

# WHO'S WRITING THE HITS?

2014  
IN REVIEW

**199** CREDITED  
SONGWRITERS

**59** TOP 10  
HIT SONGS

**1** HIT SONGWRITING  
CHAMPION

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## INTRODUCTION

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Unless you're in the music industry or a hardcore music fan, names such as Max Martin, Benny Blanco, Henry Walter, and Savan Kotecha probably don't ring a bell. Most casual music fans are completely unaware that today's mainstream hits are crafted by teams of behind-the-scenes writers and performing artists, all of whom work together toward one core goal – getting their music to as many ears as possible.

They come from all around the world – male and female, young and “old” (by mainstream standards) and a range of ethnicities. Despite their differences, they all share a few core attributes - they're masters at their craft, persistent, in tune with the artist's core target audience, and blessed with a stroke of luck.

This e-book was written to both give well-deserved recognition to these hitmakers as well as to acquaint aspiring songwriters and producers with the people they should be studying to help take their craft to the next level and gear them for success in **TODAY'S** music industry.

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## OVERVIEW

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In 2014, 199 credited songwriters were involved in crafting the 59 songs that charted within the Top 10 of the Hot 100. One surpassed all others with 8; 29 scored two or more. The highest honor - a #1 hit - was attained by 51.

Among them are seasoned hitmakers such as Max Martin and Dr. Luke, and others are relative newcomers such as Jimmy Napes, Meghan Trainor, and Sam Smith, the latter two of whom are also the performing artists.

Above all, 2014 was about collaboration. Almost ninety percent of songs were co-written by teams consisting of two or more writers. But some solo writers also saw success - one who made people feel very “Happy,” and one whose song had the greatest staying power of all the top 10 hits.

Regardless of how many hits these writers have scored or how high they've charted, they've all attained a distinction that very few songwriters can claim.

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# The Hits

These are the 59 songs that charted within the Billboard Hot 100 Top 10 during 2014.

- "A SKY FULL OF STARS" Coldplay
- "AIN'T IT FUN" Paramore
- "ALL ABOUT THAT BASS" Meghan Trainor
- "ALL OF ME" John Legend
- "AM I WRONG" Nico & Vinz
- "ANACONDA" Nicki Minaj
- "ANIMALS" Maroon 5
- "BANG BANG" Jessie J, Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj
- "BLACK WIDOW" Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora
- "BLANK SPACE" Taylor Swift
- "BOOM CLAP" Charli XCX
- "BREAK FREE" Ariana Grande featuring Zedd
- "CHANDELIER" Sia
- "COUNTING STARS" OneRepublic
- "DARK HORSE" Katy Perry featuring Juicy J
- "DEMONS" Imagine Dragons
- "DON'T" Ed Sheeran
- "DON'T TELL 'EM" Jeremih featuring YG
- "DRUNK IN LOVE" Beyonce featuring Jay Z
- "FANCY" Iggy Azalea featuring Charli XCX
- "HABITS (STAY HIGH)" Tove Lo
- "HAPPY" Pharrell Williams
- "HOT BOY" Bobby Shmurda
- "I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE" Sam Smith
- "JEALOUS" Nick Jonas
- "LATCH" Disclosure
- "LET HER GO" Passenger
- "LET IT GO" Idina Menzel
- "LIPS ARE MOVIN'" Meghan Trainor
- "LOVE ME HARDER" Ariana Grande featuring The Weeknd
- "LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD" Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake
- "LOYAL" Chris Brown, Lil Wayne, Tyga
- "MAPS" Maroon 5
- "NOT A BAD THING" Justin Timberlake
- "POMPEII" Bastille
- "PROBLEM" Arianna Grande featuring Iggy Azalea
- "RATHER BE" Clean Bandit featuring Jess Glynne
- "ROAR" Katy Perry
- "ROYALS" Lorde
- "RUDE" Magic!
- "SAY SOMETHING" A Great Big World featuring Christina Aguilera
- "SHAKE IT OFF" Taylor Swift
- "STAY WITH ME" Sam Smith
- "STORY OF MY LIFE" One Direction
- "SUMMER" Calvin Harris
- "TAKE ME TO CHURCH" Hozier
- "TALK DIRTY" Jason Derulo featuring 2 Chainz
- "TEAM" Lorde
- "THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS" Selena Gomez
- "THE MAN" Aloe Blacc
- "THE MONSTER" Eminem featuring Rihanna
- "THINKING OUT LOUD" Ed Sheeran
- "TIMBER" Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha
- "TURN DOWN FOR WHAT" DJ Snake featuring Lil Jon
- "UPTOWN FUNK!" Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars
- "WE MIGHT BE DEAD TOMORROW" Soko
- "WAKE ME UP" Avicii
- "WIGGLE" Jason Derulo featuring Snoop Dogg
- "WRECKING BALL" Miley Cyrus

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# THE HIT SONGWRITING CHAMPION OF 2014

# Max Martin

WHAT DO ARIANA GRANDE, KATY PERRY,  
JESSIE J, AND TAYLOR SWIFT ALL HAVE IN COMMON?

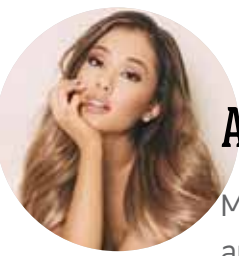
A secret weapon by the name of Karl Martin Sandberg (aka Max Martin).



TAYLOR SWIFT    ARIANA GRANDE

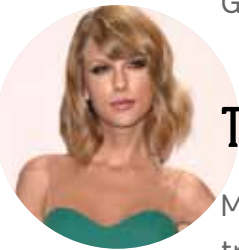
MAX MARTIN  
Karl Martin Sandberg

KATY PERRY    JESSIE J



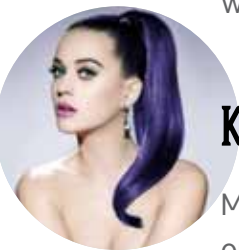
## ARIANA GRANDE

Martin helped establish this young artist as a major player in the mainstream Pop scene by co-writing the top three performing songs from her *My Everything* album – *Break Free*, *Love Me Harder*, and *Problem*. He also co-wrote *Bang Bang*, which features Grande along with Jessie J and Minaj.



## TAYLOR SWIFT

Martin helped make Swift's transformation from a Country/Pop sweetheart into a mainstream Pop superstar a reality. It all began two albums ago with *We Are Never Getting Back Together* and was solidified on her *1989* album with the massively successful *Shake It Off* and *Blank Space*. He also co-wrote five other songs on the *1989* album, all with Swift and four with Shellback.



## KATY PERRY

Martin co-wrote 10 songs that appear on Perry's *Prism* album, two of which were its top-performers - *Dark Horse* and *Roar*. He also played an integral role in establishing her as one of the biggest Pop stars in the world on her previous album, *Teenage Dream*. His co-writes from that album include the chart-toppers *California Gurls*, *E.T.*, *Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)*, *Part Of Me*, and *Teenage Dream*.

# MAX MARTIN'S 2014 TOP 10 HITS

"BLANK SPACE" #1  
Taylor Swift

"DARK HORSE" #1  
Katy Perry featuring Juicy J.

"ROAR" #1  
Katy Perry

"SHAKE IT OFF" #1  
Taylor Swift

"PROBLEM" #2  
Ariana Grande  
featuring Iggy Azalea

"BANG BANG" #3  
Jessie J, Ariana Grande,  
& Nicki Minaj

"BREAK FREE" #4  
Ariana Grande featuring Zedd

"LOVE ME HARDER" #7  
Ariana Grande  
featuring The Weeknd

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# The Key Players

In addition to Max Martin, 29 of the 199 songwriters (15%) scored two or more top 10 hits. Just about half are behind-the-scenes hitmakers such as Benny Blanco, Cirkut, Dr. Luke, Shellback, and Savan Kotecha. The others are performing artists who received a writing credit, including proven hitmakers Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, and Adam Levine.



CIRKUT  
Henry Russell Walter

DR. LUKE  
Lukasz Gottwald

BENNY BLANCO  
Benjamin Levin

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## FOUR TOP 10 HITS

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BENNY BLANCO  
Benjamin Joseph Levin

- #3 "ANIMALS" Maroon 5
  - #3 "BLACK WIDOW" Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora
  - #6 "MAPS" Maroon 5
  - #9 "DON'T" Ed Sheeran
- 



CIRKUT  
Henry Russell Walter

- #1 "DARK HORSE" Katy Perry featuring Juicy J
  - #1 "ROAR" Katy Perry
  - #1 "TIMBER" Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha
  - #1 "WRECKING BALL" Miley Cyrus
- 



JIMMY NAPES  
James John Napier

- #2 "STAY WITH ME" Sam Smith
  - #5 "I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE" Sam Smith
  - #7 "LATCH" Disclosure featuring Sam Smith
  - #10 "RATHER BE" Clean Bandit featuring Jess Glynne
- 



DR. LUKE  
Lukasz Gottwald

- #1 "DARK HORSE" Katy Perry featuring Juicy J
  - #1 "ROAR" Katy Perry
  - #1 "TIMBER" Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha
  - #1 "WRECKING BALL" Miley Cyrus
- 



Savan Harish  
Kotecha

- #2 "PROBLEM" Ariana Grande featuring Iggy Azalea
  - #3 "BANG BANG" Jessie J, Ariana Grande, and Nicki Minaj
  - #4 "BREAK FREE" Ariana Grande featuring Zedd
  - #7 "LOVE ME HARDER" Ariana Grande featuring The Weeknd
-

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## THREE TOP 10 HITS

*\* Indicates a credited writer who is also a performing artist.*

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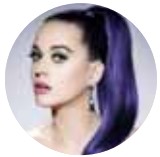
IGGY AZALEA\*  
Amethyst Amelia Kelly

- #1 "FANCY" Iggy Azealea featuring Charli XCX
  - #2 "PROBLEM" Ariana Grande featuring Iggy Azealea
  - #3 "BLACK WIDOW" Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora
- 



SHELLBACK  
Karl Johan Schuster

- #1 "BLANK SPACE" Taylor Swift
  - #1 "SHAKE IT OFF" Taylor Swift
  - #3 "ANIMALS" Maroon 5
- 



KATY PERRY\*  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson

- #1 "DARK HORSE" Katy Perry featuring Juicy J
  - #1 "ROAR" Katy Perry
  - #3 "BLACK WIDOW" Iggy Azealea featuring Rita Ora
- 



SAM SMITH\*  
Samuel Frederick Smith

- #2 "STAY WITH ME" Sam Smith
  - #5 "I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE" Sam Smith
  - #7 "LATCH" Disclosure featuring Sam Smith
-

