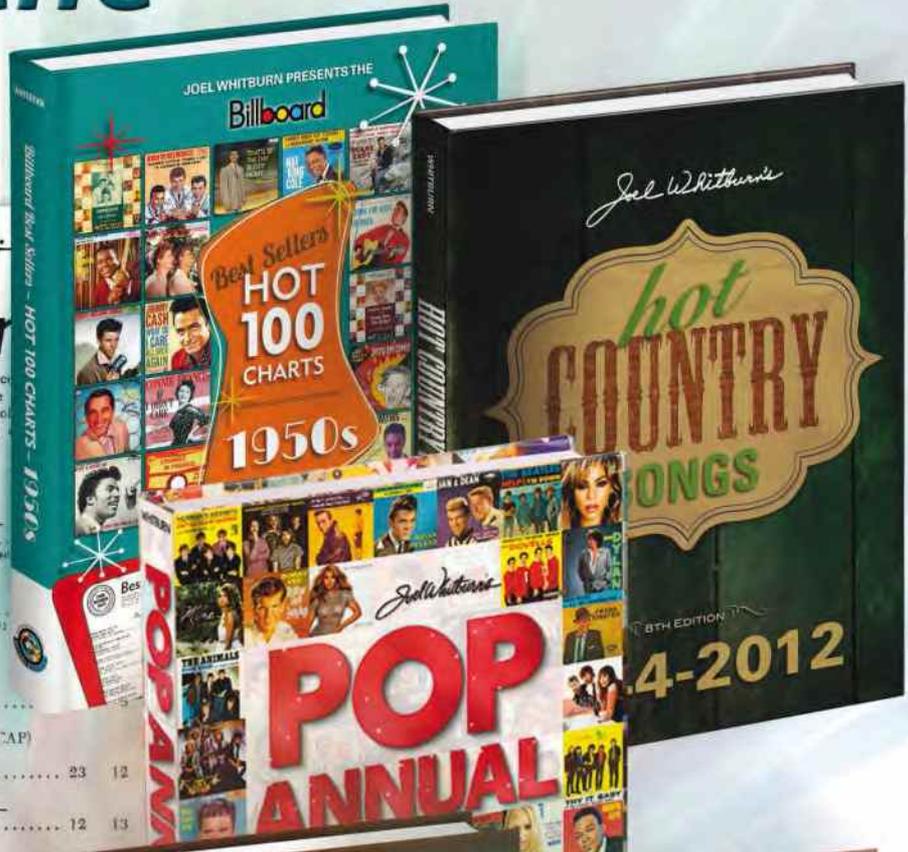
## Best Sellers in

The information given in this chart is based on actual sales to nation's retail record outlets during the week ending on the date size, and all methods used in this continuing study of the direct and continuing supervision and control of the School

This Week	Last Week	Weeks on Chart	This Week
1. TEDDY BEAR (ASCAP) LOVING YOU (BMI) Elvis Presley—Vic 20-7000.....	1	5	11. SHORT FAT FANNIE (BMI)— Larry Williams..... High School Dance (BMI)—Specialty 80
2. LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND (ASCAP) BERNARDINE (ASCAP) Pat Boone—Dot 15570.....	2	11	12. IT'S NOT FOR ME TO SAY (ASCAP)—Johnny Mathis..... Warm and Tender (ASCAP)—Col 40851
3. BYE BYE LOVE (BMI)— Everly Brothers..... I Wonder If I Care as Much (BMI)—Cadence 1215	4	9	13. JENNY, JENNY (BMI) MISS ANN (BMI) Little Richard—Specialty 606.....
4. SO RARE (ASCAP)—Jimmy Dorsey..... Sophisticated Swing (ASCAP)—Fraternity 752	3	15	14. TEENAGER'S ROMANCE (ASCAP) I'M WALKIN' (BMI) Ricky Nelson—Verve 10047.....
5. SEARCHIN' (BMI) YOUNG BLOOD (BMI) Coasters—Atco 6187.....	5	10	15. WHITE SPORT COAT (BMI)— Marty Robbins..... Grown Up Tears (BMI)—Col 40864
6. IT'S YOU I LOVE (BMI) VALLEY OF TEARS (BMI) Fats Domino—Imperial 5442.....	—	8	16. C. C. RIDER (BMI)—Chuck Willis..... Face the Pain (BMI)—Atlantic 1130
			17. I'M GONNA SIT RIGHT DOWN Willie

Dedicated chart watchers worldwide turn to Joel Whitburn's Record Research books, comprised of detailed research on every artist and every recording to appear on Billboard's major music charts.

DEBUT DATE	PEAK POS	WKS CHR	ARTIST	SONG TITLE	RECORDING TYPE	ARTIST	SONG TITLE
9/23/06+	40	20	Tim McGraw	Live	Tim McGraw	Live	Tim McGraw
3/24/07+	13	48	Teardrops On My Guitar	CD	Liz Rose/Taylor Swift	Teardrops On My Guitar	Liz Rose/Taylor Swift
10/13/07+	16	36	Our Song	CD	Taylor Swift	Our Song	Taylor Swift
11/24/07	103	2	Invisible	CD	Robert Ellis Orrall/Taylor Swift	Invisible	Robert Ellis Orrall/Taylor Swift
11/24/07+	115	7	I'm Only Me When I'm With You	CD	Robert Ellis Orrall/Anastacia	I'm Only Me When I'm With You	Robert Ellis Orrall/Anastacia
2/2/08	104	1	Umbrella	CD	Shawn Carter/Thaddis Howland	Umbrella	Shawn Carter/Thaddis Howland
3/1/08	28	20	Picture To Burn	CD	Liz Rose/Taylor Swift	Picture To Burn	Liz Rose/Taylor Swift
6/7/08	33	20	Should've Said No	CD	Taylor Swift	Should've Said No	Taylor Swift
8/30/08	10	3	Change	CD	Taylor Swift	Change	Taylor Swift
9/27/08+	4	49	Love Story	CD	Taylor Swift	Love Story	Taylor Swift
11/1/08	9	5	Fearless	CD	Taylor Swift	Fearless	Taylor Swift
11/15/08	11	2	You're Not Sorry	CD	Taylor Swift	You're Not Sorry	Taylor Swift
11/22/08+	2	50	You Belong With Me	CD	Taylor Swift	You Belong With Me	Taylor Swift
11/29/08	13	22	White Horse	CD	Taylor Swift	White Horse	Taylor Swift
11/29/08	49	1	Forever & Always	CD	Taylor Swift	Forever & Always	Taylor Swift
11/29/08	72	1	The Way I Loved You	CD	Taylor Swift	The Way I Loved You	Taylor Swift
11/29/08+	23	21	Fifteen	CD	Taylor Swift	Fifteen	Taylor Swift
11/29/08	87	1	Breathe	CD	Taylor Swift	Breathe	Taylor Swift
11/29/08	94	1	Hey Stephen	CD	Taylor Swift	Hey Stephen	Taylor Swift



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# HOT ROCK SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

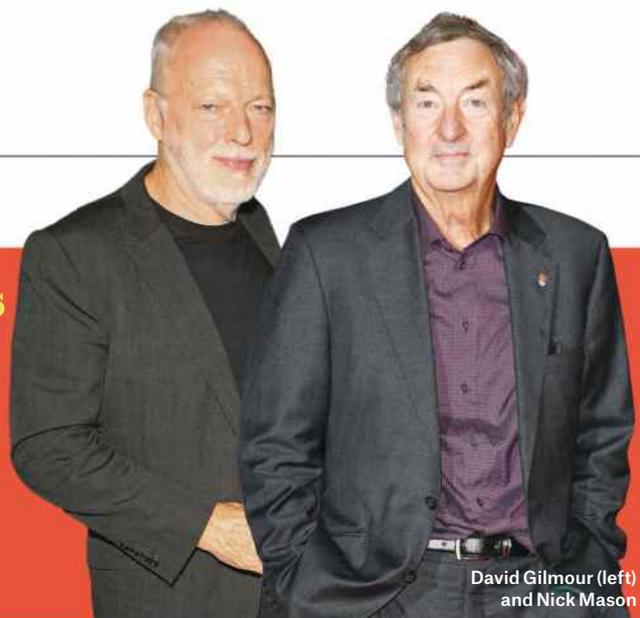
1	SHUT UP AND DANCE	WALK THE MOON	RCA
2	TAKEMETO CHURCH	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
3	CENTURIES	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island/Republic
4	UMA THURMAN	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island/Republic
5	RENEGADES	X Ambassadors	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope
6	EX'S & OH'S	Elle King	RCA
7	BUDAPEST	George Ezra	Columbia
8	RIPTIDE	Vance Joy	F-Stop/Atlantic
9	I BET MY LIFE	Imagine Dragons	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope
10	STOLEN DANCE	Milky Chance	Lichtdicht/Neon/Republic
11	BELIEVE	Mumford & Sons	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
12	STRESSED OUT	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/RRP
13	CECILIA AND THE SATELLITE	Andrew McMahon In The Wilderness	Crush Music/Vanguard/CMG
14	TEAR IN MY HEART	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/RRP
15	SOMEONE NEW	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
16	IMMORTALS	Fall Out Boy	Walt Disney/DCD2/Island
17	SHOTS	Imagine Dragons	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope
18	BROTHER	NEEDTOBREATHE	Featuring Gavin DeGraw Atlantic
19	FIRST	Cold War Kids	Downtown
20	HOLD BACK THE RIVER	James Bay	Republic
21	HALLELUJAH	Panic! At The Disco	DCD2/Fueled By Ramen/RRP
22	THE WOLF	Mumford & Sons	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
23	NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE	Nate Ruess	Fueled By Ramen/RRP
24	YELLOW FLICKER BEAT	Lorde	Lava/Lions Gate/Republic
25	IRRESISTIBLE	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island/Republic
26	DREAMS	Beck	Fonograf Records/Capitol
27	A SKY FULL OF STARS	coldplay	Parlophone/Atlantic
28	CUT THE CORD	shinedown	Atlantic
29	JEKYLL AND HYDE	Five Finger Death Punch	Prospect Park
30	RIDE	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/RRP
31	S.O.B.	Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats	Stax/CMG
32	FAILURE	Breaking Benjamin	Hollywood
33	WHAT KIND OF MAN	Florence + The Machine	Republic
34	LET IT GO	James Bay	Republic

X AMBASSADORS' "RENEGADES" — THE SONG FROM THE JEEP COMMERCIAL — FINISHES AT NO. 5 ON HOT ROCK SONGS AFTER A YEAR-BEST 11 WEEKS AT NO. 1 ON THE ALTERNATIVE AIRPLAY CHART.

35	SHIP TO WRECK	Florence + The Machine	Republic
36	HOLLOW MOON (BAD WOLF)	AWOLNATION	Red Bull
37	2 HEADS	Coleman Hell	Columbia
38	DEAD INSIDE	Muse	Helium-3/Warner Bros.
39	CIGARETTE DAYDREAMS	Cage The Elephant	DSP/RCA
40	LAMP SHADES ON FIRE	Modest Mouse	Epic
41	CRYSTALS	Of Monsters And Men	Republic
42	BLACK SUN	Death Cab For Cutie	Barsuk/Atlantic
43	MY TYPE	Saint Motel	Parlophone/Elektra/RRP
44	COULD HAVE BEEN ME	The Struts	Future Records/FreeSolo/Interscope
45	THE VENGEFUL ONE	Disturbed	Reprise/Warner Bros.
46	SOMETHING FROM NOTHING	Foo Fighters	Roswell/RCA
47	ELECTRIC LOVE	BORNS	Rezidual/Interscope
48	BLANK SPACE	I Prevail	Fearless
49	FAIRLY LOCAL	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/RRP
50	DON'T WANNA FIGHT	Alabama Shakes	ATO

## 'Endless' Success

Formed in 1965, Pink Floyd first appeared on the Billboard 200 in 1967 with its studio debut, *The Piper at the Gates of Dawn*. This year, the psych-rock icons celebrated their half-century anniversary with another testament to their chart longevity: The band's final (planned) LP, *The Endless River*, finishes at No. 14 on Top Rock Albums.

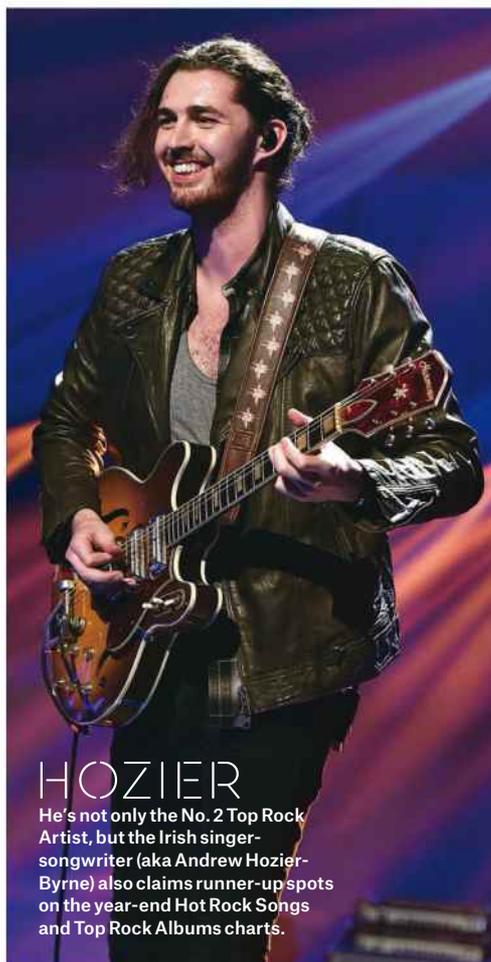


David Gilmour (left) and Nick Mason

# TOP ROCK ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: AWESOME MIX VOL. 1	Soundtrack	Marvel/Hollywood
2	HOZIER	Hozier	Rubyworks/Columbia
3	AMERICAN BEAUTY / AMERICAN PSYCHO	Fall Out Boy	DCD2/Island
4	ROCK OR BUST	AC/DC	Columbia
5	WILDER MIND	Mumford & Sons	Gentlemen Of The Road/Glassnote
6	SMOKE + MIRRORS	Imagine Dragons	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
7	BLURRYFACE	twenty one pilots	Fueled By Ramen/AG
8	FIRST KISS	Kid Rock	Top Dog/Warner Bros.
9	NO FIXED ADDRESS	Nickelback	Republic
10	DARK BEFORE DAWN	Breaking Benjamin	Hollywood
11	SOUND & COLOR	Alabama Shakes	ATO
12	HOW BIG HOW BLUE HOW BEAUTIFUL	Florence + The Machine	Republic
13	SONIC HIGHWAYS (SOUNDTRACK)	Foo Fighters	Roswell/RCA
14	THE ENDLESS RIVER	Pink Floyd	Columbia



## HOZIER

He's not only the No. 2 Top Rock Artist, but the Irish singer-songwriter (aka Andrew Hozier-Byrne) also claims runner-up spots on the year-end Hot Rock Songs and Top Rock Albums charts.

