

Hank Williams, Jr. To Be Honored As Icon

Hank Williams, Jr. will be honored as a BMI Icon at the 56th annual Country Awards, the oldest awards ceremony saluting the genre's top music makers. The black-tie, invitation-only gala recognizing the past year's most-performed BMI country songs is set for November 11 at the company's Music Row offices in Nashville.

The artists and songwriters named BMI Icons have had "a unique and indelible influence on generations of music makers." Hank Williams, Jr., who will be saluted with an all-star musical tribute that evening, joins an elite list of past honorees that includes country music legends Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Whisperin' Bill Anderson, Charlie Daniels and Loretta Lynn, along with multi-genre nobility the Bee Gees, Isaac Hayes, Ray Davies, James Brown, Crosby, Stills & Nash, Steve Winwood and more.

Hank Williams, Jr.'s career has profiled the aspirations, trials and carousals of the everyman in an unabashedly proud and instantly recognizable voice. Nicknamed "Bocephus" by his legendary father Hank Williams, the younger Williams's waggish songs and roguish persona have unified through their celebration of rebellion. A sly

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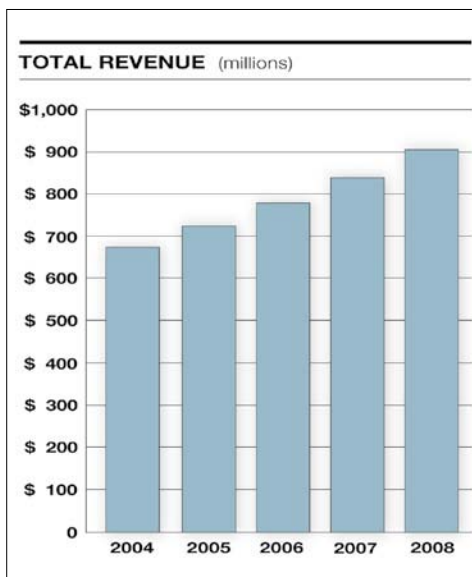
BMI Tops \$900 Million Mark in Revenues

BMI earned more than \$901 million in revenues for its 2008 fiscal year, including its subsidiary Landmark Digital Services, LLC[™]. This is the first time any copyright organization has topped the \$900 million mark for music performance revenues, and represents a 7.2% percent increase from the previous fiscal year. BMI also set a historic high in royalty distributions, and will disperse more than \$786 million to the songwriters, composers and copyright owners it represents, an 8% percent increase over the prior fiscal year.

Both figures represent milestones in royalty collection and distribution for the public performance

of music. BMI President & CEO Del Bryant said, "BMI has been extraordinarily successful in signing the brightest and most popular new music creators across all genres, building upon a repertoire that already includes the most beloved songs of America's legendary song-

writers and composers." Bryant pointed out that BMI has consistently embraced new media businesses that use music, and developed



innovative licensing solutions to permit these companies to reach new audiences, while assuring that creators

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Jacksons, T-Pain Take Center Stage at Urban Awards

BMI saluted the world's premier r&b, rap and hip-hop songwriters, producers and publishers September 4 at its annual Urban Awards. BMI President & CEO Del Bryant and Vice President, Writer/Publisher Relations, Atlanta Catherine Brewton hosted the ceremony at the Wilshire Theatre in Beverly Hills.

T-Pain, one of the industry's hottest songwriter/artists, earned the coveted Songwriter of the Year crown and shared the Producer of the Year trophy with crossover king Jonathan "J.R." Rotem and hip-hop visionary Kanye West. Song



Pictured (l-r) are: BMI President & CEO Del Bryant; Icon honorees Tito, Jackie, Randy and Marlon Jackson; and BMI Vice President Catherine Brewton.

of the Year honors went to Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable," co-written by Ne-Yo, Amund Bjørklund (TONO) and Espen Lind (TONO), while

Universal Music Publishing Group secured the Publisher of the Year title.

The night's festivities

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BMI Artists Poised for Big Night at 2008 Latin Grammys

BMI artist/songwriters captured a slew of the 2008 Latin Grammy nominations, announced recently in Los Angeles. Latin music continues to commandeer the mainstream spotlight, thanks to both established favorites and promising new voices.