## TWO TOP 10 HITS

*\* Indicates a credited writer who is also a performing artist.*

ADAM LEVINE*	"ANIMALS"	"MAPS"
ALOE BLACK Egbert Nathaniel Aloe Vera Dawkins III	"THE MAN"	"WAKE ME UP"
CHARLI XCX* Charlotte Emma Aitchison	"BOOM CLAP"	"FANCY"
RICKY REED Eric Frederic	"TALK DIRTY"	"WIGGLE"
JASON DERULO* Jason Joel Desrouleaux	"TALK DIRTY"	"WIGGLE"
J-ROC Jerome Harmon	"DRUNK IN LOVE"	"NOT A BAD THING"
JOEL LITTLE	"ROYALS"	"TEAM"
JOHN HENRY RYAN	"STORY OF MY LIFE"	"WIGGLE"
KEVIN KADISH	"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS"	"LIPS ARE MOVIN"
MEGHAN TRAINOR*	"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS"	"LIPS ARE MOVIN"
LORDE* Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor	"ROYALS"	"TEAM"
NICKI MINAJ* Onika Tanya Maraj	"ANACONDA"	"BANG BANG"
RYAN TEDDER*	"COUNTING STARS"	"MAPS"
SARAH HUDSON	"BLACK WIDOW"	"DARK HORSE"
SEAN MAXWELL DOUGLAS	"TALK DIRTY"	"WIGGLE"
TAYLOR SWIFT*	"BLANK SPACE"	"SHAKE IT OFF"
AVICII* Tim Bergling	"A SKY FULL OF STARS"	"WAKE ME UP"
TIMBALAND Timothy Z Mosley	"DRUNK IN LOVE"	"NOT A BAD THING"

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# The #1 Hit Club

51 songwriters were involved in crafting the 13 songs that peaked at #1 by the end of 2014. Of them, six scored two or more.

## FOUR #1 HITS



MAX MARTIN

Karl Martin Sandberg

"BLANK SPACE"

Taylor Swift

"DARK HORSE"

Katy Perry featuring Juicy J

"ROAR"

Katy Perry

"SHAKE IT OFF"

Taylor Swift



DR. LUKE

Lukasz Gottwald

"DARK HORSE"

Katy Perry featuring Juicy J

"ROAR"

Katy Perry

"TIMBER"

Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha

"WRECKING BALL"

Miley Cyrus



CIRKUT

Henry Russell Walter

"DARK HORSE"

Katy Perry featuring Juicy J

"ROAR"

Katy Perry

"TIMBER"

Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha

"WRECKING BALL"

Miley Cyrus

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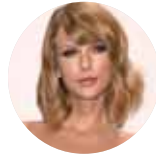
## TWO #1 HITS

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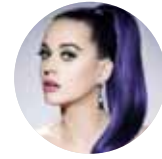
SHELLBACK  
Karl Johan Schuster

"BLANK SPACE" Taylor Swift  
"SHAKE IT OFF" Taylor Swift



TAYLOR SWIFT  
Taylor Alison Swift

"BLANK SPACE" Taylor Swift  
"SHAKE IT OFF" Taylor Swift



KATY PERRY  
Kathryn Elizabeth Hudson

"DARK HORSE" Katy Perry  
"ROAR" Katy Perry

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## ONE #1 HIT

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AARON L KLEINSTUB: "The Monster"  
ADAM DAVID MESSINGER: "Rude"  
ALEXANDER TANASIJCZUK: "Rude"  
AMETHYST AMELIA KELLY: "Fancy"  
ARMANDO CHRISTIAN PEREZ: "Timber"  
BEN SPIVAK: "Rude"  
BLETA REXHA: "The Monster"  
BONNIE LEIGH MCKEE: "Roar"  
BREYAN STANLEY ISAAC: "Timber"  
BRYAN G FRYZEL: "The Monster"  
CHARLES C CARTER: "Timber"  
CHARLOTTE EMMA AITCHISON: "Fancy"  
ELLA MARIJA LANI YELICH-O'CONNOR: "Royals"  
GEORGE ASTASIO: "Fancy"  
GREG ERRICO: "Timber"  
JAMIE MICHAEL ROBERT SANDERSON: "Timber"  
JASON ANDREW PEBWORTH: "Fancy"  
JOEL LITTLE: "Royals"  
JOHN ROGER STEPHENS: "All Of Me"  
JOHN TURNER: "Fancy"  
JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER SHAVE: "Fancy"  
JONATHAN DAVID BELLION: "The Monster"  
JORDAN HOUSTON: "Dark Horse"

KERI OSKAR: "Timber"  
KESHA SEBERT: "Timber"  
KEVIN PAUL KADISH: "All About That Bass"  
KURTIS ISAAC MCKENZIE: "Fancy"  
LEE OSKAR: "Timber"  
MAKI ATHANASIOU: "The Monster"  
MARK PELLIZZER: "Rude"  
MARSHALL B MATHERS: "The Monster"  
MAUREEN ANNE MCDONALD: "Wrecking Ball"  
MEGHAN ELIZABETH TRAINOR: "All About That Bass"  
PEBE SEBERT: "Timber"  
NASRI TONY ATWEH: "Rude"  
PHARRELL L WILLIAMS: "Happy"  
PRISCILLA RENEA HAMILTON: "Timber"  
ROBYN R FENTY: "The Monster"  
ROGER PARKER: "Timber"  
SACHA SKARBEEK: "Wrecking Ball"  
SARAH THERESA HUDSON: "Dark Horse"  
STEPHAN RICHARD MOCCIO: "Wrecking Ball"  
STEVEN R ARRINGTON: "Timber"  
TOBIAS GAD: "All Of Me"  
WAUNG L. HANKERSON: "Timber"

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# Collaboration

More often than not hit songwriting is a collaborative process. During 2014, 90% of the songs that charted within the Hot 100 Top 10 were crafted by teams consisting of two or more credited writers. Only 12% were a solo endeavor.



# 20%

**WERE CRAFTED BY A DUO, WHICH WAS THE MOST POPULAR TEAM SIZE OF THE YEAR. #1 HITS INCLUDE “ALL ABOUT THAT BASS,” “ALL OF ME,” AND “ROYALS”:**

- “AIN’T IT FUN” (Hayley Nichole Williams, Taylor Benjamin York)
- “ALL ABOUT THAT BASS” (Kevin Paul Kadish, Meghan Elizabeth Trainor)
- “ALL OF ME” (John Roger Stephens, Tobias Gad)
- “CHANDELIER” (Jesse Samuel Shatkin, Sia Kate I Furler)
- “HOT BOY” (Ackquille Pollard, Orlando Jahlil Tucker)
- “I’M NOT THE ONLY ONE” (James John Napier, Samuel Frederick Smith)
- “LET IT GO” (Kristen Jane Anderson, Robert Joseph Lopez)
- “LIPS ARE MOVIN” (Kevin Paul Kadish, Meghan Elizabeth Trainor)
- “LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD” (Michael Joe Jackson, Paul Anka)
- “ROYALS” (Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O’Connor, Joel Little)
- “TEAM” (Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O’Connor, Joel Little)
- “THINKING OUT LOUD” (Amy Victoria Wadge, Edward Christopher Sheeran)

# 19%

**WERE CRAFTED BY TEAMS CONSISTING OF THREE WRITERS. #1 HITS INCLUDE “BLANK SPACE,” AND “SHAKE IT OFF”:**

- “ANIMALS” (Adam Noah Levine, Benjamin Joseph Levin, Karl Johan Schuster)
- “BLANK SPACE” (Karl Johan Schuster, Karl Martin Sandberg, Taylor Alison Swift)
- “BREAK FREE” (Anton Zaslavski, Karl Martin Sandberg, Savan Harish Kotecha)
- “HABITS (STAY HIGH)” (Ebba Tove Elsa Nilsson, Jakob Bo Jerlstroem, Karl Ludvig Dagsson Soederberg)
- “JEALOUS” (Nicholas Jonas, Nolan Lambroza, Simon Wilcox)
- “RATHER BE” (Jack Robert Patterson, James John Napier, Nicole Monique Justina Marshall)
- “SAY SOMETHING” (Chad Vaccarino, Ian Axel, Mike Campbell)
- “SHAKE IT OFF” (Karl Johan Schuster, Karl Martin Sandberg, Taylor Alison Swift)
- “STAY WITH ME” (James John Napier, Samuel Frederick Smith, William Phillips)
- “TURN DOWN FOR WHAT” (Jonathan H Smith, Martin Joseph Leonard Bresso, William Sami Etienn Grigahcine)
- “WAKE ME UP” (Egbert Nathaniel Aloe Vera Dawkins III, Michael Aaron Einzinger, Tim Bergling)

# 12%

**WERE A SOLO-WRITING EFFORT, ALL OF WHICH WERE CRAFTED BY THE PERFORMING ARTIST. "HAPPY" WAS THE SOLE #1:**

"COUNTING STARS" (Ryan B Tedder)

"HAPPY" (Pharrell L. Williams)

"LET HER GO" (Michael David Rosenberg)

"POMPEII" (Daniel Campbell Smith)

"SUMMER" (Adam Richard Wiles)

"TAKE ME TO CHURCH" (Andrew John Hozier-Byrne)

"WE MIGHT BE DEAD TOMORROW" (Stephanie Sokolinski)

# 7%

**WERE CRAFTED BY TEAMS CONSISTING OF 10 OR MORE WRITERS.**



"TIMBER"

15 credited writers

\* Non-active writer

Armando Christian Perez

Breyan Stanley Isaac

Charles C Carter

\*Greg Errico

Henry Russell Walter

Jamie Michael Robert Sanderson

\*Keri Oskar

Kesha Sebert

\*Lee Oskar

Lukasz Gottwald

Pebe Sebert

Priscilla Renea Hamilton

Roger Parker

Steven R Arrington

Waung L Hankerson



"DRUNK IN LOVE"

11 credited writers

Andre Eric Proctor

Beyonce Gisselle Knowles

Brian Soko

Jerome Harmon

Jordy Asher

Lyrica Nasha Anderson

Nayvadius Wilburn

Noel C Fisher

Rasool Ricardo Diaz

Shawn Carter

Timothy Z Mosley



"UPTOWN FUNK"

11 credited writers

\* Non-active writer

\*Charles Wilson

Devon Christopher Gallaspy

Jeffrey Bhasker

\*Lonnie Simmons

Mark Daniel Ronson

\*Nicholaus Joseph Williams

Peter Gene Hernandez

Philip Martin Lawrence II

\*Robert Wilson

\*Ronnie Wilson

\*Rudolph Taylor



"LOYAL"

10 credited writers

Abou Thiam

Christopher Maurice Brown

Dwayne Carter

Karim Kharbouch

Nick Joseph Nicotera

Omololu Omari Akinlolu

Robert Clifton III Brackins

Stanley P Cox

Todd Anthony Shaw

Tyrone William Jr Griffi

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## TOP COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

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### Max Martin & Friends



Some of the year's top collaborative partnerships involved the 2014 Hit Songwriting Champion, Max Martin. What follows are some of the key writers that he worked with to craft some of the year's biggest hits.

