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& Richard Addy

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The Missing Voices of Women in the 2026 Grammys

How women's representation as winners
has taken a dramatic hit in 2026

The fifth in the series of Missing Perspectives reports



Report background and summary of findings

This mini-report follows on from the award-winning The Missing Voices of Women in Music and Music News which was part-funded by the Gates Foundation and published by the international audience consultancy AKAS in January 2025. Its aim is to ascertain the representation of women in the 2026 Grammy nominations and wins.

Source: AKAS analysis of The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (Recording Academy) Final Nominations List 68th Annual GRAMMY Awards.

Link https://naras.a.bigcontent.io/v1/static/68th_Awards_PressList_11072025.

Note the nominations and winner numbers are subject to change as the Recording Academy updates its databases.

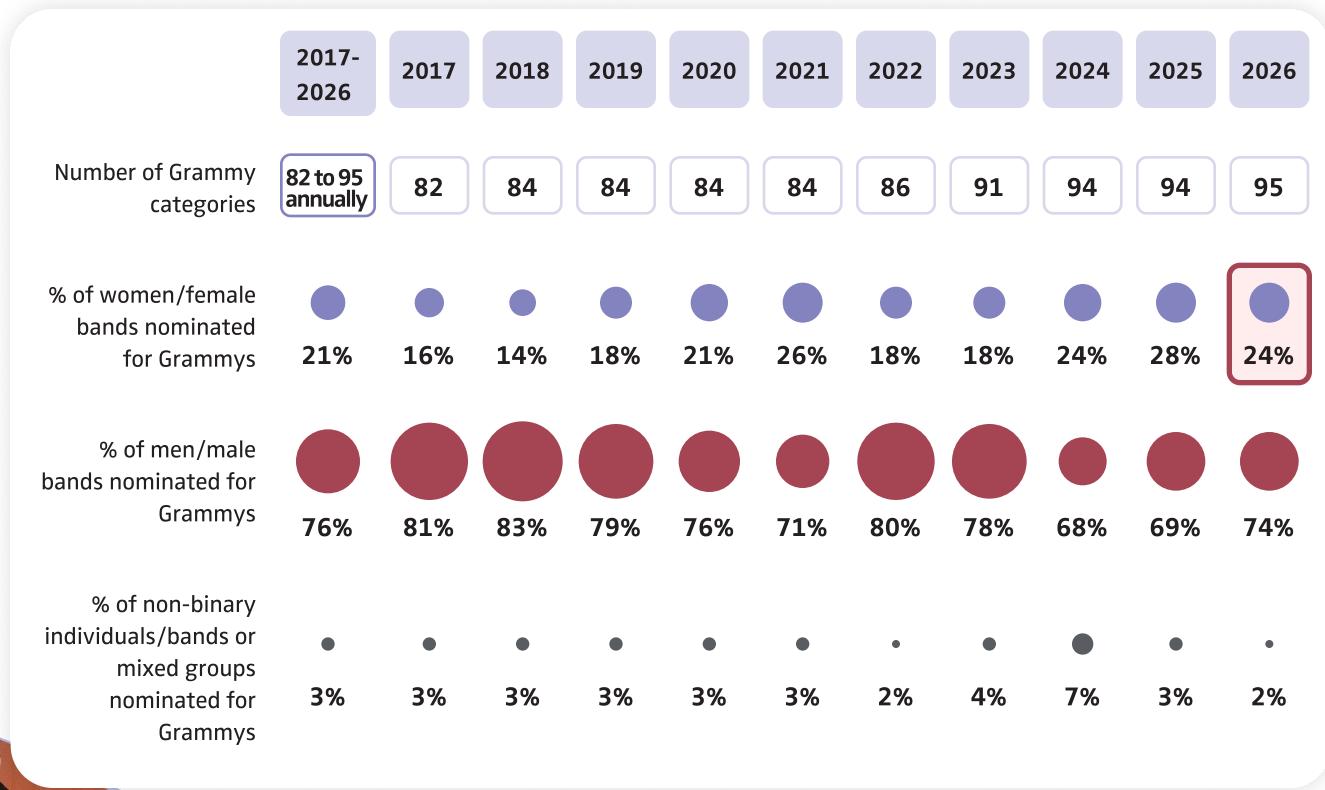
Summary of the key findings

- AKAS' analysis of 11,076 Grammy nominations and 2,471 winners between 2017 and 2026 uncovered that women have accounted for 1 in 5 of the nominations and wins across all Grammy categories in that period.
- The analysis of 270 Grammy wins across all 95 categories in 2026 shows a dramatic year-on-year fall for women. They were awarded only 23% of all Grammys this year, which is 14 percentage points lower than last year (37%).
