

In addition to the GRAMMY Awards, The Recording Academy presents other notable honors. These awards recognize contributions of significance to the recording field that fall outside the framework of the GRAMMY Awards categories, and include the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Trustees Award, the Technical GRAMMY Award, the GRAMMY Legend Award, GRAMMY Hall Of Fame Award, and Music Educator Award.

The following pages recognize this year's Special Merit Award recipients. A complete list of past recipients is available in The Recording Academy Awards section of GRAMMY.org.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award, established in 1962, is presented by vote of The Recording Academy's National Trustees to performers who, during their lifetimes, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording.

Trustees Award

This Special Merit Award is presented by vote of The Recording Academy's National Trustees to individuals who have made significant contributions, other than performance, to the field of recording. The Trustees Award was established in 1967.

Technical GRAMMY® Award

Presented by vote of The Recording Academy's National Trustees, the Technical GRAMMY Award recognizes individuals and companies that have made contributions of outstanding technical significance to the field of recording. The Technical GRAMMY was first awarded in 1994.

GRAMMY Legend Award

This Special Merit Award is presented on occasion by The Recording Academy to individuals or groups for ongoing contributions and influence in the recording field. The GRAMMY Legend Award was inaugurated in 1990.

GRAMMY Hall Of Fame®

The GRAMMY Hall Of Fame Award was established by The Recording Academy's National Trustees in 1973 to honor recordings of lasting qualitative or historical significance that are at least 25 years old.

Music Educator Award™

Launched by The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation in 2013, the Music Educator Award recognizes current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in their schools. The recipient is approved by The Academy's Board of Trustees.



LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD

Bee Gees

By Russ Titelman



The Bee Gees' (left to right) Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb

When I think about the Bee Gees just as songwriters, it makes me think of Irving Berlin. Like him, Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb cranked out beautifully crafted, unusual, complicated, melodic popular songs one after another, hit after hit. They wrote story songs such as "I've Gotta Get A Message To You" and "New York Mining Disaster 1941"; dark, brooding ballads such as "Holiday," "How Can You Mend A Broken Heart" and "How Deep Is Your Love"; and such pop masterpieces as "To Love Somebody" and "Run To Me." Then, after a decade of writing and performing these miraculous three-minute movies, they came up with "Jive Talkin'" and "Stayin' Alive," which ushered in the disco era and changed music forever. They also wrote hits for other artists, including "Islands In The Stream" for Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton and "Guilty" and "Woman In Love" for Barbra Streisand.

I always thought that what constituted a great record was this: You had never heard anything like it before or after. So it was not only the songs but the unique sound they created. With their tight harmonies, Robin's sweet, soulful lead vocals, Barry's signature falsetto, and rockin' instrumental tracks, you knew it was the Bee Gees from the first notes you heard.

In 1997 I was welcomed into the Bee Gees family when Barry called and asked me to produce three tracks on their upcoming *Still Waters* album. I had the time of my life and we made great music. They were professional, creative, generous, and so very funny!

One incident comes to mind. We were working on "Alone," which became the first single off the album, and I thought we needed something different at the end so I suggested a vocal counterpoint section like the end of the Beach Boys' "God Only Knows." They liked the idea so the three of them went upstairs to work on it and in five or 10 minutes came back with a fully formed ending. They immediately went into the studio and laid down the parts. The whole thing took about a half hour. I was completely blown away.

While they were singing I looked over at John Merchant, their engineer, and with a big smile on my face said, "It's the Bee Gees!"

Barry, Robin and Maurice, your work has been an inspiration to us all. Thank you. ●

A three-time GRAMMY-winning producer, Russ Titelman has worked with artists such as Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Chaka Khan, Cyndi Lauper, Randy Newman, James Taylor, and Steve Winwood, among others. He served as the co-producer for the Bee Gees' 1997 album Still Waters, which featured the hit "Alone."