

Taylor Swift's New Album "Red" Breaks New Record

Neksa Mumbi Moody

Taylor Swift's new album is called "Red," but its true color is a brilliant platinum. The 22-year-old sold 1.2 million copies of her latest album in its first week - the largest sales week for any album in a decade.

Nielsen SoundScan confirmed the blockbuster sales on Tuesday night. "Red" marks Swift's second straight album to sell more than 1 million copies in its first week; "Speak Now," her third album, sold a little over 1 million copies when it was released in 2010. She is

the only woman to have two albums sell more than 1 million copies in its first week. "They just told me Red sold

1.2 million albums first week. How is this real life?! You are UNREAL. I love you so much. Thanks a million ;)," Swift tweeted Tuesday night.

The only other act to sell more than 1 million copies of an album in its debut week twice was 'N Sync.

Swift isn't a boy band, but she's certainly got the appeal of one: the country crossover has a huge following, particu-

larly among teens who have followed her since she was a teen herself, releasing her first album. But she's also a

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critic's darling: The Grammy-winner's "Red" garnered plenty of acclaim when it was released last week.

Swift was omnipresent in the week of the album's release, appearing on such shows as "Good Morning America" and "Katie." She also joined with

two untraditional partners - Papa John's and Walgreens, which offered the album for sale. And she announced her

upcoming tour.

The last album to sell more than 1 million cop-

ies in its debut week was Lady Gaga's "Born This Way," which sold 1.1 million copies last year. However, that album was deeply discounted on Amazon.com in its first week.

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Justin Bieber Wins 3 AMA's

Music-News.com

Justin Bieber swept the American Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday night. The 18-year-old Baby hitmaker fought off competition from Rihanna, Maroon 5, Drake and Katy Perry to win artist of the year. Justin scored the first gong of the evening, beating out Flo Rida, Pitbull and Usher to be named favourite pop/rock male artist. later in the evening beat out Maroon 5,

Nicki Minaj and One Direction to win favourite pop/rock album for Believe and took the stage mid-show to perform his new hit single Beauty and a Beat with the rapper. Taking the stage, Justin thanked his mother, Pattie Mallette, who accompanied him on the red carpet in lieu of his supposed ex-girlfriend, Selena Gomez. Justin also thanked his manager, his 'beautiful fans' and 'the haters'.

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Billboard Top 100's Top 5 This Week

1. One More Night- Maroon 5
2. Gangnam Style- PSY
3. Some Night- Fun.
4. Diamonds- Rihanna
5. We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together- Taylor Swift

Phillip Phillips Releases His Debut Album

Dan Hyman

Just days after he was crowned winner of the 11th season of American Idol, Phillip Phillips' thoughts turned to his impending debut album. The project wasn't a surprise: The 22-year-old knew that winning came with a major-label release on 19/Interscope. When it came time to plot his own first-look, Phillips wasn't about to relinquish

any of his creative integrity. "That was the biggest thing, man," he tells Rolling Stone, referring to his outside-the-box vision for The World From the Side of the Moon, due today. It's rare that winning a singing competition gives an artist the power to call his own shots. It helped, of course, that Phillips' debut single, the Mumford & Sons-esque "Home," made him the first Idol alum in four years

to send a coronation track into the Billboard Hot 100. Driven by his acoustic-guitar bravado, and full of uplifting power-pop hooks, Moon will feel instantly familiar to fans who discovered Phillips on Idol. There's a sense of lyrical maturity on the album to boot: on opener "Man on the Moon," the singer/songwriter tells off a gun-shy lover, singing, "You can find yourself if you decide to finally

start/But don't look to me when you fall." Later, on the Dave Matthews Band-esque ballad "Tell Me a Story," there's world-weary wisdom in the young man's voice. It's not the first time the singer has gotten the Matthews comparison, but he doesn't mind at all. "People will tell me that every now and then," he says, laughing. "I take it as a compliment. He's one of my heroes."