- This fall is partly linked to the fall in the proportion of Grammy nominations that women received this year. The analysis of 1,370 nominations across the 95 categories for the 2026 Grammys shows a four-percentage point year-on-year decline from 28% to 24%.
- The award for Producer of the Year, Non-classical, which arguably holds most power in music, has never been awarded to a woman since its introduction 51 years ago. This year all nominees were men, with Cirkut picking up the trophy.
- The decline in female Grammy winners is driven by seven fields: Rock, Metal and Alternative Music (-43ppt), Gospel and Contemporary Christian Music (-38ppt), R&B, Rap & Spoken Word Poetry (-29ppt), Jazz, Traditional Pop, Contemporary Instrumental & Musical Theater (-27ppt), Classical (-27ppt), Country & American Roots Music (-19ppt), and Production, Engineering, Composition & Arrangement (-17ppt).
- These male-dominated statistics expose the structural, rather than talent-related, barriers that women face in music and in music recognition, which were covered in great detail in *The Missing Voices of Women in Music*.



Analysis of the 1,370 Grammy nominations ahead of the 2026 award ceremony revealed that women's representation across all 95 categories has fallen from 28% last year - its highest level since 2017 - to 24% in 2026.

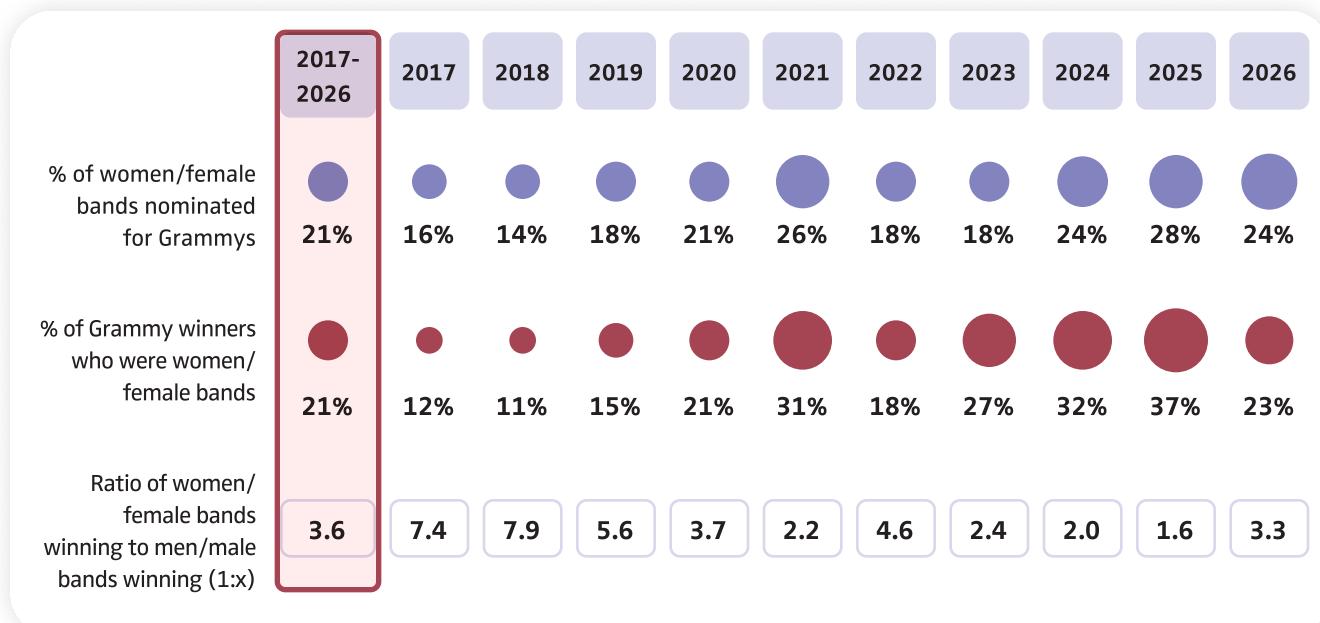
Gender breakdown of Grammy nominations between 2017 and 2026



Source: The Missing Voices of Women in Music and Music News, and new AKAS analysis

