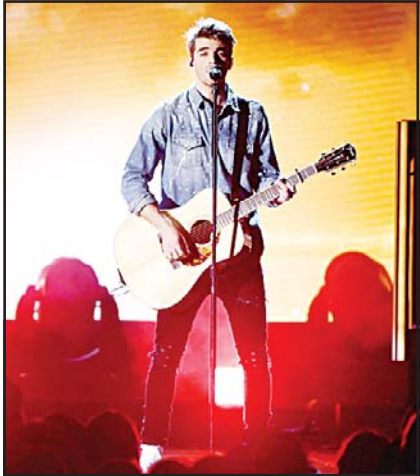


People & Places



Lindsey Stirling, winner of Top Dance/Electronic Album award for 'Brave Enough'. (AFP)



Andrew Taggart of The Chainsmokers performs onstage. (AFP)



Ludacris (left), and Vanessa Hudgens speak onstage. (AFP)



DJ David Guetta (top), and rapper Nicki Minaj perform onstage during the 2017 Billboard Music Awards at T-Mobile Arena on May 21 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (AFP)



Drake poses in the press room with his 13 awards. (AP)



BTS, a South Korean band, pose in the press room with the award for top social artist. (AP)



Brian Kelley (left), and Tyler Hubbard of Florida Georgia Line, winners of the Top Country Song award for 'H.O.L.Y.'. (AFP)



Cher performs onstage. (AFP)



Chris Daughtry (left) and Rachel Platten speak onstage. (AFP)

Music

'Not just Sgt Pepper'

Pink Floyd's Waters 'rebound fire' at 72

PARIS, May 22. (Agencies): Before he agreed to produce Roger Waters' first album in 25 years, Nigel Godrich had some hard words to say to the ex-Pink Floyd frontman.

"I told him what I thought of some of his earlier (solo) stuff," said the studio wizard behind Radiohead, who has been dubbed the "sixth member" of the British band.

Godrich didn't mince his words with his boyhood hero. "He made some records that were impenetrable. I can't listen to them — I turned them off," he told AFP.

"I tried to explain that to him," the producer said of his frank first meeting with Waters, the lyrical genius behind the legendary albums "The Wall" and "Dark Side of the Moon".

But rather than punch him in the mouth, the famously combative Waters, now 72, hired him.

"He got it," said Godrich, who claimed that Waters' powerful new album, "Is This The Life We Really Want?" is a "reaffirmation of him as a truly great songwriter".

He said he realised Waters "really still had it" when he heard a demo of a new song, "Deja Vu", that takes in everything from ageing to drone strikes.

Not that Waters' entirely forgot the younger man's cheek.

Worked

Godrich, who worked with Waters for two years on the album's 12 tracks — which will be released on June 2 — said he was determined it would not fall into the same trap.

Far from "guitar hero" pomp, the fiercely political "Is This The Life We Really Want?" is mostly pared back to bass and strings to showcase Waters "the poet", he said.

In the title track, Waters takes his own baby boomer generation to task — "Every time a Russian bride is advertised for sale/ And every time a journalist is left to rot in jail" — for slipping from idealism into cynicism.

"We could have been free" but "we chose to adhere to abundance/ We chose The American Dream," he sings in "Broken Bones".

"Sgt. Pepper" was only the beginning. Half a century after the Beatles' psychedelic landmark, it stands as just one of many musical astonishments of 1967 that shaped what we listen to now.

The rock album became an art form, and the tight, two-minute hits of Motown and Stax began to give way to the funk of James Brown and Sly and the Family Stone and the fiery candor of Aretha Franklin and "Respect." It was the dawn of the rock festival, in Monterey, and of the pop soundtrack, Simon & Garfunkel's music for "The Graduate."

And it was the year Bob Dylan and the backing musicians who would name themselves the Band quietly gathered at a pink house outside of Woodstock, New York, and recorded dozens of songs that were the birth of "roots music" and the foundation for rock's most famous bootleg, "The Basement Tapes."