15	GOT YOUR SIX	Five Finger Death Punch	Prospect Park
16	TALKING IS HARD	WALK THE MOON	RCA
17	DREAM YOUR LIFE AWAY	Vance Joy	F-Stop/Atlantic/AG
18	IMMORTALIZED	Disturbed	Reprise/Warner Bros.
19	DRONES	Muse	Helium-3/Warner Bros.
20	AM	Arctic Monkeys	Domino
21	MORNING PHASE	Beck	Fonograf Records/Capitol
22	.5: THE GRAY CHAPTER	Slipknot	Roadrunner/AG
23	LOST ON THE RIVER	The New Basement Tapes	Electromagnetic Sounds/Harvest
24	STRANGERS TO OURSELVES	Modest Mouse	Epic
25	LOVE STUFF	Elle King	RCA
26	THE BOOK OF SOULS	Iron Maiden	Iron Maiden/Sanctuary/BMG
27	FUTURE HEARTS	All Time Low	Hopeless
28	LEAD US BACK: SONGS OF WORSHIP	Third Day	Essential/PLG
29	SHADOWS IN THE NIGHT	Bob Dylan	Columbia
30	WANTED ON VOYAGE	George Ezra	Columbia
31	INTO THE WILD LIFE	Halestorm	Atlantic/AG
32	BENEATH THE SKIN	Of Monsters And Men	Republic
33	THREAT TO SURVIVAL	Shinedown	Atlantic/AG
34	BLACK WIDOW	In This Moment	Atlantic/AG
35	RATTLE THAT LOCK	David Gilmour	Columbia
36	VHS	X Ambassadors	KIDinaKORNER/Interscope/IGA
37	CARRIE & LOWELL	Sufjan Stevens	Asthmatic Kitty
38	KINTSUGI	Death Cab For Cutie	Barsuk/Atlantic/AG
39	WHAT A TERRIBLE WORLD, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WORLD	The Decemberists	Capitol
40	HUMAN	Three Days Grace	RCA
41	THE PALE EMPEROR	Marilyn Manson	HELL, ETC./Cooking Vinyl/Seven Four/Loma Vista/Concord
42	RIDE OUT	Bob Seger	Hideout/Capitol
43	SOMETHING MORE THAN FREE	Jason Isbell	Southeastern/Thirty Tigers
44	1989	Ryan Adams	PAX.AM/Blue Note
45	THIS IS ALL YOURS	alt-J	Infectious/Canvasback/Atlantic/AG
46	THAT'S THE SPIRIT	Bring Me The Horizon	Columbia
47	CURRENTS	Tame Impala	Modular/Interscope/IGA
48	PURE HEROINE	Lorde	Lava/Republic
49	CHAOS AND THE CALM	James Bay	Republic
50	THE FIREWATCHER'S DAUGHTER	Brandi Carlile	ATO

NO. 1 MAINSTREAM ROCK SONG

*"Failure"*  
 Breaking Benjamin

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billboard  
**WOMEN  
INMUSIC** 2015

TELEVISION EVENT

LIFETIME CELEBRATES  
THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

**LADY GAGA**

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**KELSEA BALLERINI**

RISING STAR

**LANA DEL REY**

TRAILBLAZER

**MISSY ELLIOTT**

INNOVATOR

**SELENA GOMEZ**

CHART TOPPER

**FIFTH HARMONY**

GROUP OF THE YEAR

**BRITTANY HOWARD**

POWERHOUSE

**TORI KELLY**

BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**DEMI LOVATO**

RULEBREAKER

**LORETTA LYNN**

LEGEND

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 8/7c



Lifetime

# TOP R&B/ HIP-HOP ARTISTS

**no. 1**  
**DRAKE**

Young Money/Cash Money/Republic



**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

2	<b>THE WEEKND</b>	XO/Republic
3	<b>FETTY WAP</b>	RGF/300/AG
4	<b>NICKI MINAJ</b>	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
5	<b>J. COLE</b>	Dreamville/Roc Nation/Columbia
6	<b>FUTURE</b>	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
7	<b>WIZ KHALIFA</b>	Taylor Gang/Atlantic/AG
8	<b>KENDRICK LAMAR</b>	Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
9	<b>SILENTO</b>	Bolo/Capitol
10	<b>MEEK MILL</b>	Maybach/Atlantic/AG
11	<b>BIG SEAN</b>	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
12	<b>RAE SREMMURD</b>	Eardruma/Interscope/IGA
13	<b>BEYONCÉ</b>	Parkwood/Columbia
14	<b>CHRIS BROWN</b>	RCA
15	<b>RIHANNA</b>	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
16	<b>TREY SONGZ</b>	Songbook/Atlantic/AG
17	<b>DR. DRE</b>	Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
18	<b>IGGY AZALEA</b>	Turn First/Hustle Gang/Def Jam
19	<b>OMARION</b>	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic/AG
20	<b>JEREMIH</b>	Mick Schultz/Def Jam
21	<b>T-WAYNE</b>	WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
22	<b>RICH HOMIE QUAN</b>	Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
23	<b>A\$AP ROCKY</b>	A\$AP Worldwide/Polo Grounds/RCA
24	<b>USHER</b>	RCA
25	<b>FLORIDA</b>	Poe Boy/Atlantic/AG



# TOP R&B/ HIP-HOP LABELS

**POS / LABEL**

1	<b>REPUBLIC</b>
2	<b>ATLANTIC GROUP</b>
3	<b>INTERSCOPE GEFEN A&amp;M</b>
4	<b>COLUMBIA</b>
5	<b>DEF JAM</b>
6	<b>RCA</b>
7	<b>300</b>
8	<b>EPIC</b>
9	<b>CAPITOL</b>
10	<b>WARNER BROS.</b>



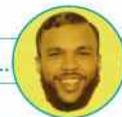
**FETTY WAP**

The "Trap Queen" rapper placed 10 singles on Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs in his debut chart year.

# HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SONGS

**POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL**

1	<b>SEE YOU AGAIN</b>	Wiz Khalifa Featuring Charlie Puth	Universal Studios/Atlantic
2	<b>TRAP QUEEN</b>	Fetty Wap	RGF/300
3	<b>WATCH ME</b>	Silento	Bolo/Capitol
4	<b>THE HILLS</b>	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
5	<b>CAN'T FEEL MY FACE</b>	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
6	<b>EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)</b>	The Weeknd	Universal Studios/Republic
7	<b>679</b>	Fetty Wap Featuring Remy Boyz	RGF/300
8	<b>HOTLINE BLING</b>	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
9	<b>POST TO BE</b>	Omarion Featuring Chris Brown & Jhene Aiko	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic
10	<b>G.D.F.R.</b>	Flo Rida Featuring Sage The Gemini & Lookas	Poe Boy/Atlantic
11	<b>FOURFIVESECONDS</b>	Rihanna & Kanye West & Paul McCartney	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
12	<b>SOMEBODY</b>	Natalie La Rose Featuring Jeremih	I.M.G./Republic
13	<b>MY WAY</b>	Fetty Wap Featuring Monty	RGF/300
14	<b>B*** BETTER HAVE MY MONEY</b>	Rihanna	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
15	<b>NASTY FREESTYLE</b>	T-Wayne	WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
16	<b>ONLY</b>	Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake, Lil Wayne & Chris Brown	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
17	<b>IDON'T MIND</b>	Usher Featuring Juicy J	RCA
18	<b>IDON'T F**K WITH YOU</b>	Big Sean Featuring E-40	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
19	<b>7/11</b>	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia
20	<b>FLEX (OOH OOH OOH)</b>	Rich Homie Quan	Rich Homiez/Think It's A Game
21	<b>TRUFFLE BUTTER</b>	Nicki Minaj Featuring Drake & Lil Wayne	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
22	<b>CLASSIC MAN</b>	Jidenna Featuring Roman GianArthur	Wondaland/Epic
23	<b>ALL EYES ON YOU</b>	Meek Mill Featuring Chris Brown & Nicki Minaj	Maybach/Atlantic
24	<b>BLESSINGS</b>	Big Sean Featuring Drake	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
25	<b>NO TYPE</b>	Rae Sremmurd	Eardruma/Interscope
26	<b>SLOW MOTION</b>	Trey Songz	Songbook/Atlantic
27	<b>AYO</b>	Chris Brown & Tyga	Young Money/Cash Money/RCA
28	<b>TUESDAY I LOVE MAKONNEN</b>	Featuring Drake	OVO Sound/Warner Bros.
29	<b>HIT THE QUAN</b>	iLoveMemphis	Palm Tree/Rush Hour/RECORDS
30	<b>COCO</b>	O.T. Genasis	Conglomerate/Atlantic
31	<b>DOWNTOWN</b>	Macklemore & Ryan Lewis Featuring Eric Nally, Melle Mel, Kool Moe Dee & Grandmaster Caz	Macklemore/Warner Bros.
32	<b>THROW SUM MO</b>	Rae Sremmurd Featuring Nicki Minaj & Young Thug	Eardruma/Interscope
33	<b>BEREAL</b>	Kid Ink Featuring DeJ Loaf	Tha Alumni Group/88 Classic/RCA
34	<b>SHE KNOWS</b>	Ne-Yo Featuring Juicy J	Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
35	<b>ENERGY</b>	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
36	<b>BACK TO BACK</b>	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
37	<b>PLANES</b>	Jeremih Featuring J. Cole	Mick Schultz/Def Jam
38	<b>WHERE YA AT</b>	Future Featuring Drake	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
39	<b>FEELING MYSELF</b>	Nicki Minaj Featuring Beyoncé	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
40	<b>AGAIN</b>	Fetty Wap	RGF/300
41	<b>JUMPMAN</b>	Drake & Future	A-1/Freebandz/Young Money/Cash Money/Epic/Republic
42	<b>HOT BOY</b>	Bobby Shmurda	G59/Epic
43	<b>COMMAS</b>	Future	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
44	<b>THIS COULD BE US</b>	Rae Sremmurd	Eardruma/Interscope
45	<b>KNOW YOURSELF</b>	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
46	<b>ALL DAY</b>	Kanye West Featuring Theophilus London, Allan Kingdom & Paul McCartney	G.O.O.D./Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam
47	<b>COME GET HER</b>	Rae Sremmurd	Eardruma/Interscope
48	<b>BEG FOR IT</b>	Iggy Azalea Featuring MO	Turn First/Hustle Gang/Def Jam
49	<b>R.I.C.O.</b>	Meek Mill Featuring Drake	Maybach/Atlantic
50	<b>COMFORTABLE</b>	K Camp	4.27/FTE/Interscope



# billboard

# GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> VOTER GUIDE



The GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> is the biggest night in music. In this exclusive stand alone issue, Billboard (in partnership with The Recording Academy<sup>®</sup>) will provide a comprehensive overview of this year's nominations. The GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> Voter Guide will showcase the nominees and give an in-depth look at their nominations and their musical contributions.

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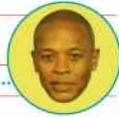
Editorial content subject to change.



# TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	IF YOU'RE READING THIS IT'S TOO LATE	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
2	2014 FOREST HILLS DRIVE	J. Cole	Dreamville/Roc Nation/Columbia
3	TO PIMP A BUTTERFLY	Kendrick Lamar	Top Dawg/Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
4	THE PINKPRINT	Nicki Minaj	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
5	BEAUTY BEHIND THE MADNESS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
6	DREAMS WORTH MORE THAN MONEY	Meek Mill	Maybach/Atlantic/AG
7	WHAT A TIME TO BE ALIVE	Drake & Future	A-1/Freebandz/Young Money/Cash Money/Epic/Republic
8	COMPTON	Dr. Dre	Aftermath/Interscope/IGA
9	EMPIRE: ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM SEASON 1	Soundtrack	20th Century Fox/Columbia
10	DARK SKY PARADISE	Big Sean	G.O.O.D./Def Jam
11	DS2	Future	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
12	BLACK MESSIAH	D'Angelo And The Vanguard	RCA
13	SHADY XV	Various Artists	Shady/Interscope/IGA
14	AT.LONG.LAST.A\$AP	A\$AP Rocky	A\$AP Worldwide/Polo Grounds/RCA
15	FURIOUS 7	Soundtrack	Universal Studios/Atlantic/AG
16	BLACK ROSE	Tyrese	Voltron Recordz
17	ANYBODY WANNA BUY A HEART?	K. Michelle	Atlantic/AG
18	THE LONDON SESSIONS	Mary J. Blige	Matriarch/Capitol
19	THE ALBUM ABOUT NOTHING	Wale	Every Blue Moon/Maybach/Atlantic/AG
20	UNBREAKABLE	Janet	Rhythm Nation/BMG
21	HOOD BILLIONAIRE	Rick Ross	Maybach/Slip-N-Slide/Def Jam
22	SREMMLIFE	Rae Sremmurd	Eardruma/Interscope/IGA
23	NON-FICTION	Ne-Yo	Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
24	BEYONCÉ	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia



25	FETTY WAP	Fetty Wap	RGF/300/AG
26	WOMAN	Jill Scott	Blues Babe/Atlantic/AG
27	LOVE STORY	YelaWolf	Slumerican/Shady/Interscope/IGA
28	TOUCH DOWN 2 CAUSE HELL	Boosie BadAzz	Trill/Atlantic/AG
29	WILDHEART	Miguel	ByStorm/Black Ice/RCA
30	COMING HOME	Leon Bridges	LisaSawyer63/Columbia
31	THESE THINGS HAPPEN	G-Eazy	G-Eazy/RVG/BPG/RCA
32	THE DOCUMENTARY 2	The Game	Fifth Admendment/Blood Money/eOne
33	THE YOUNG OG PROJECT	Fabulous	Desert Storm/Def Jam
34	SPECIAL EFFECTS	Tech N9ne	Strange/RBC
35	LUDAVERSAL	Ludacris	DTP/Def Jam
36	TRIGGA	Trey Songz	Songbook/Atlantic/AG
37	FAN OF A FAN: THE ALBUM	Chris Brown & Tyga	Young Money/Cash Money/RCA
38	X	Chris Brown	RCA
39	FOREVER CHARLIE	Charlie Wilson	P Music/RCA
40	RODEO	Travis Scott	Grand Hustle/Epic
41	REALITY SHOW	Jazmine Sullivan	RCA
42	GO:OD AM	Mac Miller	Warner Bros.
43	UNDER PRESSURE	Logic	Visionary/Def Jam
44	B4.DA.\$\$	Joey Bada\$\$	Pro Era/Cinematic
45	PROMISE TO LOVE: ALBUM IV	Kem	Kemistry/Motown/Capitol
46	BLACC HOLLYWOOD	Wiz Khalifa	Rostrum/Atlantic/AG
47	PAPERWORK	T.I.	Grand Hustle/Columbia
48	BECAUSE THE INTERNET	Childish Gambino	Glassnote
49	GAME CHANGER	Johnny Gill	J Skillz
50	LIVE: HER GREATEST PERFORMANCES	Whitney Houston	Arista/RCA/Legacy

# HOT RAP SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

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3	WATCH ME	Silento	Bolo/Capitol
4	679	Fetty Wap Featuring Remy Boyz	RGF/300
5	HOTLINE BLING	Drake	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic
6	TIME OF OUR LIVES	Pitbull & Ne-Yo	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
7	G.D.F.R.	Flo Rida Featuring Sage The Gemini & Lookas	Poe Boy/Atlantic
8	MY WAY	Fetty Wap Featuring Monty	RGF/300
9	NASTY FREESTYLE	T-Wayne	WeRunIt/Unauthorized/300
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23	BEREAL	Kid Ink Featuring DeJ Loaf	Tha Alumni Group/88 Classic/RCA
24	WHERE YA AT	Future Featuring Drake	A-1/Freebandz/Epic
25	FEELING MYSELF	Nicki Minaj Featuring Beyoncé	Young Money/Cash Money/Republic

15 YEARS OF D'ANGELO'S HIATUS BEFORE *BLACK MESSIAH*, HIS NO. 12 TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUM WITH *THE VANGUARD*.

# TOP RAP ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

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12	FURIOUS SOUNDTRACK	Soundtrack	Universal Studios/Atlantic/AG
13	THE ALBUM ABOUT NOTHING	Wale	Every Blue Moon/Maybach/Atlantic/AG
14	HOOD BILLIONAIRE	Rick Ross	Maybach/Slip-N-Slide/Def Jam
15	SREMMLIFE	Rae Sremmurd	Eardruma/Interscope/IGA
16	GLOBALIZATION	Pitbull	Mr. 305/Polo Grounds/RCA
17	FETTY WAP	Fetty Wap	RGF/300/AG
18	LOVE STORY	YelaWolf	Slumerican/Shady/Interscope/IGA
19	TOUCH DOWN 2 CAUSE HELL	Boosie BadAzz	Trill/Atlantic/AG
20	THE DOCUMENTARY	The Game	Fifth Admendment/Blood Money/eOne
21	ANOMALY	Lecrae	Reach
22	THESE THINGS HAPPEN	G-Eazy	G-Eazy/RVG/BPG/RCA
23	THE YOUNG OG PROJECT	Fabulous	Desert Storm/Def Jam
24	SPECIAL EFFECTS	Tech N9ne	Strange/RBC
25	LUDAVERSAL	Ludacris	DTP/Def Jam

# TOP R&B ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	BEAUTY BEHIND THE MADNESS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
2	EMPIRE: ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FROM SEASON 1	Soundtrack	20th Century Fox/Columbia
3	BLACK MESSIAH	D'Angelo And The Vanguard	RCA
4	BLACK ROSE	Tyrese	Voltron Recordz
5	ANYBODY WANNA BUY A HEART?	K. Michelle	Atlantic/AG
6	THE LONDON SESSIONS	Mary J. Blige	Matriarch/Capitol
7	UNBREAKABLE	Janet	Rhythm Nation/BMG
8	NON-FICTION	Ne-Yo	Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
9	BEYONCÉ	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia
10	WOMAN	Jill Scott	Blues Babe/Atlantic/AG
11	WILDHEART	Miguel	ByStorm/Black Ice/RCA
12	COMING HOME	Leon Bridges	LisaSawyer63/Columbia
13	TRIGGA	Trey Songz	Songbook/Atlantic/AG
14	FOREVER CHARLIE	Charlie Wilson	P Music/RCA
15	X	Chris Brown	RCA
16	REALITY SHOW	Jazmine Sullivan	RCA
17	PROMISE TO LOVE: ALBUM IV	Kem	Kemistry/Motown/Capitol
18	GAME CHANGER	Johnny Gill	J Skillz
19	LIVE: HER GREATEST PERFORMANCES	Whitney Houston	Arista/RCA/Legacy
20	HOLLYWOOD: A STORY OF A DOZEN ROSES	Jamie Foxx	JB Entertainment/RCA
21	GIRL	Pharrell Williams	i am other/Columbia
22	TRAPSOUL	Bryson Tiller	TrapSoul/RCA
23	LOVE IN THE FUTURE	John Legend	G.O.O.D./Columbia
24	THE PAST, THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE	Jodeci	Sphnix/Epic
25	BEYONCÉ: MORE ONLY (EP)	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia