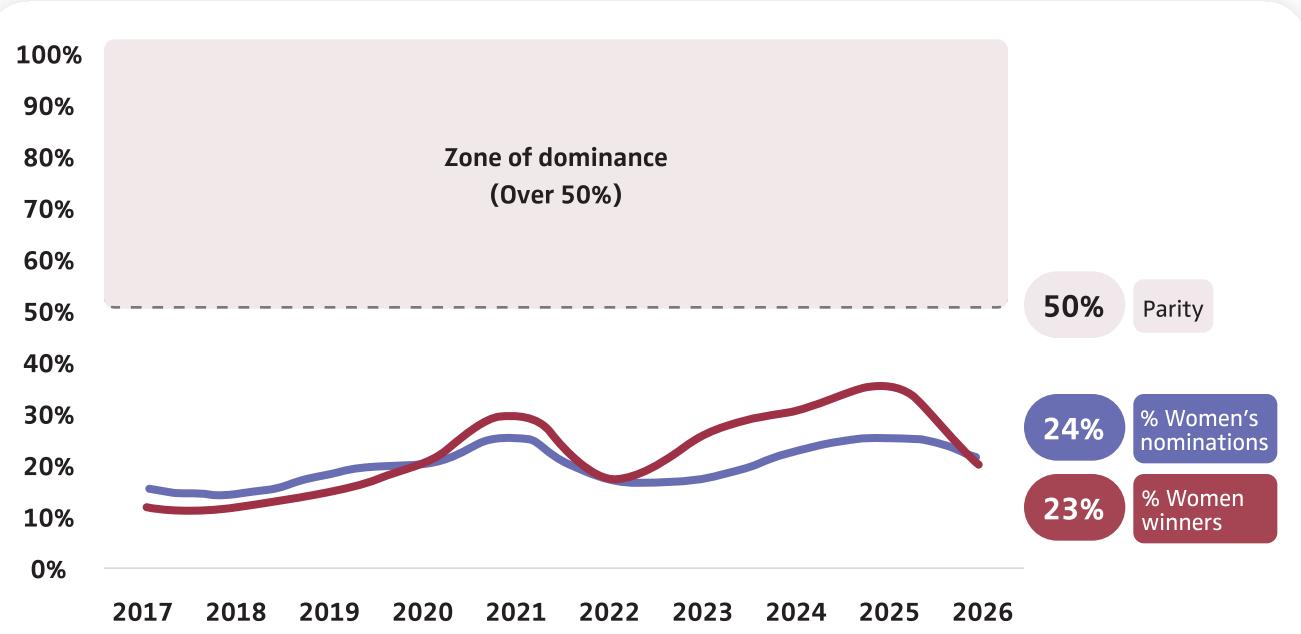
For every Grammy win awarded to a woman, men have picked up four trophies in the last decade. This year the proportion of women/female bands winning a Grammy has plummeted by 14 percentage points to 23%.

Summary of women's performance as Grammy nominees and winners (2017 – 2026)



The share of women's nominations and wins in the Grammys in the last decade has never been close to parity, much less domination, despite headlines pushing this narrative in the past. Women's recognition has hit an invisible and sturdy glass ceiling.

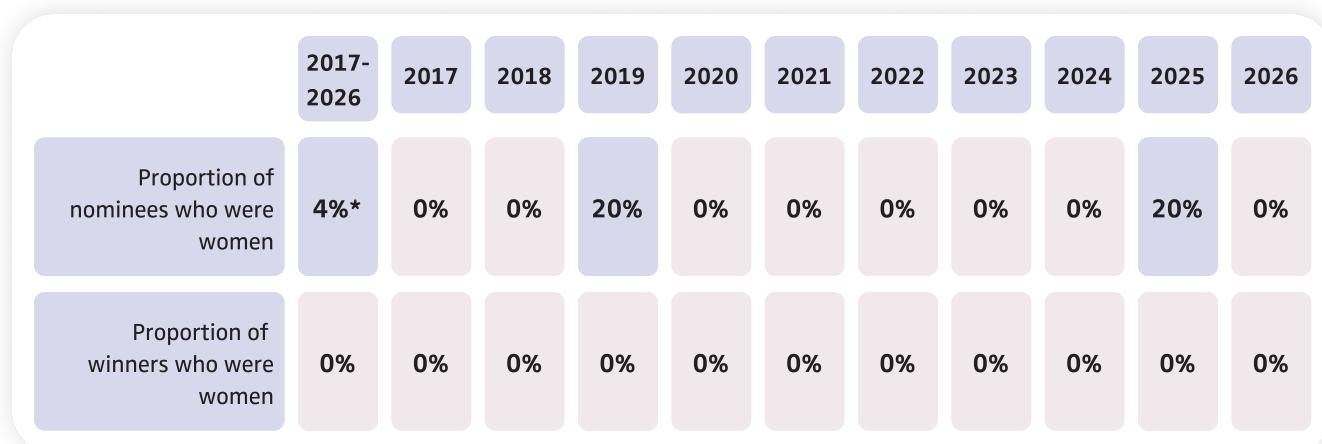
Women's/female band's performance as Grammy nominees and winners (2017-2026)





Only men have ever won the Producer Of The Year, Non-classical Grammy. In 2026 all nominees were men, so once again, the all-male streak has remained intact for the 52nd year in a row.

