



WILLIE NELSON TO BE HONORED AT RECORDING ACADEMY™ PRODUCERS & ENGINEERS WING® 12TH ANNUAL GRAMMY® WEEK CELEBRATION

EIGHT-TIME GRAMMY® AWARD WINNER WILL BE HONORED ON FEB. 6, 2019, AT THE VILLAGE STUDIOS IN LOS ANGELES

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (OCT. 30, 2018)—The Recording Academy™ Producers & Engineers Wing® will honor eight-time GRAMMY® Award winner Willie Nelson at its annual GRAMMY Week celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, at The Village Studios in West Los Angeles. Now in its 12th year, this event will celebrate the artistic achievements and creative genius of Nelson, one of the music industry's most beloved icons. The event also acknowledges the overall industry contributions of the Producers & Engineers Wing's more than 6,400 professional members. GRAMMY Week culminates with the 61st Annual GRAMMY Awards® on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, airing live on the CBS Television Network, at 7:30 p.m. ET/PT.

"Willie Nelson has inspired generations of musicians and fans, and continues to set precedents of excellence within the music community," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of the Recording Academy. "We are privileged to pay tribute this year to an industry pioneer who perfectly embodies the tireless efforts of the Producers & Engineers Wing as we continue to raise awareness of the ever-evolving climate of sound quality and the increasing interest in the preservation and integrity of recorded music."

"Each year, the Recording Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing annual GRAMMY week event honors members of the recording community who exhibit exceptional standards of integrity, creativity, and sonic quality," said Maureen Droney, Managing Director of the Recording Academy Producers & Engineers Wing. "We are thrilled to pay homage to Willie Nelson, an undeniable icon with an incomparable—and uncompromising—body of work."

With a six-decade career and more than 200 albums, Nelson is the creative force behind historic recordings such as "Crazy," *Red Headed Stranger*, and *Stardust*. He has earned innumerable accolades as a songwriter and musician, while also amassing admirable credentials as an author, actor, and activist, and he continues to thrive as a relevant and progressive musical and cultural force. A leading figure in outlaw country music, he is also known for his hugely successful collaborations with Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard, Julio Iglesias, and with the Highwaymen supergroup (Johnny Cash, Jennings, Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson). Never one to play it safe, his distinctive style combines elements of jazz, blues, swing, honky-tonk, traditional pop, folk, and rock. During the past 10 years, Nelson has delivered 14 new albums, released the Top 10 *New York Times*' bestselling book, *It's A Long Story: My Life*, and continues to headline Farm Aid, an event he co-founded in 1985. Additionally, Nelson has headlined three years of the ongoing Luck Reunion food and music festival at his ranch in Luck, Texas, during SXSW, announced the launch of his cannabis company Willie's Reserve, and graced the cover of *Rolling Stone* magazine. Nelson continues to record more new songs for upcoming projects as well as touring throughout North America. His latest 2018 release is a tribute to the songs sung by Frank Sinatra, titled, fittingly, *My Way*; and he just



recently debuted a new single, "Vote 'Em Out." In addition to eight GRAMMY Awards, Nelson has been recognized by the Recording Academy with the President's Merit Award (1986), GRAMMY Legend Award (1990), and Lifetime Achievement Award (2000).

Previous Producers & Engineers Wing honorees include:

- 2009—Ahmet & Nesuhi Ertegun; Jerry Wexler; Arif Mardin & Tom Dowd
- 2010—Chris Blackwell
- 2011—T Bone Burnett
- 2012—Jimmy Iovine
- 2013—Quincy Jones & Al Schmitt
- 2014—Neil Young
- 2015—Nile Rodgers
- 2016—Rick Rubin
- 2017—Jack White
- 2018—Alicia Keys & Swizz Beatz

ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music's history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum®, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares®, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards—music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.

For more information about the Academy and its Producers & Engineers Wing, please visit www.grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](#), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#), and [YouTube](#).

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