



Lady Gaga, right, and James Hetfield of "Metallica" perform "Moth Into Flame" at the 59th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles. — AP

Grammy producer apologizes for Metallica, Caesar glitches

The longtime producer of the Grammy Awards is offering apologies to Metallica and Shirley Caesar after a technical glitch and a misprint marred their inclusion on the show. The mic for Metallica's James Hetfield wasn't initially working when the band took the stage to perform with Lady Gaga, and Caesar, a lifetime achievement award honoree, was misidentified during the televised ceremony when a photo of another gospel star, CeCe Winans, was shown instead of her during a montage clip.

"These kinds of things are horrible when they happen," Ken Ehrlich said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "That's one of the risks of live television." The Metallica glitch, for which the band has blamed a dead microphone, resulted in Hetfield making a decision to improvise and use Lady Gaga's mic. Ehrlich has heard a different story from his crew about the problem.

"My guys say that the mic cable was connected," he said. "My guys' theory was that ... one of the extras (on stage) accidentally kicked out the cable that went to the mic."

Still, the end result was Hetfield's singing couldn't be heard for the first part of the performance. "Obviously, we apologize to the band," Ehrlich said, calling the mishap "awful." He added that he's worked with Metallica

for years, so to see that happen was personally upsetting to him: "You hurt." In the case of Caesar, the gospel legend, Ehrlich had a better understanding of what happened. When preparing for a clip to run of her for the show, footage of a classic Caesar, Winans and Whitney Houston performance was used, and Winans was mistakenly shown.

Ehrlich said he usually checks such footage but didn't get a chance to this year, since he was busy with the show and the Recording Academy's tribute to the Bee Gees, which taped in Los Angeles on Tuesday and will air at a later date. "We obviously want to apologize to Shirley Caesar," he said. "It's unfortunate that happened."

Caesar released a statement Wednesday thanking Ehrlich for the apology and added, "these things happen sometimes." Ehrlich was also frustrated that the mistakes have overshadowed some of the great performances that occurred on the show, including Beyonce, Bruno Mars and Adele, who had her own hiccup when she restarted her tribute to George Michael. "When you do a three-and-a-half hour live show, it's fraught with danger," he said. "It was an adventurous show in many ways." Ehrlich has produced the Grammys for years and has also produced other events, including the Emmy Awards. — AP

Dr Luke email shows criticism of Kesha's weight in legal case

Music producer Dr Luke said in 2012 that musicians were unwilling to give pop singer Kesha their songs to perform because of her weight, according to court documents filed this week amid the singer's case to get out of her recording contract. Kesha, 29, has been involved in a three-year battle to get out of a multi-album recording deal with Sony Music and pop hitmaker Dr Luke, whom she had accused of rape and emotional abuse during the early stages of her career.

The case has grabbed attention for shining a light on the behind-the-scenes struggles that female artists often face in the music industry, and Kesha has gained support from pop powerhouses such as Taylor Swift, Adele and Lady Gaga. Dr Luke has repeatedly denied the claims and has counter-sued for defamation. Documents filed in New York state court this week show an email chain between Kesha's manager Monica Cornia and Dr. Luke, whose real name is Lukasz Gottwald, in which he chastised the singer for breaking her juice diet by drinking soda and eating turkey.

"We all get concerned when she is breaking her diet plan... we have seen it happen multiple times ... almost every day," Dr. Luke wrote to Cornia on June 28, 2012. "It is also double concerning when the A list songwriters and producers are reluctant to give Kesha their songs because of her weight." Another email chain from May 2012 outlines a dispute between the singer and the producer over the lyrics of a song.

Dr Luke's lawyer, Christine Lepera, said in a statement on Wednesday the emails don't "disclose the larger record of evidence showing the bad faith of Kesha Sebert and her representatives which is greatly damaging to them." She added the documents show "the tremendous support that Dr Luke provided Kesha regarding artistic and personal issues, including Kesha's own concerns over her weight."



Pop singer Kesha

Representatives for Kesha declined to comment to Reuters. Kesha filed a civil lawsuit in 2014 in Los Angeles against Dr Luke with numerous allegations including that the producer's insults to her appearance had caused her to develop bulimia nervosa, for which she underwent treatment. The "Tik Tok" singer later dropped the lawsuit in California but her lawyers said she would continue her case in New York to get out of her contract. A New York judge last year denied Kesha's bid to extricate herself from her recording contract, which sparked an emotional #FreeKesha campaign by the singer's fans on social media. — Reuters

Carlos Santana says praise for Adele wasn't dig at Beyonce

Carlos Santana says he was only trying to congratulate Adele on her big night at the Grammys when he said Beyonce "is very beautiful to look at" but "not a singer, singer." Santana told the Australian Associated Press that Adele can "sing, sing."

He said Adele "doesn't bring all the dancers and props, she can just stand there and she just stood there and sang the song and that's it, and this is why she wins." Santana clarified his stance on Facebook Tuesday, writing that his "intent was to congratulate Adele" and that his comment about Beyonce "was regrettably taken out of context."

He adds that he has "the utmost respect" for Beyonce. Adele beat out Beyonce for the top awards during Sunday's ceremony. — AP



In this January 26, 2003, file photo, Beyonce and guitarist Carlos Santana perform for the pre-game show before the start of Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego. — AP

Queen Latifah to be honored as an entertainment icon



Queen Latifah will get the royal treatment at the upcoming American Black Film Festival Honors. The Oscar-nominat-

ed actress is set to receive the Entertainment Icon award at this year's ceremony, to be held in Los Angeles on Friday. The star of "Star" on Fox says she is honored to receive the award. "It means so much to me coming from fellow entertainers and my peers."

Queen Latifah got her start as a rapper almost three decades ago. Besides her Oscar nod for "Chicago," she's also been nominated twice in Emmy acting categories and won a Golden Globe. The American Black Film Festival Honors will air on BET and Centric at 8 pm EST on Feb 22. Other honorees include Terrence Howard. Actress Regina Hall will host the event. — AP



File photo shows Justin Bieber performs at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas. — AP

In new report, man claims Bieber punched him in June

A Las Vegas man who says Justin Bieber assaulted him in Cleveland eight months ago has filed a police report about the fracas. Thirty-four-year-old Rodney Cannon claims in the report filed Tuesday with Cleveland police that the pop star took his sunglasses inside a hotel after a Cleveland Cavaliers playoff game on June 8. He says in the report that Bieber and possibly a bodyguard then

punched him. He also says he wrestled Bieber to the ground to restrain him.

Bieber's publicist didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on the accusations. Cannon referred questions Wednesday about the encounter - and why he waited to file the report - to an attorney who also didn't immediately return a message. A Cleveland police spokesman says the episode is under investigation. — AP