Representation of women among Producer of the Year (Non-classical) Grammy nominees and winners (2017 - 2026)

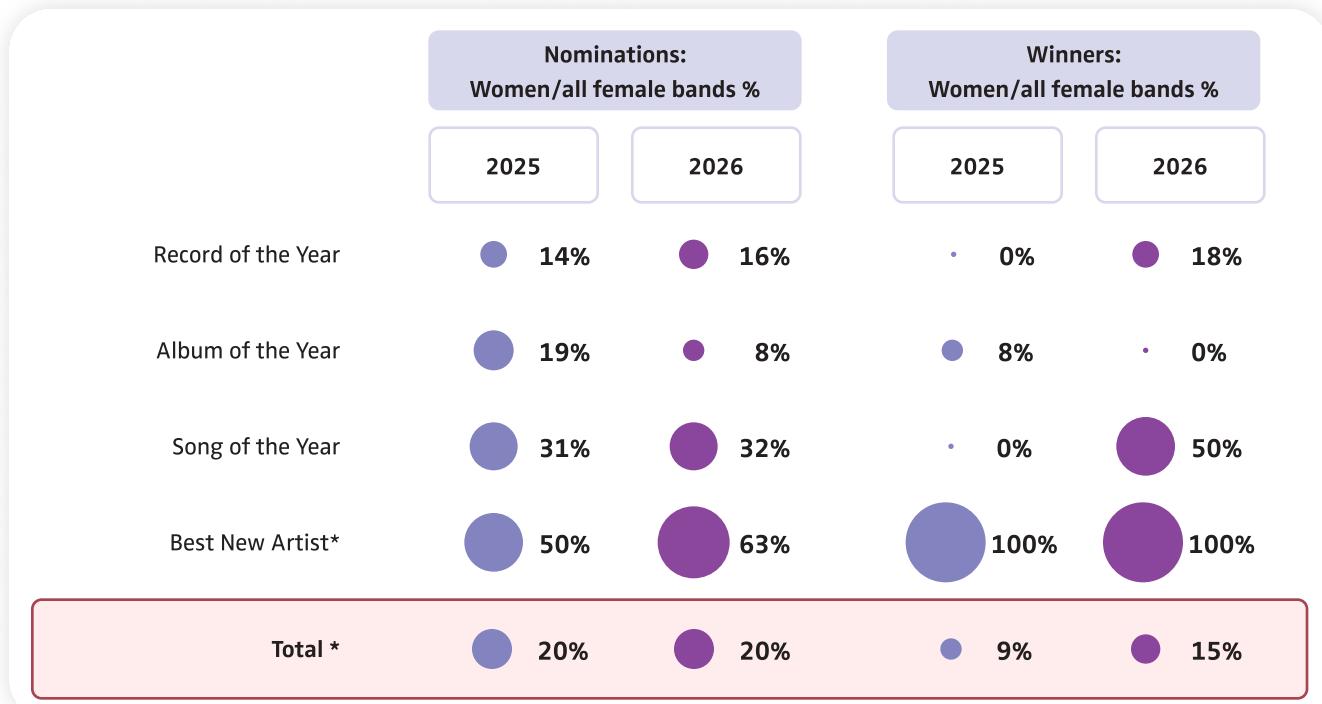


*Translated into two out of 50 nominations being women between 2017 and 2026

Source: The Missing Voices of Women in Music and Music News, and new AKAS analysis.

Only 1 in 5 nominations for the “big four” awards have gone to women this year. The fall in women’s recognition levels has been steepest for Album of the Year

Gender breakdown of the top four Grammy awards nomination categories for 2025 and 2026

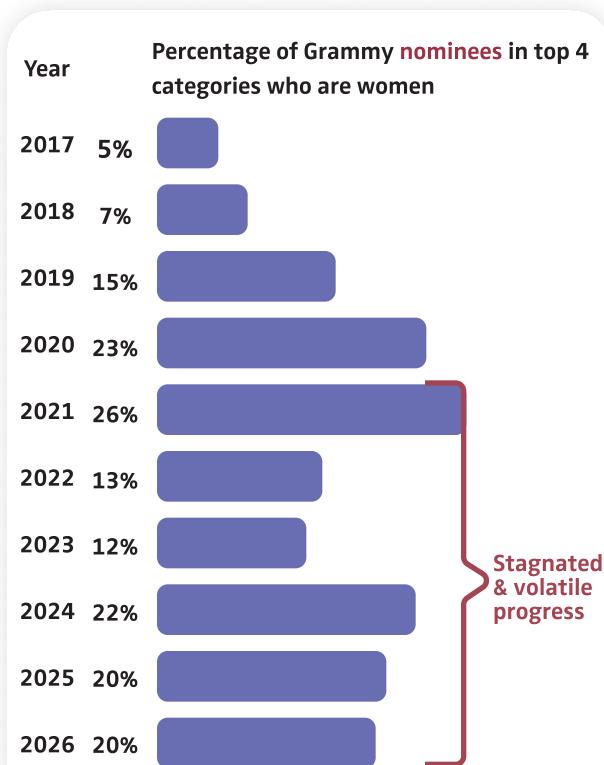


* The total has been calculated by adding up the number of women/all female bands and dividing by all nominations, not by averaging the percentages within each category