#### KATY PERRY'S "GO-TO PEOPLE"

Max Martin, Dr. Luke, Cirkut. Along with Katy Perry, they crafted *Dark Horse* and *Roar*, both of which peaked at #1.

#### ARIANA GRANDE'S "GO-TO PEOPLE"

Max Martin and Savan Kotecha. Both of these writers played a key role within *Love Me Harder*, *Break Free*, *Bang Bang* and *Problem*, in addition to other writers.

#### TAYLOR SWIFT'S "GO-TO PEOPLE"

Max Martin and Shellback. Along with Taylor Swift, they crafted *Blank Space* and *Shake It Off*, both of which hit #1.

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## OTHER KEY PARTNERSHIPS

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"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS" (#1), "LIPS ARE MOVIN" (#4) Kevin Kadish & Meghan Trainor

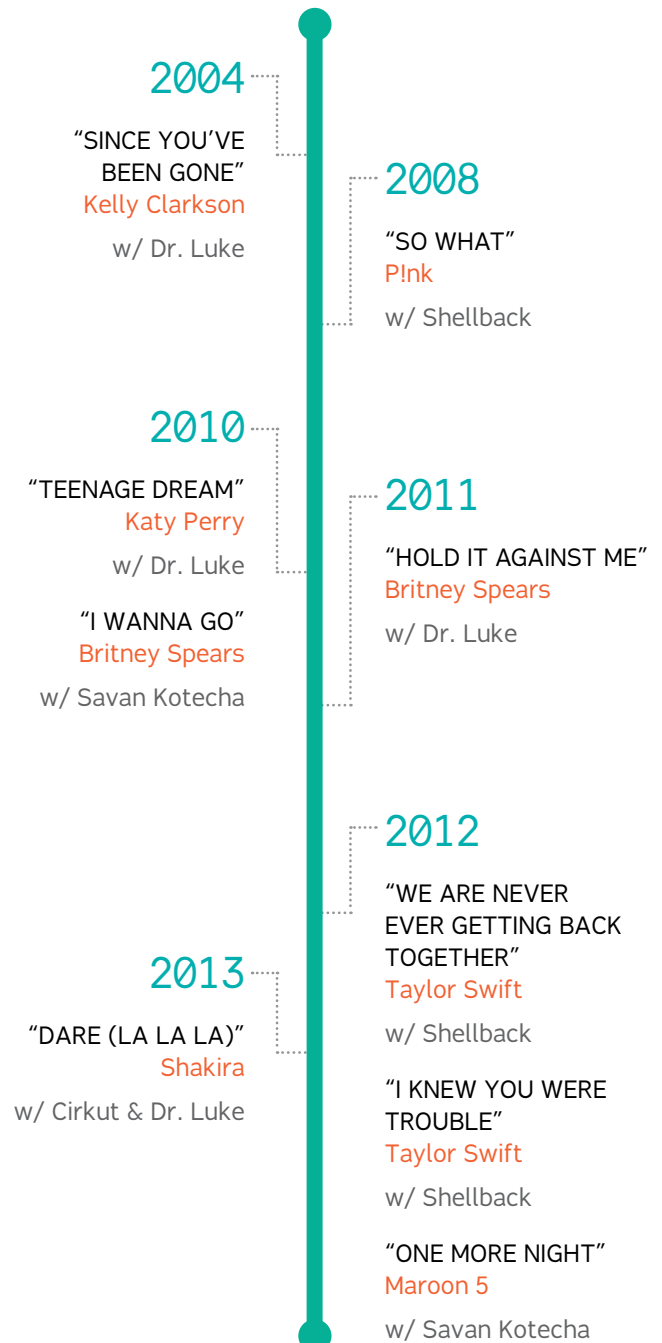
"ROYALS" (#1), "TEAM" (#6) Lorde & Joe Little

"I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE" (#5), "STAY WITH ME" (PLUS W. PHILLIPS)(#2) James Napier & Sam Smith

## COLLABORATIVE

# History

It wasn't the first time that Max Martin worked with these songwriters. Together they've crafted major hits going back years. A small sampling includes:





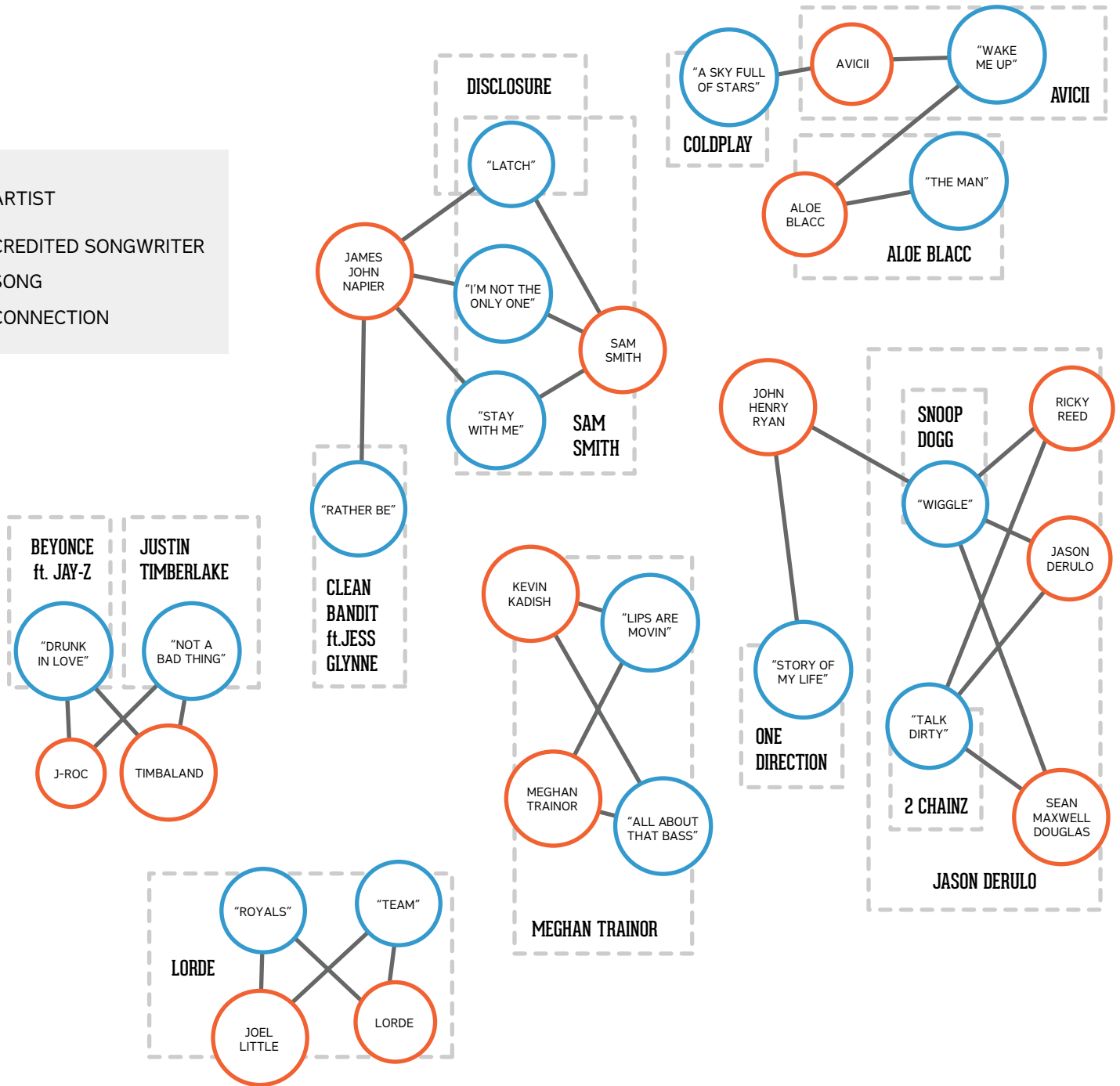
# Connections

ARTIST

CREDITED SONGWRITER

SONG

CONNECTION



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# Who's Influencing The Hits?

All songs are influenced to some degree by songs that came before - writers don't reinvent the wheel every time they pen a new composition. However, some songs borrow more heavily from others. In these cases, a writing credit is voluntarily (or in some cases begrudgingly) provided to the writers whose songs provided the influence.

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## "UPTOWN FUNK"

Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars

Nicholas Williams (aka Trinidad James) and Devon Gallaspy both received a writing credit thanks to the *All Gold Everything* influence.

Charles Wilson, Robert Wilson, Ronnie Wilson, Lonnie Simmons, and Rudolph Taylor received writing credits thanks to the *Oops Upside Your Head* influence.

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## "THE MAN"

Aloe Blacc

Reginald Dwight (Elton John) and Bernie Taupin received writing credits thanks to the inclusion of the "you can tell everybody" line from *Your Song*.



## "ANACONDA"

Nicki Minaj

Anthony Ray (aka Sir Mix A Lot) received a writing credit thanks to the *Baby Got Back* sample.

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## "LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD"

Michael Jackson featuring Justin Timberlake

Paul Anka and Michael Jackson wrote the song back in the early 1980's. The version that landed within the top 10 is a rework featuring Justin Timberlake.



## "TIMBER"

Pitbull featuring Ke\$ha

Greg Errico, Keri Oskar, and Lee Oskar all received writing credits thanks to the prominent *San Francisco Bay* influence within the song.

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## GENRE

# Boundary Pushers

Many of today's hits feature a fusion of different genres and influences within the mix. This enables the song to stand out among its mainstream contemporaries and increase its reach and sales potential.

Here we spotlight some of the more "adventurous" songs of the year, and the writers who crafted them.



MEGHAN TRAINOR

ALOE BLACC

KE\$HA

PITBULL

ARIANA GRANDE

JASON DERULO

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## ALL ABOUT THAT BASS [#1]:

This Pop song features an infectious blend of Doo Wop, Hip Hop/Rap, Reggae, old-school Rock & Roll, and Soul influences within the mix, all wrapped in a 1960's girl group inspired package.

KEVIN PAUL KADISH

MEGHAN ELIZABETH TRAINOR



## RATHER BE [#10]:

This song contains a rare Classical influence in addition to Dance, Electropop, and R&B, which helped it to stand out on the charts.

JACK ROBERT PATTERSON

JAMES JOHN NAPIER

NICOLE MONIQUE JUSTINA MARSHALL



## PROBLEM [#2]:

Each section where the featured artists appear possesses a different sub-genre influence. Grande's verse sections and bridge has a retro 90's R&B influence, Big Sean's choruses are Trap in nature, and Azalea brings the Hip Hop/Rap in the bridge.