Members of French rock band Phoenix (left to right), Deck d'Arcy, Laurent Brancowitz, Christian Mazzalai and Thomas Mars pose for a picture after an interview with AFP on May 17, in New York. (AFP)

Variety

PHILADELPHIA: Thirteen years after a Temple University basketball team manager went to famous alumni Bill Cosby's nearby home for career advice, her complaint that Cosby drugged and molested her that night will soon be a task for a Pennsylvania jury.

Lawyers this week hope to find a dozen jurors and six alternates willing to spend two weeks or more sequestered nearly 300 miles (482 kilometers) from home.

The case has attracted worldwide publicity the judge hopes to shield from jurors when the trial starts June 5 in suburban Philadelphia. Jurors are being chosen in Pittsburgh starting Monday.

"You want to see if they're a celebrity-conscious person — if they read celebrity stuff, if they worship celebrity," trial consultant Howard Varinsky said. "Prosecutors have to be very worried about fans." (AP)

MILLINOCKET, Maine: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan have spent a day hiking around Mount Katahdin in Maine and talking with local residents on their anniversary weekend.

Zuckerberg said they met Saturday with former mill workers, teachers, small business owners, a librarian and a trucker in the town of Millinocket.

He said in a Facebook post that he was struck by their commitment to rebuild their community after the closing of paper mills that once drove the local economy. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The body of Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell, who died in Detroit early Thursday, will be flown to California Sunday and a private funeral will be held on Friday, May 26, his attorney, Kirk Pasich, confirmed to Variety on Sunday.

The singer will be interred at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Although the Friday service is private, his attorney said that public memorials will be announced "when that's been decided," Pasich said.

While Cornell's death was ruled a suicide by hanging, his family on Thursday questioned the coroner's report that the singer intentionally took his own life, noting that he had a prescription for Ativan and may have taken a higher dosage that

Music

Dion gives emotional performance

Singer Cher receives Icon Award

Continued from Page 19

He already had 10 awards by the time the show began, but made sure to give a shout out during his acceptance speeches to his friends in the audience including Nicki Minaj, co-host Ludacris and Lil Wayne. The Chainsmokers, who tied Drake with 22 nominations, won four awards, while other top winners, Beyonce and twenty one pilots, both won five each, but did not attend.

When Cher got up to accept her Icon Award, she wasn't afraid to do a little bragging. The singer and actress noted that she had been lucky to have a dream career for more than five decades, and at the age of 71, she said she can still hold a plank for five minutes.

She certainly showed off that athletic bod in a revealing outfit with pasties and a blonde wig as she performed her '90s dance hit "Believe," then changed into a teased up curly black mane and leather jacket for her performance of "If I Could Turn Back Time."

She noted she was told early on that she never was the most beautiful or the most talented, but she was special and added that "luck has so much to do with my success with a little bit of something thrown in."

Rock fans were stunned to learn about the death of rocker Chris Cornell, who was found dead Thursday in his hotel room in Detroit. The lead singer of Soundgarden and Audioslave and leader of the Seattle grunge movement was honored with a moment of silence during the awards show, which was a shorter than expected tribute to the 52-year-old singer and songwriter.

However, Dan Reynolds of Imagine Dragons summed up his career succinctly, noting he was "a true innovator," "a musical architect," "a prolific songwriter" and "a legendary performer."

Two decades after a movie and a song captivated the country, Celine Dion revisited her iconic hit "My Heart Will Go On," with the same passion as ever. The Canadian singer returned to celebrate the Oscar-winning song 20 years after it topped the charts as the theme to the blockbuster "Titanic."

Under a glittering chandelier and dressed in a Met-worthy white gown, Dion wowed the audience with her performance and earned one of the biggest cheers of the night.

New co-host Vanessa Hudgens was acting more like a fan than an emcee with her enthusiastic intros as well as singing and dancing throughout the night. She impressed early with her rapping skills to show her love for Nicki Minaj, then tried a heartfelt rendition of Dion's "The Power of Love."

