


Cash Money Records

Cash Money Records is an American record label founded in 1991 by brothers [Ronald "Slim" Williams](#) and [Bryan "Birdman" Williams](#). The label is distributed by [Republic](#), which used to be [Universal Republic](#). The label has been home to a roster of mostly [hip hop](#) artists, including [Juvenile](#), [Lil Wayne](#), [Drake](#), and [Nicki Minaj](#), and is regarded as the most successful in hip-hop history.^[3]

Cash Money Records	
	
Parent company	Universal Music Group
Founded	1991 ^[1]
Founder	Ronald "Slim" Williams Bryan "Birdman" Williams
Status	Active
Distributor(s)	Republic Records (U.S.) Universal Music Group (Worldwide) Universal Records (former)
Genre	Various, with a focus on hip hop
Country of origin	United States
Location	New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S. Miami, Florida, U.S. ^[2]
Official website	cashmoney-records.com (http://cashmoney-records.com)

Artists signed to Cash Money Records have achieved a combined 12 number one [albums](#) on the *Billboard 200* chart and 7 number one [singles](#) on the *Billboard Hot 100* chart ([Juvenile's "Slow Motion"](#), [Lil Wayne's "Lollipop"](#), [Jay Sean's "Down"](#) and [Drake's "One Dance"](#), ["God's Plan"](#), ["Nice for What"](#), and ["In My Feelings"](#)).

The label's name is an allusion to the 1991 cult movie [New Jack City](#).^[4]

History

1991–97: Beginnings

Bryan Williams told some of his close friends the motivation for starting the label:

I was hoping it would get us out of [the projects](#) and into a positive way of life. And we wanted to help other people get out of this poverty...^[5]



[Bryan "Birdman" Williams](#) (pictured) founded Cash Money Records in 1991 with his brother [Ronald "Slim" Williams](#).

Along the way he met a lot of influential people on the road with the Hot Boys. Wendy Day negotiated the deal between Cash Money and Universal Music Group's Universal Records (now Republic Records), which became an 70%-30% distribution deal. Later, UMG acquired a portion of Cash Money Records, making it a UMG subsidiary.

Starting in 1996, Cash Money signed a slew of new artists such as [Lil Wayne](#), [B.G.](#), [Juvenile](#), who already had a buzz in the streets in the mid-1990s, was also signed. At this time, [Turk](#) and another local rapper by the name of Bulletproof (aka Lil Derrick) joined the roster. In May 1997, Birdman organized a rap group that included Juvenile, B.G., Turk and Bulletproof. After the passing of his father, Lil Wayne joined the group and they became known as the [Hot Boys](#). Shortly before the Hot Boys took off, Bulletproof left the group and was later killed in 2002. Cash Money's big break came in 1998 when the Hot Boys, B.G. and Juvenile in particular, caught the attention of [Universal Records](#) executives.^[6]

1998-2000 Universal Records deal

Cash Money signed a three-year \$30 million distribution deal with Universal Records in March 1998. Under the terms of the deal, the Williams were given a \$2 million advance each year and a credit of \$1.5 million for each of the up to six artists that they had at the time. After recouping, Universal Records would retain 15% of profits from album sales, while Cash Money retained 85% as well as 50% of their publishing royalties and ownership of all master recordings. ^[7] Dino Delvaille, who orchestrated the deal, later told [HitQuarters](#): "I made certain they retained (the rights) of their work. They deserve it."^[8] Cash Money's first success under Universal was [Juvenile's](#) November 1998 release, [400 Degreez](#). The album peaked at number 9 on the [Billboard Top 200](#) and would ultimately go on to sell over five million copies worldwide. The success of 400 Degreez solidified Cash Money as a powerhouse label in the national Hip-Hop scene. The album featured guest appearances from Cash Money artists Turk, Lil Wayne, B.G., Baby, Mannie Fresh, Hot Boys and Big Tymers as well as a guest appearance from [Jay-Z](#), the first time an East Coast rapper collaborated with Cash Money, and the appearance helped Cash Money gain exposure in the East Coast.



Lil Wayne started as a member of the [Hot Boys](#) and became the label's best-selling artist.

After the deal Cash Money achieved a new level of success. Later albums in 1999 such as the [Hot Boys' Guerrilla Warfare](#), B.G.'s [Chopper City in the Ghetto](#), and [Lil Wayne's Tha Block Is Hot](#) also saw great chart success, were all certified Platinum by the RIAA, and furthered the label's reputation. These albums contained major Billboard hits such as Juvenile's "[Back That Azz Up](#)" (#19 on the [Billboard Hot 100](#)), B.G.'s "[Bling Bling](#)" (#36), and the Hot Boys' "[I Need a Hot Girl](#)"

(#65). All of Cash Money's albums and singles in this period were solely produced by the label's in-house producer, [Mannie Fresh](#). Their A&R at Universal, Dino Delvaille, said:

When they first came into the business, they were very reluctant to make records with other people. They probably felt that people would steal their style or flavor, and I had to work hard to get them to open up to making records with [Cam'ron](#), [Puffy](#), and [Clipse](#), among others.^[8]