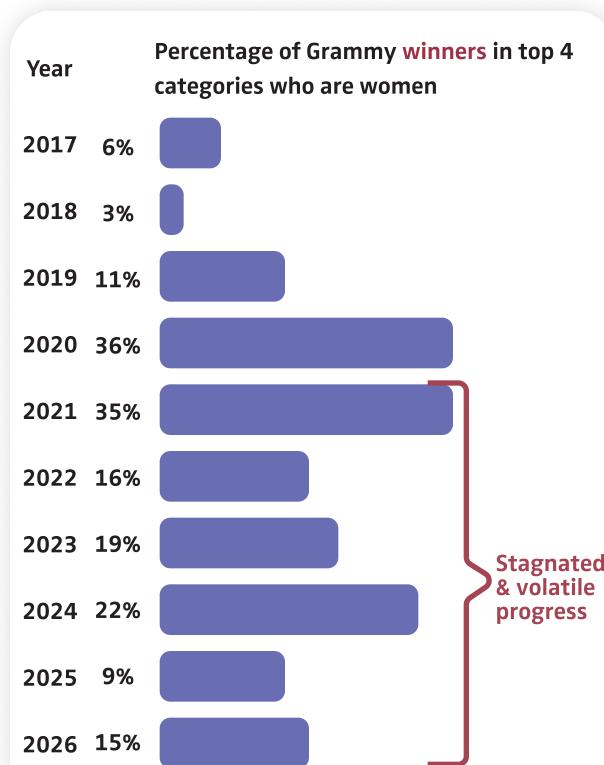
Source: AKAS analysis of https://naras.a.bigcontent.io/v1/static/68th_Awards_PressList_11072025, and from The Missing Voices of Women in Music and Music News

The longer-term trends show that in the last seven years little progress has been made in improving women's representation in the highest profile Grammy categories, either as nominees or as winners

Percentage of women nominees in top 4 Grammy award categories (2017 – 2026)



Percentage of women winners in top 4 Grammy award categories (2017 – 2026)



The scant proportion of nominations for women is driven by their structural under-representation in key positions like **songwriter**, **producer**, **engineer/mixer** and **mastering engineer**

- Out of the 74 Grammy nominations for **songwriters** across the Album of the Year and Song of the Year categories in 2026, 15 were held by women (**20%**)
- Out of the 49 Grammy nominations for **producers** across the Album of the Year and Record of the Year categories, only 6 were held by women (**12%**)
- Out of the 76 nominations for **engineers/mixers** across the Album of the Year and Record of the Year categories, only 5 were held by women (**6.5%**)
- Out of the 17 nominations for **mastering engineers** across the Album of the Year and Record of the Year categories, none were held by women (**0%**)

Appendix 1

Methodology





How we calculated the gender shares in the 2026 Grammy winners and nominations

- 1 The **nominations lists** containing **1,370 nominations** from the [Grammy website](#) were entered into an excel spreadsheet and ordered by the categories. There are a total of **95 categories** for the **68th Grammy Awards** (previously 94). According to the official Grammys [press release](#), these include two new categories: Best Album Cover and Best Traditional Country Album. The former Best Country Album category has subsequently been renamed as Best Contemporary Country Album. The existing Best Recording Package and Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package categories have been combined into one single category: Best Recording Package
- 2 Grammy **nomination gender tags** were attached to all named entities (individual or groups) including songwriters, producers, mixers, engineers, art directors, composers, and conductors.
- 3 **Each nomination was allocated to one of the following eight gender-related categories:** male single artist; all-male group (group of 10 or more); female single artist; all-female group (group of 10 or more); mixed group (group of 10 or more); non-binary artist; all non-binary group; and other combinations. Where an artist was part of a group with fewer than 10 members, that artist was eligible to receive an individual nomination tag. Where an artist was part of a group with 10 or more members, that artist was not eligible for an individual nomination tag with the whole group instead just receiving one Grammy nomination.
- 4 Where the nominated artist listed as a headline artist also held another role (e.g. producer), it was assumed that the **artist would only receive one Grammy**.
- 5 Where the artist was anonymous or the award nominees could not be verified, they were coded under the "other" category.
- 6 A **calculation was made of the proportion of the nominations in each category** for the 2026 Grammys who were women or all-female groups.
- 7 The **winners' gender shares** were calculated by highlighting and adding up the relevant nomination that won a Grammy award using the calculation set out in no. 3 above.

Appendix 2

Nominations - Details for the highest-profile four categories



Category 1

Record Of The Year

Award to the Artist and to the Producer(s), Recording Engineer(s) and/or Mixer(s) and Mastering Engineer(s), if other than the artist.