Later on she showed up in one of Cher's iconic stage costumes and danced along to Cher's performance from the audience.

Even Drake took notice in his acceptance speech, adding that Hudgens looked "amazing," which drew envious looks from Nicki Minaj.

Winners

- Top Artist: Drake
- Top New Artist: Zayn
- Billboard Chart Achievement Award Presented by Xfinity: Twenty One Pilots
- Top Male Artist: Drake
- Top Female Artist: Beyonce
- Top Duo/Group: Twenty One Pilots
- Top Billboard 200 Artist: Drake
- Top Hot 100 Artist: Drake
- Top Song Sales Artist: Drake
- Top Radio Songs Artist: Twenty One Pilots
- Top Streaming Songs Artist: Drake
- Top Social Artist: BTS
- Top Touring Artist: Beyonce
- Top R&B Artist: Beyonce
- Top R&B Tour: Beyonce
- Top Rap Artist: Drake
- Top Rap Tour: Drake
- Top Country Artist: Blake Shelton
- Top Country Tour: Kenny Chesney
- Top Rock Artist: Twenty One Pilots
- Top Rock Tour: Coldplay
- Top Latin Artist: Juan Gabriel
- Top Dance/Electronic Artist: The Chainsmokers
- Top Christian Artist: Lauren Daigle
- Top Gospel Artist: Kirk Franklin

- Top Billboard 200 Album: Drake, Views
- Top Soundtrack/Cast Album: Hamilton: An American Musical
- Top R&B Album: Beyonce, Lemonade
- Top Rap Album: Drake, Views
- Top Country Album: Chris Stapleton, Traveller
- Top Rock Album: Metallica, Hardwired...To Self Destruct
- Top Latin Album: Juan Gabriel, Los Duo 2
- Top Dance/Electronic Album: Lindsey Stirling, Brave Enough
- Top Christian Album: Lauren Daigle, How Can It Be
- Top Gospel Album: Tamela Mann, One Way
- Top Hot 100 Song: The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey, "Closer"
- Top Selling Song: Justin Timberlake, "Can't Stop The Feeling!"
- Top Radio Song: Justin Timberlake, "Can't Stop The Feeling!"
- Top Streaming Song (Audio): Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
- Top Streaming Song (Video): Designer, "Panda"
- Top Collaboration: The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey, "Closer"
- Top R&B Song: Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
- Top R&B Collaboration: Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
- Top Rap Song: Designer, "Panda"
- Top Rap Collaboration: Rae Sremmurd Featuring Gucci Mane, "Black Beatles"
- Top Country Song: Florida Georgia Line, "H.O.L.Y."
- Top Country Collaboration: Kenny Chesney Featuring Pink, "Setting The World On Fire"
- Top Rock Song: Twenty One Pilots, "Heathens"
- Top Latin Song: Nicky Jam, "Hasta El Amanecer"
- Top Dance/Electronic Song: The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey, "Closer"
- Top Christian Song: Hillary Scott & The Family, "Thy Will"
- Top Gospel Song: Travis Greene, "Made A Way"

impaired his judgement. (RTRS)

MELBOURNE, Australia: Rebel Wilson was devastated by a series of magazine articles that she says painted her as a liar and subsequently cost her roles in Hollywood, a lawyer for the actress said Monday.

Wilson is suing Australian publisher Bauer Media for defamation over several articles published in 2015 that the Australian-born actress said led to her film



Wilson



Cosby

contracts being terminated. At the opening of the trial in the Supreme Court of Victoria on Monday, Wilson's lawyer, Matthew Collins, said his client was "cut to the core" when she learned 1.5 million people had read an article online that said she had lied about her name, age and upbringing in Australia. Collins said the articles were published to coincide with a high point in Wilson's acting career, including the release of "Pitch Perfect 2." (AP)