2000–12: Continued success and various signings

This label's success continued into the 2000s. Between 2001 and 2003, the label sold 7 million albums. The song "Still Fly" by the [Big Tymers](#) was nominated for two [Grammy Awards](#). However, B.G. and Juvenile left the label in 2002, claiming financial mismanagement.^[9] In April 2003, Juvenile returned to the label for a reported \$4 million deal, and in return, he signed over the rights to [Juve The Great](#), an album which sold over a million copies and contained the *Billboard* Hot 100 No. 1 hit "[Slow Motion](#)". In 2007, former Hot Boys member Lil Wayne was named president of Cash Money Records and CEO of [Young Money Entertainment](#). Later that year, Lil Wayne stepped down as president to focus on his career, especially [Tha Carter III](#).^[10] In 2008, Lil Wayne re-signed with Cash Money, ensuring that his next few albums will be produced by the label.^[11]



[Drake](#) signed to the label in 2009 and has released [Thank Me Later](#), [Take Care](#), [Nothing Was the Same](#), [Views](#), [More Life](#), and [Scorpion](#).

In September 2008, Cash Money released rocker [Kevin Rudolf](#)'s smash-hit debut single "[Let It Rock](#)" featuring label-mate Lil Wayne. On October 15, 2008 at the [MOBO Awards](#), British R&B singer [Jay Sean](#) announced that he had signed with Cash Money Records.^{[12][13]} In February 2009, the Williams brothers were featured in [CNBC's](#) *Newbos: The Rise of America's New Black Overclass*, a documentary show profiling several black multi-millionaires.^[14] In early 2009 former [Roc-A-Fella Records](#) artist [Freeway](#) signed with the label.^[15] On August 16, 2009, [Bow Wow](#) announced that he signed with Cash Money Records.^[16]

In 2009, they took part in a major label bidding war for [Queens](#) native rapper [Nicki Minaj](#). Eventually, they won the bidding war and Nicki Minaj was signed to them exclusively for Young Money. Cash Money Records popularity grew after signing Minaj and Canadian rapper [Drake](#). On August 5, 2010, production group [Cool & Dre](#) signed with Cash Money Records. The production group announced the news via Twitter. They are the first in house producer Cash Money has had since Mannie Fresh.^{[17][18]}

On August 19, 2010, Birdman signed [DJ Khaled](#) to the label also signing his label [We the Best Music Group](#) as a subsidiary of Cash Money.^[19] On February 24, 2012, Cash Money Records signed the nu metal band [Limp Bizkit](#).^[20] Wayne said the same day they were close to signing [Ashanti](#).^[21]

In 2011, Cash Money Records signed a co-publishing venture with the [Atria Publishing Group](#) called Cash Money Content.^[22]

2013–present: Rich Gang and dissension



[Nicki Minaj](#) and [Tyga](#) signed to the label in the late 2000s and have both released highly commercially successful singles.

In February 2013, Birdman released a compilation mixtape with Cash Money and Young Money, entitled *Rich Gang: All Stars*. Shortly afterwards, he announced a compilation album entitled *Rich Gang: Flashy Lifestyle* that was due to be released on May 21, 2013—it featured members of Cash Money, Young Money, and various collaborators.^[23] The first single from the project, "Tapout" was released on March 19, 2013, and features Lil Wayne, Future, Mack Maine, and Nicki Minaj, with production by 808 Mafia's Southside and TM88.^[24] "Fly Rich" featuring Stevie J, Future, Tyga, Meek Mill and Mystikal was also released as a promotional single.^[25]

The album's release date was then pushed back to July 23, 2013,^[26] while the title was also shortened to just *Rich Gang*. The album garnered a mixed critical reception and debuted at number 7 on the *Billboard* 200.

On December 4, 2014, just five days before *Tha Carter V* was due to be released, Wayne issued a statement saying the album would not be released on its expected release date due to his displeasure with Birdman refusing to release the album, although it had been completed. Wayne also expressed his feelings by stating he felt he and his creative partner were being held "prisoner". Lil Wayne filed a lawsuit.^{[27][28]} On January 20, 2015, Wayne self-released *Sorry 4 the Wait 2*, a sequel to his 2011 mixtape, to compensate for the continued delay of *Tha Carter V*.^{[29][30]} Upon *Sorry for the Wait 2*'s release, it was noted that Wayne disses Birdman and Cash Money Records several times throughout.^{[31][32][33]} Birdman was reported to be upset with this.^[34] In late January 2015, Lil Wayne filed a \$51 million lawsuit against Birdman and Cash Money over the delay of *Tha Carter V*.^[35]