# HOT R&B SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	THE HILLS	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
2	CAN'T FEEL MY FACE	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
3	EARNED IT (FIFTY SHADES OF GREY)	The Weeknd	Universal Studios/Republic
4	POST TO BE	Omarion Featuring Chris Brown & Jhene Aiko	ARTclub/Maybach/Atlantic
5	FOUR FIVE SECONDS	Rihanna & Kanye West & Paul McCartney	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
6	SOMEBODY	Natalie La Rose Featuring Jeremih	I.M.G./Republic
7	B**** BETTER HAVE MY MONEY	Rihanna	Westbury Road/Roc Nation
8	IDON'T MIND	Usher Featuring Juicy J	RCA
9	7/11	Beyoncé	Parkwood/Columbia
10	CLASSIC MAN	Jidenna Featuring Roman GianArthur	Wondaland/Epic
11	SLOW MOTION	Trey Songz	Songbook/Atlantic
12	AYO	Chris Brown & Tyga	Young Money/Cash Money/RCA
13	TUESDAY I LOVE MAKONNEN	Featuring Drake	OVO Sound/Warner Bros.
14	HERE	Alessia Cara	EP/Def Jam
15	PLANES	Jeremih Featuring J. Cole	Mick Schultz/Def Jam
16	SHE KNOWS	Ne-Yo Featuring Juicy J	Compound Entertainment/Motown/Capitol
17	DON'T TELL 'EM	Jeremih Featuring YG	Mick Schultz/Def Jam
18	IBET	Ciara	Epic
19	LIQUOR	Chris Brown	RCA
20	DON'T	Bryson Tiller	TrapSoul/RCA
21	HOLD YOU DOWN	DJ Khaled Featuring Chris Brown, August Alsina, Future & Jeremih	We The Best/Cash Money/Republic
22	YOGA	Janelle Monáe & Jidenna	Wondaland/Epic
23	OFTEN	The Weeknd	XO/Republic
24	COFFEE	Miguel	ByStorm/Black Ice/RCA
25	ONLY ONE	Kanye West Featuring Paul McCartney	G.O.O.D./Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam

# ROCK YOUR ROLE



**ENRIQUE IGLESIAS**  
 The singer's collaboration with Nicky Jam, "El Perdon," ruled Hot Latin Songs for 30 weeks.

# TOP LATIN ARTISTS

*no. 1*  
**ROMEO SANTOS**

Sony Music Latin



**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

2	JUAN GABRIEL	Fonovisa/UMLE
3	ENRIQUE IGLESIAS	Sony Music Latin
4	J BALVIN	Capitol Latin/UMLE
5	NICKY JAM	Codiscos/La Industria/Sony Music Latin
6	JULION ALVAREZ Y SU NORTENO BANDA	Fonovisa/UMLE
7	BANDA SINALOENSE MS DE SERGIO LIZARRAGA	Lizos
8	CALIBRE 50	Andaluz/Sony Music Latin
9	RICKY MARTIN	Sony Music Latin
10	ARIEL CAMACHO Y LOS PLEBES DEL RANCHO	DEL/Sony Music Latin
11	JOAN SEBASTIAN	Fonovisa/UMLE
12	GERARDO ORTIZ	Bad Sin/DEL/Sony Music Latin
13	MANA	Warner Latina
14	PLAN B	Pina/Sony Music Latin
15	FARRUKO	Carbon Fiber/Sony Music Latin
16	PITBULL	Famous Artist/Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
17	LA ARROLLADORA BANDA EL LIMON DE RENE CAMACHO	Disa/UMLE
18	EL KOMANDER	Twiiins
19	MARC ANTHONY	Sony Music Latin
20	DADDY YANKEE	El Cartel/Capitol Latin/UMLE
21	BANDA EL RECODO DE CRUZ LIZARRAGA	Fonovisa/UMLE
22	DON OMAR	Machete/UMLE
23	PRINCE ROYCE	Sony Music Latin
24	GENTE DE ZONA	Mangus/Sony Music Latin
25	MARC ANTONIO SOLIS	Fonovisa/UMLE

NO. 1 LATIN ARTIST, FEMALE  
*Natalia Jimenez*

# TOP LATIN LABELS

**POS / LABEL**

1	UNIVERSAL MUSIC LATIN ENTERTAINMENT
2	SONY MUSIC LATIN
3	WARNER LATINA
4	REMEX
5	DEL
6	TWIIINS
7	PINA
8	CODISCOS
9	BABY
10	SUMMA



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# HOT LATIN SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

1	EL PERDON	Nicky Jam & Enrique Iglesias	Codiscos/La Industria/Sony Music Latin
2	PROPUESTA INDECENTE	Romeo Santos	Sony Music Latin
3	HILITO	Romeo Santos	Sony Music Latin
4	AY VAMOS	J Balvin	Capitol Latin/UMLE
5	GINZA	J Balvin	Capitol Latin/UMLE
6	TE METISTE	Ariel Camacho y Los Plebes del Rancho	DEL
7	LA GOZADERA	Gente de Zona Featuring Marc Anthony	Magnus/Sony Music Latin
8	FANATICA SENSUAL	Plan B	Pina/Sony Music Latin
9	HABLAME DE TI	Banda Sinaloense MS de Sergio Lizarraga	Remex
10	BAILANDO	Enrique Iglesias Featuring Descemer Bueno & Gente de Zona	Republic/Universal Music Latino/UMLE
11	TRAVESURAS	Nicky Jam	La Industria/Codiscos
12	EL AMOR DE SU VIDA	Julion Alvarez y Su Norteno Banda	Fonovisa/UMLE
13	MALDITAS GANAS	El Komander	Twins
14	MIVERDAD	Mana Featuring Shakira	Warner Latina
15	SIGUEME Y TE SIGO	Daddy Yankee	Capitol Latin/El Cartel/UMLE
16	CONTIGO	calibre 50	Disa/UMLE
17	CUAL ADIOS	Banda Clave Nueva de Max Peraza	Talent Music Group/Fonovisa/UMLE
18	MIVICIO MAS GRANDE	Banda El Recodo de Cruz Lizarraga	Fonovisa/UMLE
19	PIENSA LO	Banda Sinaloense MS de Sergio Lizarraga	Remex
20	ME SOBRABAS TU	Banda Los Recoditos	Fonovisa/UMLE
21	PIERDO LA CABEZA	Zion & Lennox	Baby
22	NOTA DE AMOR	Wisin + Carlos Vives Featuring Daddy Yankee	Sony Music Latin
23	LA MORDIDITA	Ricky Martin Featuring Yotuel	Sony Music Latin
24	PERDIDO ENTUS OJOS	Don Omar Featuring Natti Natasha	Machete/UMLE
25	SUNSET	Farruko Featuring Shaggy & Nicky Jam	Sony Music Latin

NO. 1 TROPICAL AIRPLAY ARTIST  
*Victor Manuelle*

26	YO TAMBIEN	Romeo Santos Featuring Marc Anthony	Sony Music Latin
27	AUNQUE AHORA ESTES CON EL	Calibre 50	Disa/UMLE
28	BORRO CASSETTE	Maluma	Sony Music Latin
29	ERES MIA	Romeo Santos	Sony Music Latin
30	LEJOS DE AQUI	Farruko	Carbon Fiber/Siente/UMLE
31	ERES UNA NINA	Gerardo Ortiz	Bad Sin/DEL/Sony Music Latin
32	EL TAXI	Pitbull Featuring Sensato & Osmani Garcia	Famous Artist/Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
33	QUE TIENE DE MALO	Calibre 50 Featuring El Komander	Disa/UMLE
34	SOLITA	Prince Royce	Sony Music Latin
35	SOLTERO DISPONIBLE	Regulo Caro	DEL/Sony Music Latin
36	EL KARMA	Ariel Camacho y Los Plebes del Rancho	DEL/Sony Music Latin
37	A LO MEJOR	Banda Sinaloense MS de Sergio Lizarraga	Remex
38	DIME	Julion Alvarez y Su Norteno Banda	Fonovisa/UMLE
39	ME VOY ENAMORANDO	Chino & Nacho Featuring Farruko	Machete/UMLE
40	EL CHOLO	Gerardo Ortiz	Bad Sin/DEL/Sony Music Latin
41	CONFESION	La Arrolladora Banda el Limon de Rene Camacho	Disa/UMLE
42	PIENSAS (DILE LA VERDAD)	Pitbull Featuring Gente de Zona	Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
43	DESPUES DE TI QUIEN	La Adictiva Banda San Jose de Mesillas	Anval/Sony Music Latin
44	LO HICISTE OTRA VEZ	La Arrolladora Banda el Limon de Rene Camacho	Disa/UMLE
45	LEVANTANDO POLVADERA	Voz de Mando	AfinArte/Sony Music Latin
46	BACK IT UP	Prince Royce Featuring Jennifer Lopez & Pitbull	Sony Music Latin/RCA
47	BADDEST GIRL IN TOWN	Pitbull Featuring Mohombi & Wisin	Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
48	Y ASIFUE	Julion Alvarez y Su Norteno Banda	Fonovisa/UMLE
49	DUELE EL AMOR	Tony Dize	Pina/Sony Music Latin
50	ME VUELVO UN COBARDE	Christian Daniel	CDF/Summa



**J BALVIN**  
 With two of the top 10 Hot Latin Songs of the year, the Colombian reggaeton singer is the No. 4 Latin artist of 2015.

# TOP LATIN ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

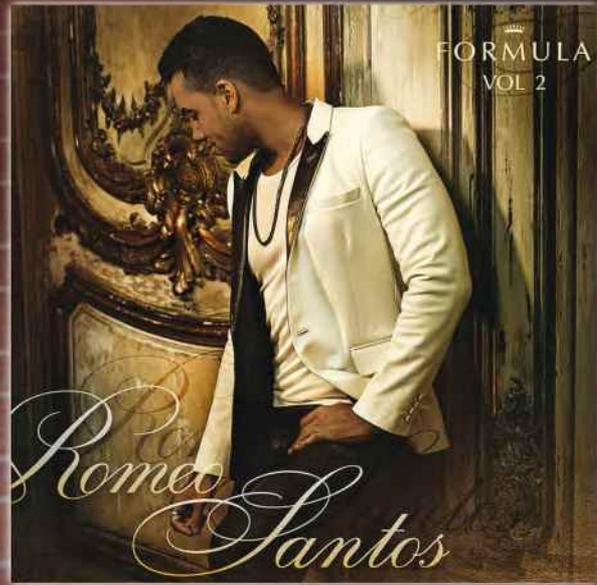
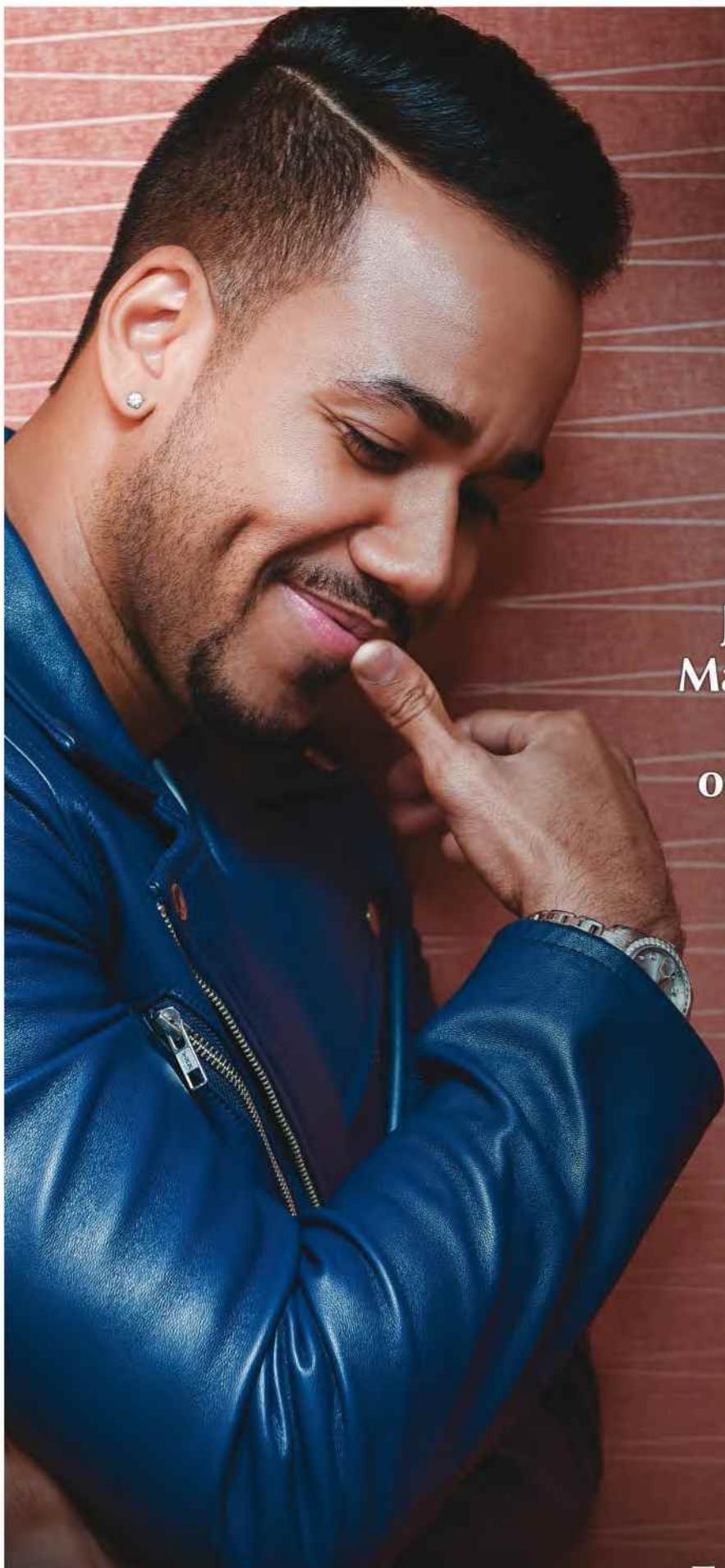
1	LOSDUO	Juan Gabriel	Fonovisa/UMLE
2	FORMULA: VOL. 2	Romeo Santos	Sony Music Latin
3	A QUIEN QUIERA ESCUCHAR	Ricky Martin	Sony Music Latin
4	CAMA INCENDIADA	Mana	Warner Latina
5	MIS NUMERO 1... 40 ANIVERSARIO	Juan Gabriel	Sony Music Latin
6	HOY MAS FUERTE	Gerardo Ortiz	Bad Sin/DEL/Sony Music Latin
7	SEX AND LOVE	Enrique Iglesias	Republic/UMLE
8	LAS BANDAS ROMANTICAS DE AMERICA 2015	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
9	15 INOLVIDABLES	Marco Antonio Solis	Fonovisa/UMLE
10	EL AFERRADO	Julion Alvarez y Su Norteno Banda	Fonovisa/UMLE
11	20 CORRIDOS BIEN PERRONES	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
12	LO MEJOR DE	Calibre 50	Disa/UMLE
13	OJOS EN BLANCO	La Arrolladora Banda el Limon de Rene Camacho	Disa/UMLE
14	LO MEJOR DE...	Selena	Capitol Latin/UMLE
15	CONFIDENCIAS REALES	Alejandro Fernandez	Universal Music Latino/UMLE
16	3.0	Marc Anthony	Sony Music Latin
17	XX:20 ANIVERSARIO	Intocable	Good I/UMLE
18	PERSONALIDAD	Joan Sebastian	Musart/Sony Music Latin
19	DALE	Pitbull	Famous Artist/Mr. 305/Sony Music Latin
20	LAST DON II	Don Omar	Machete/UMLE
21	TODO TIENE SU HORA	Juan Luis Guerra 440	Capitol Latin/UMLE
22	QUE SUENEN LOS TAMBORES	Victor Manuelle	Kiyavi/Sony Music Latin
23	EL KARMA	Ariel Camacho y Los Plebes del Rancho	DEL/Sony Music Latin
24	LO ESENCIAL DE JOAN SEBASTIAN: SENTIMENTAL	Joan Sebastian	Musart/Sony Music Latin
25	CREO EN MI	Natalia Jimenez	Sony Music Latin
26	1VIDA-3HISTORIAS: METAMORFOSIS	Jenni Rivera	Fonovisa/UMLE
27	LOST AND FOUND	Buena Vista Social Club	World Circuit/Nonesuch/Warner Bros.
28	AHORA	Chiquis Rivera	Sweet Sound/T6H/Sony Music Latin
29	RADIO EXITOS: EL DISCO DEL AÑO 2014	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
30	SOY LO QUE QUIERO: INDISPENSABLE	Julion Alvarez y Su Norteno Banda	Fonovisa/UMLE

31	LAS BANDAS ROMANTICAS DE AMERICA 2014	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
32	LO ESENCIAL DE JOAN SEBASTIAN: SECRETO DE AMOR	Joan Sebastian	Musart/Sony Music Latin
33	LOVE & SEX	Plan B	Pina/Sony Music Latin
34	SOLO PARA MUJERES	Aventura	Premium Latin/Sony Music Latin
35	20 CORRIDOS BIEN VOL 2.	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
36	SIROPE	Alejandro Sanz	Universal Music Latino/UMLE
37	SOY EL MISMO	Prince Royce	Sony Music Latin
38	LA FAMILIA	J Balvin	Capitol Latin/UMLE
39	QUE LINDO ES PUERTO RICO	Various Artists	Popular
40	BANDA #1'S 2014	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
41	FARRUKO PRESENTS LOS MENORES	Farruko	Carbon Fiber/Siente/Universal Music Latino/UMLE
42	LO ESENCIAL DE JOAN SEBASTIAN: HASTA QUE AMANEZCA	Joan Sebastian	Musart/Sony Music Latin
43	NECESITO UN BOLERO	Gilberto Santa Rosa	Sony Music Latin
44	NO ME PIDAS PERDON	Banda Sinaloense MS de Sergio Lizarraga	Remex
45	MI REGALO, MIS NUMERO 1...	Ana Gabriel	Sony Music Latin
46	EN VIVO: GUADALAJARA - MONTERREY	Banda Sinaloense MS de Sergio Lizarraga	Lizos
47	TESOROS DE COLECCION	Vicente Fernandez	Sony Music Latin
48	LA MELODIA DE LA CALLE, 3RD SEASON	Tony Dize	Pina/Sony Music Latin
49	CORRIDOS #1'S 2014	Various Artists	Fonovisa/UMLE
50	ABSOLUTA COLECCION: ROCIO DURCAL	Rocio Durcal	Sony Music Latin

**OH, RICKY!**

The largest sales week for a Latin album this year belongs to Ricky Martin's 10th studio set, *A Quien Quiera Escuchar*, which sold 25,000 copies in its first frame, according to Nielsen Music — marking the former soap-opera star's sixth No. 1 on Top Latin Albums and a No. 3 finish on the year-end Top Latin Albums tally.

