

Literature, *Lemonade*, and *DAMN.*: A Historical Perspective on Popular Music Awards

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw2pjevrhI>

Abstract

The history of popular music awards has run alongside the history of media technology and mass communication now for nearly a century. Music is annually honored at the Grammys and MTV's Video Music Awards; in genre-specific celebrations like the BET, Country Music, and Dove Awards; in conjunction with visual media at the Oscars, Emmys, and Golden Globes; and internationally at events like the Juno and BAFTA Awards. More recently, popular music has charted new awards territory. Bob Dylan's 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature, Beyoncé's 2016 Peabody Award for *Lemonade*, and Kendrick Lamar's 2018 Pulitzer Prize for *DAMN.* were all hailed as landmark recognitions, both for the artists and the respective awards organizations. A common theme in press coverage of these awards was how unprecedented they were for these specific awards organizations, and how they might signal a new era of cultural recognition for the value of popular music.

Keywords: music awards, music history, Nobel Prize, Peabody Awards, popular music, Pulitzer Prize



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