In January 2015, Wayne stated that when he leaves Cash Money, he would take Drake and Nicki Minaj with him.^[36] On June 22, TMZ reported new details on the lawsuit. According to documents filed by Lil Wayne, Birdman and Cash Money have mismanaged Young Money, including Drake and Minaj. The documents allege that Birdman and Cash Money haven't paid people.^{[37][38][39]} In June 2015, Wayne joined Jay-Z's Tidal as an artist owner and exclusively released a single on the service titled "Glory."^[40] On July 4, 2015, Wayne released *Free Weezy Album* exclusively through Tidal under Young Money and Republic Records.^[41] On July 15, prosecutors allege Birdman and Young Thug conspired to murder Lil Wayne and were involved in the April 26 shooting.^[42] On July 16, Birdman filed a \$50 million lawsuit against Jay Z's Tidal streaming service over Lil Wayne's *Free Weezy Album*. The lawsuit claims that Cash Money Records exclusively owns the rights to Lil Wayne's music, although he is now independent and the label no longer owns these rights.^[43]

On April 12, 2017, Birdman accepted a plaque in honor of Cash Money Records having sold one billion units.^[44] On September 13, 2018, it was announced that Young Money was no longer a joint business venture with Cash Money. Ownership of the imprint was granted entirely to Lil Wayne as part of the legal settlements with Birdman that were finalized.^[45]

Artists

Current

Act	Year signed (as of 2018)	# Albums under label
Birdman	Co-founder	6
Ronald "Slim" Williams	Co-founder	3
Flow	2011	3
Euro	2013	1
Caskey		3
Jacquees	2014	6
Juvenile	2014 (re-sign)	5
Turk	2015 (re-sign)	1
Neno Calvin	2015	—
Derez De'Shon	2016	3
Elettra Lamborghini ^[46]	2017	1
9lokkNine ^[47]	2018	—
Saviii 3rd ^[48]		—
Blueface ^[49]		1

Former

Branches

Rich Gang

Rich Gang	
Genres	Hip hop
Years active	2013–present
Labels	Cash Money
Members	<div> Birdman </div> <div> Young Thug </div> <div> Rich Homie Quan </div> <div> Jacquees </div> <div> Caskey </div>
Past members	<div> Robb Banks^[50] </div> <div> BTY Young'n (deceased) </div> <div> J-Soul </div> <div> Money Man </div> <div> Young Greatness (deceased) </div>

Rich Gang is a [hip hop collective](#) and [side project](#) introduced by Birdman in 2013, initially composed of members from the Cash Money Records roster. The group's debut single, "[Tapout](#)" (featuring [Future](#)) was released in March 2013. Rappers [Young Thug](#) and [Rich Homie Quan](#) to were later added to the Rich Gang roster, debuting with guest appearances on the groups 2014 single "[Lifestyle](#)". The duo were also the primary artists on *Rich Gang Allstars* (2013) and *[Rich Gang: Tha Tour Pt. 1](#)* (2014). Later *Rich Gang* members were a part of the group despite not being signed to Cash Money as solo artists.^[51]

Awards and nominations

BET Awards

Year	Nominee / work	Award	Result	R
2015	Rich Gang	Best Group	Nominated	

Production wing

From its founding until 2005, [Mannie Fresh](#) was the well-known production head of all Cash Money releases, as the label's resident producer. The label would be without a proper in-house

producer until August 2010, when production duo [Cool & Dre](#) signed to the label.^[52] Since then, the label has grown its production division by signing more producers.

- [The Avengerz](#)^[53]
- Bangladesh
- [The Beat Bully](#)^[54]
- [Birdman](#)
- [Cool & Dre](#)^[52]
- [Detail](#)
- [DJ Nasty & LVM](#)^[55]
- DJ Swamp Izzo
- Dub Tha Prodigy
- D Roc
- Illa Jones
- [London on da Track](#)
- Natra Average
- [Mr. Beatz](#)^[56]
- Superearz (Production team)
- TEAUXNY
- [The Olympicks](#)^{[57][58]}
- [RedOne](#)
- [The Renegades](#)^[59]
- [Sap](#)^[60]
- [Yung Berg](#)
- [JAE L.A.](#)^[61]
- Sufferryanyt
- calvinisggrank80

Legal issues

In October 2009, Cash Money Records, Birdman, Lil Wayne and various music distribution outlets were sued for copyright infringement by Thomas Marasciullo, who claims his voice was used without permission. The rappers asked him to record some "Italian-styled spoken word recordings" in 2006. The lyrics were allegedly used on "Respect" and other tracks from the rappers' collaboration album *Like Father, Like Son* and Birdman's *5 * Stunna*.^[62]

In 2011, Cash Money Records, Lil Wayne, Universal Music Group, and [Young Money Entertainment](#) were sued for US\$15 million by Done Deal Enterprises, who claim Lil Wayne's song "[BedRock](#)" was stolen from Done Deal.^[63]

Discography

Compilation albums

List of compilation albums, with selected chart positions and certifications

Title	Album details	Peak chart positions		
		US ^[64]	US R&B ^[65]	US Rap ^[66]
<i>Rich Gang</i> (Birdman)	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Released: July 23, 2013^[67]Label: Cash Money,Formats: CD, digital download</div>	9	2	2

See also

- [Cash Money Millionaires](#)
- [List of former Cash Money Records artists](#)
- [Young Money Entertainment](#)

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