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)



FORMULA VOL. 2

**Johnny Marines Enterprises &  
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Romeo Santos  
on yet another incredible year!  
The King stays King!**

- Top Latin Artist -
- Top Latin Male Artist -
- Top Hot Latin Songs Artist -
- Top Hot Latin Songs Producer -
- Top Hot Latin Songwriter -
- Top Latin Airplay Artist -
- Top Latin Streaming Song -
- Top Tropical Album Artist -
- Top Tropical Album – Formula Vol. 2 -

THE KING OF BACHATA

*Romeo Santos*



JOHNNY MARINES  
ENTERPRISES



# TOP CHRISTIAN ARTISTS

**no. 1**  
**HILLSONG UNITED**  
 Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG



**POS / ARTIST / LABEL**

- 2 **MERCYME** Fair Trade/PLG
- 3 **CHRIS TOMLIN** sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 4 **LAUREN DAIGLE** Centricity/Capitol CMG
- 5 **CASTING CROWNS** Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
- 6 **FRANCESCA BATTISTELLI** Fervent/Word-Curb
- 7 **THIRDDAY** Essential/PLG
- 8 **NEEDTOBREATHE** Atlantic/Word-Curb
- 9 **FOR KING & COUNTRY** Fervent/Word-Curb
- 10 **TOBYMAC** ForeFront/Capitol CMG
- 11 **JEREMY CAMP** Stolen Pride/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 12 **CROWDER** sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 13 **BETHEL MUSIC** Bethel.PLG
- 14 **MATT MAHER** Essential/PLG
- 15 **LECRAE** Reach
- 16 **KARI JOBE** Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 17 **MICHAEL W. SMITH** MWS/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 18 **HAWK NELSON** Fair Trade/PLG
- 19 **PLUMB** Curb/Word-Curb
- 20 **MATTHEW WEST** Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 21 **PASSION** sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 22 **COLTON DIXON** 19/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 23 **BIG DADDY WEAVE** Fervent/Word-Curb
- 24 **NF** Capitol CMG
- 25 **MAT KEARNEY** Aware/Republic/Inpop/Capitol CMG



# TOP CHRISTIAN LABELS

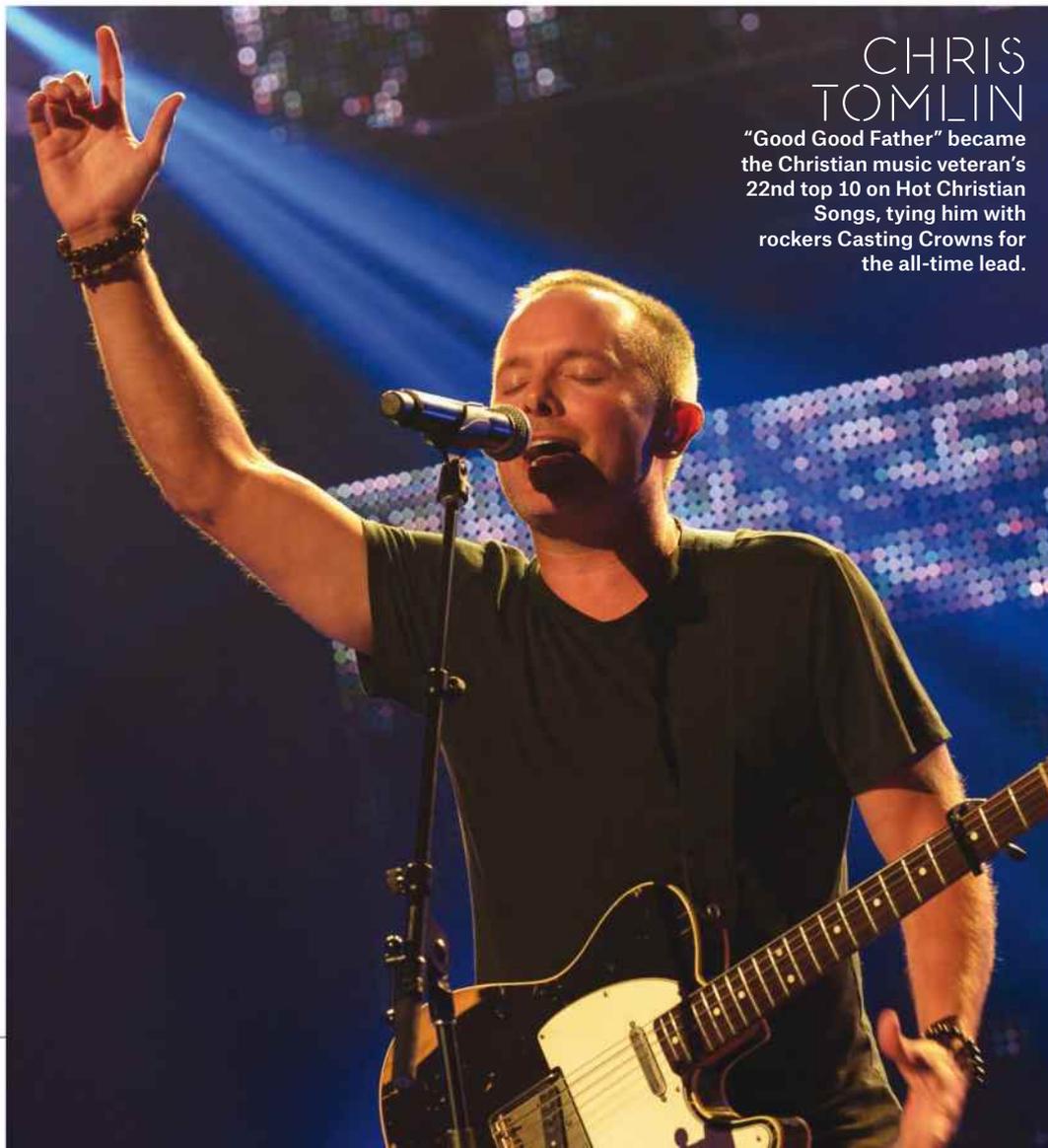
**POS / LABEL**

- 1 **CAPITOL CHRISTIAN MUSIC GROUP**
- 2 **PROVIDENT LABEL GROUP**
- 3 **WORD-CURB**
- 4 **FAIR TRADE**
- 5 **REACH**
- 6 **CENTRICITY**
- 7 **BETHEL**
- 8 **CURB**
- 9 **INTEGRITY**
- 10 **FEARLESS**

# HOT CHRISTIAN SONGS

**POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL**

- 1 **SOMETHING IN THE WATER** Carrie Underwood 19/Arista Nashville/PLG
- 2 **OCEANS (WHERE FEET MAY FAIL)** Hillsong UNITED Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 3 **BROTHER NEEDTOBREATHE** Featuring Gavin DeGraw Atlantic/Word-Curb
- 4 **SOUL ON FIRE** Third Day Essential/PLG
- 5 **FLAWLESS** MercyMe Fair Trade
- 6 **TOUCH THE SKY** Hillsong UNITED Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 7 **HOLY SPIRIT** Francesca Battistelli Fervent/Word-Curb
- 8 **SHOULDERS** for KING & COUNTRY Fervent/Word-Curb
- 9 **GREATER** MercyMe Fair Trade
- 10 **DROPS IN THE OCEAN** Hawk Nelson Fair Trade
- 11 **BECAUSE HE LIVES (AMEN)** Matt Maher Essential/PLG
- 12 **FIRST** Lauren Daigle Centricity
- 13 **HOW CAN IT BE** Lauren Daigle Centricity
- 14 **EVEN SO COME** Passion Featuring Kristian Stanfill sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 15 **AT THE CROSS (LOVE RAN RED)** Chris Tomlin sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 16 **HE KNOWS MY NAME** Francesca Battistelli Fervent/Word-Curb
- 17 **COME AS YOU ARE** Crowder sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 18 **FEEL IT** tobyMac Featuring Mr. Talkbox ForeFront/Capitol CMG
- 19 **THROUGH ALL OF IT** Colton Dixon 19/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 20 **BEYOND ME** tobyMac ForeFront/Capitol CMG
- 21 **DAY ONE** Matthew West Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 22 **HE KNOWS** Jeremy Camp Stolen Pride/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 23 **I AM NOT ALONE** Kari Jobe Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 24 **BROKEN TOGETHER** Casting Crowns Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
- 25 **SAME POWER** Jeremy Camp Stolen Pride/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 26 **JESUS LOVES ME** Chris Tomlin sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 27 **THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW** Josh Wilson Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 28 **LIFT YOUR HEAD WEARY SINNER (CHAINS)** Crowder sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 29 **EXHALE** Plumb Curb
- 30 **MY STORY** Big Daddy Weave Fervent/Word-Curb
- 31 **OVERWHELMED** Big Daddy Weave Fervent/Word-Curb
- 32 **JUST BE HELD** Casting Crowns Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
- 33 **CAST MY CARES** Finding Favour Gotee
- 34 **PRODIGAL** Sidewalk Prophets Word-Curb
- 35 **THERE IS POWER** Lincoln Brewster Integrity
- 36 **WHO I AM** Blanca Word-Curb
- 37 **GOOD FIGHT** Unspoken Centricity
- 38 **AIR I BREATHE** Mat Kearney Aware/Republic/Inpop
- 39 **LORD I'M READY NOW** Plumb Curb
- 40 **IMPOSSIBLE** Building 429 Essential/PLG
- 41 **THERIVER** Jordan Feliz Centricity
- 42 **GOOD GOOD FATHER** Chris Tomlin sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 43 **SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL** Steven Curtis Chapman Reunion/PLG
- 44 **THE OLD RUGGED CROSS** Craig Wayne Boyd Republic
- 45 **YOU WILL NEVER RUN** Rend Collective Capitol CMG
- 46 **THIS IS LIVING** Hillsong Young & Free Featuring Lecrae Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
- 47 **I'LL KEEP ON** NF Featuring Jeremiah Carlson Capitol CMG
- 48 **SAVE MY LIFE** Sidewalk Prophets Fervent/Word-Curb
- 49 **THE MAKER** Chris August Fervent/Word-Curb
- 50 **NO TURNING BACK** Brandon Heath Monomode/Reunion/PLG



**CHRIS TOMLIN**  
 "Good Good Father" became the Christian music veteran's 22nd top 10 on Hot Christian Songs, tying him with rockers Casting Crowns for the all-time lead.



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**TASHA COBBS**  
 This singer, pastor and Grammy winner rules the Top Gospel Artists chart, thanks in part to her LP *One Place Live*, which became her second No. 1 on Top Gospel Albums.

## TOP CHRISTIAN ALBUMS

POS	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	WOW HITS 2015	Various Artists	Provident/Word-Curb/Capitol CMG
2	THRIVE	Casting Crowns	Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
3	LOVERAN RED	Chris Tomlin	sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
4	WELCOME TO THE NEW	MercyMe	Fair Trade/PLG
5	ANOMALY	Lecrae	Reach
6	LEAD US BACK: SONGS OF WORSHIP	Third Day	Essential/PLG
7	HOW CAN IT BE	Lauren Daigle	Centricity/Capitol CMG
8	EMPIRES	Hillsong UNITED	Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
9	WE WILL NOT BESHAKEN	Bethel Music	Bethel/PLG
10	RUN WILD. LIVE FREE. LOVE STRONG.	for KING & COUNTRY	Fervent/Word-Curb
11	MICHAEL W. SMITH & FRIENDS: THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS	Michael W. Smith	MWS/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
12	I WILL FOLLOW	Jeremy Camp	Stolen Pride/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
13	THIS IS NOT A TEST	tobyMac	ForeFront/Capitol CMG
14	POSITIVELY CHRISTMAS 2014	Various Artists	Provident/PLG
15	IF WE'RE HONEST	Francesca Battistelli	Fervent/Word-Curb
16	NEON STEEPLE	Crowder	sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
17	MAJESTIC	Kari Jobe	Sparrow/Capitol CMG
18	OF BEAUTY AND RAGE	Red	Essential/PLG
19	FOUND IN FAR AWAY PLACES	August Burns Red	Fearless
20	RIVERS IN THE WASTELAND	NEEDTOBREATHE	Atlantic/Word-Curb
21	ZION	Hillsong UNITED	Hillsong/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
22	GLORIOUS DAY: HYMNS OF FAITH	Casting Crowns	Cracker Barrel/Beach Street/Reunion/PLG
23	ANGELS AMONG US: HYMNS & GOSPEL FAVORITES	Alabama	Cracker Barrel/TGA/Gaither/Capitol CMG
24	EVEN SO COME	Passion	sixsteps/Sparrow/Capitol CMG
25	MANSSION	NF	Capitol CMG

## TOP GOSPEL LABELS

POS	LABEL
1	RCA
2	EONE
3	CAPITOL CHRISTIAN MUSIC GROUP
4	MOTOWN GOSPEL
5	TYSCOT
6	LIGHT
7	TASEIS
8	INSPIRED PEOPLE
9	TILLYMANN
10	PAJAM

NO. 1 CHRISTIAN AIRPLAY SONG  
*"Soul On Fire"*  
 Third Day

## TOP GOSPEL ARTISTS

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
1	TASHA COBBS	Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
2	ANTHONY BROWN & GROUP THERAPY	Key Of A/Vman/Tyscot/Taseis
3	CHARLES JENKINS & FELLOWSHIP CHICAGO	Inspired People/Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
4	CASEY J	Marquis Boone/Tyscot/Taseis
5	MARVIN SAPP	RCA Inspiration/RCA
6	FRED HAMMOND	F Hammond/RCA Inspiration/RCA
7	ERICA CAMPBELL	My Block/eOne
8	BRIAN COURTNEY WILSON	Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
9	TAMELA MANN	TillyMann
10	JASON NELSON	RCA Inspiration/RCA
11	TRAVIS GREENE	RCA Inspiration/RCA
12	KIRK FRANKLIN	Fo Yo Soul/RCA
13	JONATHAN MCREYNOLDS	Tehillah/Light/eOne
14	RICKY DILLARD & NEW G	Light/eOne
15	ISRAEL & NEW BREED	RGM New Breed/RCA Inspiration/RCA
16	KAREN CLARK-SHEARD	Karew/eOne
17	3 WINANS BROTHERS	Regimen/BMG/eOne
18	VASHAWN MITCHELL	Vman/Motow Gospel/Capitol CMG
19	J MOSS	PMG Gospel/PAJAM
20	DORINDA CLARK-COLE	Light/eOne
21	ALEXIS SPIGHT	Uncle G/eOne
22	SMOKIE NORFUL	TreMyles/Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
23	HEZEKIAH WALKER	RCA Inspiration/RCA
24	TINA CAMPBELL	GeeTee
25	J.J. HAIRSTON & YOUTHFUL PRAISE	Light/eOne



**STILL MAKING WAVES**  
 Australian worship band Hillsong United is No. 1 on Top Christian Artists for a second consecutive year. Heavily driving its sustained success? Single "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)," which has charted in the top 10 of Hot Christian Songs each week for more than two years.