No	Record	Artist	Artists
1	DtMF	Bad Bunny	Scotty Dittrich, JULIA LEWiS, Hydra Hitz, La Pacienza, MAG & Tyler Spry, producers; Antonio Caraballo, Josh Gudwin, Roberto Rosado & Tyler Spry, engineers/mixers; Colin Leonard, mastering engineer Track from: DeBÍ TiRAR MÁS FoToS
2	Manchild	Sabrina Carpenter	Jack Antonoff & Sabrina Carpenter, producers; Jack Antonoff, Bryce Bordone, Jozef Caldwell, Serban Ghenea, Sean Hutchinson, Oli Jacobs, Michael Riddleberger & Laura Sisk, engineers/mixers; Ruairí O'Flaherty, mastering engineer
3	Anxiety	Doechii	Doechii, producer; Jayda Love, engineer/mixer; Nicolas De Porcel, mastering engineer
4	Wildflower	Billie Eilish	FINNEAS, producer; Jon Castelli, Aron Forbes & FINNEAS, engineers/mixers; Dale Becker, mastering engineer Track from: HIT ME HARD AND SOFT
5	Abracadabra	Lady Gaga	Cirkut, Lady Gaga & Andrew Watt, producers; Bryce Bordone, Serban Ghenea & Paul LaMalfa, engineers/mixers; Randy Merrill, mastering engineer Track from: MAYHEM
6	luther	Kendrick Lamar With SZA	Jack Antonoff, Bridgeway, M-Tech, roselilah, Sounwave & Kamasi Washington, producers; Jack Antonoff, Ray Charles Brown Jr., Hector Castro, Oli Jacobs, Jack Manning, Sean Matsukawa, Dani Perez, Tony Shepperd, Laura Sisk & Johnathan Turner, engineers/mixers; Ruairí O'Flaherty, mastering engineer Track from: Gnx
7	The Subway	Chappell Roan	Daniel Nigro, producer; Chris Kaysch, Mitch McCarthy & Daniel Nigro, engineers/mixers; Randy Merrill, mastering engineer
8	APT.	ROSÉ, Bruno Mars	Rogét Chahayed, Cirkut, Omer Fedi & Bruno Mars, producers; Serban Ghenea, Charles Moniz & Julian Vasquez, engineers/mixers; Chris Gehringer, mastering engineer

Category 2

Album Of The Year

Award to Artist(s) and to Featured Artist(s), Songwriter(s) of new material, Producer(s), Recording Engineer(s), Mixer(s) and Mastering Engineer(s) credited with 20% or more playing time of the album.

No	Album	Artist	Artists
1	DeBÍ TIRAR MÁS FOTOS	Bad Bunny	Big Jay, La Paciencia, MAG & Tainy, producers; Antonio Caraballo, Josh Gudwin, Luis Amed Irizarry & Roberto José Rosado Torres, engineers/mixers; Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, Roberto José Rosado Torres, Marco Daniel Borrero, Jay Anthony Nuñez & Marcos Efrain Masis, songwriters; Colin Leonard, mastering engineer
2	SWAG	Justin Bieber	Eddie Benjamin, Justin Bieber, Daniel Chetrit, Dijon, Carter Lang & Dylan Wiggins, producers; Felix Byrne & Josh Gudwin, engineers/mixers; Eddie Benjamin, Justin Bieber, Daniel Chetrit, Dijon Duenas, Tobias Jesso Jr., Carter Lang, Jackson Lee Morgan & Dylan Wiggins, songwriters; Dale Becker, mastering engineer
3	Man's Best Friend	Sabrina Carpenter	Jack Antonoff, Sabrina Carpenter & John Ryan, producers; Zem Adu, Jack Antonoff, Bryce Bordone, Jozef Caldwell, Serban Ghenea, Jeff Gunnell, David Hart, Mikey Freedom Hart, Sean Hutchinson, Oli Jacobs, Jack Manning, Joey Miller, Michael Riddleberger, John Ryan, Laura Sisk & Evan Smith, engineers/mixers; Amy Allen, Jack Antonoff, Sabrina Carpenter & John Ryan, songwriters; Nathan Dantzler & Ruairí O'Flaherty, mastering engineers
4	Let God Sort Em Out	Clipse, Pusha T & Malice	Pharrell Williams, featured artist; Pharrell Williams, producer; Mike Larson, Manny Marroquin, Rob Ulsh & Pharrell Williams, engineers/mixers; Gene Elliott Thornton Jr., Terrence Thornton & Pharrell Williams, songwriters; Zach Pereyra, mastering engineer
5	MAYHEM	Lady Gaga	Cirkut, Lady Gaga, Gesaffelstein & Andrew Watt, producers; Bryce Bordone, Serban Ghenea & Paul LaMalfa, engineers/mixers; Henry Walter, Lady Gaga, Mike Levy, Michael Polansky & Andrew Watt, songwriters; Randy Merrill, mastering engineer
6	GNX	Kendrick Lamar	Jack Antonoff & Sounwave, producers; Jack Antonoff, Ray Charles Brown Jr., Jozef Caldwell, Oli Jacobs, Jack Manning, Dani Perez, Laura Sisk & Johnathan Turner, engineers/mixers; Jack Antonoff, Ink, Scott Bridgewater, Sam Dew, Kendrick Lamar, Matthew Bernard & Mark Anthony Spears, songwriters; Ruairí O'Flaherty, mastering engineer
7	MUTT	Leon Thomas	Freaky Rob, Peter Lee Johnson, D. Phelps & Leon Thomas, producers; Jean-Marie Horvat, engineer/mixer; Lazaro Andres Camejo, Freaky Rob, Peter Lee Johnson, D. Phelps & Leon Thomas, songwriters; Dave Kutch, mastering engineer
8	CHROMAKO PIA	Tyler, The Creator	Tyler, The Creator, producer; NealHPogue, Tyler Okonma & Vic Wainstein, engineers/mixers; Tyler Okonma, songwriter; Mike Bozzi, mastering engineer

