



For Immediate Release

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## DESPACITO CO-WRITER ERIKA ENDER CATALOGUE ACQUIRED BY HIPGNOSIS

**Hipgnosis Song Management** (“Hipgnosis” or the “Company”), which offers investors a pure-play exposure to songs and associated intellectual property rights, is pleased to announce the Company’s acquisition of a song catalogue by **Erika Ender**, the Panamanian singer-songwriter who co-wrote *Despacito*, one of the defining, post-millennium Latin-pop Songs, which has been played over 3 billion times on Spotify alone.

Ms. Ender’s songs have been featured on more than 200 albums with more than 40 singles topping the US Latin, LATAM and Hispanic charts. As the only Hispanic woman in the history of the Grammys with a nomination for Song of the Year, Ms. Ender is one of the most successful and influential Latin songwriters of all time.

Hipgnosis has acquired a 100% interest in Ms. Ender’s publishing copyrights (including the writer’s share of performance) in all songs in her catalogue published, released or utilized through her Sony Music Publishing deal from 2007 through 2019 including *Despacito* and more than 25 Number 1 Songs. The acquisition has been made on behalf of Hipgnosis Songs Capital, a partnership between Hipgnosis Song Management and funds managed by Blackstone.

*Despacito* was originally released in January 2017, recorded by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee. An enormous global hit, it topped the charts in 47 countries and was certified platinum in 9 territories. It was taken to another level later that same year when Justin Bieber collaborated with Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee and delivered a remix version of the song. Each version has been played more than 1.5 billion times on Spotify and the song has been viewed over 8 billion times on YouTube.

The original version of *Despacito* won three Latin Grammy Awards in 2017, including Record of the Year and Song of the Year, while the re-mix version won Best Urban Fusion/Performance. The following year, the remix version received three Grammy nominations: Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Best Pop Duo / Group Performance. It also received six Billboard Latin Music Awards and five Billboard Music Awards.

Ms. Ender is one of the most prolific composers in the worldwide Latin market and has also released seven solo albums as a singer/songwriter. As a composer, her songs span multiple genres, ranging from Pop to Rock to Tropical. Extremely versatile, in part due to her ability to write and perform in 3 languages (English, Spanish and Portuguese), her songs have been interpreted by a large number of artists globally. The most recent example of this is Los Tigres del Norte’s 2023 Grammy-nominated album *La Reunión Deluxe* that features two of Ms. Ender’s songs, one of which is included in the acquisition, the single *Mal Negocio*.

Ms. Ender is the youngest person to be inducted into the Latin Songwriters Hall of Fame and the first female Latin artist to collect a Grammy Award Song of the Year nomination.

**Merck Mercuriadis, Chief Executive and Founder of Hipgnosis Song Management, said:**

“Erika Ender has defined Latin music for the last 30 years. Her more than 40 Number 1 singles have made her one of the most successful and influential songwriters of all time. Over the last 5 years *Despacito* has ruled the airwaves and helped to drive the new LATAM domination going to Number 1 in 47 countries, but Erika is so much more than that one song with a rich catalogue of many incredible songs. I’m delighted to welcome her to the Hipgnosis Family!”

**Ms. Ender said:**

“I am very excited about this partnership with Hipgnosis. I’ve always believed that music is eternal. I’m confident my songs are in good hands with Merck and his team, and they will do their best to keep my catalogue active, present and alive, as they honor and recognize that the songs are the seeds to the entire music industry, the message that touches and marks people’s lives and where it all begins.”

Erika Ender was represented by Oswaldo Rossi and Pamela Klein at Rossi, P.C. and Sergio Lopes at LCTM Brandbuilders.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**About Erika Ender:**

Erika Ender is one of the most versatile artists in music.

Born in Panama, of Brazilian, European and Asian roots, Erika Ender was raised in a multicultural and multilingual environment the influence of which can be seen in the versatility of her music.

