

billboard

October 15, 2016

(also ran in online- <http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/grammys/7534038/grammys-2017-song-album-record-best-new-artist-award>)

GRAMMYS
2017PREVIEW

ADELE TO ZAYN: BREAKING DOWN THE BIG FOUR

Beyoncé drove the conversation, Ms. Adkins outsold everyone and Frank Ocean just made the deadline: running down the major players — and liveliest rivalries — in the main Grammy categories

BY ALAN LIGHT // ILLUSTRATION BY DALE EDWIN MURRAY

RECORD OF THE YEAR

Drake's "One Dance" (featuring Wizkid and Kyla) ranks as *Billboard's* official song of the summer and will likely get a nod here. Justin Bieber, having established his Grammy credibility with the Jack U collaboration "Where Are U Now" (the 2016 best dance recording), returned with the mature, acoustic-based "Love Yourself," co-written with Grammy favorite Ed Sheeran. Lukas Graham's "7 Years" was another earnest, massively popular statement from a young act.

SONG OF THE YEAR

First, your annual reminder: Song of the year recognizes songwriters; record of the year, performers and producers. 2015 and

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2016 provided many of the big, heartfelt compositions that this category tends to favor. “Hello” (written by Adele and Greg Kurstin), “7 Years” (Lukas Graham leader Lukas Forchammer, Steffan Forest, Morten Ristorp and Morten Pilegaard) and “Love Yourself” (Justin Bieber, Ed Sheeran and Benjamin Levin) all have a strong shot here.

BEST NEW ARTIST

Further afield are acts with one or two big songs but maybe not the gravity of a career artist. Shawn Mendes ascended quickly to arena-headliner status. Lukas Graham is a strong contender, along with Alessia Cara, who is well-liked across genres. The Chainsmokers’ “Closer,” with Halsey, could tip the balance for one, or both, acts. Bryson Tiller was honored at the BET and MTV Video Music Awards, and Desiigner’s “Panda” was unavoidable for months.