Recording Academy™ Producers & Engineers Wing® 12th Annual GRAMMY® Week Celebration Honors Willie Nelson Alongside Music's studio professionals

**Annual Event Honored Nine-time GRAMMY** **Winner Willie Nelson for his Commitment to Creative and Sonic Excellence and his Ongoing Support for the Art and Craft of Recorded Music**

**Santa Monica, Calif**. (FEB. 22, 2019) — Returning to California after last year’s sojourn in New York City for the 60th anniversary of the GRAMMY Awards®, the Recording Academy Producers & Engineers Wing once again presented its highly anticipated GRAMMY® Week celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019. Held at The Village Studios in West Los Angeles, the event, now in its 12th year, marked the official start of GRAMMY Week, which culminated with the 6**1st Annual GRAMMY Awards**® on **Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019,** airing live on the **CBS Television Network.**

This year's gathering featured the presentation of the President's Merit Award to Willie Nelson, recognizing both his commitment to creative and sonic excellence and his ongoing support for the art and craft of recorded music. The nine-time GRAMMY® winning artist Willie Nelson is now added to the decade-plus list of honorees chosen for their singular contributions to music production: Chris Blackwell, T Bone Burnett, Tom Dowd, Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegun, Jimmy Iovine, Quincy Jones, Arif Mardin, Nile Rodgers, Rick Rubin, Al Schmitt, Jerry Wexler, Neil Young, Jack White, Alicia Keys, and Kaseem Dean (aka Swizz Beatz). The event also acknowledges the overall industry contributions of the Producers & Engineers Wing’s more than 6,400 professional members.

Music industry luminaries and GRAMMY nominees and winners including Kacey Musgraves (this year's Album of The Year recipient) packed this star-studded evening, which featured a surprise performance by Dave Matthews, who opened the musical portion of the ceremony. Guests included such notable figures as Diane Warren, Daniel Lanois, Emily Lazar, Ryan Bingham, Larry Klein, Jimmy Jam, Mindi Abair, Lisa Loeb, Linda Perry, Sylvia Massy, Citizen Cope, Ziggy and Orly Marley, Dennis Quaid, Lili Haydn, "Weird Al" Yankovic, Protoje and a host of others.

Village Studios CEO Jeff Greenberg began the program by welcoming attendees, after which P&E Wing co-chairs Ivan Barias and Ann Mincieli highlighted the accomplishments of the P&E Wing and its members. After heartfelt introductions by P&E Wing Managing Director Maureen Droney, Musgraves and producer Buddy Cannon, Nelson was presented with the award by Recording Academy President/CEO Neil Portnow.

"Willie has this unique ability to unite and really bring people together," said Musgraves during remarks. "Underdogs, outliers, Republicans, rappers, presidents—everyone loves Willie."

Nelson accepted the award, saying, “I want to thank the producers and engineers over the years for making me sound as good as I could. I’m glad they liked me, because they really could have screwed me up!”

After the presentation, Nelson's two sons Lukas and Micah Nelson joined Matthews on stage to make the performance a family affair. Backed by a minimal yet soulful band, they launched into "Crazy," easily one of Nelson's most ubiquitous compositions, which was made ultra-famous by Patsy Cline's 1961 version, followed by a medley compiled by Lukas and Micah featuring some of their father's favorite songs: "I Thought About You, Lord," "Time Of The Preacher Theme" and "Hands On The Wheel." After performing these classics, Lukas invited his father on stage saying, "Dad, do you want to come out here for 'Promiseland'?" Nelson Sr. obliged, adding some lead guitar work behind the voices of Matthews and his two sons. For a closer, the Nelson supergroup fired up "On The Road Again" for the delighted audience.

This year, Dolby Laboratories joined Iron Mountain Entertainment Services as a Premier Sponsor for the event. Iron Mountain's involvement is an extension of its ongoing year-round partnership with the Wing. Event sponsor partners included Shure, Music Marketing (representing the brands Celemony, NUGEN Audio and FabFilter), Jaxsta, Audio-Technica, BMI, iZotope, Lurssen Mastering, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management, Louisiana Entertainment, AFM & SAG-AFTRA Intellectual Property Rights Distribution Fund, and Joe D’Ambrosio Management.

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](http://www.grammy.com). For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/recordingacad?lang=en), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RecordingAcademy/), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/recordingacademy/), [Tumblr](http://www.recordingacademy.tumblr.com/), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheGRAMMYs).

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Photo file 1: PE\_GRAMMYWeek2019\_Photo1\_WillieNeil.JPG

Photo caption 1: The Recording Academy President/CEO Neil Portnow (left) honors Willie Nelson (right) onstage during the Recording Academy™ Producers & Engineers Wing® 12th annual GRAMMY Week celebration at Village Studios on February 6, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. Photo credit: Michael Kovac/Getty Images. © 2019.

Photo file 2: PE\_GRAMMYWeek2019\_Photo2\_DaveMatthews.JPG

Photo caption 2: Pictured L-R: Micah Nelson, Mickey Raphael, Dave Matthews, Lukas Nelson, and Corey McCormick perform onstage during the Recording Academy™ Producers & Engineers Wing® 12th annual GRAMMY Week celebration at Village Studios on February 6, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. Photo credit: Michael Kovac/Getty Images. © 2019.

Photo file 3: PE\_GRAMMYWeek2019\_Photo3\_MaureenDroney.JPG

Photo caption 3: Recording Academy™ P&E Wing Managing Director Maureen Droney addresses the crowd at the Recording Academy™ Producers & Engineers Wing® 12th annual GRAMMY Week celebration at Village Studios on February 6, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. Photo credit: Matt Winkelmeyer/Getty Images. © 2019.

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