## HOT GOSPEL SONGS

POS	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	FOR YOUR GLORY	Tasha Cobbs	Motown Gospel
2	#WAR	Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago	Inspired People
3	FILL ME UP	Casey J	Marquis Boone/Tyscot
4	WORTH	Anthony Brown & group therAPy	Key Of A/Vman/Tyscot
5	WORTH FIGHTING FOR	Brian Courtney Wilson	Motown Gospel
6	YES YOU CAN	Marvin Sapp	RCA Inspiration
7	WANNA BE HAPPY?	Kirk Franklin	Fo Yo Soul/RCA/RCA Inspiration
8	I AM	Jason Nelson	RCA Inspiration
9	I LUH GOD	Erica Campbell Featuring Big Shizz	My Block/eOne
10	I WILL TRUST	Fred Hammond Featuring BreeAnn Hammond	F Hammond/RCA Inspiration
11	INTENTIONAL	Travis Greene	RCA Inspiration
12	THIS PLACE	Tamela Mann	TillyMann
13	AMAZING	Ricky Dillard & New G	Light
14	HOW AWESOME IS OUR GOD	Israel & New Breed Featuring Yolanda Adams	RGM New Breed/RCA/RCA Inspiration
15	GOTTA HAVE YOU	Jonathan McReynolds	Tehillah/Light
16	DANCE	3 Winans Brothers	Regimen/BMG/eOne
17	GOD MY GOD	VaShawn Mitchell	Vman/Motown Gospel
18	EVERY PRAISE	Hezekiah Walker	RCA Inspiration
19	ALL THE GLORY	Alexis Spight	Uncle G

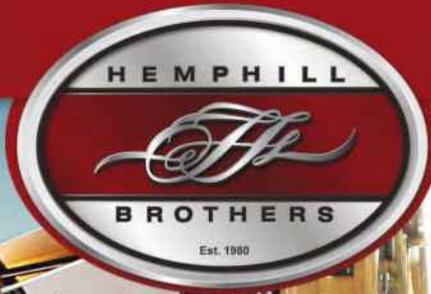


20	MY WORDS HAVE POWER	Karen Clark Sheard Featuring Donald Lawrence & The Co.	Karew/eOne
21	YOUR DESTINY	Kevin LeVar And One Sound	One Sound
22	BLESS THIS HOUSE	Dorinda Clark-Cole	Light
23	SAY YES	Michelle Williams Featuring Beyonce And Kelly Rowland	eOne
24	NO GREATER LOVE	Smokie Norful	TreMyles/Motown Gospel
25	BLESS ME	J.J. Hairston & Youthful Praise Featuring Donnie McClurkin	Light

## TOP GOSPEL ALBUMS

POS	TITLE	ARTIST	LABEL
1	WOW GOSPEL 2015	Various Artists	Motown Gospel/Word-Curb/RCA Inspiration/RCA
2	EVERYDAY JESUS	Anthony Brown & group therAPy	Key Of A/Vman/Tyscot/Taseis
3	I WILL TRUST	Fred Hammond	F Hammond/RCA Inspiration/RCA
4	YOU SHALL LIVE	Marvin Sapp	RCA Inspiration/RCA
5	ONE PLACE LIVE	Tasha Cobbs	Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
6	GRACE (EP)	Tasha Cobbs	Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
7	WOW GOSPEL 2014	Various Artists	Motown Gospel/Word-Curb/RCA Inspiration/RCA
8	BEST DAYS	Tamela Mann	TillyMann
9	DESTINED TO WIN	Karen Clark-Sheard	Karew/eOne
10	ANY GIVEN SUNDAY	Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago	Inspired People/Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
11	MOTOWN CHRISTMAS	Various Artists	Motown/Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
12	GROWN FOLKS GOSPEL	J Moss	PMG Gospel/PAJAM
13	HELP 2.0	Erica Campbell	My Block/eOne
14	LIFEMUSIC: STAGETWO	Jonathan McReynolds	Tehillah/Light/eOne
15	COVERED: ALIVE IN ASIA	Israel & New Breed	RGM New Breed/RCA Inspiration/RCA
16	BILLBOARD #1 GOSPEL HITS	Various Artists	eOne
17	THE TRUTH	Casey J	Marquis Boone/Tyscot/Taseis
18	PRAY: LIVE	The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir	The Brooklyn Tabernacle/PLG
19	IT'S PERSONAL	Tina Campbell	GeeTee
20	JESUS REVEALED	Jason Nelson	RCA Inspiration/RCA
21	FOREIGN LAND	3 Winans Brothers	Regimen/BMG/eOne
22	I AM A PRAISER	Bishop Noel Jones Presents Trent Von Lee	The VL Group
23	ICON: GOSPEL ICONS	Various Artists	Motown Gospel/Capitol CMG
24	I SEE VICTORY	J.J. Hairston & Youthful Praise	Light/eOne
25	HELP	Erica Campbell	My Block/eOne

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**UPSTAGING**



**CALVIN HARRIS**

The Scottish DJ-producer finishes at No. 2 on Top Dance/Electronic Artists — and he also is the only act with three tracks in the top 10 of the year-end Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart.

**TOP DANCE/  
 ELECTRONIC  
 ARTISTS**

*no. 1*  
**DAVID  
 GUETTA**



What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic/AG

POS	ARTIST	LABEL
2	<b>CALVIN HARRIS</b>	Fly Eye/Columbia
3	<b>DJ SNAKE</b>	DJ Snake/Interscope/IGA
4	<b>MAJOR LAZER</b> (8)	Mad Decent
5	<b>ZEDD</b>	Interscope/IGA
6	<b>SKRILLEX</b>	Big Beat/OWSLA/Atlantic/AG
7	<b>DIPOLO</b>	Mad Decent
8	<b>MR. PROBZ</b>	Left Lane/Ultra/RCA
9	<b>LINDSEY STIRLING</b>	Lindseystomp
10	<b>AVICII</b>	PRMD/Island
11	<b>ROBIN SCHULZ</b>	Tonspiel/Atlantic/AG
12	<b>ALUNAGEORGE</b>	Vagrant
13	<b>MO</b>	RCA
14	<b>ODESZA</b>	Foreign Family Collective/Counter
15	<b>DISCLOSURE</b>	Method/PMR/Capitol
16	<b>ALESSO</b>	Refune/Def Jam
17	<b>CLEAN BANDIT</b>	Atlantic/AG
18	<b>JESS GLYNNE</b>	Atlantic/AG
19	<b>FKA TWIGS</b>	Young Turks
20	<b>GALANTIS</b>	Big Beat/Atlantic/AG
21	<b>JAMIE XX</b>	Young Turks
22	<b>PURITY RING</b>	4AD
23	<b>YEARS &amp; YEARS</b>	Polydor/Interscope/IGA
24	<b>DEADMAU5</b>	mau5trap/Astralwerks/Capitol
25	<b>KYGO</b>	Ultra/RCA



**TOP DANCE/  
 ELECTRONIC LABELS**

POS	LABEL
1	<b>ATLANTIC GROUP</b>
2	<b>INTERSCOPE GEFLEN A&amp;M</b>
3	<b>COLUMBIA</b>
4	<b>MAD DECENT</b>
5	<b>ULTRA</b>
6	<b>RCA</b>
7	<b>REPUBLIC</b>
8	<b>DEF JAM</b>
9	<b>YOUNG TURKS</b>
10	<b>LINDSEYSTOMP</b>

HARRIS: TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES; GUETTA: CHELSEA LAUREN/WIREIMAGE; FKA TWIGS: JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES

## AN APOLOGY TO REPUBLIC RECORDS

We want to personally and publicly apologize to Republic Records - its artists and employees - for a letter that was issued by us on November 6th to Canadian broadcasters.

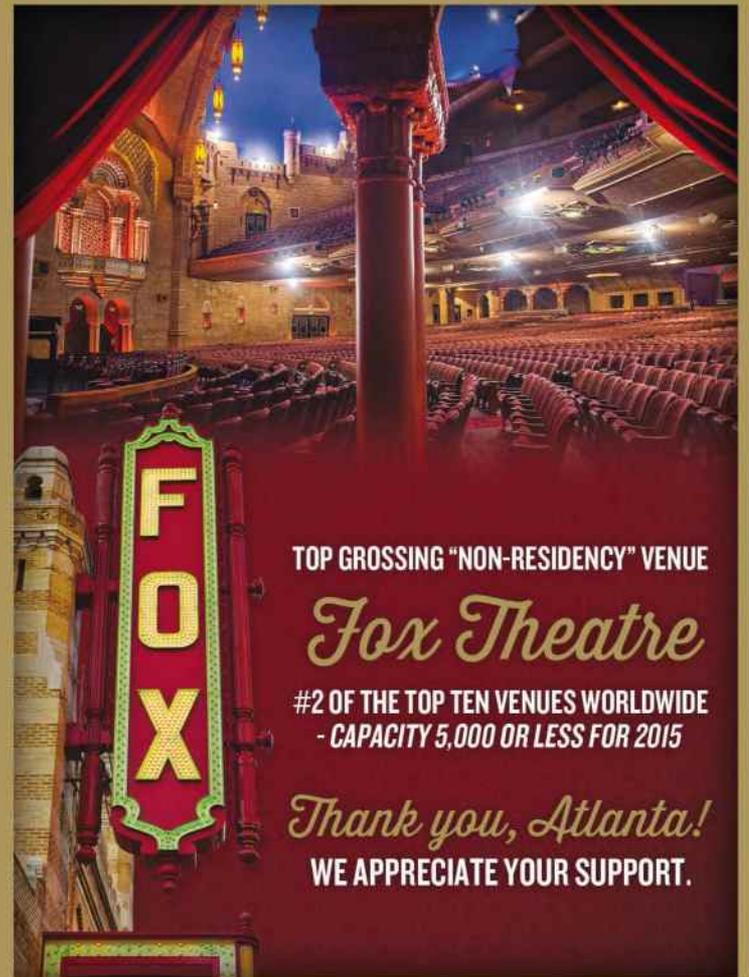
That letter was wrong. It was inaccurate. It was fueled by fragmented information taken out of context. And it was wholly inappropriate.

Republic and Universal Music are valued content partners, and we confirm unequivocally that we continue to play and support Republic artists on our stations.

Sincerely,

Julie Adam

SVP, Radio, Rogers Media



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## Congratulations Jacqueline Saturn

One of the top 50 women making a  
difference in the music industry!

*Billboard Magazine*

Celebrating the success of one of our own.

## YOU ROCK!

From alumnae and friends at The Harpeth Hall School



**MAJOR LAZER**  
 "Lean On," the global smash from Diplo's electro-reggae production trio, is both 2015's No. 1 Hot Dance/Electronic Songs hit and top Dance/Mix Show Airplay title.

NO. 1 DANCE CLUB SONG  
*"Something New"*  
 Axwell + Ingrosso

## TOP DANCE/ELECTRONIC ALBUMS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

- 1 LISTEN** David Guetta What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic/AG
- 2 SHATTER ME** Lindsey Stirling Lindseystomp
- 3 MOTION** Calvin Harris Fly Eye/Columbia
- 4 TRUE COLORS** Zedd Interscope/IGA
- 5 SKRILLEX AND DIPLO PRESENT JACK U** Skrillex & Diplo Mad Decent/OWSLA/AG
- 6 IN RETURN** ODESZA Foreign FamilyCollective/Counter
- 7 PEACE IS THE MISSION** Major Lazer Mad Decent
- 8 IN COLOUR** Jamie xx Young Turks
- 9 ANOTHER ETERNITY** Purity Ring 4AD
- 10 LPI** FKA twigs Young Turks
- 11 URBAN FLORA [EP]** Alina Baraz & Galimatias Ultra
- 12 5 YEARS OF MAU5** deadmau5 mau5trap/Ultra
- 13 CARACAL** Disclosure Method/PMR/Capitol
- 14 NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL PARTY ANTHEMS 2** Various Artists Universal/Sony Music/Legacy
- 15 SYLVANESSO** sylvan Esso Partisan
- 16 PRAYER** Robin Schulz Tonspiel/Atlantic/AG
- 17 INTO THE SUN** Bassnectar Amorphous
- 18 POWER MUSIC: 55 SMASH HITS: RUNNING REMIXES** Various Artists Power Music
- 19 AUTOMATIC** Kaskade Audio Arkade/Warner Bros.
- 20 WE ARE ALL WE NEED** Above & Beyond Anjunabeats/Ultra
- 21 RECESS** skrillex Big Beat/OWSLA/Atlantic/AG
- 22 MAGNIQUE** Ratatat XL
- 23 OUR LOVE** Caribou Merge
- 24 COMMUNION** Years & Years Polydor/Interscope/IGA
- 25 YOU'RE DEAD!** Flying Lotus Warp

## HOT DANCE/ELECTRONIC SONGS

POS / TITLE / ARTIST / LABEL

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 LEAN ON</b> Major Lazer &amp; DJ Snake Featuring MO Mad Decent</li> <li><b>2 WHERE ARE U NOW</b> Skrillex &amp; Diplo With Justin Bieber Mad Decent/OWSLA/Atlantic</li> <li><b>3 HEY MAMA</b> David Guetta Featuring Nicki Minaj, Bebe Rexha &amp; Afrojack What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic</li> <li><b>4 YOU KNOW YOU LIKE IT</b> DJ Snake &amp; AlunaGeorge Interscope</li> <li><b>5 WAVES</b> Mr. Probz Left Lane/Ultra/RCA</li> <li><b>6 OUTSIDE</b> Calvin Harris Featuring Ellie Goulding Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>7 PRAYER IN C</b> Lillywood &amp; Robin Schulz Choke Industry/Tonspiel/Cinq 7/Wagram/Atlantic/RRP</li> <li><b>8 BLAME</b> Calvin Harris Featuring John Newman Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>9 HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE</b> calvin Harris &amp; Disciples Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>10 I WANT YOU TO KNOW</b> Zedd Featuring Selena Gomez Interscope</li> <li><b>11 RATHER BE</b> Clean Bandit Featuring Jess Glynne Atlantic/RRP</li> <li><b>12 HEROES [WE COULD BE]</b> Alesso Featuring Tove Lo Refune/Def Jam</li> <li><b>13 BREAK FREE</b> Ariana Grande Featuring Zedd Republic</li> <li><b>14 BEAUTIFUL NOW</b> Zedd Featuring Jon Bellion Interscope</li> <li><b>15 HOLD MY HAND</b> Jess Glynne Atlantic</li> <li><b>16 DANGEROUS</b> David Guetta Featuring Sam Martin What A Music/Parlophone/Atlantic</li> <li><b>17 FIVE MORE HOURS</b> Deorro &amp; Chris Brown BI/Panda Funk/PRMD/Ultra/RCA</li> <li><b>18 A SKY FULL OF STARS</b> coldplay Parlophone/Atlantic</li> <li><b>19 OMEN</b> Disclosure Featuring Sam Smith Method/PMR/Capitol</li> <li><b>20 STOLE THE SHOW</b> Kygo Featuring Parson James Ultra/RCA</li> <li><b>21 POWERFUL</b> Major Lazer Featuring Ellie Goulding &amp; Tarrus Riley Mad Decent/Interscope</li> <li><b>22 THE NIGHTS</b> Avicii PRMD/Island/Republic</li> <li><b>23 FIRESTONE</b> Kygo Featuring Conrad Ultra/RCA</li> <li><b>24 RUNAWAY (U &amp; I)</b> Galantis Big Beat/Atlantic/RRP</li> <li><b>25 ROSES</b> The Chainsmokers Featuring ROZES Disruptor/Columbia</li> <li><b>26 WAITING FOR LOVE</b> Avicii PRMD/Island/Republic</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>27 DON'T LOOK DOWN</b> Martin Garrix Featuring Usher Spinnin'/RCA</li> <li><b>28 GET LOW</b> Dillon Francis &amp; DJ Snake Wedgewood/DJ Snake/Mad Decent/Columbia</li> <li><b>29 B**** I'M MADONNA</b> Madonna Featuring Nicki Minaj Live Nation/Interscope</li> <li><b>30 I'M AN ALBATROZ</b> AronChupa Ultra</li> <li><b>31 KING</b> Years &amp; Years Polydor/Interscope</li> <li><b>32 SUMMERTHING!</b> Afrojack Featuring Mike Taylor Wall/PM:AM/Def Jam</li> <li><b>33 AIN'T NOBODY (LOVES ME BETTER)</b> Felix Jaehn Featuring Jasmine Thompson L'Agentur/Casablanca/Republic</li> <li><b>34 PRAY TO GOD</b> Calvin Harris Featuring HAIM Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>35 SUMMER</b> Calvin Harris Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>36 SUGAR</b> Robin Schulz Featuring Francesco Yates Tonspiel/Atlantic</li> <li><b>37 SOMETHING BETTER</b> Audien Featuring Lady Antebellum Astralwerks/Capitol</li> <li><b>38 COOL</b> Alesso Featuring Roy English Refune/Def Jam</li> <li><b>39 PEANUT BUTTER JELLY</b> Galantis Big Beat/Atlantic</li> <li><b>40 SECRETS</b> Tiesto &amp; KSHMR Featuring Vassy Musical Freedom/PM:AM/Casablanca/Republic</li> <li><b>41 DESSERT</b> Dawin Casablanca/Republic</li> <li><b>42 TONIGHT BELONGS TO U!</b> Jeremih Featuring Flo Rida Mick Schultz/Def Jam</li> <li><b>43 LIVING FOR LOVE</b> Madonna Live Nation/Interscope</li> <li><b>44 SHOW ME LOVE</b> Sam Feldt Featuring Kimberly Anne Spinnin'/Polydor/4th &amp; Broadway/Island/Republic</li> <li><b>45 HEADLIGHTS</b> Robin Schulz Featuring Ilsey Tonspiel/Atlantic/RRP</li> <li><b>46 OPEN WIDE</b> Calvin Harris Featuring Big Sean Fly Eye/Columbia</li> <li><b>47 SOMETHING NEW</b> Axwell &amp; Ingrosso Axwell/Refune/Def Jam</li> <li><b>48 MAGNETS</b> Disclosure Featuring Lorde Method/PMR/Capitol</li> <li><b>49 ARE YOU WITH ME</b> Lost Frequencies Armada/Ultra</li> <li><b>50 ANOTHER YOU</b> Armin van Buuren Featuring Mr. Probz Armin/Armada</li> </ol> |
|---|--|



### FLY, ROBIN, FLY

After flooding radio with his remix of Mr. Probz's "Waves," German DJ Robin Schulz has parlayed his tropical-house talents into five of his own Hot Dance/Electronic Songs hits. Among them: the chart's No. 7 track of 2015, "Prayer in C," a reworking of French-pop duo Lillywood's wistful 2010 single.