Category 3

Song Of The Year

A Songwriter(s) Award. A song is eligible if it was first released or if it first achieved prominence during the Eligibility Year. (Artist names appear in parentheses.) Singles or Tracks only.

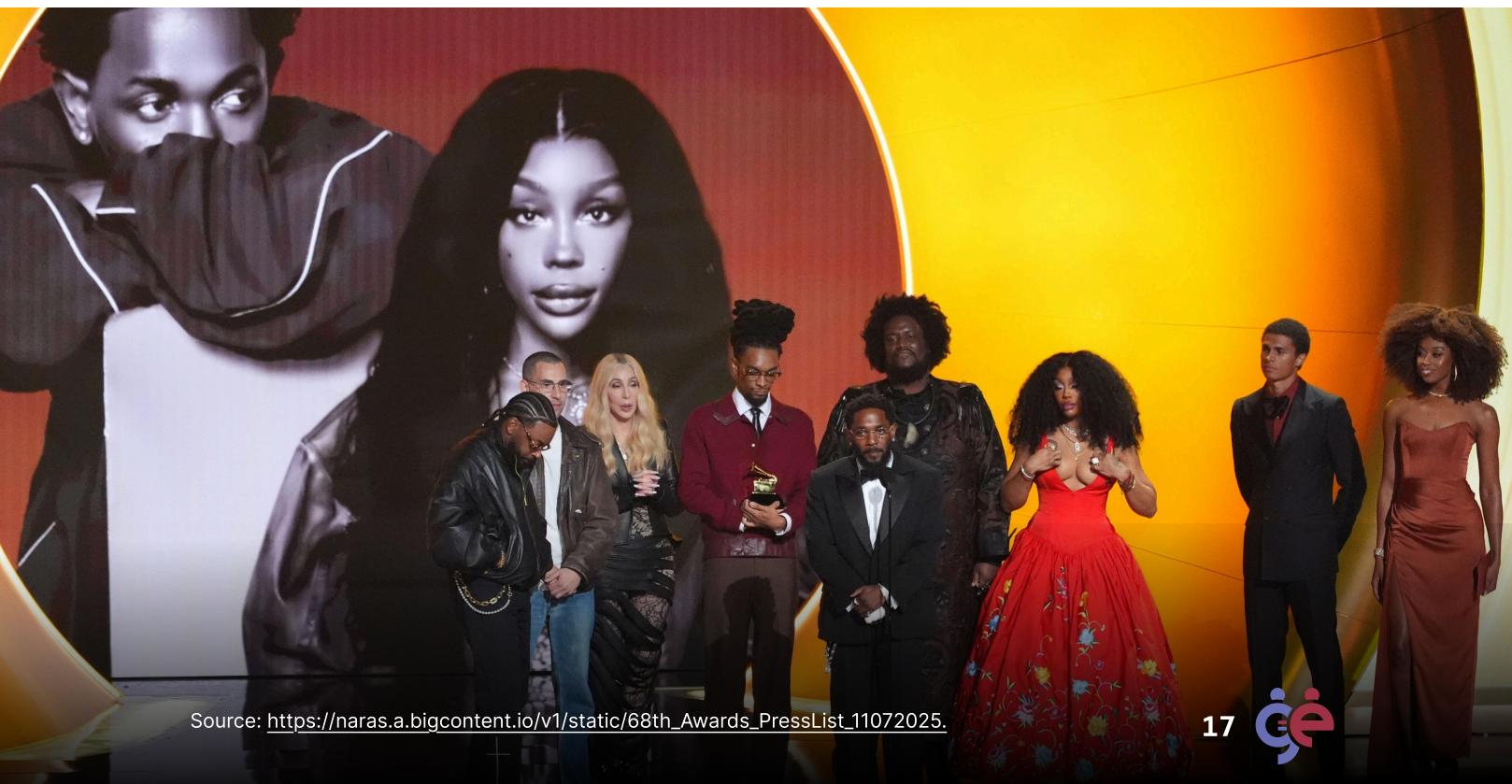
No	Song	Artist	Songwriters
1	Abracadabra	Lady Gaga	Henry Walter, Lady Gaga & Andrew Watt
2	Anxiety	Doechii	Jaylah Hickmon
3	APT.	ROSE, Bruno Mars	Amy Allen, Christopher Brody Brown, Rogét Chahayed, Henry Walter, Omer Fedi, Philip Lawrence, Bruno Mars, Chae Young Park & Theron Thomas
4	DtMF	Bad Bunny	Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, Scott Dittrich, Benjamin Falik, Roberto José Rosado Torres, Marco Daniel Borrero, Hugo René Sencion Sanabria & Tyler Thomas Spry
5	Golden (From "KPop Demon Hunters")	HUNTR/X: EJAE, Audrey Nuna, REI AMI	EJAE & Mark Sonnenblick
6	luther	Kendrick Lamar With SZA	Jack Antonoff, Roshwita Larisha Bacha, Matthew Bernard, Ink, Scott Bridgeway, Sam Dew, Kendrick Lamar, Mark Anthony Spears, Solána Rowe & Kamasi Washington
7	Manchild	Sabrina Carpenter	Amy Allen, Jack Antonoff & Sabrina Carpenter
8	WILDFLOWER	Billie Eilish	Billie Eilish O'Connell & Finneas O'Connell

