**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tony Visconti to Receive a Top Music Producers Guild Award**

*Renowned for his work with the likes of David Bowie, T. Rex, Morrissey and The Moody Blues, Tony Visconti will be presented with the 2017 Outstanding Contribution to UK Music Award.*

**London, UK. January 23rd 2017:** Tony Visconti, one of the most important and influential producers in the history of Rock and Pop, is to receive a top accolade at the 2017 Music Producers Guild Awards when he is presented with the PPL-sponsored Award for Outstanding Contribution to UK Music.

Versatile and mercurial, Visconti has helped to create musical masterpieces by artists as diverse as U2, Paul McCartney and Wings, Thin Lizzy, Morrissey, Manic Street Preachers, Kaiser Chiefs, The Stranglers, Sparks, The Moody Blues, Badfinger, Elaine Paige, The Alarm, Gentle Giant, The Strawbs, The Move, Annie Haslam, Denny Laine, Procol Harum, Osibisa, Ralph McTell, Argent, Caravan, Boomtown Rats, Adam Ant, Iggy Pop, Difford and Tillbrook, Angelique Kidjo, Fall Out Boy and Alejandro Escovedo.

However, it is his long-term collaboration with David Bowie that has delivered the most memorable music, ranging from early hits such as *Young Americans*, *Heroes* and *The Man Who Sold The World*, through to *The Next Day*, which debuted at No. 1 in 21 different countries when it was released in 2013, and *Blackstar*, Bowie’s last album released just two days before he died in January 2016.

By honouring Tony Visconti with an Outstanding Contribution Award, the Music Producers Guild is recognising an exceptional body of work that spans nearly 50 years and has made a significant contribution to the success of the music recording industry.

Tony Platt, MPG Awards Group Managing Director, says: "Tony Visconti is a perfect example of the influence music producers have had on the development and success of the music industry in the last 40 years. From his contribution as a musician and arranger to his ability to support and enable the artists he has worked with, he has been - and continues to be - truly outstanding. We are delighted to honour and recognise this achievement.”

Alongside his MPG Award for Outstanding Contribution to UK Music, Visconti is nominated in two other MPG 2017 Awards categories - International Producer of the Year and UK Album of the Year for Blackstar. He is also nominated for a 2017 Grammy Award in the category of Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical for Blackstar, which he co-produced with David Bowie and co-mixed with David Bowie and Tom Elmhirst.

Now based in New York, Visconti’s production skills are always in demand and among his most recent projects are co-producing Grammy-winning singer/songwriter Esperanza Spalding’s gem entitled *Emily’s D+Evolution;* producing and mixing Daphne Guinness’ 2017 release and co-producing and mixing Kristeen Young’s 2017 *Live at the Witch’s Tit* CD release.

Visconti was also a judge and voiceover commentator on the Sky Arts TV show, *Guitar Star* and had a key role in the New York City episode ofHBO’s *Sonic Highways*, an American documentary mini-series directed by Dave Grohl and written by Mark Monroe. In that episode, he wrote and conducted a string arrangement for the Foo Fighter’s song *The River*.

Other notable projects include serving as the Music Keynote Speaker at both SXSW and CMW; acting as a Music Judge at the Reeperbahn Festival; performing on bass and vocals with his band, Holy Holy, writing a hugely successful autobiography entitled *Bowie, Bolan and the Brooklyn Boy*, and receiving an honorary Doctor of Arts from Kingston University in London. Furthermore, Kingston University recently named their new music studio The Visconti Studio.

As sponsors of the MPG Outstanding Contribution to UK Music Award, industry organisation PPL says it is delighted that Tony Visconti has been chosen as the 2017 recipient.

Peter Leathem, CEO, PPL, says: "We are delighted to be able to recognise the Outstanding Contribution made by Tony Visconti to the UK music industry. He is an incredibly talented producer who has played a crucial role in countless iconic recordings by, most obviously, David Bowie but also a huge spectrum of artists ranging from Morrissey and the Manic Street Preachers to Elaine Paige and Procul Harum. Tony is a true visionary in the world of recorded music. Many congratulations, Tony.”

Tony Visconti will be presented with his award at the MPG’s 2017 Awards Ceremony, which takes place on February 16th, 2017, at the prestigious Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London.

Now firmly established as a must-attend industry event, the MPG Awards attract music industry stars and VIPs who turn out in force to celebrate the enormous contribution that recording professionals make to the success of the UK’s music industry.

Tickets for the MPG Awards 2016 are now available to order. For full details please visit [www.mpg.org.uk/mpg-awards/tickets](http://www.mpg.org.uk/mpg-awards/tickets).

**-ends-**

**About Music Producers Guild:**

The Music Producers Guild is an independent and democratic organisation that encourages the highest standards of music production, and actively engages with other music industry organisations to campaign and lobby on matters of important mutual interest.

The MPG represents and promotes the interests of all those involved in the production of recorded music, including producers, engineers, mixers, re-mixers, programmers and mastering engineers. [www.mpg.org.uk](http://www.mpg.org.uk)

Press Contacts:

**Sue Sillitoe**

**Tel:** +44 (0) 7798 621891

**Email:** [sue@whitenoisepr.co.uk](mailto:sue@whitenoisepr.co.uk)

**Laura Bradley**

**Tel: +** 44 (0) 7966 435026

**Email:** [laura@invadermusic.com](mailto:laura@invadermusic.com)