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)



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& THE TEAM AT DAVE HOLMES MANAGEMENT  
DESIREE PEREZ & THE TEAM AT TIDAL  
GRACE MIGUEL, JULIA KHAN & THE TEAM AT URIV GROUP  
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MARC GEIGER & THE TEAM AT WME  
MARCIE ALLEN & THE MAC PRESENTS TEAM  
MARK SHULMAN, DEB RATHWELL & THE TEAM AT AEG LIVE  
MARTY DIAMOND & PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY  
MICHELE ANTHONY & UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP  
MIKE MARTINOVICH, WILL BOTWIN & THE RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT  
PAUL MORRIS & AM ONLY  
ROB LIGHT & THE TEAM AT CAA  
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# THE YEAR THE DEAD CAME BACK — LIVE!

BOOMERS FLOCKED TO THE FARE THEE WELL REUNION, MILLENNIALS TURNED OUT FOR 1D AND TAYLOR, AND THE \$20 BILLION LIVE MUSIC BIZ THRIVED ON FESTIVALS, GLOBAL GROWTH AND VISCERAL THRILLS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

BY RAY WADDELL



**A**S THE SUN SET ON CHICAGO'S SOLDIER Field on July 3, more than 70,000 fans, some clutching roses, cheered to greet The Grateful Dead's return — and one of the most anticipated concerts of 2015, 20 years after the group formally disbanded following the death of Jerry Garcia.

The Grateful Dead's three Fare Thee Well

50th-anniversary concerts in Chicago July 3 to 5 rank as the top Boxscore of the year, with an eye-popping gross of \$30.7 million and total attendance of 210,283. Add in two shows the previous weekend at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., and the band's Fare Thee Well shows brought in a take of \$52 million.

The success of The Dead's reunion concerts

THE YEAR-END TOURING CHARTS ARE BASED ON BOXSCORE DATA REPORTED FOR THE NOV. 29, 2014 ISSUE THROUGH THE NOV. 21, 2015 ISSUE.



"The tribes of people who came from across America to Chicago was huge," says co-promoter Shapiro of The Grateful Dead's shows at Soldier Field.

# TOP 25 BOXSCORES

	ARTIST(S) VENUE/DATE	GROSS TICKET PRICES	TOTAL ATTENDEES NO. OF SHOWS	PROMOTER(S)
1	<b>THE GRATEFUL DEAD</b> Soldier Field, Chicago July 3-5	<b>\$30,683,274</b> \$739/\$199.50/ \$99.50/\$59.50	210,283 3	Peter Shapiro, Madison House Presents
2	<b>BILLY JOEL</b> Madison Square Garden, New York Nov. 25, Dec. 18, 2014; Jan. 9, Feb. 18, March 9, April 3, May 28, June 20, July 1, Aug. 20, Sept. 26, Oct. 21	<b>\$26,335,118</b> \$119.50/\$99.50/\$59.50	224,288 12	MSG Entertainment
3	<b>THE GRATEFUL DEAD</b> Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, Calif. June 27-28	<b>\$21,549,139</b> \$799/\$203.50/ \$103.50/\$63.50	151,650 2	Peter Shapiro, Madison House Presents
4	<b>U2</b> Madison Square Garden, New York July 18-19, 22-23, 26-27, 30-31	<b>\$19,474,285</b> \$275/\$30	149,942 8	Live Nation Global Touring
5	<b>ONE DIRECTION, 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER</b> Saitama Super Arena, Saitama, Japan Feb. 27-28, March 1-2	<b>\$17,834,500</b> ¥2,122,787,000/ \$150/\$100	120,328 4	Creativeman Productions
6	<b>TAKE THAT, ELLA HENDERSON</b> O2 Arena, London June 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15, 19	<b>\$15,955,600</b> £10,410,527/ \$268.21/\$84.30	144,873 10	SJM Concerts
7	<b>U2</b> O2 Arena, London Oct. 25-26, 29-30, Nov. 2-3	<b>\$15,804,021</b> £10,280,990/ \$253.64/\$46.12	104,913 6	Live Nation Global Touring, Live Nation U.K.
8	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, HAIM, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J. July 10-11	<b>\$13,423,858</b> \$139.50/\$102/\$69.50	110,105 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
9	<b>KATY PERRY, BETTY WHO, TOVE LO</b> Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, Australia Nov. 14-15, 18-19, Dec. 4, 6-7, 10, 2014	<b>\$13,360,900</b> (\$15,319,126 Australian) \$217.96/\$34.80	100,923 8	Dainty Group
10	<b>TAKE THAT, ELLA HENDERSON</b> Manchester Arena, Manchester, England May 21-23, 25-26, 28-30, June 18	<b>\$13,253,100</b> £8,740,915/ \$128.88/\$83.39	122,767 9	SJM Concerts
11	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, Calif. Aug. 14-15	<b>\$13,031,146</b> \$159.50/\$139.50/ \$107/\$59.50	102,139 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
12	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, HAIM, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Mass. July 24-25	<b>\$12,533,166</b> \$129.50/\$89.50/\$65.50	116,849 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
13	<b>FLEETWOOD MAC</b> O2 Arena, London May 27-28, June 22, 24, 26-27	<b>\$12,388,700</b> £8,045,205/ \$192.49/\$76.99	96,564 6	Live Nation
14	<b>KATY PERRY, BETTY WHO, TOVE LO</b> Allphones Arena, Sydney Nov. 21-22, 24-25, Dec. 12-13, 2014	<b>\$12,177,000</b> (\$14,146,603 Australian) \$172.07/\$34.34	93,841 6	Dainty Group
15	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia June 12-13	<b>\$11,987,816</b> \$139/\$106.50/\$79	101,052 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
16	<b>KENNY CHESNEY, JASON ALDEAN, BRANTLEY GILBERT, COLE SWINDELL, OLD DOMINION</b> Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Mass. Aug. 28-29	<b>\$11,624,917</b> \$265/\$111.50/ \$69.50/\$59.50	120,206 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
17	<b>ED SHEERAN, BELL X1, JAMIE LAWSON, GAVIN JAMES</b> Croke Park, Dublin July 24-25	<b>\$11,590,800</b> €10,570,658/ \$81.14/\$70.18	162,208 2	Aiken Promotions
18	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, HAIM, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> Soldier Field, Chicago July 18-19	<b>\$11,469,887</b> \$139.50/\$97/ \$65.50/\$49.50	110,109 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
19	<b>U2</b> United Center, Chicago June 24-25, 28-29, July 2	<b>\$11,347,305</b> \$275/\$30	95,070 5	Live Nation Global Touring
20	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b> Tokyo Dome, Tokyo May 5-6	<b>\$10,586,828</b> ¥1,272,050,000/ \$274.65/\$79.07	100,320 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live, Kyodo Tokyo
21	<b>ELTON JOHN</b> The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas March 18, 20-21, 23-24, 27-28, 30-31, April 4-7, 10-11, 13-14	<b>\$10,391,410</b> \$175/\$140/ \$95/\$55	68,636 17	AEG Live, Caesars Entertainment
22	<b>ONE DIRECTION</b> Kyocera Dome, Osaka, Japan Feb. 24-25	<b>\$9,987,210</b> ¥1,188,787,000/ \$150/\$100	79,674 2	Creativeman Productions
23	<b>U2</b> The Forum, Inglewood, Calif. May 26-27, 30-31, June 3	<b>\$9,886,540</b> \$275/\$30	83,505 5	Live Nation Global Touring
24	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT, HAIM, VANCE JOY, SHAWN MENDES</b> Nationals Park, Washington, D.C. July 13-14	<b>\$9,730,596</b> \$139.50/\$97/\$59.50	85,014 2	The Messina Group/AEG Live
25	<b>JUAN GABRIEL</b> Auditorio Nacional, Mexico City April 10-12, 17-19, May 8-10, 15-17	<b>\$9,544,578</b> (145,128,806 pesos) \$83.02	114,969 12	OCESA-CIE

illustrates the power of musical gatherings that has driven the concert business since its inception and continues to fuel its growth, even in the digital age.

Shows like The Dead give fans "pretty powerful stuff that Facebook can't provide,"

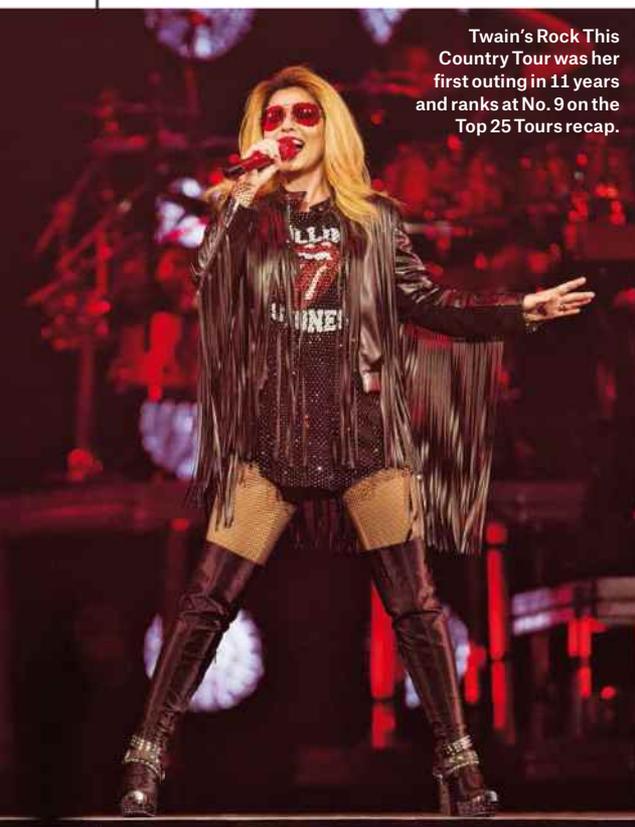
says Peter Shapiro, founder of DayGlo Ventures, who co-produced the Dead shows with AEG Live's Madison House division.

The Fare Thee Well totals are an exclamation point to a robust year for a business that generates, according to some industry

estimates, some \$20 billion in annual worldwide ticket sales. Stakeholders say four primary factors are currently buoying the live industry: a healthy economy, a new generation of popular artists, the growth of festivals and the rise of a global market — all enhanced by ever-present digital devices.

Each year, the concert industry's fortunes

SEE MORE YEAR-END CHARTS ON [BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015](http://BILLBOARD.COM/CHARTS2015)



Twain's Rock This Country Tour was her first outing in 11 years and ranks at No. 9 on the Top 25 Tours recap.

are ultimately determined by the acts on tour and in 2015 some of the business' biggest stars — box-office titans like U2, The Rolling Stones, Kenny Chesney, AC/DC and Madonna — were on the road. Pop sensation One Direction closed one of the biggest two-year runs in touring history. Any other year, Billy Joel's sold-out run as a "franchise" at New York's Madison Square Garden easily would have been the No. 1 Boxscore of 2015, taking in \$26.3 million from 12 performances, if not for The Dead's juggernaut. (Multiple shows at a single venue are considered one Boxscore event.)

Taylor Swift topped even 1D in 2015. Swift, whose 1989 Tour ranks at No. 1 on the Top 25 Tours recap, has seven entries among the Top 25 Boxscores, more than any act. Rich Tullo, who tracks live entertainment as director of research for Albert Fried & Co., sees a demographic shift as fans of the baby-boomer acts that have been the backbone of the industry for more than 30 years start "aging out of going to concerts," he says.

For the live music business, the good news is that fans of younger artists — Swift, 1D, Nicki Minaj and Ed Sheeran — are taking their place, while acts like Foo Fighters, Pearl Jam, Metallica and Dave Matthews Band are now legends for their own generations.

Another factor driving ticket sales is the popularity of multi-act festivals, particularly among millennials. "The baby boomer generation bought an album and went to the U2 concert," says Tullo. "The millennial generation buys a lot of singles, and they want to go to a festival and listen to a lot of one-hit kind of performances."

The growth of North America festivals is the

## TOP 25 TOURS

	ARTIST(S)	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	TAYLOR SWIFT	\$217,437,974	1,982,076	71
2	ONE DIRECTION	\$208,008,704	2,337,938	80
3	U2	\$133,614,474	1,125,624	64
4	THE ROLLING STONES	\$131,460,125	710,663	18
5	KENNY CHESNEY	\$114,094,584	1,335,022	57
6	FLEETWOOD MAC	\$75,794,781	591,330	44
7	MAROON 5	\$73,696,248	890,102	62
8	BILLY JOEL	\$67,890,186	635,023	29
9	SHANIA TWAIN	\$65,195,972	687,216	68
10	LUKE BRYAN	\$56,615,030	1,014,822	55
11	KATY PERRY	\$55,642,477	514,806	36
12	FOO FIGHTERS	\$55,064,241	710,263	27
13	THE GRATEFUL DEAD	\$52,232,413	361,933	5
14	NEIL DIAMOND	\$49,705,232	456,228	46
15	ED SHEERAN	\$47,827,901	746,420	56
16	MADONNA	\$45,899,978	304,935	24
17	ANDRE RIEU	\$42,881,605	533,700	79
18	DAVE MATTHEWS BAND	\$41,794,475	721,099	50
19	ELTON JOHN	\$38,589,145	296,655	49
20	5 SECONDS OF SUMMER	\$38,541,537	808,152	71
21	JUAN GABRIEL	\$37,196,381	369,202	40
22	BETTE MIDLER	\$36,599,832	286,787	32
23	TAKE THAT	\$35,447,151	330,974	26
24	RUSH	\$34,959,163	408,164	32
25	ERIC CHURCH	\$29,825,582	632,788	55

**41** THE NUMBER OF STADIUMS THAT ONE DIRECTION PLAYED DURING ITS ON THE ROAD AGAIN TOUR, WHICH HELPED THE ACT RANK AS THE NO. 2 TOUR OF THE YEAR.

## TOP 25 PROMOTERS

	PROMOTER	TOTAL GROSS ALL PROMOTIONS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	LIVE NATION	\$1,388,412,712	19,386,362	2,601
2	AEG LIVE	\$1,085,719,384	11,495,359	2,472
3	OCESA-CIE	\$167,814,435	3,272,403	1,761
4	FRONTIER TOURING	\$135,643,870	1,329,320	176
5	CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT	\$125,315,554	1,226,404	940
6	SJM CONCERTS	\$124,856,568	1,610,522	148
7	EVENKO	\$76,735,411	1,390,137	1,014
8	FKP SCORPIO KONZERTPRODUKTIONEN	\$75,704,611	1,055,998	721
9	CARDENAS MARKETING NETWORK	\$73,201,970	699,133	81
10	T4F-TIME FOR FUN	\$71,113,077	1,538,195	799
11	ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT	\$67,148,581	986,055	335
12	DAINTY GROUP	\$55,141,801	490,583	51
13	PETER SHAPIRO	\$52,232,413	361,933	5
14	3A ENTERTAINMENT	\$38,292,389	612,027	279
15	LARRY MAGID ENTERTAINMENT	\$37,539,446	303,588	36
16	MOVE CONCERTS	\$34,173,106	476,521	58
17	JAM PRODUCTIONS	\$32,888,396	672,925	314
18	CREATIVEMAN PRODUCTIONS	\$27,821,710	200,002	6
19	AIKEN PROMOTIONS	\$27,310,347	430,994	50
20	CHUGG ENTERTAINMENT	\$26,944,502	329,693	174
21	MCD	\$24,967,313	437,253	259
22	MAREK LIEBERBERG KONZERTAGENTUR	\$23,390,962	294,396	34
23	NEDERLANDER	\$22,833,842	386,188	180
24	BIG CONCERTS INTERNATIONAL	\$22,619,757	505,100	79
25	ABC PRODUCTION	\$19,195,758	223,113	27



*T*O ALL THE ARTISTS, PROMOTERS, AGENTS AND MANAGERS,  
THANK YOU FOR MAKING US SHINE SO BRIGHT THIS YEAR.  
LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER FOR MANY MORE.



major story in live music of the past 15 years, and this year is no exception. The festival scene was jump-started by independent promoters seeking a market niche not dominated by Live Nation and AEG Live, the nation's two biggest concert promotion companies.