Category 4

Best New Artist

This category recognizes an artist whose eligibility-year release(s) achieved a breakthrough into the public consciousness and notably impacted the musical landscape.

No	Artist
1	Olivia Dean
2	KATSEYE
3	The Marias
4	Addison Rae
5	sombr
6	Leon Thomas
7	Alex Warren
8	Lola Young



Appendix 3

Authors' Biogs





Luba Kassova is the main author of The Missing Voices of Women in Music and Music News and its three multi-award-winning forerunners: From Outrage to Opportunity, The Missing Perspectives of Women in News, and The Missing Perspectives of Women in COVID-19 News. A co-founder of international audience strategy consultancy AKAS, Luba is a researcher, journalist and strategist for purpose-led organisations, having previously headed up the Audiences team for BBC News. Her evidence-based reports/articles anchored in human stories have been published or quoted in more than 300 news outlets across 80 countries, including in The Conversation, The Guardian, Fortune, The Independent and Foreign Policy. Luba is currently working towards a PhD at the University of Westminster, examining the absence of women's perspectives along the news value chain and the detrimental impact of this on women and society as a whole.



Richard Addy is the report's lead for the quantitative research analyses. A co-founder of AKAS, Richard has over 30 years' experience as a strategist and has advised CEOs, organisational leaders, and previously government ministers in his role as a government economist. Richard has developed an impacts reporting framework used by leading news organisations including The Guardian, AP News, BBC World Service, El País, The Daily Telegraph, NPR, CNN, Der Spiegel and Le Monde. Prior to setting up AKAS, Richard was the chief adviser on strategic and audience issues to the BBC's Deputy Director General who was responsible for BBC News locally, nationally and internationally. He is a Board member of theguardian.org and Africa No Filter. He has previously served on the BBC's Journalism Board, Mind's Board of Trustees and USC Annenberg's Media Impact Project. Richard has a BSc in Economics from Warwick University and an MSc in Economics from Birkbeck College, University of London.



Hannan Rais is the project's research and operational assistant. She has been particularly instrumental in developing the secondary research database for the project. Hannan is an experienced and established virtual assistant and researcher who has worked extensively in the broadcast media industry. At BBC News, where she worked for 10 years, Hannan was the Personal Assistant to two BBC News board members whose remits covered strategy, finance, production, and change. Hannan holds a BA in History from Queen Mary University of London.



Judy Nagle has provided proofreading and copy-editing services for this report, having also contributed to the preceding Missing Perspectives titles. Her aim throughout has been to enhance the clarity and accessibility of the text, while maintaining the author's distinctive voice. Since establishing her language review services in 2015, her client base has grown to include academics at universities in Italy, Switzerland, and Spain as well as UK commercial clients. Judy holds an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and a Diploma in Strategic Management from Birkbeck College, University of London.



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AKAS, an international audience strategy and impact measurement consultancy, is the engine behind the multiple research methods that underpin this report. It supports original journalism and advises media, international institutions, philanthropic foundations, NGOs and other purpose-led organisations. In a world where polarisation is an ever-growing threat, AKAS aspires to unify people and organisations by deepening their understanding of themselves and others.