AMETHYST AMELIA KELLY

ARIANA GRANDE-BUTERA

ILYA SALMANZADEH

KARL MARTIN SANDBERG

SAVAN HARISH KOTECHA



## WAKE ME UP [#4]:

The methodical fusion of Country/Folk and EDM launched Blacc, and especially Avicci, into international superstardom.

EGBERT NATHANIEL ALOE VERA DAWKINS III

MICHAEL AARON FINZINGER

TIM BERLING



## TIMBER [#1]:

The Country influence proved to be the right ingredient alongside Dance/Club, Hip Hop/Rap, and Straight-Up Pop to send this song to the top of charts throughout the world.

ARMANDO CHRISTIAN PEREZ

JAMIE MICHAEL ROBERT SANDERSON

PEBE SEBERT

BREYAN STANLEY ISAAC

KERI OSKAR

PRISCILLA RENEA HAMILTON

CHARLES C CARTER

KESHA SEBERT

ROGER PARKER

GREG ERRICO

LEE OSKAR

STEVEN R ARRINGTON

HENRY RUSSELL WALTER

LUKASZ GOTTWALD

WAUNG L HANKERSON



## WIGGLE [#5]:

In addition to Hip Hop/Rap, R&B, and Trap it was the Nursery Rhyme influence that gave the song a unique identity among its mainstream contemporaries.

ANDREAS SCHEEN SCHULLER

CALVIN CORDAZOR BROADUS

ERIC FREDERIC

JACOB KASHER HINDLIN

JASON JOEL DESROULEAUX

JOHN HENRY RYAN

JOSEPH MICHAEL SPARGUR

SEAN MAXWELL DOUGLAS

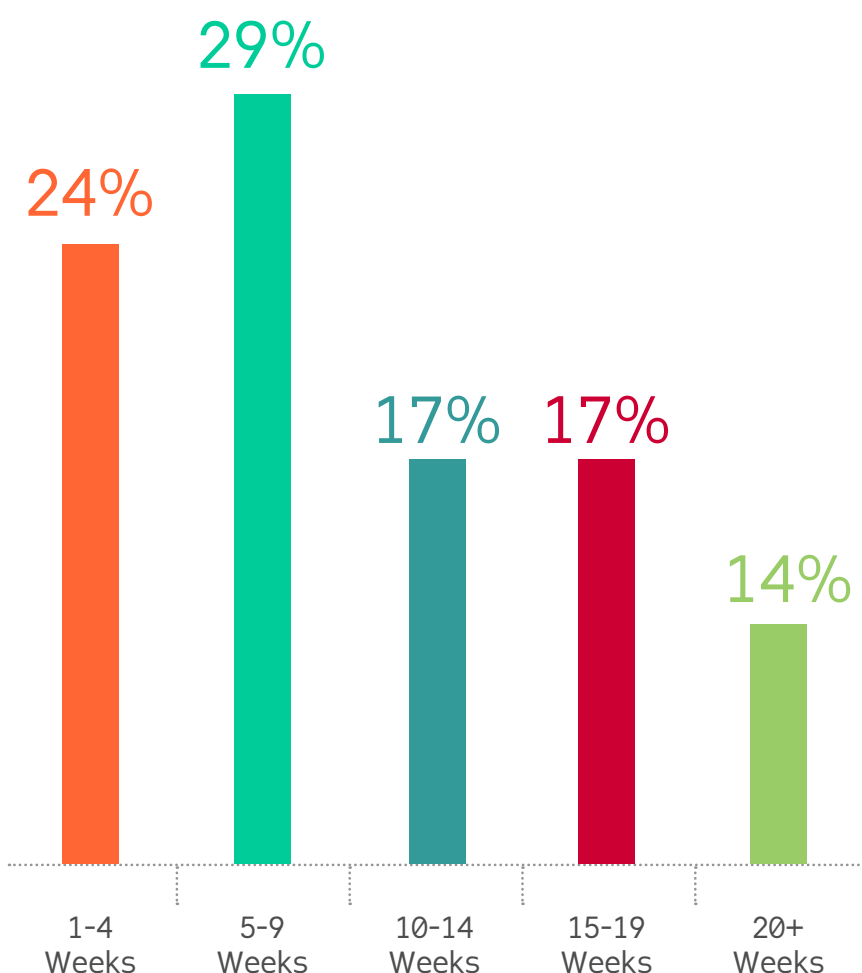


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# Staying Power

Marketing initiatives play a major role in how long a song lasts on the charts. But so does the song itself. If the song isn't strong enough, no amount of promotion will make people want to hear it more.

During 2014, it was a near equal split of songs that remained in the top 10 for under 10 weeks and those that lasted over.



## THE STAYING POWER CHAMPION OF 2014 *Counting Stars* (Ryan Tedder)



Crafted by Ryan Tedder, *Counting Stars* spent almost four months (24 weeks) in the top 10. Its run began back in 2013 during the week of 11/9, and lasted through the week of 4/26/2014. While most songs are collaborations, sometimes going it alone proves to be the right course of action!

## THE 20 WEEK+ CLUB

23

WEEKS

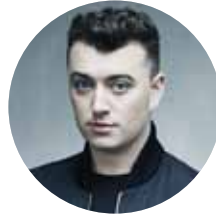


"ROYALS"

Ella Marija Lani  
Yelich-O'Connor  
Joel Little

21

WEEKS

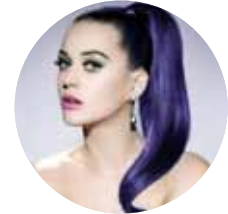


"STAY WITH ME"

James John Napier  
Samuel Frederick Smith  
William Phillips

21

WEEKS



"DARK HORSE"

Henry Russell Walter  
Jordan Houston  
Karl Martin Sandberg  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson  
Lukasz Gottwald  
Sarah Theresa Hudson

22

WEEKS



"ALL OF ME"

John Roger Stephens  
Tobias Gad

20

WEEKS



"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS"

Kevin Paul Kadish  
Meghan Elizabeth Trainor

21

WEEKS



"WAKE ME UP"

Egbert Nathaniel Aloe  
Vera Dawkins III  
Michael Aaron Einzinger  
Tim Bergling

21

WEEKS



"HAPPY"

Pharrell Williams

# Gender

Of the 199 songwriters who crafted the top 10 hits of 2014, 85% are male and only 15% are female.

## Female Writer Spotlight

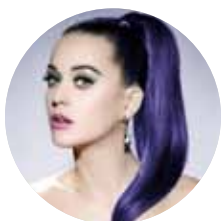
About half of the female writers of the year are behind-the-scenes hitmakers, while the others are the performing artist.

### THREE TOP 10 HITS



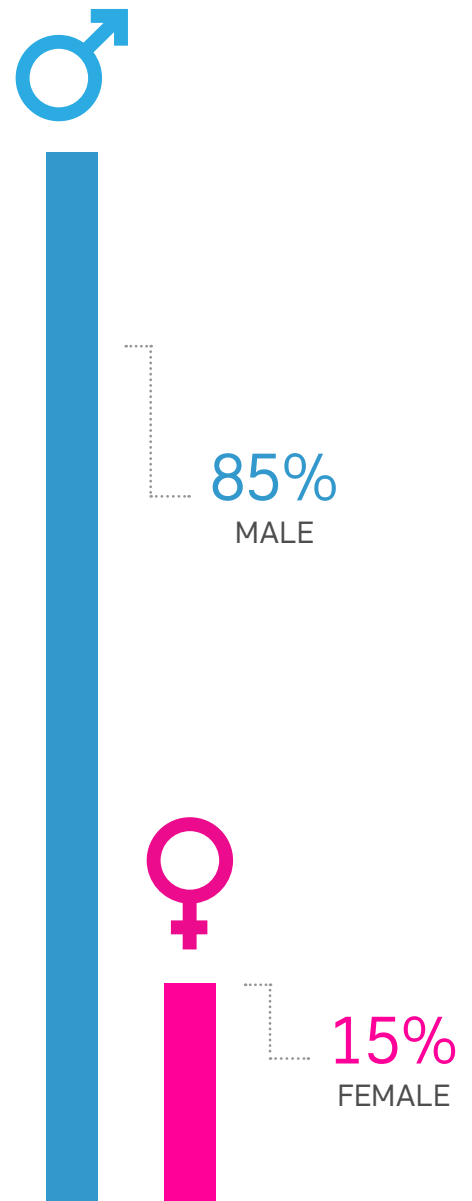
IGGY AZALEA\*  
Amethyst Amelia Kelly

- #1 "FANCY"
- #2 "PROBLEM"
- #3 "BLACK WIDOW"



KATY PERRY\*  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson

- #1 "DARK HORSE"
- #1 "ROAR"
- #3 "BLACK WIDOW"



## TWO TOP 10 HITS

*\* Indicates a credited writer who is also a performing artist.*



CHARLI XCX\*  
Charlotte Emma Aitchison

"FANCY" (#1)  
"BOOM CLAP" (#8)



LORDE\*  
Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor

"ROYALS" (#1)  
"TEAM" (#6)



MEGHAN TRAINOR\*  
Meghan Elizabeth Trainor

"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS" (#1)  
"LIPS ARE MOVIN" (#4)



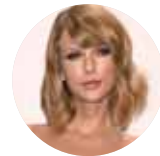
NICKI MINAJ\*  
Onika Tanya Maraj

"ANACONDA" (#2)  
"BANG BANG" (#3)



SARAH HUDSON  
Sarah Theresa Hudson

"DARK HORSE" (#1)  
"BLACK WIDOW" (#3)



TAYLOR SWIFT\*  
Taylor Alison Swift

"BLANK SPACE" (#1)  
"SHAKE IT OFF" (#1)

## ONE TOP 10 HIT

AMY VICTORIA WADGE: "Thinking Out Loud" (#6)

ANTONINA ARMATO: "The Heart Wants What It Wants" (#6)

\*ARIANA GRANDE-BUTERA: "Problem" (#2)

\*BEYONCE GISSELLE KNOWLES: "Drunk In Love" (#2)

BLETA REXHA: "The Monster" (#1)

BONNIE LEIGH MCKEE: "Roar" (#1)

CONESHA MONET OWENS: "Don't" (#9)

DAWN SHERRICE ROBINSON: "Don't" (#9)

\*EBBA TOVE ELSA NILSSON (TOVE LO): "Habits (Stay High)" (#3)

\*HAYLEY NICHOLE WILLIAMS: "Ain't It Fun" (#10)

\*KESHA SEBERT (KESHA): "Timber" (#1)

KRISTEN JANE ANDERSON: "Let It Go" (#5)

LYRICA NASHA ANDERSON: "Drunk In Love" (#2)