Now AEG Live owns and/or operates some 30 festivals in North America (adding Hangout and Firefly for 2016), and Live Nation this year added Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza and the Austin City Limits Music Festival to its portfolio, while also launching new country events.

Internationally, Live Nation dominates the festival business in Europe and is the overwhelming leader in the international growth of the live biz overall.

Evidence of the increasingly global nature of the concert business is found on the year-end touring charts, where 11 of the Top 25 Boxscores are from countries other than the United States. (The general industry consensus is that the global touring market will continue to expand, given positive economic conditions.)

The latest earnings report from Live Nation, the world's largest promoter, described the third quarter of 2015 as the "biggest quarter revenue in the history of the company," up 10 percent year over year with more than 24 million fans attending its shows.

With tours like 1D, U2 and Madonna, plus a slate of concerts from clubs to stadiums, Live Nation says it expects more than 500 million fans in 40 countries will have attended its events in 2015 — "great numbers in terms of shows and attendance," says Tullo.

As for the privately held AEG Live — which launched tours by Shania Twain, The Stones,

## TOP 10 STADIUMS

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>METLIFE STADIUM</b> East Rutherford, N.J.	82,500	<b>\$58,667,467</b>	920,345	35
2	<b>SOLDIER FIELD</b> Chicago	61,500	<b>\$49,312,023</b>	405,549	7
3	<b>LEVI'S STADIUM</b> Santa Clara, Calif.	68,500	<b>\$47,697,311</b>	394,874	7
4	<b>GILLETTE STADIUM</b> Foxborough, Mass.	68,000	<b>\$28,652,076</b>	285,222	5
5	<b>HEINZ FIELD</b> Pittsburgh	65,000	<b>\$22,625,482</b>	193,641	4
6	<b>LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD</b> Philadelphia	68,532	<b>\$21,020,167</b>	203,944	4
7	<b>AT&amp;T STADIUM</b> Arlington, Texas	80,000	<b>\$20,901,630</b>	157,421	3
8	<b>ARROWHEAD STADIUM</b> Kansas City, Mo.	78,097	<b>\$16,044,604</b>	151,671	3
9	<b>TCF BANK STADIUM</b> Minneapolis, Minn.	50,800	<b>\$14,986,265</b>	121,130	3
10	<b>PETCO PARK</b> San Diego	44,000	<b>\$13,940,319</b>	85,654	2

"MARKETING SURVEYS SAY CONSUMERS ARE SPENDING MORE ON HAVING GREAT EXPERIENCES THAN THEY ARE ACQUIRING MORE STUFF."

—JAY MARCIANO, AEG LIVE

## TOP TOUR GENRES

	GENRE	ACT	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>ROCK</b>	<b>U2</b>	<b>\$133,614,474</b>	1,125,624	64
2	<b>POP</b>	<b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b>	<b>\$217,437,974</b>	1,982,076	71
3	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>KENNY CHESNEY</b>	<b>\$114,094,584</b>	1,335,022	57
4	<b>R&amp;B/HIP-HOP</b>	<b>STEVIE WONDER</b>	<b>\$21,834,979</b>	226,659	20
5	<b>LATIN</b>	<b>JUAN GABRIEL</b>	<b>\$37,196,381</b>	369,202	40

## TOP 10 FESTIVALS

	ARTIST/EVENT VENUE/DATE	TOTAL GROSS TICKET PRICES	TOTAL ATTENDEES	PROMOTER
1	<b>COACHELLA VALLEY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL</b> Empire Polo Field, Indio, Calif. April 10-12, 17-19	<b>\$84,264,264</b> \$899/\$375	198,000	Goldenvoice Presents
2	<b>OUTSIDE LANDS MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL</b> Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Aug. 7-9	<b>\$24,305,430</b> \$325/\$135	212,024	Another Planet Entertainment, Superfly Presents, Starr Hill Presents
3	<b>STAGECOACH: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL</b> Empire Polo Field, Indio, Calif. April 24-26	<b>\$21,879,744</b> \$799/\$249	70,000	Goldenvoice Presents
4	<b>ELECTRIC DAISY CARNIVAL</b> MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J. May 23-24	<b>\$11,181,052</b> \$299/\$199/\$119	91,432	Insomniac
5	<b>BYRON BAY BLUESFEST</b> Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm, Byron Bay, Australia April 2-6	<b>\$9,820,210</b> (\$12,893,669 Australian) \$491.25/\$113.48	105,475	Bluesfest
6	<b>BRAVALLA FESTIVAL</b> Airfield, Norrköping, Sweden June 25-27	<b>\$9,650,130</b> (79,540,100 krona) \$424.06/\$5.59	46,540	FKP Scorpio Konzertproduktionen
7	<b>OSHEAGA MUSIC &amp; ARTS FESTIVAL</b> Parc Jean-Drapeau, Montreal July 31-Aug. 2	<b>\$9,254,810</b> (\$12,014,035 Canadian) \$654.78/\$77.03	134,989	Evenko
8	<b>SOUTHSIDE FESTIVAL</b> Take Off Gewerbestadt, Neuhausen, Germany June 19-21	<b>\$9,204,480</b> (€8,092,845) \$232.02/\$5.69	60,000	FKP Scorpio Konzertproduktionen
9	<b>HURRICANE FESTIVAL</b> Eichenring, Scheessel, Germany June 19-21	<b>\$8,679,190</b> (€7,631,000) \$232.02/\$5.69	65,000	FKP Scorpio Konzertproduktionen
10	<b>LOLLAPALOOZA BRASIL</b> Autodromo de Interlagos, Sao Paulo March 28-29	<b>\$7,324,120</b> (23,466,470 reais) \$118.60/\$43.70	124,928	C3 Presents, T4F-Time for Fun



The Black Keys headlined the second day of the Outside Lands Festival in San Francisco.

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Eric Church, Sheeran, Chesney, Swift and others — 2015 will close out as a record year, “with mid-teen-percentage increases year over year in both revenue and total show counts,” says AEG Live chairman Jay Marciano.

For all fans, the power of musical gatherings is now hyper-charged by digital connections and social media. “When you spend your life tethered to something electronic, the only thing that takes you out of that is community — and live music is the basis of community,” says Rob Light, managing partner of Creative Artists Agency, which booked major 2015 tours by such acts as 1D, AC/DC and Ariana Grande. “Social media and digital allows you to enhance that.”

Concert promoters and venues also have increasingly turned to digital platforms like Facebook or Twitter to find buyers for seats that would otherwise have gone unsold.

Marc Geiger, who leads William Morris Endeavor’s music division, suggests that if music streaming services, at some point, provided concert information as fans listen to artists, that would “probably make the biggest difference in terms of ticket-buying.”

All of this adds up to new clout and status for the concert industry within the overall music business. Veterans recall a time, perhaps two decades ago, when touring ranked below retail, radio, TV and other means of exposure for building careers and generating revenue.

No longer. Today, “the inclusion of ‘live’ in every artist development platform has never been stronger,” says Light. “There isn’t a single record company or manager who, when they’re laying out the marketing plan for a new artist, doesn’t put live plans at the top of the list. That’s obviously great for our business, but also speaks volumes as to how important live is to marketing an artist.” ●

## TOP 10 VENUES 15,001-PLUS

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>O2 ARENA</b> London	23,000	<b>\$177,588,152</b>	2,090,344	179
2	<b>MADISON SQUARE GARDEN</b> New York	20,697	<b>\$130,359,411</b>	1,430,809	120
3	<b>MANCHESTER ARENA</b> Manchester, England	21,000	<b>\$79,256,782</b>	1,132,711	112
4	<b>THE FORUM</b> Inglewood, Calif.	18,679	<b>\$63,375,851</b>	772,440	76
5	<b>BARCLAYS CENTER</b> Brooklyn	19,000	<b>\$56,678,993</b>	905,173	110
6	<b>ROD LAVER ARENA</b> Melbourne, Australia	16,820	<b>\$54,000,464</b>	530,173	50
7	<b>AIR CANADA CENTRE</b> Toronto	19,800	<b>\$53,364,175</b>	704,207	63
8	<b>ALLPHONES ARENA</b> Sydney	21,000	<b>\$50,333,508</b>	589,957	67
9	<b>STAPLES CENTER</b> Los Angeles	20,000	<b>\$48,276,434</b>	638,968	64
10	<b>AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER</b> Dallas	20,021	<b>\$47,856,151</b>	779,351	72

## TOP 10 VENUES 10,001-15,000

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>SSE HYDRO</b> Glasgow	13,000	<b>\$63,326,961</b>	936,275	117
2	<b>HALLENSTADION</b> Zurich	14,000	<b>\$40,795,767</b>	463,568	63
3	<b>MERCEDES-BENZ ARENA</b> Berlin	15,000	<b>\$39,109,708</b>	659,069	74
4	<b>BRISBANE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE</b> Brisbane, Australia	13,500	<b>\$33,563,917</b>	356,289	57
5	<b>PERTH ARENA</b> Perth, Australia	15,000	<b>\$27,813,750</b>	326,100	101
6	<b>BARCLAYCARD ARENA</b> Hamburg	15,000	<b>\$25,349,208</b>	479,959	76
7	<b>QANTAS CREDIT UNION ARENA</b> Sydney	13,250	<b>\$21,197,536</b>	268,352	51
8	<b>3ARENA</b> Dublin	14,500	<b>\$18,367,463</b>	260,607	29
9	<b>ROYAL FARMS ARENA</b> Baltimore	14,000	<b>\$16,830,878</b>	347,083	80
10	<b>MGM GRAND GARDEN</b> Las Vegas	14,500	<b>\$14,994,137</b>	83,547	7



U2’s five shows at The Forum in Los Angeles grossed \$9.8 million.

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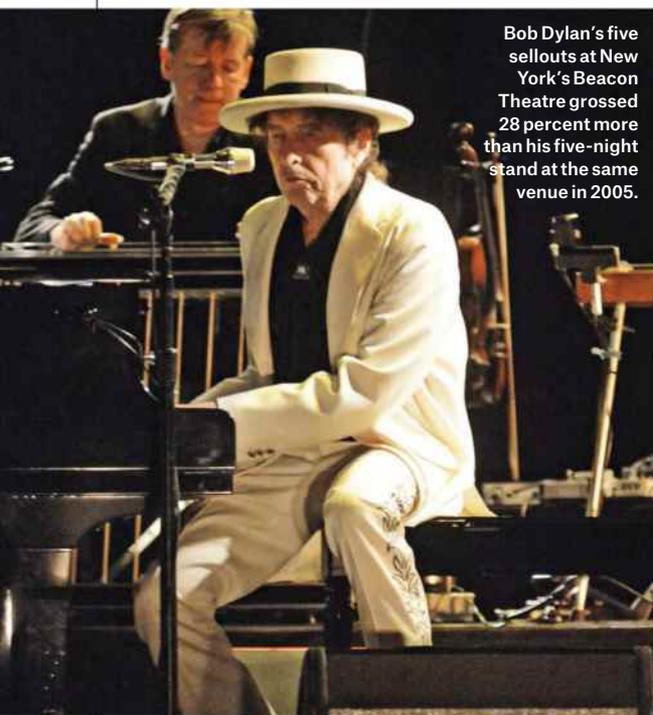
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More than 195,000 fans attended Britney Spears' residency shows at Planet Hollywood's Axis theater in Las Vegas.



Bob Dylan's five sellouts at New York's Beacon Theatre grossed 28 percent more than his five-night stand at the same venue in 2005.

## TOP 10 VENUES 5,001-10,000

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL</b> New York	5,901	<b>\$109,392,813</b>	1,507,183	300
2	<b>AUDITORIO NACIONAL</b> Mexico City	9,683	<b>\$79,355,563</b>	1,516,501	178
3	<b>THE AXIS AT PLANET HOLLYWOOD</b> Las Vegas	7,000	<b>\$37,584,530</b>	290,544	86
4	<b>MOHEGAN SUN ARENA</b> Uncasville, Conn.	10,000	<b>\$25,711,582</b>	398,758	68
5	<b>MICROSOFT THEATER</b> Los Angeles	7,100	<b>\$22,173,597</b>	291,561	61
6	<b>ROYAL ALBERT HALL</b> London	5,272	<b>\$18,922,726</b>	217,098	79
7	<b>THE THEATER AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN</b> New York	5,610	<b>\$16,381,475</b>	294,723	97
8	<b>EVENTIM APOLLO</b> London	5,100	<b>\$15,473,106</b>	253,148	72
9	<b>VORST NATIONAAL</b> Brussels	8,000	<b>\$14,647,418</b>	340,879	70
10	<b>AUDITORIO BANAMEX</b> Monterrey, Mexico	7,000	<b>\$11,581,476</b>	212,843	48

## TOP 10 VENUES 5,000 OR LESS

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES	NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>THE COLOSSEUM AT CAESARS PALACE</b> Las Vegas	4,000	<b>\$58,817,101</b>	396,771	103
2	<b>FOX THEATRE</b> Atlanta	4,600	<b>\$27,775,891</b>	444,140	142
3	<b>DURHAM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER</b> Durham, N.C.	2,712	<b>\$23,818,717</b>	418,872	192
4	<b>BEACON THEATRE</b> New York	2,900	<b>\$21,688,039</b>	313,268	124
5	<b>TEATRO TELCEL</b> Mexico City	1,400	<b>\$21,607,216</b>	265,608	245
6	<b>DAVID A. STRAZ JR. CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b> Tampa, Fla.	2,610	<b>\$18,052,901</b>	286,287	211
7	<b>CHICAGO THEATRE</b> Chicago	3,604	<b>\$17,787,536</b>	314,344	104
8	<b>ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b> Miami	2,400	<b>\$17,498,660</b>	243,813	345
9	<b>BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b> Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	2,700	<b>\$16,558,902</b>	236,649	229
10	<b>PLANET HOLLYWOOD SHOWROOM</b> Las Vegas	4,400	<b>\$14,260,199</b>	172,478	166

## TOP 10 AMPHITHEATERS

	VENUE LOCATION	CAPACITY	TOTAL GROSS	TOTAL ATTENDEES NO. OF SHOWS
1	<b>THE GORGE</b> George, Wash.	23,000	<b>\$25,383,732</b>	213,484 16
2	<b>SUSQUEHANNA BANK CENTER</b> Camden, N.J.	25,000	<b>\$21,317,252</b>	535,169 39
3	<b>DTE ENERGY MUSIC THEATRE</b> Clarkston, Mich.	15,274	<b>\$21,313,361</b>	568,874 47
4	<b>NIKON AT JONES BEACH THEATER</b> Wantagh, N.Y.	14,000	<b>\$20,514,248</b>	382,217 35
5	<b>SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE</b> Mountain View, Calif.	22,000	<b>\$20,235,651</b>	490,594 35
6	<b>CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION</b> The Woodlands, Texas	19,500	<b>\$20,190,215</b>	425,496 44
7	<b>PNC BANK ARTS CENTER</b> Holmdel, N.J.	17,000	<b>\$17,542,499</b>	425,002 39
8	<b>RIVERBEND MUSIC CENTER</b> Cincinnati	17,038	<b>\$15,502,196</b>	373,673 42
9	<b>GEXA ENERGY PAVILION</b> Dallas	20,177	<b>\$15,349,037</b>	423,911 36
10	<b>KLIPSCH MUSIC CENTER</b> Noblesville, Ind.	24,000	<b>\$14,799,815</b>	475,151 29

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During his Forest Hills Drive Tour, J. Cole played eight of the year's top 10 amphitheatres.

