

Justin Bieber, NYTimes Popcast

Based on my review of the podcast transcript, here are all the recording artists, producers, personalities, and artists mentioned with their context and timestamps:

Main Artists/Subjects

- **Justin Bieber** - Primary subject throughout, discussed as releasing experimental album "Swag"
- **McGee** - Guitarist/songwriter from New Jersey, key collaborator (1:51, 4:51, 8:29, etc.)
- **Dijon** - Lo-fi bedroom R&B artist, Bieber collaborator (1:51, 12:39, 13:42)

Featured Artists on Swag Album

- **Sexy Red** - Featured on "Sweet Spot" track (4:30, 36:59, 37:42)
- **Gunna** - Featured artist (4:30, 37:42)
- **Cash Cobain** - Featured on title track "Swag" (4:30, 38:16, 39:17)
- **Lil B** - Featured on "Dad's Love" (45:46, 47:12)

Producers/Collaborators

- **Carter Lang** - Producer, works with SZA and Adele (10:49, 14:14)
- **Eddie Benjamin** - Writer/producer (10:49, 38:16)
- **Tobias Jaso Jr.** - Collaborator (14:14)
- **Ku Harrell** - Justin's former vocal producer (16:37)

Musical Influences/References

- **Prince** - Major influence on "Devotion" track (12:39)
- **Daniel Caesar** - Writing credits on "Devotion" (12:39)
- **New Edition** - 1984-1988 era influence (18:55, 43:18)
- **Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis** - Production influence (18:55)
- **Tony, Tony, Toné** - Bay Area group influence (19:40)
- **Bill Withers** - Gentle approach comparison (20:3)

- **Raphael Saadiq** - Connected to Bill Withers influence (20:5)
- **John Mayer** - Acoustic influence (17:45)
- **Jason Mraz** - Acoustic influence (17:45)
- **Jack Johnson** - Acoustic influence (17:49)
- **Cody Chestnut** - Neo-soul influence (18:8)
- **Frank Ocean** - "Blonde" influence (18:37)
- **Maurice Star** - New Edition producer (18:55, 43:18)

Other Artists Mentioned

- **Justin Vernon (Bon Iver)** - Toured with McGee and Dijon (21:26)
- **Madonna** - Pop music example (9:46)
- **Lou Reed** - Experimental comparison (1:30)
- **Tyler, The Creator** - Odd Future movement (46:59, 47:12)
- **Kendall Jenner** - Young Hollywood connection (47:12)
- **Scooter Braun** - Former manager (23:53, 23:56)
- **Hailey Baldwin/Bieber** - Wife (22:55)
- **Diplo** - "Where Are You Now" collaborator (41:36)
- **Skrillex** - "Where Are You Now" collaborator (41:36)
- **Iggy Azalea** - Comparison regarding production style (10:49)
- **DJ Mustard** - Production comparison (10:49)
- **Britney Spears** - Celebrity concern comparison (25:23, 29:6)

Other Personalities

- **Somber** - Featured in "Song of the Week" segment (26:20-28:37)
- **John Caramanica** - Podcast host, NY Times critic (33s)
- **Joe Coscarelli** - Podcast host, NY Times reporter (44s)

Business/Industry Figures

- **Scooter Braun** - Former manager, lending money (23:53)
- **Def Jam/Island Def Jam** - Record label contract discussion (3:45)

Result 2. Then, I asked it again:

do it over again and offer expanded context for each mention. with timestamps

Based on my review of the podcast transcript, here are all the recording artists, producers, personalities, and artists mentioned with expanded context and timestamps:

Main Artists/Primary Subject

Justin Bieber - Throughout entire podcast

- (33s) Introduction as subject of discussion regarding new experimental album
- (1m 30s) Described as "scratching away at and degrading his own level of celebrity in the quest for art"
- (2m 10s) Hosts note this is "arguably the most coherent artistic statement of Justin Bieber's 15 year career"
- (3m 13s) Discussion of his career trajectory and artistic intent
- (16m 37s) Reference to his grueling vocal production process with Ku Harrell
- (22m 55s) Personal life context - married Hailey Baldwin in 2018
- (23m 53s) Recent struggles including tour cancellation, debt, split from Scooter Braun
- (24m 24s) Recent paparazzi incidents and public concern about his wellbeing
- (31m 10s) Album seen as response to public concerns about his mental state
- (41m 36s) Reference to his "Where Are You Now" era with Diplo/Skrillex

