

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*.

Jennifer Lopez Goes Solo

After the tabloids cover her split from husband Marc Anthony, Jennifer Lopez wins a Favorite Latin Artist Award from the American Music Awards.

Coldplay Plays It Cool

Coldplay releases its fifth album, *Mylo Xyloto*, and streams a concert in Spain as a live webcast on YouTube.

Gaga Visits Obama

Lady Gaga drops in on President Obama to lend her support to his anti-bullying campaign, according to a White House senior advisor's blog.

Music



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*.



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*.



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.



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.



Dimitrios Kambouris/WireImage

Maroon 5 Moves Like Winners

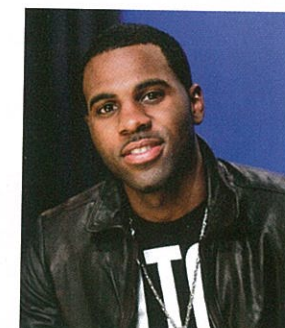
Maroon 5 wins an AMA Pop/Rock Favorite Band award. The cast of *Glee* covers the band's hit single, "Moves Like Jagger."



Frederick Breedon IV/FilmMagic

Taylor Made Good

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift releases her *Speak Now World Tour: Live* album and is named CMA Entertainer of the Year.



Richard Drew/AP Photo

Jason Derulo Recovers from Fracture

Singer-songwriter Jason Derulo lands in the hospital and cancels a planned UK tour after fracturing his neck while rehearsing acrobatic stage moves.



Ethan Miller/Getty Images

The Merry Band Perry

Siblings Kimberly, Neil, and Reid Perry of The Band Perry celebrate a Platinum album, three CMA Awards and a Grammy nomination.

Rick Diamond/Getty Images for GMC



Natalie Grant Gets Grammy Nod

Singer Natalie Grant receives a Grammy nomination for Best Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music Performance, for "Alive (Mary Magdalene)."



Richard Diamond/Getty Images

Casting Crowns Hit the Town

The acclaimed contemporary Christian rock group, Casting Crowns, launches a tour to promote its latest album, *Come to the Well*.



Dana Edelson/NBC/NBCU Photo Bank via AP Images

Foster the People Pumps Up

More than a year after the catchy single's release, "Pumped Up Kicks," by Foster the People, finally reaches the top of the singles chart.