**MARIO QUINTERO LARA AND SEBASTIAN KRYS HONORED AT THE 26TH ANNUAL BMI** **LATIN AWARDS**

***Quintero Received BMI President’s Award and Krys Presented with
BMI Champion Award***

***Ozuna, Vicente Saavedra, J Balvin, Espinoza Paz, Omar Robles and Sony/ATV Music Publishing Among Honorees at the Annual Ceremony in Beverly Hills***

**BEVERLY HILLS, CA, (March 20, 2019) —** [**BMI® (Broadcast Music, Inc.®)**](http://www.bmi.com/) presented the **26th Annual BMI Latin Awards** last nighthonoring legendary Mexican singer-songwriter **Mario Quintero Lara** with the **BMI President’s Award** and renowned producer **Sebastian Krys** with the **BMI Champion Award**. During the private ceremony BMI also saluted the top Latin songwriters, publishers and administrators of the past year’s most-performed Spanish-language songs in the United States. BMI President & CEO **Mike O’Neill** and BMI Vice President of Creative, Latin Music **Delia Orjuela** hosted the ceremony at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

Quintero received the BMI President’s Award, the highest honor of the evening, for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the Latin music community. Throughout his three-decade-long career, the multiple award-winning frontman for Los Tucanes de Tijuana has recorded 35 full-length albums, sold 14 million records worldwide and received 30 platinum and 34 gold certifications from the RIAA. Quintero joins an esteemed list of previous President’s Award recipients including Luis Fonsi, Gloria Trevi, Sergio George, Carlos Vives, Pitbull and Juanes, among others.

After receiving his award, Quintero was joined by his band Los Tucanes de Tijuana and brought the audience to their feet with a special performance of some of their greatest hits including “El Tucanazo,” “La Chica Sexy,” “Me Gusta Vivir De Noche,” and “La Chona.”

Earlier in the evening Krys was presented with BMI’s Champion Award, which honors individuals for their exceptional artistry as well as a commitment to philanthropy. Krys, the first producer to receive this award, was recognized for his work as the founder of Los Producers, an annual concert that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for various charities around the world. He is also a multiple GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY winner, has produced more than 300 albums and worked with an array of artists including Elvis Costello, Alejandro Sanz, Carlos Vives, La Santa Cecilia, Luis Fonsi, Camila, Gloria Estefan, Shakira and Enrique Iglesias, to name a few. As a special surprise, GRAMMY-winning Latin pop/rock band La Santa Cecilia took to the stage for a rousing performance of their hit single “Todo Cambia” in honor of their longstanding working relationship the with decorated producer. Krys joins previous BMI Champion Award recipients including Residente, Mark Ronson, and Keith Urban, among others.

In addition, BMI’s Deirdre Chadwick presented the BMI Foundation’s 16th annual peermusic Latin Scholarship to University of Miami’s Frost School of Music student Julia Calvo-Junkin for her single “Mi Amor.”

The top songwriters, publishers and administrators of the previous year’s best performing Latin songs were also saluted throughout the ceremony. Puerto Rican music superstars **Ozuna** and **Vicente Saavedra** tied for Contemporary Latin Songwriter of the Year for writing a record-breaking nine of the most-performed Latin songs of 2018 including “Ahora Dice,” “Criminal,” “El Farsante,” “Escápate Conmigo,” “La Modelo,” “La Rompe Corazones,” “Se Preparó,” “Te Boté (Remix),” and “Tu Foto.” Colombian superstar
**J Balvin** took home the coveted Contemporary Latin Song of the Year award for his groundbreaking hit “Mi Gente,” from his platinum-selling album Vibras, and music video which amassed more than two billion views on YouTube. **Espinoza Paz** was named Regional Mexican Songwriter of the Year for penning three of the evening’s most-performed regional Mexican songs including “Ésta Es Tu Canción,” “Las Cosas No Se Hacen Así,” and “Ojalá Que Me Olvides,” and **Omar Robles** nabbed the coveted title of Regional Mexican Song of the Year for writing “El Color de Tus Ojos.” **Sony/ATV Music Publishing** secured the prestigious BMI Latin Publisher of the Year award for the fourth year in a row, with 13 of the most-performed songs among their repertoire.

**For a complete list of 2019 BMI Latin Awards winners, please visit:**
[**https://www.bmi.com/news/entry/2019-bmi-latin-awards**](https://www.bmi.com/news/entry/2019-bmi-latin-awards)

**High-resolution photos of awards, performances and video footage can be downloaded here:**
[**https://www.image.net/bmilatinawards2019**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.image.net%2Fbmilatinawards2019&data=02%7C01%7Cdavid.adelson%40gettyimages.com%7C9b3b171b33704c5dcaa908d6a3ffb723%7C789f34702a5c436fac2ddde981d2f3dc%7C1%7C0%7C636876716042290710&sdata=zarzeGEQVGiEYorp2CS0gZFxZ7wcBzIaWZxCfrihzS8%3D&reserved=0)

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