With six nominations, Café Tacvba garnered the most nods, boasting a Best Alternative Album nod for *Sino*, Record of the Year and Best Alternative Song taps for "Volver A Comenzar," and Song of the Year and Best Rock Song props for "Esta Vez," along with a nomination in the coveted Album of the Year category.

2008 BMI Latin Icon Gustavo Santaolalla received five nominations. Prolific producer, musician and composer, Santaolalla earned two nods in the Record of the Year category, as producer of Café Tacvba's "Volver A Comenzar" and Juanes' "Me Enamora"; two more nominations under the

Album of the Year umbrella as producer of Café Tacvba's *Sino* and Juanes' *La Vida... Es Un Ratico*; and one nod in the Best Short Form Music Video field for Bajofondo's "Pa' Bailar" as a member of the group.

International star Juanes also garnered five nods. In addition to Album of the Year and Best Male Pop Vocal Album nominations for *La Vida... Es Un Ratico*, Juanes earned Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Best Short Form Music Video taps for "Me Enamora."

Mexican singer/songwriter Julieta Venegas earned a four nominations: Record and Song of the Year for "El Presente" and Best Alternative Album and Best Long Form Music Video for her contribution to the *MTV Unplugged* series.

International superstar Gloria Estefan added three more nominations to her career collection. The Academy also dubbed her the 2008 Latin Recording Academy

Person of the Year, and a presentation highlighting her achievements will be part of the Latin Grammy ceremony in November. Estefan is the first woman to receive the honor.

Jazz-infused singer/songwriter Ximena Sariñana also earned three nominations, while buzz artist Flex secured two nods, including Best Urban Album for *Te Quiero* and Best Urban Song for the project's title track. Rap-metal synergists Molotov also boast two nominations, including Best Rock Album and Best Rock Song for "Yofo."

Additional BMI nominees include Cachorro López, salsa legend Sergio George, Circo, BMI Latin Songwriters of the Year Wisin & Yandel, Pepe Aguilar, Banda el Recodo, El Chapo, Freddie Martinez, Marcos Witt, Humberto Garcia and Belanova.

The 9th Annual Latin Grammys are slated for November 13 in Houston and will be broadcast live on Univision. □

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Kara DioGuardi To Join 'American Idol' Judges Panel

Grammy-nominated BMI songwriter Kara DioGuardi will sit alongside Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson when the eighth season of *American Idol* premieres in January, according to the Fox network.

DioGuardi, who shared BMI 2007 Pop Songwriter of the Year honors with Sean Garrett, has had her songs recorded by Kelly Clarkson, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani, Celine Dion, Faith Hill, Carrie Underwood and Pink, among others. Her recent Top 40 hits include Stefani's "Rich Girl,"

Aguilera's "Ain't No Other Man," Clarkson's "Walk Away" and Dion's "Taking Chances."

The newly installed fourth judge on *American Idol* is confident she'll find her niche within the bickering, ratings-tested judges' panel where the line between love and hate is blurred with every critique.

"I'm just gonna speak to Simon the way I speak to everybody," DioGuardi told reporters during a teleconference Monday. "I'm just gonna have my opinion, be honest and I don't foresee any problems. I'm really excited about this, and up for



Kara DioGuardi

the challenge."

"We are turning the heat up on 'Idol' this year and are thrilled to welcome Kara to the judges' table," said creator and executive producer Simon Fuller in a statement. □

BMI Artists Dominate CMA Nominee List

The Country Music Association announced nominees for the 2008 installment of the CMA Awards Wednesday, September 10, and BMI songwriters and artists overwhelmingly populate the anticipated list, sweeping the Female Vocalist and of the Year nominations and dominating numerous categories.

Sugarland underscored their critically acclaimed year, counting an inaugural nod in the prestigious Entertainer of the Year category among their five nominations. The pair also snagged a Single of the Year nod for the emotive "Stay," co-produced by Kristian

Bush and Byron Gallimore, along with Vocal Duo, Video and Musical Event of the Year nominations.

Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert garnered more industry recognition, mirroring their increasing popularity, while Taylor Swift joined Female Vocalist of the Year ranks for the first time. Reigning Female Vocalist of the Year Underwood gained another nod in that category and added an Album of the Year nomination for her sophomore release, *Carnival Ride*. Lambert joins Underwood in the Female Vocalist of the Year category, and her fierce composition "Gunpowder

and Lead" is up for Single of the Year.