SPARS; DENISE TRICELLO/GETTY IMAGES; DYLAN; DREK STORM/EVERETT COLLECTION; COLE; TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES

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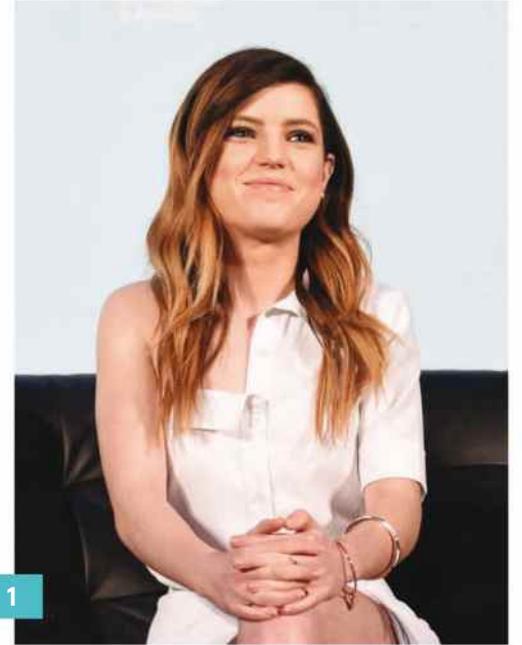


PROMOTION

## EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

# TOURING CONFERENCE & AWARDS

NOV. 18 & 19 | NEW YORK



1

1. Sydney Sierota, lead singer of Echosmith, discussed the band's story and its rise to success as this year's Artist Development Case Study.

2. *Billboard's* Ray Waddell (far left) and Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena's Matt Gibson (far right) pose with industry legends (from left) Alex Hodges, Danny Zelisko, Ron Delsener, Doc McGhee and Louis Messina.



2

3. Country superstar Brad Paisley answered questions during his keynote Q&A.

4. Moderator Andrew Hampp (second from right) and panelists (from left) Farrah Bezner, Jessie Kirshbaum and Julian Holguin offered an intuitive look into The Patch by Sour Patch Kids and how it is fostering aspiring artists.



3

5. *Billboard* president John Amato (far right) led a thought-filled conversation on artist and brand partnerships during the "Your Name Here" session presented by Nielsen Entertainment.



4

6. It was a full house at the sold-out 2015 *Billboard* Touring Conference.



5



6



7

7. Rock legend Bob Seger was named Legend of Live during the 2015 Billboard Touring Awards.



8

8. Warped Tour founder Kevin Lyman was featured in one of the "10 Questions With..." sessions.



9

9. Humanitarian Award recipient Hugh Evans and Parkwood Entertainment's Lee Anne Callahan-Longo stop for a photo backstage in the greenroom sponsored by Iron Mountain Entertainment Services..

10. From left: Sony Music's Julie Swidler and artist managers Adam Alpert, Shawn Gee, David Leeks, Michael McDonald and Clarence Spalding stopped for a photo prior to taking the stage for their panel presented by Staples Center/Microsoft Theater.

11. Bob Seger was greeted with a standing ovation upon receiving the Legend of Live award.

12. The agents panel, presented by Spectra Presents, returned this year featuring (from left) Lee Anderson, Jeff Krones, Jonathan Levine, John Ingrassia, Kevin Neal, Cheryl Paglierani and Rob Prinz.

13. Attendees gathered around the top agents in the business during the Agency Forum presented by Air Canada Centre.



10



11



12



13

# billboard Marketplace

## EMERGING ARTIST



The girl that sang "My Jeans" & her Video that went viral in 2010 is now 17!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SRVMOE>  
(YOUTUBE CHANNEL)

Jenna Rose TWITTER @jennarose3xo

<http://www.jennaroseofficial.com> (Website)

Contact: JennaRoseEntertainment@gmail.com  
516-428-6597



## MISCELLANEOUS

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"DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS"

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## HELP WANTED

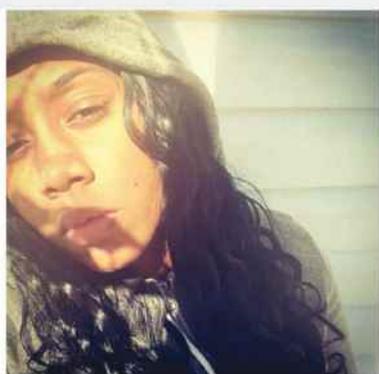
### Iontra Records Music Project Investment Opportunity

Iontra Records is an independent label seeking investment for debut project. Headquartered in Malibu CA, it's members have a rich knowledge of the music industry, gained through first hand experience. All material for the project has been sourced and will be released in the form of a debut album, sung by a solo female artist, in the genre of pop.

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kevinburns@iontrarecords.com  
(661) 644-5504

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talent being valued/recognized by Sony ATV VP "Walter Jones"....she is definitely someone to watch for!

Contact info: awsmnt4@gmail.com

IG: @leanarytez Twitter:

@leanarytez Tel: (908) 406-2481

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## SOPRANOS

Google: [JackBrennanScrantonPa.com](http://JackBrennanScrantonPa.com) – interviews Jack Brennan has worked on "Law & Order", "Third Watch", "The Good Wife" and "The Bounty Hunter".

He worked on Stage – TV – Radio with Mr. Show Biz Himself John King  
Jack's stage act – He runs across the stage, dives over a chair, rolls out into a karate front, back and round kicks while at the same time whistling "God Save The Queen" With flames shooting out of his ass-

For more info on Jack go to [Brettandthecity.com](http://Brettandthecity.com) – The boss Jack – Video-2 monkey  
Or [www.dailymotion.com](http://www.dailymotion.com) – HoboJack ScrantonPa. (click icon – Picture)  
[www.sasastunts.com](http://www.sasastunts.com) – members – Jack Brennan.  
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Note: To HELP FINANCE MY NEXT SHORT FILM – Please send a small donation to:  
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## SEASON GREETINGS

To all my Billboard Classified

Supporters

Have a blessed and safe holiday!

Jeff Serrette

# COOL DATA

REWINDING  
THE  
CHARTS

Carey cuddled with Santa Claus at the launch of her *Merry Christmas* album in New York in 1994.

## 21 Years Ago MARIAH CAREY JINGLED ALL THE WAY TO NO. 1

The singer's 1994 *Merry Christmas* album yielded one of the most enduring holiday songs ever and inspired a 2015 TV movie

THOUSANDS OF ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS SONGS have been written in the last 20 years, but for whatever reason, it just became *that* song," Walter Afanasieff told *Billboard* in 2014. The producer-songwriter was referring to then-24-year-old Mariah Carey's perennial holiday hit, "All I Want for Christmas Is You," which, according to Nielsen Music, has sold 3 million downloads (having never been released as a physical single) and vaulted the album on which it appears, *Merry Christmas*, to No. 3 on the Dec. 17, 1994 *Billboard* 200.

Afanasieff produced the LP and co-wrote with Carey three original songs — including "All I Want for Christmas Is You" — for *Merry Christmas*, which was the Huntington, N.Y.-born diva's fourth studio album. It debuted at No. 1 on the Top Holiday Albums chart on Nov. 26, 1994, before climbing the *Billboard* 200. It has since sold 5.4 million copies.

That same season, "All I Want for Christmas Is You" rose to No. 9 on the Mainstream Top 40 chart, and 21 years later, its popularity endures. It has topped *Billboard*'s Holiday 100 chart each season since 2007 and become a modern-day Christmas classic alongside standards like Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" — the best-selling single ever at 50 million copies globally, according to Guinness World Records — and Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The song also has spawned the new TV movie *A Christmas Melody*, directed by and starring Carey, who currently is in residence at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The film will air Dec. 19 on the Hallmark Channel.

More than two decades after its release, "All I Want for Christmas Is You" shows no sign of fading as a holiday standard, and Afanasieff has high hopes for its future. "It just keeps growing and growing," he says. "I believe it will be the most successful, popular Christmas song of all time."

—GARY TRUST

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS. ON CHART	WKS. ON CHART	ARTIST	TITLE	PEAK POSITION
1	1	6	5	KENNY G	*** No. 1/GREATEST GAINER *** MIRACLES: THE HOLIDAY ALBUM	1
2	2	2	14	BOYZ II MEN	MOTOWN 0323 (10.98/16.98)	1
3	4	7	5	MARIAH CAREY	COLUMBIA 64222 (10.98 EQ/16.98) MERRY CHRISTMAS	3
4	3	1	4	EAGLES	GEFFEN 24725 (12.98/17.98) HELL FREEZES OVER	1
5	5	3	5	NIRVANA	DCG 24727/GEFFEN (10.98/16.98) MTV UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK	1

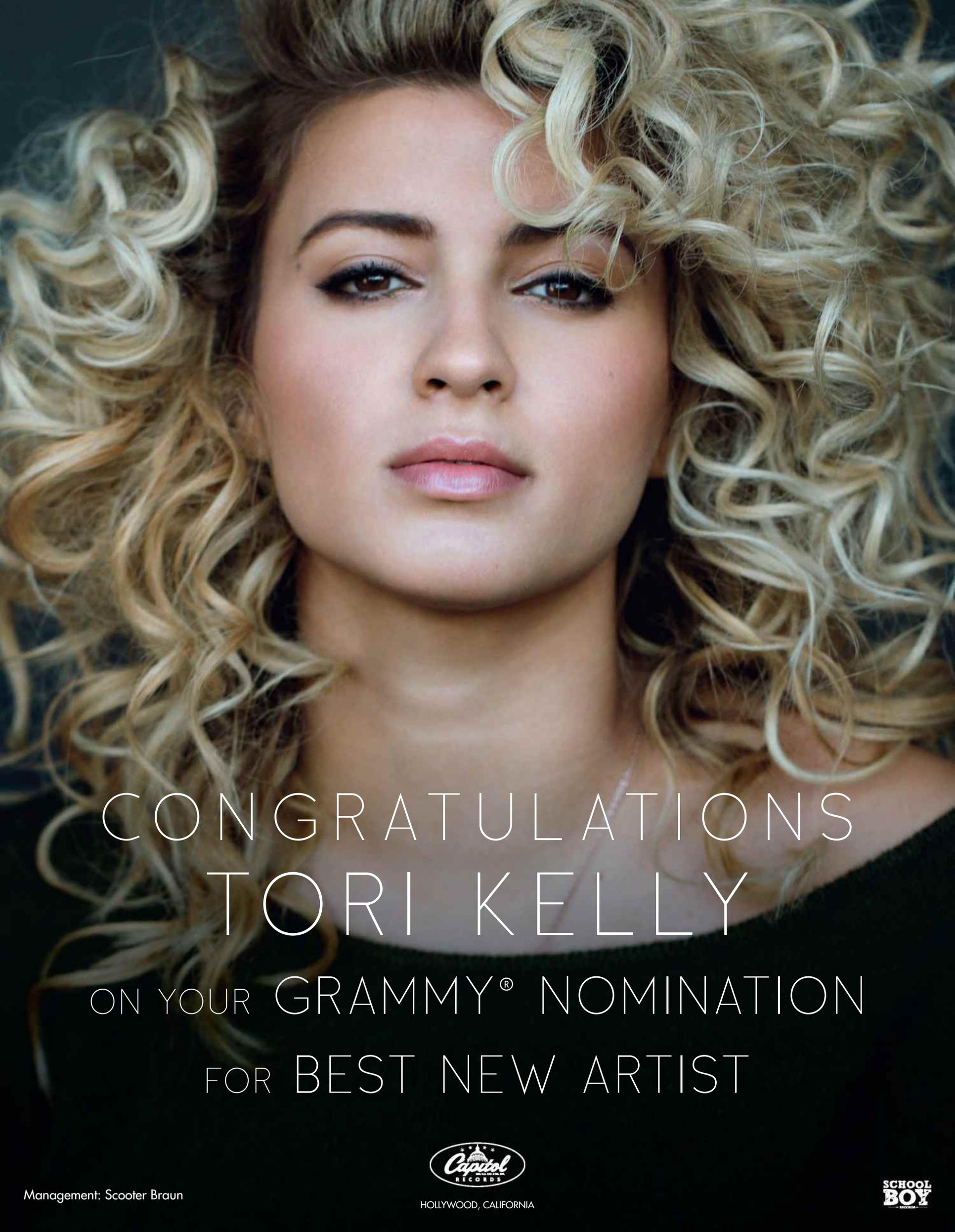
# THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ARTISTS WHO GRACED OUR STAGES THIS YEAR

2 CELLOS  
70'S SOUL JAM  
A.R. RAHAMAN  
A\$AP ROCKY  
ABC'S NASHVILLE LIVE  
ALABAMA  
ALABAMA SHAKES  
ALEJANDRO FERNÁNDEZ  
ALL TIME LOW  
ALVIN AILEY  
AMERICA'S GOT TALENT  
AMERICAN IDOL LIVE!  
AMY SCHUMER  
ANDERSON COOPER  
& ANDY COHEN  
APRIL FOOLS  
COMEDY SHOW  
BABY HOLD ON TO ME  
(EDDIE LEVERT)  
BABYFACE  
BACK TO THE FUTURE! IN  
CONCERT  
BEIRUT  
BELLE & SEBASTIAN  
BEN FOLDS  
BEN HOWARD  
BILL BURR  
BILL MAHER  
BILLY IDOL  
BOB'S BURGERS  
BONEY JAMES  
BRANDI CARLILE  
BRIAN MCKNIGHT  
BRIAN RÉGAN  
BRIT FLOYD  
BRYAN ADAMS  
CHAYANNE  
CHI-TOWN COMEDY  
TAKEOVER  
CHRIS BOTTI  
CHRIS CORNELL

CHRIS TUCKER  
CHUGGINGTON, LIVE!  
CIRCLE OF SISTERS  
CROSBY, STILLS & NASH  
CULTURE CLUB  
DAMIEN RICE  
DANCING WITH THE STARS  
DANIEL TOSH  
DAVE RAWLINGS MACHINE  
DAVID GRAY AND AMOS LEE  
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE  
DIANA KRALL  
DIANA ROSS  
DISNEY LIVE  
DON HENLEY  
EL REENCUENTRO  
ELF THE MUSICAL  
EMMANUEL & MIJARES  
EMMYLOU HARRIS  
FAITH NO MORE  
FESTIVAL OF PRAISE  
FIFTH HARMONY  
FRANKIE VALLI  
& THE FOUR SEASONS  
FREESTYLE & OLD SCHOOL  
EXTRAVAGANZA  
FRESH 102.7 FALL FEST  
G.E.M.  
GABRIEL IGLESIAS  
PRESENTS: COMEDIANS OF  
STAND UP REVOLUTION  
GAD ELMALEH  
GARDEN OF LAUGHS  
GEORGE THOROGOOD  
GIPSY KINGS  
GLADYS KNIGHT  
& THE O'JAY'S  
GLEN HANSARD  
GRACE POTTER  
HANNIBAL BURRESS

HIGH STEPPIN' INTO TOWN  
HOT 97 TIP-OFFHOT TUNA  
HOZIER  
I WANT MY 80'S CONCERT  
INDIGO GIRLS  
INGRID MICHAELSON  
J. GEILS BAND  
JAMIE CULLUM  
JANET JACKSON  
JASON ISBELL  
JEFF BECK  
JERRY SEINFELD  
JETHRO TULL  
JIM JEFFERIES  
JOE BONAMASSA  
JOE ROGAN  
JOE WALSH  
JOHN FOGERTY  
JOHN MELLENCAMP  
JOHN MULANEY  
JOHN OLIVER  
JOSH GROBAN  
JUAN LUIS GUERRA  
JUANES  
KELLY CLARKSON  
KEM  
KPOP 90'S  
KRAFTWERK  
KRISTEN CHONOWETH  
LEWIS BLACK  
LINDSEY STIRLING  
LOUIS CK  
LYLLE LOVETT AND  
HIS LARGE BAND  
MARGARET CHO  
MARK KNOPFLER  
MASTERS OF CEREMONY  
MEGAN MULLALLY  
& NICK OFFERMAN  
MIRANDA SINGS  
MOVE LIVE ON TOUR  
MY MORNING JACKET  
NASH BASH  
NEPHEW TOMMY  
OF MONSTERS AND MEN  
OPETH  
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SOCIAL CLUB  
PARAMORE  
PASSENGER  
PATTI SMITH AND HER BAND  
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EVOLUTIONS  
PRIMUS  
PUNCH BROTHERS  
R. KELLY  
RED BULL FLYING BACH  
RICK ROSS  
RINGO STARR AND  
HIS ALL-STARR BAND  
ROB THOMAS  
RON WHITE  
SEBASTIAN MANISCALCO  
SESAME STREET  
SHAQUILLE O'NEAL ALL  
STAR COMEDY JAM  
SHINEDOWN  
SINBAD  
SO YOU THINK  
YOU CAN DANCE  
SPANDAU BALLET  
STAND UP FOR HEROES  
STARS AND STRINGS  
STARTALK LIVE!  
STEELY DAN  
STEVE WINWOOD  
STRING CHEESE INCIDENT  
STURGILL SIMPSON  
SUFJAN STEVENS  
TAME IMPALA  
TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND  
THE DECEMBERISTS  
THE FAB FAUX  
THE FRESH BEAT BAND  
THE IDAN RAICHEL PROJECT  
THE MIDTOWN MEN  
THE TALLEST MAN  
ON EARTH  
THE TRAGICALLY HIP  
THE ULTIMATE  
DOO-WOP SHOW  
THE WAR ON DRUGS  
THINGS YOUR  
MAN WON'T DO  
THIRD DAY  
TOBYMAC  
TONY BENNETT  
& LADY GAGA  
TYLER PERRY'S  
"MADEA ON THE RUN"  
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WEIRD AL YANKOVICH  
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