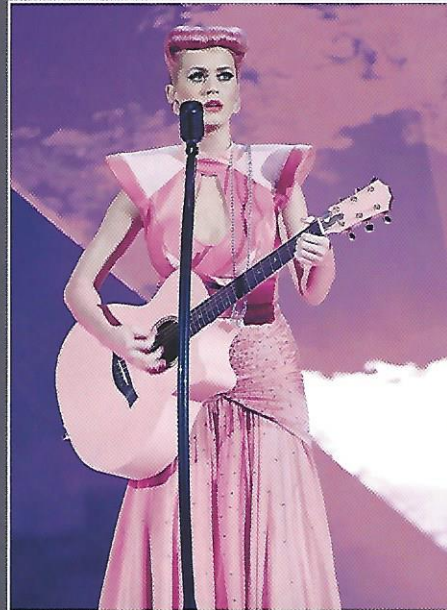




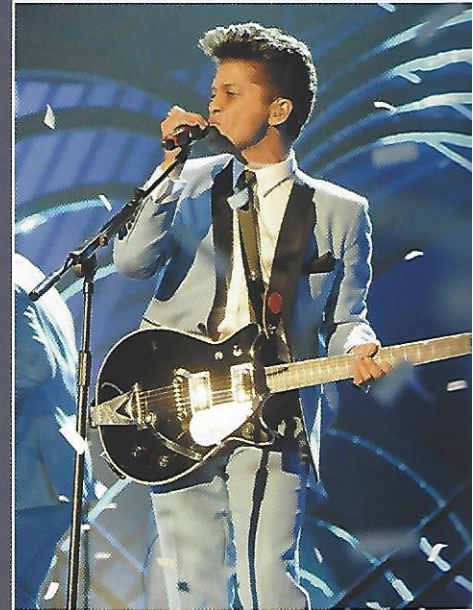
Usher on the Upswing

Usher wins the AMA Favorite Male Artist award, performs with Justin Bieber for NBC's *Christmas in Rockefeller Center* and reunites with Ludacris.



Katy Perry Stays on Top

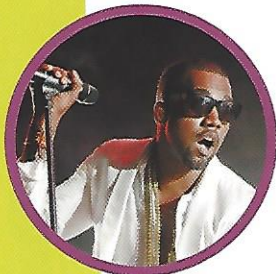
Katy Perry is the year's most-played artist on the radio, with five Number One singles. She sells two million albums and 24 million digital downloads.



The Rising Star, Bruno Mars

Singer-songwriter Bruno Mars receives six Grammy nominations, an AMA Award for best Pop/Rock Male Artist, and sings with the Muppets on *Sesame Street*.

Music



Abdeljalil Bounhar/AP Photo

Kanye's Lucky Seven

Hip-hop superstar and producer Kanye West receives a total of seven 2012 Grammy nominations, more than any other artist for the season.



Mark Humphrey/AP Photo

Lady A. Owns the Night

Nashville's Lady Antebellum hits the country charts with "Just a Kiss," from their third studio album, *Own the Night*.



Tim Whitby/Getty Images

Adele Turns 21

Despite vocal cord trouble that forces her to suspend touring, Adele is Billboard's Number One artist of 2011 and her album, *21*, is the year's top seller.



George Rose/Getty Images

Whitney Houston Dies at Age 48

The music industry and fans alike were stunned about the death of music icon, Whitney Houston. Her body was found unresponsive on Saturday, February 11th in her Los Angeles hotel room.



Larry Marano/Getty Images

Hot Chelle Rae Is Getting Hotter

Hot Chelle Rae signs with RCA, wins a Best New Artist award from the American Music Association and releases the band's second album, *Whatever*.