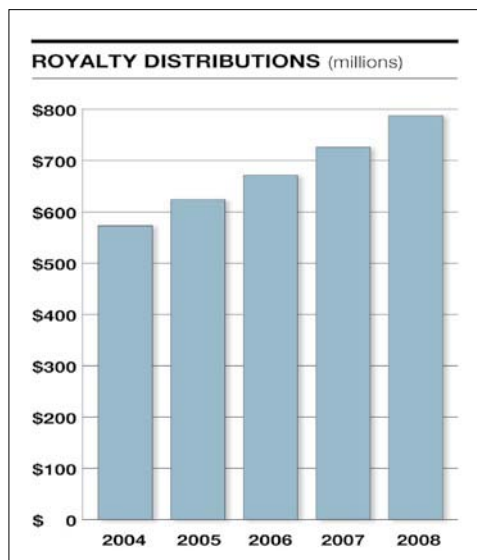
Ace guitarist and crooner Keith Urban also earned two nominations, remaining in the elite Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year ranks. Perennial favorites Brooks & Dunn retained their dominance, garnering nods in Album and Vocal Duo of the Year categories. Trio Lady Antebellum also added more prestige to their glowing breakout year, earning Vocal Group and New Artist of the Year nominations. Little Big Town's success with critics and the industry remains potent, as the quartet scored Vocal Group and Musical Event

nods. Alison Krauss also earned two nods: a Female Vocalist of the Year nomination and Musical Event of the Year nomination for her work with legend Robert Plant.

BMI songwriters Monty Criswell, Rodney Clawson and Wade Kirby earned a Song of the Year nomination for the poignant "I Saw God Today," while BMI troubadour Lee Thomas Miller also boasts a nod in the prestigious category for his composition "You're Gonna Miss This."

The 42nd Annual CMA Awards will be broadcast live from the Sommet Center in Nashville, Wednesday, Nov. 12 (8:00-11:00 p.m./ET) on ABC. □

\$901 Million in Revenues *continued from page 1*



and copyright owners are fairly compensated. "Our pro-technology and pro-business attitude has made it possible for BMI to continue to grow our revenues more than 7% each year, on average over the past 10 years, almost doubling our income in that period," said Bryant.

BMI generated an

impressive \$664 million in domestic licensing income, an increase of 8% or \$51 million over the prior year. BMI's leadership in licensing the explosive growth of music in cable, satellite radio and satellite television brought in revenues of

more than \$208 million, accounting for more than 23% of the company's consolidated revenue. Traditional broadcast radio and television accounted for \$340 million, or about 38% of revenue. Growth in revenues from the performance of music in retail and service establishments, including restaurants, bars

and the hospitality industry, increased to a total of \$97 million, accounting for approximately 11% of BMI's revenue. BMI's New Media revenues increased to a total of \$15 million. Thanks to growth in the mobile, social networking and website categories, BMI now licenses more than 6,500 digital media properties, an increase of more than 50% over the prior year. International revenues were also an especially bright spot, accounting for \$238 million, or more than 26% of BMI's revenues.

During the year, BMI extended its eCommerce initiatives, significantly enhancing its business-to-business tools for songwriters, composers, and copyright owners, as well as its licensing customers. BMI added almost 30,000 new songwriters and composers to its rolls, with the vast majority joining online. The company

launched new tools permitting licensees to initiate and renew contracts, report music use and pay license fees online. BMI also dramatically increased its royalty-processing infrastructure to handle the explosion of music reporting from its many digital licensees, processing more than nine billion feature audio performances during the year. The strategic use of technology in all of these initiatives permitted BMI to grow its business while lowering overhead to 11.7%, the lowest in the company's history.

BMI's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. BMI's consolidated financial information includes Landmark Digital Services™, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary. Landmark provides advanced audio-recognition products and services to BMI, as well as third-party clients, including content providers, copyright owners and consumers of music and digital entertainment. □

culminated with the presentation of BMI Icon honors to the legendary Jacksons, whose achievements were celebrated with a musical tribute. Throughout the ceremony, the audience also enjoyed live performances of many of the award-winning songs by music's biggest stars, including Rick Ross, T-Pain, Lil' Wayne, Ray J, LLOYD, Mario, JoJo, Keri Hilson and Yung Berg.

