

Sir Lucian Grainge is Cannes Lions Media Person of the Year 2017

Sir Lucian Grainge, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group (UMG), will be honoured as the Cannes Lions Media Person of the Year 2017 at the annual festival. He is the first music executive to be recognised since the award launched in 1999.



Sir Lucian Grainge © [UniversalMusic.com](https://www.universalmusic.com)

During a career spanning nearly four decades in the music business, Grainge signed and worked with many global stars, including ABBA, Justin Bieber, Elton John, Jay Z, Katy Perry, Queen, Rihanna, The Rolling Stones, Sam Smith, U2 and Amy Winehouse.

Widely credited for laying the foundation that has led to the music industry's return to growth, after more than a decade of decline, Grainge developed new approaches to the signing and development of global recording artists and songwriters, and championed innovative business models and created partnerships with a wide range of international technology and media partners.

Philip Thomas, CEO of Ascential Events, organisers of Cannes Lions, said, "Through creative drive, passion and outstanding leadership, Sir Lucian has made bold investments in music and technology that helped return the industry to growth, while continuing to foster an environment that puts artists first. During his tenure, Grainge has transformed UMG into a world leader in music-based entertainment and we are delighted to honour him as this year's Media Person of the Year."

Traditional media businesses can reinvent themselves

Grainge commented, "While today's music industry is virtually unrecognisable from the business I started in, one thing that has not changed is that great artists and great music remain at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to demonstrate how traditional media businesses can reinvent themselves in the age of streaming, leverage new technologies and work closely with brand partners to develop exciting opportunities for artists, labels and fans. On behalf of everyone at UMG and all of our recording artists and songwriters, we are very thankful to Cannes Lions for this honour."

In 2011, Grainge led UMG's successful acquisition of the recorded music assets of the legendary British music company EMI, revitalising its iconic Capitol Records and, in the process, further strengthening UMG's position as the global leader in music. Under his leadership, the company set numerous creative records including being the first music company to score all 10 of the top 10 spots on the Billboard Hot 100.

In 2016, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II knighted Grainge in the Queen's 90th birthday honours list for accomplishments in the music industry and leadership through its challenging times, contributions to British business and inward investment. He also serves on the boards of Lionsgate Entertainment, a premier next generation global content leader, and Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The award will be presented to Grainge at a ceremony on Wednesday, 21 June 2017 during the festival.