MAUREEN ANNE MCDONALD: "Wrecking Ball" (#1)

NICOLE MONIQUE JUSTINA MARSHALL: "Rather Be" (#10)

PEBE SEBERT: "Timber" (#1)

PRISCILLA RENEA HAMILTON: "Timber" (#1)

\*ROBYN R. FENTY (RIHANNA): "The Monster" (#1)

\*SELENA MARIE GOMEZ: "The Heart Wants What It Wants" (#6)

\*SIA KATE I FURLER: "Chandelier" (#8)

\*STEPHANIE SOKOLINSKI: "We Might Be Dead Tomorrow" (#9)

THEA AUSTIN: "Don't Tell Em" (#6)

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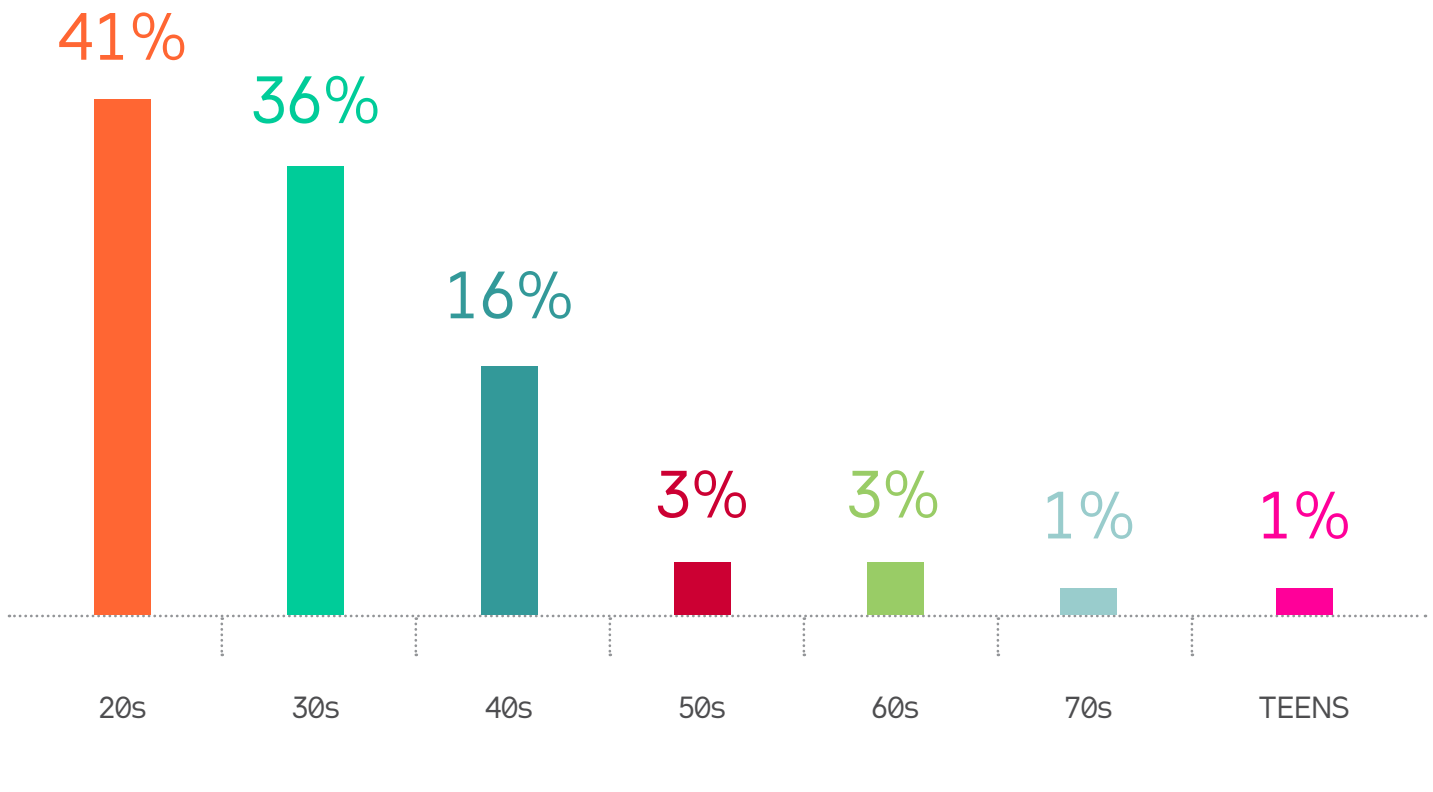
# Age

## HOW OLD ARE TODAY'S TOP 10 HITMAKERS?

Not surprisingly, the majority of songwriters who crafted the top 10 charting hits of the year are on the younger end of the spectrum, with most being in their 20s and 30s. Which makes sense - this age group is most in tune with their core target demographic.

However, with age comes experience and a proven track record. Some of the most prolific and successful mainstream songwriters of the year are over the age of 40.

*\* Note: This section is based on birthdays that could be found for the majority of songwriters (132), but do not include all.*



# 1%

## TEENS

Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor (Lorde) is the only teen to top the charts. She was in her mid-teens when she co-wrote the global smash *Royals* and *Team*.



## 20s

Most of the credited writers in their early 20s (under 25) are the performing artists. They include Charlotte Aitchison (Charli XCX), Nick Jonas, Sam Smith, Selena Gomez, Ed Sheeran, Amethyst Kelly (Iggy Azalea), and Andrew John Hozier-Byrne (Hozier) amongst others.

Those who are in their late 20s include some of today's hottest behind-the-scenes hitmakers. Among them are Benjamin Levin (Benny Blanco), Ammar Malik, Henry Walter (Cirkut), and Karl Schuster (Shellback).

# 41%



# 36%

## 30s

The 30 club features a combination of behind-the-scenes writers and artists, most of whom are more seasoned than those in their 20s. Some of the most notable include Adam Wiles (Calvin Harris), Bonnie McKee, Katheryn Hudson (Katy Perry), Dwayne Carter (Lil Wayne), Maureen McDonald (MoZella), Adam Levine, Philip Lawrence (Smeezingtons), Armando Perez (Pitbull), and Ryan Tedder.



# 16%

## 40s

Although accounting for only 16% of songwriters, those who are in their 40s churned out some of the biggest hits of the year, and are among the most respected and prolific writers in the industry. Some of the most notable include:

- LUKASZ GOTTWALD (Dr. Luke)
- PHARRELL WILLIAMS
- MARSHALL MATHERS (Eminem)
- TIM MOSLEY (Timbaland)
- MIKKEL ERIKSEN (Stargate)
- TOR HERMANSEN (Stargate)
- KARL MARTIN SANDBERG (Max Martin)
- SHAWN CARTER (Jay Z)



## 50 AND OVER

Most of the writers who are over the age of 50 did not have an active role in the writing process (although Pebe Sebert is one notable exception). Their songs either played an influential role, were sampled, or were completed by an active team of writers.

Some of the most notable include:

- ANTHONY RAY (Sir Mix A Lot)
- MICHAEL JACKSON
- PEBE SEBERT
- BERNIE TAUPIN
- LEE OSKAR
- REGINALD DWIGHT (ELTON JOHN)
- PAUL ANKA

# 7%

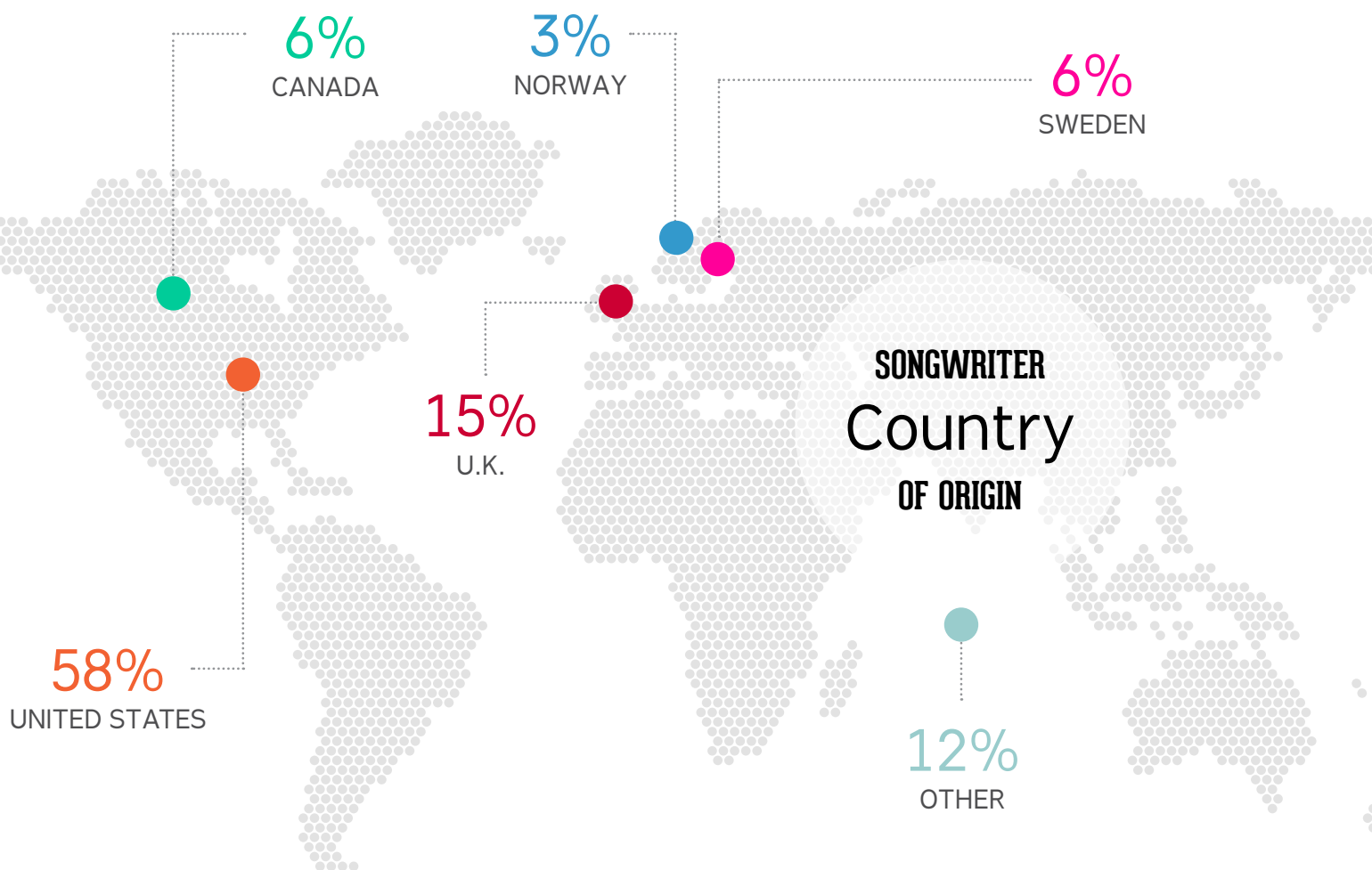


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# Where Are They From?

