**BMI HONORS TAYLOR SWIFT AND LEGENDARY SONGWRITING DUO
MANN & WEIL AT THE 64TH ANNUAL BMI POP AWARDS**

***Taylor Swift named Songwriter of the Year; “Uptown Funk” awarded Song of the Year;* Sony/ATV Publishing presented with Publisher of the Year**

BEVERLY HILLS, CA (May 10, 2016) – [**Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)**](http://www.bmi.com), a global leader in music rights management, celebrated the songwriters and publishers behind the year’s most-performed pop songs at the **64th Annual BMI Pop Awards**, held May 10 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Global superstar **Taylor Swift** was presented with the first-ever **Taylor Swift Award**, a special award bearing her name in recognition of her incomparable creative and artistic talent and influence on music lovers around the world. This is only the second time in BMI’s 76-year history that the company has presented an award in someone’s name. The first was to Michael Jackson in 1990.

The accomplished lyricist also took home the coveted BMI Pop Songwriter of the Year title once again for penning four of the year’s most-performed songs from her hit album *1989*; “Bad Blood,” “Blank Space,” “Style,” and “Wildest Dreams.”

Songwriting visionaries **Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil** were awarded the **BMI Icon Award** for their indelible contributions to the craft of songwriting. The SoCal VoCals, University of Southern California’s premiere acapella group, paid homage to the prolific songwriting team with a musical tribute. The talented vocalists performed a medley of Mann and Weil’s most iconic songs including “We Gotta Get Out Of This Place,” “Just Once,” “You’re My Soul and Inspiration,” “On Broadway,” “Somewhere Out There,” and “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling.”

Throughout the evening, the 50 best performing songs in BMI’s vast catalogue were named leading up to the announcement of the BMI Pop Song of the Year. Jeff Bhasker, Devon Gallaspy, Trinidad James, Mark Ronson, Lonnie Simmons, Rudy Taylor, Charlie Wilson, Robert Wilson and Ronnie Wilson shared that honor for their infectious Grammy-winning hit “Uptown Funk.” Sony/ATV Publishing claimed the prestigious BMI Pop Publisher of the Year crystal with 23 of year’s most performed songs.

The **64th Annual** **BMI Pop Awards** were hosted by BMI President & CEO Mike O’Neill and BMI Vice President of Writer/Publisher Relations Barbara Cane. For a complete list of 2016 winners, visit [bmi.com](http://www.bmi.com).

High-resolution photos and video footage will be available for download from BMI.com by 8:00 AM EST on May 11th- <http://www.epklink.com/bmipopawards2016>

**ABOUT BMI:**

Celebrating over 75 years of service to songwriters, composers, music publishers and businesses, Broadcast Music, Inc.® (BMI®) is a global leader in music rights management, serving as an advocate for the value of music. BMI represents the public performance rights in more than 10.5 million musical works created and owned by more than 700,000 songwriters, composers, and music publishers. The Company negotiates music license agreements and distributes the fees it generates as royalties to its affiliated writers and publishers when their songs are performed in public. In 1939, BMI created a groundbreaking open-door policy becoming the only performing rights organization to welcome and represent the creators of blues, jazz, country, and American roots music. Today, the musical compositions in BMI's repertoire, from chart toppers to perennial favorites, span all genres of music and are consistently among the most-performed hits of the year. For additional information and the latest BMI news, visit [www.bmi.com](http://www.bmi.com), follow us on Twitter [@BMI](http://www.twitter.com/bmi) or stay connected through Broadcast Music, Inc.'s[Facebook page](http://www.facebook.com/broadcastmusicinc).

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