Erika has more than 100 awards, including Latin Grammys for Record of the Year and Song of the Year in 2017 for *Despacito*. She is the only Hispanic composer to have been nominated for a Grammy in the Song of the Year category. Justin Bieber’s remix of the song topped the Billboard Hot 100 for 16 consecutive weeks, equaling the longest run at number one.

At the 2023 Grammys her songs received further recognition with the nomination of Los Tigres Del Norte’s *La Reunión Deluxe* which included Erika’s *Mal Negocio* and *Me Falta Un Pecado* which she co-wrote.

Her ability to compose in Spanish, Portuguese and English and cross from genre to genre has seen her Songs recorded by artists including Justin Bieber, Akon, Marc Anthony, Anitta, Jenni Rivera, Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee, Tigres del Norte, Chayanne, Gloria Trevi, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Claudia Leitte, Leonardo, Prince Royce, Ednita Nazario, Elvis Crespo, Víctor Manuelle, Son by Four, Horóscopos de Durango, Milly Quezada, Mijares, Lupita D'Alessio, Luis Enrique and Azúcar Moreno.

As a singer she has topped the charts with *Ábreme La Puerta*, *Luna Nueva*, *Cheque Al Portador*, *Quien Sale No Entra*, *Masoquista* and *El Lugar Que Me Vió Nacer* and she has recorded duets with artists including Gente de Zona, Claudia Leitte, Jerry Rivera, Emmanuel), Diana Reyes, Debi Nova and Christian Pagán.

Erika is the founder of Puertas Abiertas Foundation and the creator of Guinness World Record TALENPRO, the largest social/global development project competition in the world, TALENPRO benefits thousands of children and teenagers annually. Erika is a Global Ambassador for Special Olympics, in addition to supporting multiple other social causes throughout the world.

#### **About Hipgnosis Song Management Limited:**

Hipgnosis Song Management, founded by its CEO Merck Mercuriadis, is a Song Management company and the Investment Adviser for the FTSE250 Hipgnosis Songs Fund (LSE: SONG.L), the first and largest listed Songs Fund, and Hipgnosis Songs Capital, a partnership with alternative investment manager Blackstone (NYSE: BX).

Hipgnosis Song Management manages 70,000 of the most iconic and culturally important Songs ever written, including Songs by Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nile Rodgers, Neil Young, Fleetwood Mac, Shakira, Justin Timberlake Leonard Cohen, Justin Bieber, Journey, Mark Ronson, Enrique Iglesias, Steve Winwood, Kenny Chesney, Eurythmics, Timbaland, Wu Tang Clan and Blondie. Hipgnosis owns almost a quarter of the songs in Spotify's Billions Club.

Merck Mercuriadis, Is the former manager of globally successful recording artists, such as Elton John, Guns N' Roses, Morrissey, Iron Maiden and Beyoncé, and hit songwriters such as Diane Warren, Justin Tranter and The-Dream. The Investment Adviser has assembled an Advisory Board of highly successful music industry experts which include award winning members of the artist, songwriter, publishing, legal, financial, recorded music and music management communities, all with in-depth knowledge of music publishing. Members of Hipgnosis Song Management Ltd Advisory Board include Nile Rodgers, The-Dream, David A. Stewart, Giorgio Tuinfort, Starrah, Poo Bear, Ian Montone and Rodney Jerkins.

#### **About Blackstone:**

Blackstone is the world's largest alternative asset manager. We seek to create positive economic impact and long-term value for our investors, the companies we invest in, and the communities in which we work. We do this by using extraordinary people and flexible capital to help companies solve problems. Our \$975 billion in assets under management include investment vehicles focused on private equity, real estate, public debt and equity, infrastructure, life sciences, growth equity, opportunistic, non-investment grade credit, real assets and secondary funds, all on a global basis. Further information is available at [www.blackstone.com](http://www.blackstone.com). Follow Blackstone on Twitter @Blackstone.