The songwriters who scored a Top 10 hit in Billboard's U.S. Hot 100 hailed from twenty different countries. A little over half are from the United States. The rest span the globe, stemming from the U.K., Sweden, Israel, Russia and Zimbabwe, among others.

*Note: This section reflects the country of origin for 175 of the 199 top 10 charting songwriters of the year.*



## UNITED STATES

More songwriters stemmed from the U.S. than any other country (58%). Among them are notable behind-the-scenes hitmakers such as Benjamin Levin (Benny Blanco), Lukasz Gottwald (Dr. Luke), and Savan Kotecha, as well as artist/writers including Adam Levine, Katheryn Hudson (Katy Perry), and Taylor Swift.



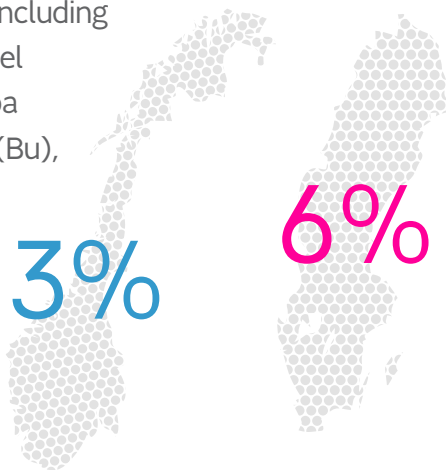
## UNITED KINGDOM

Second to the U.S., the United Kingdom represents 15% of the year's hitmakers, including Charlotte Aitchison (Charli XCX), Ed Sheeran, James Napier (Jimmy Napes), and Sam Smith.

## SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

The Scandinavian countries have had their fair share of hitmakers. From Denmark there's Lee and Keri Oskar, whose late 1970's hit *San Francisco Bay* was a key influence on Pitbull's *Timber*.

Norway represents five writers, including Andreas Schuller (Axident), Mikkel Eriksen (Stargate), Nicolay Sereba (Nico and Vinz), Abdoulie Jallow (Bu), and William Larsen (Nasty Kutt).



Some of today's hottest hitmakers call Sweden home. These include: Karl Martin Sandberg (Max Martin), Karl Johan Schuster (Shellback), Tim Bergling (Avicii), and Ebba Tove Elsa Nilsson (Tove Lo).



## CANADA

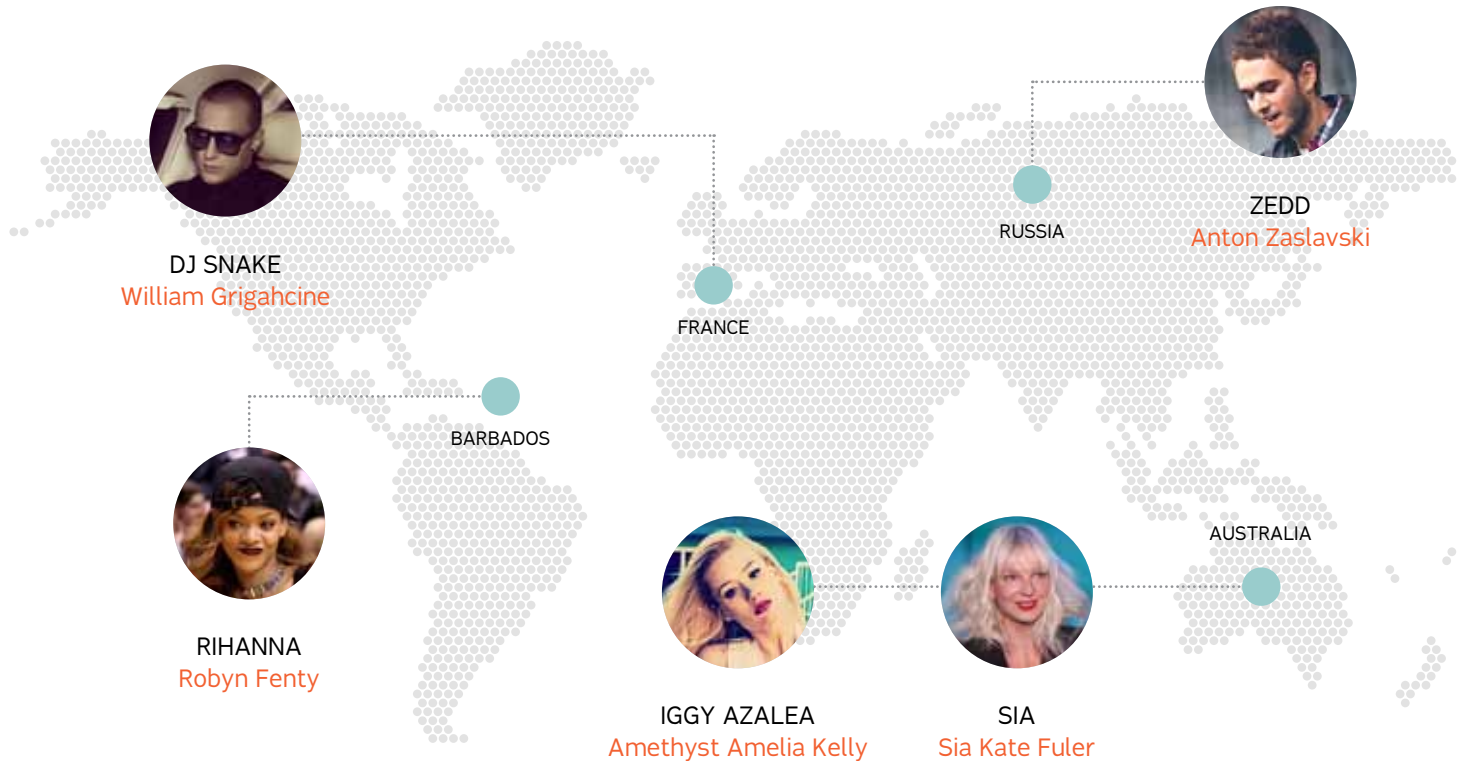
Canada is represented by 10 songwriters. They include current writer/artists such as the members of Magic!, influential icons (Paul Anka), and one of today's hottest writers/producers, Henry Russell Walter (aka Cirkut).

6%



## OTHER COUNTRIES & REGIONS

12% of the year's hitmakers stemmed from other countries around the world including Australia, Barbados, France, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Morocco, New Zealand, Palestine, Scotland, Russia and Zimbabwe. Some of the most notable include:



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# PERFORMING ARTISTS WHO Write for Themselves & Others

There were a handful of performing artists that were featured on another artist's song and received a writing credit.

## THEY INCLUDE:



IGGY AZALEA

Amethyst Amelia Kelly

"PROBLEM" Ariana Grande



CHARI XCX

Charlotte Emma Aichison

"FANCY" Iggy Azalea



SNOOP DOGG

Calvin Cordazor Broadus

"WIGGLE" Jason Derulo



JAY-Z

Shawn Carter

"DRUNK IN LOVE" Beyonce



2 CHAINZ

Tauheed Epps

"TALK DIRTY" Jason Derulo



RIHANNA

Robyn Fenty

"THE MONSTER" Eminem



LIL JOHN  
Jonathan H. Smith

"TURN DOWN FOR WHAT" DJ Snake



NICKI MINAJ  
Onika Tanya Maraj

"BANG BANG" Jessie J



ZEDD  
Anton Zaslavski

"BREAK FREE" Ariana Grande



LIL WAYNE  
Dwayne Carter

"LOYAL" Chris Brown



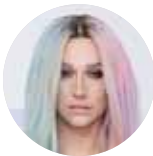
BRUNO MARS  
Peter Hernandez

"UPTOWN FUNK" Mark Ronson



THE WEEKND  
Abel Tesfaye

"LOVE ME HARDER" Ariana Grande



KE\$HA  
Kesha Sebert

"TIMBER" Pitbull



JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE  
Justin Timberlake

"LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD"  
Michael Jackson

**ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE  
A COUPLE OF PERFORMING  
ARTISTS/Writers WHO  
PLAYED THE ROLE OF BEHIND-  
THE-SCENES HITMAKER FOR  
ANOTHER MAJOR ARTIST.  
THEY ARE:**

KATY PERRY

Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson

"BLACK WIDOW" Rita Ora



RYAN TEDDER

of OneRepublic

"MAPS" Maroon 5



---

# PERFORMING ARTISTS WHO Didn't Receive a Writing Credit

Not all performing artists were involved in crafting their own hits. Their sole function was to bring to life songs that others wrote for them.

## THEY INCLUDE:



ARIANA GRANDE  
"BANG BANG"  
"BREAK FREE"  
"LOVE ME HARDER"



MILEY CYRUS  
"WRECKING BALL"



IDINA MENZEL  
"LET IT GO"



JESSIE J  
Jessica Ellen Cornish  
"BANG BANG"

---

# Genre

All of the songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014 stem from one of five primary genre categories: Dance/Club/Electronic, Hip Hop/Rap, Pop, R&B/Soul, and Rock. Here we look at the stats and facts from each as they pertain to today's hit makers.



JIMMY NAPES

SAM SMITH

IGGY AZALEA

AVICII

---

## DANCE/CLUB/ELECTRONIC

---

### 37 credited songwriters

were involved in crafting the nine Dance/Club/Electronic influenced songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014.



"A SKY FULL OF STARS"  
"BREAK FREE"  
"LATCH"  
"LOVE NEVER FELT SO GOOD"  
"RATHER BE"  
"SUMMER"  
"TIMBER"  
"TURN DOWN FOR WHAT"  
"WAKE ME UP"

---

## TOP DANCE/CLUB/ELECTRONIC WRITERS

JIMMY NAPES  
James John Napier



Jimmy Napes is a behind-the-scenes writer who had two of his co-writes chart within the top 10: *Latch* (#7 – Disclosure) and *Rather Be* (#10 – Clean Bandit featuring Jess Glynne).

AVICII  
Tim Berging



Avicii is a performing artist/writer who had two of his co-writes chart within the top 10: *A Sky Full Of Stars* (#10 - Coldplay) and *Wake Me Up* (#4 - Avicii)

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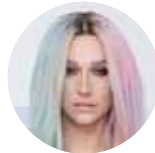
# DANCE/CLUB/ELECTRONIC

## COLLABORATION

All songs except for *Timber* were written by teams consisting of five writers or less. Teams of three writers were the most popular, accounting for 44% of songs.