Key Collaborators on Swag Album

McGee - Guitarist/songwriter, primary creative influence

- (1m 51s) First mentioned alongside Dijon as unexpected collaborator

- (4m 51s) Host recalls profiling McGee and learning about Bieber collaboration
- (5m 28s) Described as having been "hanging with Bieber making music"
- (6m 52s) Detailed description of his guitar work on "Daisies" - "sexy guitar smeared and slathered all over"
- (8m 29s) Background as young guitarist from New Jersey with critically acclaimed 2024 album
- (8m 32s) His album "Two Star and The Dream Police" compared to "hypnagogic pop"
- (9m 15s) Former guitarist for Dijon's band before solo career
- (9m 46s) Quote: "you put Justin's voice on it and then it's pop"
- (21m 26s) Justin Vernon story about McGee and Dijon's deep musical knowledge
- (35m 46s) Discussion of McGee's influence on album's aesthetic choices
- (44m 52s) Note that McGee may not have worked on specific tracks but his influence pervades

Dijon - Lo-fi R&B artist, key creative partner

- (1m 51s) Initially mentioned as unexpected Bieber collaborator
- (9m 15s) Described as McGee's "main artistic spiritual partner"
- (12m 39s) Featured on "Devotion" track doing "Prince impressions"
- (13m 42s) Described as making "lo-fi bedroom R&B soul music informed by gospel and the church"
- (21m 26s) Part of group that would "sit around and name songs and play songs and show each other stuff"
- (40m 55s) Produced "Yukon" track
- (44m 52s) Influence felt throughout album even on tracks he didn't directly work on

Featured Artists on Album

Sexy Red

- (4m 30s) Listed among featured artists that initially concerned hosts

- (36m 59s) Featured on "Sweet Spot" track - "extremely exciting for me to hear Sexy Red say the things that she says"
- (37m 42s) Praised for adapting her style to the song context rather than delivering generic verse
- (37m 56s) Noted that "most of her verses sound pretty similar" but this one was different

Gunna

- (4m 30s) Initially mentioned as concerning feature
- (37m 42s) His verse described as not working as well as Sexy Red's
- (37m 42s) Noted for referencing "horse and boost" (expensive jewelry line) in his verse
- (37m 42s) Criticized for delivering "a gunna verse that didn't have a lot to do with the context"

Cash Cobain

- (4m 30s) Listed among featured artists
- (38m 16s) Described as "bringing his own palette to a group of people who have been stuck in a lane"
- (39m 17s) Extended discussion of his opening on title track "Swag"
- (39m 34s) Praised for maintaining "the purity of what he's good at" while hybridizing for the track
- (40m 15s) Hosts suggest his track could be a successful single

Lil B

- (45m 46s) Called "the godfather of Swag himself"
- (45m 48s) Featured on "Dad's Love" doing "basically like a plus sermon about positivity"
- (47m 12s) Connected to Tyler, The Creator/Odd Future era and influence on young Hollywood

Producers and Industry Figures

Carter Lang

- (10m 49s) Described as producer who "did a lot of production here"
- (14m 14s) Noted as "top tier songwriter" who "writes a lot for SZA" and works with "biggest artists in the world, Adele"

Eddie Benjamin

- (10m 49s) Listed as doing "a lot of writing"
- (38m 16s) Described as "a Bieber person, confidant" with similar ideas in his solo music

Tobias Jaso Jr.

- (14m 14s) Listed among "top tier songwriters"

Ku Harrell

- (16m 37s) Former "vocal producer" for Justin
- (16m 37s) Host spent days watching him work - described as "grueling work on both sides"
- (16m 37s) Process involved "singing the same line over and over again" and "pasting them together into a passable audio collage"

Scooter Braun

- (23m 53s) Described as "his manager from day one"
- (23m 53s) Lent Bieber money when he went into debt from cancelled tour
- (23m 56s) "no longer manages" Bieber after their split in early 2023

Musical Influences and References

Prince

- (12m 39s) Major influence on "Devotion" track where "both Dijon and Bieber doing their best Prince impressions"

Daniel Caesar

- (12m 39s) Has "writing credits" on "Devotion"

New Edition

- (18m 55s) "the true R&B stuff really feels like New Edition 1984 to 1988"
- (43m 18s) Extended discussion of their influence on album's R&B elements

Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis

- (18m 55s) Production influence mentioned alongside New Edition era
- (18m 55s) Host hears "Can You Stand the Rain" influence "on at least two different songs"

