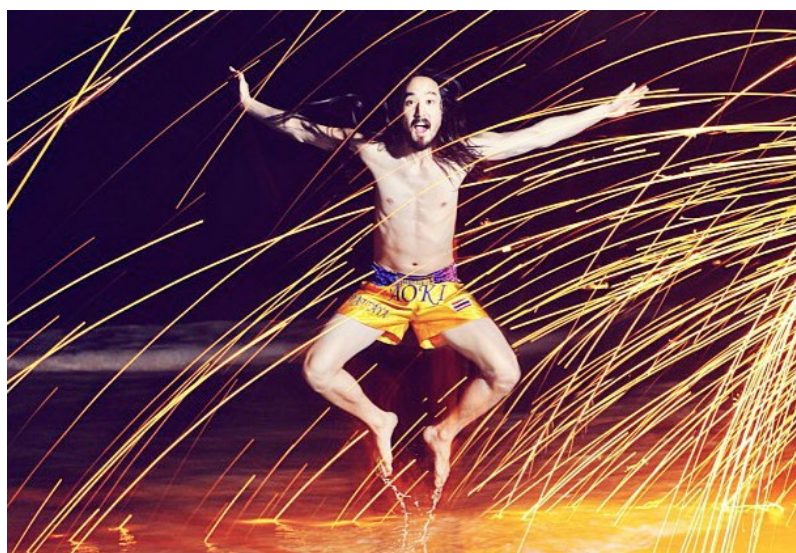


## [ Rituals ]

### Grammy Day

From sunrise to sundown, how nominees and executives are gearing up for music's biggest night



#### WAKE-UP CALL

"Find the nearest Starbucks." —**Hunter Hayes**, nominated for best new artist, best country album and best country solo performance

"I'll probably get ready way too early and wait by the door like a freakin' dog." —**Lizzy Hale** of *Halestorm*, nominated for best hard rock/metal performance

"Stick to the fundamentals: Take a piss, eat breakfast, exercise and try not to freak out." —**James Valentine** of *Maroon 5*, nominated for best pop/duo performance and best pop vocal album

#### ARM CANDY

"I would've taken my girl [Ali Tamposi, song of the year nominee for co-writing the Kelly Clarkson hit "Stronger"], but she's taking her mom, so I'll just hang with my boys." —**James Valentine**

"I'm taking my sons, [songwriters] Damon and David. They've been coming since they were small children." —**Dionne Warwick**, five-time Grammy winner and a featured artist at the Grammy Foundation's Grammy Week "Play It Forward" concert

#### GOOD-LUCK CHARM

"I have one necklace that has Jesus on it. I kiss it and tell Jesus I love him." —**Anthony Hamilton**, nominated for best R&B song and best R&B album

"Adam Levine. I find if I take him around, good things happen." —**James Valentine**

#### STRESS MANAGEMENT

"Drink water—my antsiness will definitely suck the hydration out of me." —**Lizzy Hale**

"Before we walk onstage, we'll do what we always do—put our hands together and do a 'Hoorah!' We got it from that Ashton Kutcher-Kevin Costner movie, 'The Guardian.'" —**James Valentine**

#### AT THE CEREMONY

"I'll be checking out the outfits, looking to see if Lady Gaga is wearing a tall building or something." —**Anthony Hamilton**

"I do a thing called the 'Aoki Jump,' where I photograph myself jumping in iconic places around the world and then put it on Instagram. I've been jumping in the pants I'm going to wear to make sure the crotch and ass don't rip." —**Steve Aoki**, nominated for best dance/electronic album

"They have these placards in the celebrities' seats that have their name and picture on them. I like to tweet pictures of me sitting with, say, the Usher placard." —**James Valentine**



#### PARTY ON

"I don't know if we're cool enough to go to afterparties." —**Neyla Pekarek** of *Lumineers*, nominated for best new artist and best Americana album

"After awards shows, we usually go to Prince's house for a jam session and get down. You can't play around—it's the hardest karaoke ever." —**Anthony Hamilton**

"Warner-Atlantic is having a party, so I'll hang out there. CAA also handles all my favorite people, so I'll go to their party and see who I can meet." —**Hunter Hayes**

"We do our own party the day before the Grammys. It'll be at Paramount Studios again. We get a chance to enjoy ourselves with friends, fans and the people who work all year round with us." —**Ronald "Slim" Williams**, Cash Money Records CEO

"Roc Nation's, at the House of Blues, is the afterparty not to miss." —**Antonio "L.A." Reid**, Epic Records CEO

"We're starting a new tradition and having our own party after the show at the Soho House—a prelude to our career as party promoters." —**James Valentine**

"Of course, I'll go to Clive [Davis'] party. But after years of these industry affairs, it's nice to get home and take my shoes off." —**Dionne Warwick** —**Matt Diehl**

#### TALK

@wizkhalifa Went and got fitted for the grammys today

@jtimberlake Did you hear yet?! <http://tmblr.lk/cvH> Been itching to get back on the BIG stage. Can't wait for this one... @thegrammys

@frank\_ocean cut my finger now I can't play w two hands at the grammys.

@rihanna #RihannaNavy My friends @ColdPlay and I will be sharing the stage for a performance at this years Annual Grammy Awards! #BONKERS

Best dance/electronic album nominee Steve Aoki practices his Grammy jump (top left).

#### GO TIME TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

## Gary Clark Jr.

While on the road playing Australia's Big Day Out festival, Austin-based Gary Clark Jr. checked in with Billboard to give us the low-down on how he travels in style—something he should know a thing or two about. The esteemed blues guitarist, whose effortless cool landed him an ad campaign alongside Jimmy Page for John Varvatos this winter, has been zigzagging across the globe in support of his much buzzed-about Warner Bros. debut, *Blak and Blu*, released in October. Here, his touring must-haves.

#### Trusted battle ax

"My **Cassie**, the **Red Epiphone Casino**. It's my main-squeeze guitar. She's been out of commission lately, but I've brought her back."

#### Portable speaker

"The **Beacon Audio Phoenix** is the best. This little cube produces the best sound for a mobile speaker device. And it operates on Bluetooth, allowing me to use my phone as the remote control."

#### Double-duty electronics

"Got to have my **MacBook Pro**: Essential for watching movies and working on material while traveling."

#### Key app

"I like an app called **djay**. I love being able to mix up songs on my phone on the fly. It's like having two turntables in my phone. Awesome."

#### Sound (and vision) advice

"I don't leave home without my **Beacon Audio Earbuds**—perfect for mobile listening on planes, trains, buses or wherever we're on the move. And always, always, always shades. Sunglasses are a must to block the sun or help dim the cabin when I shut my eyes."

#### Flight essential

"My **iPhone**, in airplane mode, to listen to music while in transit. It allows me to retreat into another world."

#### A touch of home

"Being with my band and crew brings the home with us. There's no better way to represent the hometown than keeping it homegrown." —**Ray Rogers**



"I'm wearing a suit with Converse Chuck Taylors, for that subtle chill factor."

—Hunter Hayes