### Most

Credited Songwriters



"TIMBER"  
(15)

### Least

Credited Songwriters



"SUMMER"  
(1)

## #1 WRITERS

*Timber* was the only song from the Dance/Club/Electronic primary genre category that charted at #1 during the year.

It features a combination of active writers who were involved in the writing process, as well as non-active writers due to the Lee Oskar *San Francisco Bay* influence.

### Team "Timber"

ARMANDO CHRISTIAN PEREZ  
BREYAN STANLEY ISAAC  
CHARLES C CARTER  
GREG ERRICO  
HENRY RUSSELL WALTER  
JAMIE MICHAEL ROBERT SANDERSON  
KERI OSKAR  
KESHA SEBERT  
LEE OSKAR  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD  
PEBE SEBERT  
PRISCILLA RENEA HAMILTON  
ROGER PARKER  
STEVEN R ARRINGTON  
WAUNG L HANKERSON



## GENDER



89%  
MALE



11%  
FEMALE

## HIP HOP/RAP

### 37 credited songwriters

were involved in crafting the six Hip Hop/Rap influenced songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014



"ANACONDA"  
"BLACK WIDOW"  
"FANCY"  
"HOT BOY"  
"LOYAL"  
"THE MONSTER"

## TOP HIP HOP/RAP WRITER

IGGY AZALEA  
Amethyst Amelia Kelly



Iggy Azalea is a performing artist/writer who had two of her Hip Hop/Rap co-writes chart within the top 10:

"BLACK WIDOW" (#3)  
(Iggy Azalea featuring Rita Ora)

"FANCY" (#1)  
(Iggy Azalea featuring Charli XCX)



## COLLABORATION

All songs except for *Hot Boy* were written by teams consisting of six writers or more. Teams of six and seven writers were the most popular, each accounting for 33% of songs.

### Most

Credited Songwriters



"LOYAL"  
(10)

### Least

Credited Songwriters



"HOT BOY"  
(2)

---

## HIP HOP/RAP

---

### #1 WRITERS

Two of the six Hip Hop/Rap songs hit #1 during 2014 – *Fancy* and *The Monster*.

#### Team “Fancy”

AMETHYST AMELIA KELLY  
CHARLOTTE EMMA AITCHISON  
GEORGE ASTASIO  
JASON ANDREW PEBWORTH  
JOHN TURNER  
JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER SHAVE  
KURTIS ISAAC MCKENZIE



#### Team “The Monster”

AARON L KLEINSTUB  
BLETA REXHA  
BRYAN G FRYZEL  
JONATHAN DAVID BELLION  
MAKI ATHANASIOU  
MARSHALL B MATHERS  
ROBYN R FENTY



---

## GENDER



81%  
MALE



19%  
FEMALE

---

# POP

---

## 85 credited songwriters

were involved in crafting the 27 Pop songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014.



"ALL ABOUT THAT BASS"

"JEALOUS"

"ROYALS"

"AM I WRONG"

"LET HER GO"

"RUDE"

"ANIMALS"

"LET IT GO"

"SAY SOMETHING"

"BLANK SPACE"

"LIPS ARE MOVIN'"

"SHAKE IT OFF"

"BOOM CLAP"

"LOVE ME HARDER"

"STORY OF MY LIFE"

"CHANDELIER"

"MAPS"

"TEAM"

"DARK HORSE"

"NOT A BAD THING"

"THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS"

"DON'T"

"PROBLEM"

"WIGGLE"

"HABITS (STAY HIGH)"

"ROAR"

"WRECKING BALL"

---

## TOP POP WRITER

MAX MARTIN

Karl Martin Sandberg



Max Martin is a behind-the-scenes writer who had six of his co-writes hit the top 10.

"BLANK SPACE" (#1) Taylor Swift

"DARK HORSE" (#1) Katy Perry featuring Juicy J

"LOVE ME HARDER" (#7) Ariana Grande featuring The Weeknd

"PROBLEM" (#2) Ariana Grande featuring Iggy Azalea

"ROAR" (#1) Katy Perry

"SHAKE IT OFF" (#1) Taylor Swift

# POP

## KEY POP PLAYERS [TWO OR MORE TOP 10 HITS]



(3)

BENNY BLANCO  
Benjamin Levin



(3)

CIRKUT  
Henry Russell Walter



(3)

SHELLBACK  
Karl Johan Schuster



(3)

DR. LUKE  
Lukasz Gottwald



(2)

ADAM LEVINE



(2)

LORDE  
Ella Marija Lani  
Yelich-O'Connor



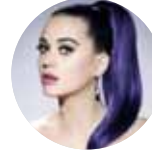
(2)

JOEL LITTLE



(2)

JOHN HENRY RYAN



(2)

KATY PERRY  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson



(2)

KEVIN PAUL KADISH



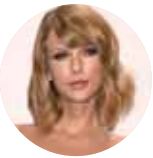
(2)

MEGHAN TRAINOR



(2)

SAVAN HARISH  
KOTECHA



(2)

TAYLOR SWIFT

## COLLABORATION

81% of the year's Pop songs were written by teams consisting of five writers or less. Two- and five-writer teams were the most popular, each accounting for 22% of songs. Three-writer teams followed close behind, accounting for 19%.

### Most

Credited Songwriters



"STORY OF MY LIFE"  
AND "WIGGLE"  
(10)

### Least

Credited Songwriters



"LET HER GO"  
(1)

## #1 WRITERS

Eight of the 27 Pop songs charted at #1 during 2014.

### Team "All About That Bass"

KEVIN PAUL KADISH  
MEGHAN ELIZABETH TRAINOR



### Team "Royals"

ELLA MARIJA LANI  
YELICH-O'CONNOR  
JOEL LITTLE



### Team "Blank Space"

KARL JOHAN SCHUSTER  
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG  
TAYLOR ALISON SWIFT



### Team "Shake It Off"

KARL JOHAN SCHUSTER  
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG  
TAYLOR ALISON SWIFT



### Team "Dark Horse"

HENRY RUSSELL WALTER  
JORDAN HOUSTON  
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG  
KATHERYN ELIZABETH HUDSON  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD  
SARAH THERESA HUDSON



### Team "Roar"

BONNIE LEIGH MCKEE  
HENRY RUSSELL WALTER  
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG  
KATHERYN ELIZABETH HUDSON  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD

### Team "Rude"

BONNIE LEIGH MCKEE  
HENRY RUSSELL WALTER  
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG  
KATHERYN ELIZABETH HUDSON  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD



### Team "Wrecking Ball"

HENRY RUSSELL WALTER  
LUKASZ GOTTWALD  
MAUREEN ANNE MCDONALD  
SACHA SKARBEK  
STEPHAN RICHARD MOCCIO



## GENDER



80%  
MALE



20%  
FEMALE

---

## R&B/SOUL

---

### 50 credited writers

were involved in crafting the 11 R&B/Soul influenced songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014.



"ALL OF ME"

"BANG BANG"

"DON'T TELL 'EM"

"DRUNK IN LOVE"

"HAPPY"

"I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE"

"STAY WITH ME"

"TALK DIRTY"

"THE MAN"

"THINKING OUT LOUD"

"UPTOWN FUNK"

---

## TOP R&B/SOUL WRITERS

JIMMY NAPES  
James John Napier



SAM SMITH



---

Behind-the-scenes writer Jimmy Napes helped performing artist Sam Smith craft two hits that made it into the top 10.

"I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE" (#5) Sam Smith

"STAY WITH ME" (#2) Sam Smith

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# R&B/SOUL

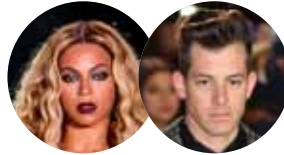
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## COLLABORATION

55% of the year's R&B/Soul songs were written by teams consisting of five writers or less. Two-writer teams were the most popular, accounting for 27% of songs.

### Most

Credited Songwriters



"DRUNK IN LOVE"  
"UPTOWN FUNK"  
(11)

### Least

Credited Songwriters



"HAPPY"  
(1)

---

## #1 WRITERS

Two of the 11 R&B/Soul songs charted at #1 during 2014:



### Team "All Of Me"

JOHN ROGER STEVENS

TOBIAS GAD

### Team "Happy"

PHARRELL WILLIAMS



---

## GENDER



90%  
MALE



10%  
FEMALE

# ROCK

## 10 credited writers

were involved in crafting the five Rock influenced songs that charted within the Hot 100 top 10 during 2014.



- "AIN'T IT FUN"
- "COUNTING STARS"
- "DEMONS"
- "POMPEII"
- "TAKE ME TO CHURCH"

## TOP ROCK WRITERS

All of the writers accounted for one top 10 hit each.

## #1 WRITERS

No Rock songs made it to #1 in 2014.

## COLLABORATION

80% of the year's Rock songs were written by a single writer:



"COUNTING STARS"  
(Ryan Tedder)

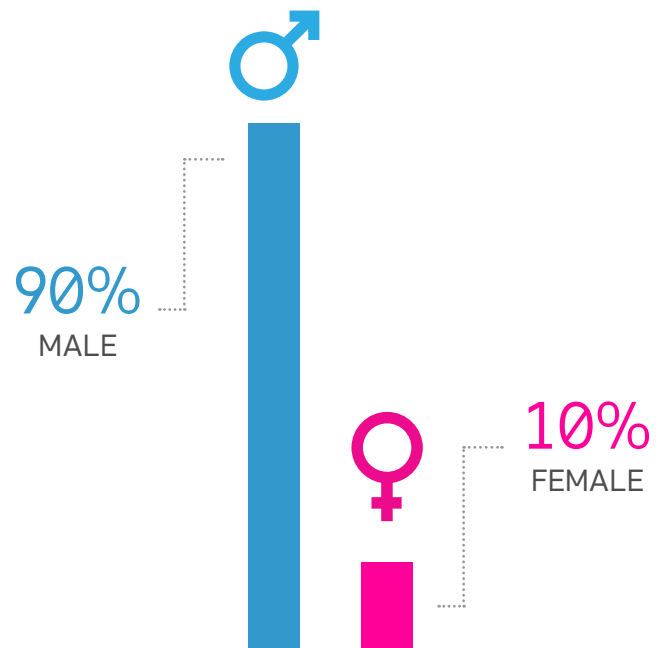


"POMPEII"  
(Daniel Smith)



"TAKE ME TO CHURCH"  
(Andrew John Hozier-Byrne)

## GENDER



---

# THE NAMES

# Behind the Names

## 2CHAINZ? BRUNO MARS? SHELLBACK?

Many of today's writers go by names other than their own. What follows is a rundown of who these people *really* are, who they're known as, and the faces behind the names.