Maurice Star

- (18m 55s) New Edition producer mentioned as influence
- (43m 18s) Connected to "the R&B that was getting made coming out of the Electropop of the early to mid eighties"

Tony, Tony, Toné

- (19m 40s) "Bay area group with a tremendously broad musical palette"
- (19m 40s) Cited as influence for "soul singers who had undermined the primacy of church singing in favor of something more acoustic and eclectic"

Bill Withers

- (20m 3s) Controversial comparison - host hesitant to "say the words Bill Withers and Justin Bieber in the same sentence"
- (20m 5s) Comparison focused on "gentleness of the approach" and "softness"
- (20m 44s) Noted for "connoting a lot without necessarily delivering at an intensity level"

Raphael Saadiq

- (20m 5s) Mentioned as acceptable bridge for Bill Withers comparison

John Mayer

- (17m 45s) Listed among acoustic influences alongside Jason Mraz

Jason Mraz

- (17m 45s) Part of "acoustic post Neo soul white boy Swag" influence

Jack Johnson

- (17m 49s) Added to acoustic influences - host calls this "traumatic"

Cody Chestnut

- (18m 8s) Neo-soul influence, host mentions having "multiple copies" in storage
- (18m 32s) Part of "acoustic post Neo soul white boy Swag for lack of better term"

Frank Ocean

- (18m 37s) "Blonde" cited as influence - "the long tail of Blonde"

Lou Reed

- (1m 30s) Used as comparison point - Bieber's experimental turn "doesn't necessarily net out to like a Lou Reed album"

Madonna

- (9m 46s) Cited as example of pop music's promise - "Madonna and dance culture in the eighties"

Contemporary Artists and Comparisons

Tyler, The Creator

- (46m 59s) Discussion of Odd Future's trajectory from "radicals" and "upstarts" to mainstream

- (47m 12s) Connected to Lil B and influence on young Hollywood culture

Kendall Jenner

- (47m 12s) Mentioned in context of Tyler/Odd Future's integration with "young Hollywood"

Diplo

- (41m 36s) Co-producer of "Where Are You Now" - Bieber's dance collaboration era
- (41m 36s) Those songs described as guaranteeing "Justin Bieber is still famous today"

Skrillex

- (41m 36s) Co-producer of "Where Are You Now" with Diplo
- (41m 16s) Their collaborations created Bieber's "adult pop hits" and "post teen heartthrob pop hits"

Iggy Azalea

- (10m 49s) Comparison point for aesthetic borrowing - "ripping off DJ Mustard on Fancy"

DJ Mustard

- (10m 49s) Production style comparison - album "feels a little bit like" borrowing his aesthetic

Britney Spears

- (25m 23s) Comparison for public concern and paparazzi treatment - "echoes of Britney Spears"
- (29m 6s) Referenced in context of when celebrities become more famous for celebrity than art

Personal Relationships

Hailey Baldwin/Bieber

- (22m 55s) "marries Hailey Baldwin" in 2018
- (23m 4s) "They had a child this year"
- (23m 15s) Family imagery used in album aesthetic - "Calvin Klein shoot"

Justin Vernon (Bon Iver)

- (21m 26s) Toured with McGee and Dijon
- (21m 26s) Story about the collaborators sitting around sharing deep musical knowledge and "deep cuts"

Song of the Week Segment

Somber

- (26m 20s) Featured artist in weekly segment about "Back to Friends"
- (26m 20s) Described as pop star who "just snuck up on you out of nowhere"
- (27m 2s) "has two songs in the top 40 on the billboard hot 100"
- (27m 2s) "just turned 20" with "razor sharp cheekbones"
- (27m 11s) Makes music about "how sad hookup culture makes you feel"
- (28m 37s) Popularity discussed in context of TikTok usage for "breakup tiktoks, sad news tiktoks"

Podcast Hosts

John Caramanica

- (33s) "critic at The New York Times"
- Self-identified throughout as providing critical analysis

Joe Coscarelli

- (44s) "reporter at the same New York Times"
- Noted as having profiled McGee, which led to Bieber collaboration discovery

Album Context and Industry Discussion

The transcript reveals extensive discussion of:

- Bieber's artistic evolution from teen pop to experimental R&B
- The influence of underground artists McGee and Dijon on mainstream pop
- Bieber's personal struggles and public perception
- The intersection of internet culture, underground music, and pop stardom
- Production techniques and vocal processing evolution
- The role of nostalgia and musical knowledge in contemporary pop creation