T-Pain's resounding claim to the Songwriter of the Year title is buoyed by his jaw-dropping seven contributions to BMI's most-performed list: "Bartender," "Buy U a Drank (Shawty Snappin')," "Cyclone," "Good Life," "I'm a Flirt," "Kiss Kiss," "Low" and "Shawty." The past year found T-Pain everywhere, as he collaborated with hip-hop elite including Yung Joc, Akon, Baby Bash, Kanye West, R. Kelly, T.I., Chris Brown, Flo Rida and Plies. Flo Rida's "Flow" featuring T-Pain became an international smash, topping charts in a diverse slew of countries including Finland, Ireland and Australia.

Song of the Year "Irreplaceable" also topped charts all over the world,



T-Pain shows off his Urban Songwriter of the Year award.

reigning at the number 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 for ten consecutive weeks. Co-penned by Ne-Yo, along with songwriters Amund Bjørklund and Espen Lind (both members of Norwegian performing right society TONO and represented in the U.S. by BMI), and published by EMI-Blackwood Music, Inc., Super Sayin' Publishing and Universal Music-Z Songs, Beyoncé's "Irreplaceable" was certified multi-platinum and became the United

States' best-selling single of 2007.

One of pop music's most influential quintets, The Jacksons blazed a trail for r&b and pop music, creating a sound and musical image that is emulated to this day. Hailing from Gary, Indiana, and formed in 1966, the Jackson brothers — Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, Michael and, joining in 1976, younger brother Randy — were a true American success story, transcending race and redefining the sound of pop and r&b music. They were the first group to have their first four singles hit number 1, and they remain one of the most globally influential pop and r&b groups in history. The Jackson 5 were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. In addition to being premier recording and performing artists, the Jacksons wrote multiple hits, including the '80s "Shake Your Body (Down to the Ground)," "2300 Jackson Street," "Can You Feel It," and "State of Shock."

T-Pain, Jonathan "J.R." Rotem and Kanye West

shared the Producer of the Year win thanks to individually logging the most producer credits on charting songs over the past year. The BMI Top Urban Producers list also included DJ Montay, Mr. ColliPark, Polow Da Don, Rodney Jerkins, Soulja Boy Tell'em and will.i.am.

The Universal Music Publishing Group earned the BMI Urban Publisher of the Year trophy by scoring the highest percentage of copyright ownership in award songs. The publishing giant's 20 hits on the most-performed list include "Throw Some D's," recorded by Rich Boy featuring Polow Da Don; Song of the Year "Irreplaceable"; Flo Rida's "Low" featuring T-Pain; "You," recorded by LLOYD featuring Lil' Wayne, and Ciara's "Promise."

In addition to the BMI performance awards, trade publication *Billboard* recognized the BMI-affiliated writers whose songs reached number 1 on the R&B/Hip-Hop Songs, Hot Rap Tracks, Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay and Hot 100 charts during the past year.

A complete list of BMI Urban Award winners can be found on bmi.com. □

Hank Williams, Jr. *continued from page 1*

songwriter and robust vocalist capable of conveying startling emotion and making deceptively ordinary characters shine, he boasts a catalog that includes honky tonk classics "All My Rowdy Friends Have Settled Down," "Country Boy Can Survive," "Born to Boogie," "Dixie On My Mind," "Family Tradition," "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound" and "Texas Women." Each composition represents a candid piece of Williams himself:

He wrote every song on that list alone. In addition to 10 no. 1 singles, he found mainstream success on the pop charts and through penning and performing the multiple Emmy award-winning theme to *Monday Night Football*; six of Williams's albums reached platinum status, while 20 were certified gold and 13 reached the no. 1 spot on the charts. Today, a diverse slew of artists spanning hard rap/rocker Kid Rock to contempo-

rary honky-tonker Gretchen Wilson embrace Williams's prolific legacy, citing him as a definitive influence.

Hosted by BMI President & CEO Del Bryant and Nashville Writer/Publisher VP Jody Williams, the 56th Annual Country Awards will recognize the songwriters and publishers of the top BMI country songs played on American radio and television during the previous year. BMI will also bestow prestigious honors on the Country Songwriter of the



Year, Country Publisher of the Year and Most Performed Country Song of the Year, also known as the Robert J. Burton Award. □

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