**2 CHAINZ**  
Tauheed Epps



**A ALLIAS**  
Aaron Kleinstub



**ALEX DA KID**  
Alexander Junior Grant



**ALOE BLACK**  
Egbert Nathaniel  
Aloe Vera Dawkins III



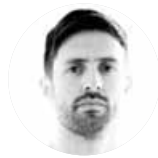
**AVICII**  
Tim Bergling



**AXIDENT**  
Andreas Scheen  
Schuller



**BENNY BLANCO**  
Benjamin Levin



**BELIEF**  
Jesse Shatkin



**BILLY KRAVEN**  
Jeffrey Bhasker



**BOOTS**  
Jordy Asher



**BRUNO MARS**  
Peter Gene Hernandez



**BU**  
Abdoulie Jallow



**CALVIN HARRIS**  
Adam Richard Wiles



**CHARLI XCX**  
Charlotte Emma  
Aitchison



**CIRKUT**  
Henry Russell Walter



**DETAIL**  
Noel Fisher



**DJ KHALIL**  
Rahman Khalil Abdul



**DJ SNAKE**  
William Sami  
Etienne Grigahcine



**DR. LUKE**  
Lukasz Gottwald



**ELTON JOHN**  
Reginald Kenneth  
Dwight



**EMINEM**  
Marshall B. Mathers



**FRENCH MONTANTA**  
Karim Kharbouch



**FREQUENCY**  
Bryan G. Fryzel



**FUTURE**  
Nayvadius Wilburn



IGGY AZALEA  
Amethyst Amelia Kelly



J-ROC  
Jerome Harmon



JAHIL BEATS  
Orlando Jahil Tucker



JASON DERULO  
Jason Joel Desrouleaux



JAY Z  
Shawn Carter



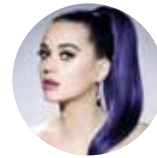
JIMMY NAPES  
James John Napier



JOHN LEGEND  
John Roger Stevens



JUICY J  
Jordan Houston



KATY PERRY  
Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson



KOSINE ON DA BEAT  
Marcos Palacios



LIL JOHN  
Jonathan H. Smith



LIL WAYNE  
Dwayne Carter



LORDE  
Ella Marija Lani Yelich-O'Connor



MAX MARTIN  
Karl Martin Sandberg



MISTAH F.A.B.  
Stanley Cox



MESSY  
Adam Messinger



MOZELLA  
Maureen Anne McDonald



NASTY KUTT  
William Larson



NICKI MINAJ  
Onika Tanya Maraj



PASSENGER  
Michael David Rosenberg



PITBULL  
Armando Christian Perez



POLOW DA DON  
Jamal Jones



RIHANNA  
Robyn R. Fenty



RICKY REED  
Eric Frederic



SERMSTYLE  
Jamie Michael  
Robert Sanderson



SHELLBACK  
Karl Johan Schuster



SIR MIX A LOT  
Anthony L. Ray



SIR NOLAN  
Nolan Lambroza



SNOOP DOGG  
Calvin Cordazor  
Broadus



TCHAMI  
Martin Joseph  
Leonard Bresso



THE GREEK MYSTIQUE  
Maki Athanasiou



THE WEEKND  
Abel Testfaye



TIMBALAND  
Timothy Z Mosley



TOO SHORT  
Todd Anthony Shaw



TOVE LO  
Ebba Tove  
Elsa Nilsson



TRINIDAD JAMES  
Nicholaus Williams



TUO  
Ernest Clark



TY DOLLA \$IGN  
Tyrone William  
Griffin Jr.



WAYNE "WING" SERMON  
Daniel Wayne Sermon



YG  
Keenon Daquan  
Ray Jackson



ZEDD  
Anton Zaslavski

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# THE 2014 Top 10 Hitmakers

Here they are – all 199 songwriters who co-wrote a song that charted within the Billboard Hot 100 top 10 during 2014.

AARON L KLEINSTUB	BENJAMIN JOSEPH LEVIN	EGBERT NATHANIEL ALOE VERA DAWKINS III
ABDOULIE JALLOW	BERNARD J P TAUPIN	ELLA MARIJA LANI YELICH-O'CONNOR
ABEL TESFAYE	BEYONCE GISELLE KNOWLES	ERIC FREDERIC
ABOU THIAM	BLETA REXHA	ERNEST CLARK
ACKQUILLE POLLARD	BONNIE LEIGH MCKEE	FREDRIK BERGER
ADAM DAVID MESSINGER	BREYAN STANLEY ISAAC	GEORGE ASTASIO
ADAM NOAH LEVINE	BRIAN SOKO	GREG ERRICO
ADAM RICHARD WILES	BRYAN G FRYZEL	GUY RUPERT BERRYMAN
AHMAD BALSHE	CALVIN CORDAZOR BROADUS	GUY WILLIAM LAWRENCE
ALEXANDER JUNIOR GRANT	CHAD VACCARINO	HARRY STYLES
ALEXANDER TANASIJCZUK	CHARLES C CARTER	HAYLEY NICHOLE WILLIAMS
ALI PAYAMI	CHARLOTTE EMMA AITCHISON	HENRY RUSSELL WALTER
ALI SHAHEED JONES-MUHAMMAD	CHRIS GODBEY	HOWARD JOHN LAWRENCE
AMETHYST AMELIA KELLY	CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY MARTIN	IAN AXEL
AMMAR MALIK	CHRISTOPHER MAURICE BROWN	ILYA SALMANZADEH
AMY VICTORIA WADGE	CONESHA MONET OWENS	JACK ROBERT PATTERSON
ANDRE ERIC PROCTOR	DANIEL BRIAN SEEFF	JACOB KASHER HINDLIN
ANDREAS SCHEEN SCHULLER	DANIEL CAMPBELL SMITH	JAKOB BO JERLSTROEM
ANDREW JOHN HOZIER-BYRNE	DANIEL COULTER REYNOLDS	JAMAL F JONES
ANTHONY L RAY	DANIEL WAYNE SERMON	JAMES EDWARD FAUNTLEROY
ANTON ZASLAVSKI	DAVID JOST	JAMES JOHN NAPIER
ANTONINA ARMATO	DAWN SHERRICE ROBINSON	JAMIE MICHAEL ROBERT SANDERSON
ARIANA GRANDE-BUTERA	DEVON CHRISTOPHER GALLASPY	JAMIE SCOTT
ARMANDO CHRISTIAN PEREZ	DIJON ISAIAH MCFARLANE	JASON ANDREW PEBWORTH
BEN SPIVAK	DWAYNE CARTER	JASON EVIGAN
BENITO BENITES	EBBA TOVE ELSA NILSSON	JASON JOEL DESROULEAUX
BENJAMIN ARTHUR MCKEE	EDWARD CHRISTOPHER SHEERAN	JEFFREY BHASKER

JEREMY P FELTON	MARSHALL B MATHERS	ROBERT JOSEPH LOPEZ
JEROME HARMON	MARTIN JOSEPH LEONARD BRESSO	ROBYN R FENTY
JESSE SAMUEL SHATKIN	MAUREEN ANNE MCDONALD	ROGER PARKER
JOEL LITTLE	MEGHAN ELIZABETH TRAINOR	RYAN B TEDDER
JOHN HENRY RYAN	MICHAEL AARON EINZINGER	SACHA SKARBEEK
JOHN ROGER STEPHENS	MICHAEL ABRAM SCHULTZ	SAM BARSH
JOHN TURNER	MICHAEL DAVID ROSENBERG	SAMUEL FREDERICK SMITH
JOHN VIRGO GARRETT III	MICHAEL JOE JACKSON	SARAH THERESA HUDSON
JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER SHAVE	MIKE CAMPBELL	SAVAN HARISH KOTECHA
JONATHAN DAVID BELLION	MIKKEL STORLEER ERIKSEN	SEAN MAXWELL DOUGLAS
JONATHAN H SMITH	NASRI TONY ATWEH	SELENA MARIE GOMEZ
JONATHAN MARK BUCKLAND	NAYVADIUS WILBURN	SHAWN CARTER
JONATHAN MYVETT	NIALL JAMES NORAN	SIA KATE I FURLER
JORDAN HOUSTON	NICHOLAS JONAS	SIMON WILCOX
JORDY ASHER	NICHOLAUS JOSEPH WILLIAMS	STANLEY P COX
JOSEPH MICHAEL SPARGUR	NICK JOSEPH NICOTERA	STEFAN ALEXANDER GRASLUND
JOSHUA FRANCIS MOSSER	NICOLAY SEREBA	STEPHAN RICHARD MOCCIO
JULIAN COLLIN BUNETTA	NICOLE MONIQUE JUSTINA MARSHALL	STEPHANIE SOKOLINSKI
JUSTIN R TIMBERLAKE	NOEL C FISHER	STEVEN R ARRINGTON
KARIM KHARBOUCH	NOEL PATRICK ZANCANELLA	TAMIR MUSKAT
KARL JOHAN SCHUSTER	NOLAN LAMBROZA	TAUHEED EPPS
KARL LUDVIG DAGSSON SOEDERBERG	OMOLOLU OMARI AKINLOLU	TAYLOR ALISON SWIFT
KARL MARTIN SANDBERG	ONIKA TANYA MARAJ	TAYLOR BENJAMIN YORK
KATHERYN ELIZABETH HUDSON	ORI KAPLAN	THEA AUSTIN
KEENON DAQUAN RAY JACKSON	ORLANDO JAHLIL TUCKER	TIM BERGLING
KERI OSKAR	PATRIK JENS BERGER	TIM JAMES
KESHA SEBERT	PAUL ANKA	TIMOTHY Z MOSLEY
KEVIN PAUL KADISH	PEBE SEBERT	TOBIAS GAD
KRISTEN JANE ANDERSON	PETER ANDERS SVENSSON	TODD ANTHONY SHAW
KURTIS ISAAC MCKENZIE	PETER GENE HERNANDEZ	TOMER YOSEF
LEE OSKAR	PHARRELL L WILLIAMS	TOR ERIK HERMANSEN
LIAM JAMES PAYNE	PHILIP MARTIN LAWRENCE II	TYRONE WILLIAM JR GRIFFIN
LOUIS WILLIAM TOMLINSON	PRISCILLA RENEA HAMILTON	VINCENT DERY
LUKASZ GOTTWALD	RAHMAN KHALIL ABDUL	WAUNG L HANKERSON
LYRICA NASHA ANDERSON	RAPHAEL SAADIQ	WILLIAM CHAMPION
MAKI ATHANASIOU	RASOOL RICARDO DIAZ	WILLIAM PHILLIPS
MARCOS ENRIQUE PALACIOS	REGINALD KENNETH DWIGHT	WILLIAM SAMI ETIENN GRIGAHCINE
MARK DANIEL RONSON	RICKARD BERTIL GORANSSON	WILLIAM WIIK LARSEN
MARK PELLIZZER	ROBERT CLIFTON III BRACKINS	ZAIN JAVADD MALIK