



For Immediate Release

1 February, 2023

## **UK's MOST STREAMED SONG – THE 4th MOST STREAMED SONG IN HISTORY – ACQUIRED BY HIPGNOSIS AS PART OF TMS SONG CATALOGUE**

**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 from **TMS**, the British songwriting and record production trio of Tom ‘Froe’ Barnes, Benjamin Kohn and Pete ‘Merf’ Kelleher.

Hipgnosis has acquired a 100% interest in publishing copyrights (including the writer’s share of performance), producer royalty streams and neighbouring rights for 217 Songs in the TMS catalogue, including multi-award winning Songs *Someone You Loved* and *Before you Go* which were hits for Lewis Capaldi and *Don’t Be So Hard On Yourself* for Jess Glynne.

Lewis Capaldi’s *Someone You Loved* is 7 times Platinum in the UK and is the UK’s most played Song of all time on Spotify. It is also the fourth most streamed Song ever on Spotify globally having been played over 2.6 billion times. Released in November 2018 it has had a remarkable journey, reaching UK Number One slot in March 2019 where it remained for seven weeks. It spent three weeks at Number One in the US Billboard Hot 100 and over six months in the European Airplay Top 40 Chart. The UK Official Charts Company named it the biggest single of 2019. The Song has won numerous awards including Song of the Year at both The Brits and the ASCAP London Music Awards, Best Song of 2019 and Most Played Song at the Global Awards, BBC Teen Song of the Year and Q Awards’ Best Track.

The acquisition has been made on behalf of Hipgnosis Songs Capital, a partnership between Hipgnosis Song Management and funds managed by Blackstone. Hipgnosis Song Management has previously acquired 121 compositions by TMS on behalf of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Ltd, including compositions recorded by G-Eazy, Sigma and Emeli Sandé. The writers share of those songs is included in this latest acquisition.

The trio have co-written records for a host of artists including Lewis Capaldi, Dua Lipa, John Legend, Maroon 5, Ed Sheeran, Lily Allen and Bebe Rexha, among others. They have collectively had twenty top 10 singles, sold over 15 million records, accumulated over 5 billion streams and have contributed to over fifty top 40 albums.

Hipgnosis now co-owns 90 of the 356 Songs in Spotify’s Billions Club of Songs played over one billion times on the platform with 81 in the Hipgnosis Songs Fund and 17 in Hipgnosis Songs Capital (8 Songs are partly owned by each).

TMS were represented by Paul Centellas at North Pole Management and Sonia Diwan at Sound Advice.

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

“Froe, Ben, Merf and their manager Paul Centellas have been an important part of the Hipgnosis family for many years now so it’s fantastic that we’ve been able to continue our relationship with this new acquisition including what will undoubtedly be a contender for song of the decade with Lewis Capaldi’s iconic *Someone You Loved*.”

**Tom ‘Froe’ Barnes, Benjamin Kohn and Pete ‘Merf’ Kelleher (TMS) said:**

“We’re incredibly proud of this body of work and know Merck and the family at Hipgnosis will be excellent custodians of these copyrights in future. It’s incredible to see what they’ve built in just a few short years and we know they’ll continue to represent these songs with passion and commitment.”

**Paul Centellas, Managing Director, North Pole Management said:**

“Nobody is doing more to elevate the standing and value of the songwriter than Merck and the team at Hipgnosis, so we’re very happy to entrust them with these incredible copyrights and look forward to working with them across various initiatives to ensure the songwriter is properly valued and remunerated in future. Without songwriters, there is no music business.”

**For further information, please contact:**

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**About Hipgnosis Song Management Limited:**

Hipgnosis Song Management Limited is the Investment Adviser for Hipgnosis Songs Fund Ltd (SONG) and Hipgnosis Songs Capital. Hipgnosis was founded by Merck Mercuriadis, 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, Giorgio Tuinfort, Starrah, David A. Stewart, Poo Bear, Bill Leibowitz, 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.

## Notes To Editors:

TMS co-wrote and produced Lewis Capaldi's *Someone You Loved* which spent seven consecutive weeks at number one and was the best-selling single of 2019 in the UK. *Someone You Loved* is the UK's most played Song of all time on Spotify. It is also the fourth most streamed Song ever on Spotify globally having been played over 2.6 billion times. Released in 2018 it has had a remarkable journey, reaching UK Number One slot in March 2019 where it remained for seven weeks. It spent three weeks at Number One in the US Billboard Hot 100 and over six months in the European Airplay Top 40 Chart. The UK Official Charts Company named it the biggest single of 2019. It is 7 times Platinum in the UK. The song was nominated for Song of the Year at the 63rd annual Grammy Awards and won Song of the Year at the 2020 Brit Awards.

TMS have won a host of industry accolades including two Grammy Awards, with another two nominations; two BRIT Award, with another two nominations; the Mercury Award; two BMI London Awards; two BMI Pop Awards and one BMI RnB and Hip Hop Award; two MOBO Awards; and been nominated for The Ivors on four occasions.

Some career highlights include one US No.1 single and seven UK No.1 singles for Lewis Capaldi (*Someone You Loved*, *Before You Go*), Jess Glynne (*Don't Be So Hard on Yourself*), Sigma ft. Paloma Faith (*Changing*), Little Mix (*Wings*), Professor Green ft. Emeli Sandé (*Read All About It*), Dappy (*No Regrets*) Sigma (featuring Paloma Faith) (*Changing*), The Vamps (*Last Night*) and James Arthur (*You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You*).

The trio are from West London, and they've worked together musically since they were teenagers. They started having hits in the U.K. starting in 2011 when they co-wrote #1 hit *Read All About It* for rapper Professor Green (featuring Emeli Sandé). In 2012, TMS worked as music producers on the hit TV show, *The X Factor* and soon after they co-wrote & produced hits for the popular girl group, Little Mix. Notably, they co-wrote & produced three songs on the group's debut album, *DNA* (in 2012), and six songs on their second album, *Salute* (2013).

In addition, TMS has worked with One Direction, Cher, Ed Sheeran, Leona Lewis, Rita Ora, Jessie J, Lily Allen, Labrinth, JLS, Years & Years, Oily Murs, Ella Henderson, Birdy, Jem & The Holograms, Sinead Harnett, Kwabs and Dot Rotten.

For the UK Olympics in 2012, TMS had the honour of having their song *Read All About It* (performed by Emeli Sandé) open the Closing Ceremony, also known as "A Symphony Of British Music". The song featured prominently, being performed twice in front of a backdrop of a stadium covered in newspaper and was viewed by a worldwide audience of 750 million people.