



GRAMMY FOUNDATION®

*For Immediate Release*

**GRAMMY FOUNDATION® SELECTS STUDENTS FROM ACROSS  
THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN  
GRAMMY CAMP® — JAZZ SESSION DURING GRAMMY® WEEK 2017**

**SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Dec. 8, 2016)** — The GRAMMY Foundation® announced today that **32 talented high school students** from across the United States have been selected for the **2017 GRAMMY Camp® — Jazz Session**. Their selection launches them into the spotlight surrounding the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards®, and provides them with unparalleled opportunities to perform for some of music's biggest names. The students, representing **30 cities and 14 states**, will travel to Los Angeles for a 10-day musical adventure under the direction of Justin DiCioccio of the Manhattan School of Music, Dr. Ron McCurdy of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and associate choral director Susanna Wegner of Kansas City, Mo. Two former GRAMMY Camp students will be joining as members of the **GRAMMY in the Schools® media team** to **document the GRAMMY® Week experience** for the **GRAMMY Foundation's social media platforms**.

"GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session provides an unparalleled experience for some of the most talented young jazz singers and instrumentalists in the U.S. through extraordinary rehearsal, performance, and recording opportunities during GRAMMY Week," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY Foundation. "The Recording Academy and its affiliated charities are proud to be a place of inspiration and collaboration for this program that encourages many of these gifted high school students to pursue professional careers in the music industry."

On Feb. 8, 10–11, courtesy of **Capitol Studios**, the young musicians will record an album (*GRAMMY Jazz 25*) at the legendary facility in Hollywood, Calif. Over the years, **noted members of The Recording Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing®** have **worked with the ensembles during the recording process**. **GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session albums** from 2007–2016 are available for purchase via online music outlets such as **Amazon, iTunes, and Rhapsody**.

The selected students will perform at various **GRAMMY Week** events, including — for the eighth year — an appearance at **GRAMMY In The Schools Live! — A Celebration Of Music & Education** sponsored by **Ford Motor Company Fund**. This special event, which is open to the public, will showcase the selectees, along with **special guest artists**, on Feb. 9, 2017, at The Novo by Microsoft in Los Angeles. The group will offer additional **public performances with special guest artists** at **Spghettini Fine Dining & Entertainment** in Seal Beach, Calif., and **Bluewhale** in Los Angeles on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8, respectively. GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session members will also attend the **59th Annual GRAMMY Awards** on Feb. 12 as guests of The Recording Academy and will perform at the **GRAMMY Celebration®** after-party.

**GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session** is supported in part by the **Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, Gia Maione Prima Foundation, Inc.**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts. Artworks**. Additional support is provided by **Capitol Studios, Centerstaging, Gibson/Baldwin, Guitar Center, JBL, Roland, Shure, and Zildjian Cymbals**.

GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session selectees are eligible for more than \$2 million in college scholarships made possible through the GRAMMY Foundation's college partners: Berklee College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, and USC Thornton School of Music. In addition, each selectee's school will receive a professional cymbal courtesy of the Zildjian Company.

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The 2017 GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session members are listed by each student's instrument, role, or voice:

**Band**

<b>Name</b>		<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Part</b>
Evan	Mickas	Lafayette	Calif.	Acalanes High School	Alto Sax 1
Nathan	Farrell	Montclair	N.J.	Montclair High School	Alto Sax 2
Abdias	Armenteros	Miami Lakes	Fla.	New World School of the Arts	Tenor Sax
Griffin	Ross	Hillsborough	N.C.	Cedar Ridge High School	Tenor Sax
Jonah	Babitz	Miami	Fla.	New World School of the Arts	Bari Sax
Aiden	Thieme	Walnut Creek	Calif.	Northgate High School	Trumpet Lead
Geoffrey	Gallante	Alexandria	Va.	West Potomac High School	Trumpet 2
Zaq	Davis	New York	N.Y.	Saint Ann's School	Trumpet 3
Joey	Curreri	Marina Del Rey	Calif.	Academy of Music and Performing Arts at Hamilton High School	Trumpet 4
Miranda	Agnew	Tucson	Ariz.	University High School	Trumpet 5
Joseph	Giordano	Albany	N.Y.	Guilderland High School	Trombone 1
Reid	Christmann	Summit	N.J.	Newark Academy	Trombone 2
Jasim	Perales	Oakland	Calif.	Berkeley High School	Trombone 3
Jacob	Melsha	Kirkwood	Mo.	Kirkwood High School	Bass Trombone
Esteban	Castro	Hackensack	N.J.	Bergen County Academies	Piano
Ben	Feldman	Seattle	Wash.	Garfield High School	Bass
Arlo	Sims	Cambridge	Mass.	Cambridge Rindge and Latin School	Guitar
Christian	McGhee	Florissant	Mo.	Westminster Christian Academy	Drums

**Choir**

Chloe	Borthwick	Chester	N.Y.	Warwick Valley High School	Soprano
Claudia	Nketia	Montclair	N.J.	Montclair High School	Soprano
Francesca	Winer	Surfside	Fla.	Miami Arts Charter School	Alto
Alexandria	DeWalt	Houston	Texas	High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Alto
Zach	Colton-Max	South Orange	N.J.	Golda Och Academy	Tenor
Donald	Goodall	Detroit	Mich.	Detroit School of Arts	Tenor
Jeremy	Adler	Palos Verdes	Calif.	Palos Verdes High School	Bass
Noah	Rosner	Upper Nyack	N.Y.	The Masters School	Bass

**Combo**

Luca	Mendoza	Pacific Palisades	Calif.	Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences	Piano
Colson	Jimenez	Woodinville	Wash.	Woodinville High School	Bass
Erik	Findling	Winnetka	Ill.	New Trier Township High School	Guitar
Maya	Stepansky	Montclair	N.J.	Montclair High School	Drums

**Media Team**

Tess	Considine	Highland Park	Ill.	North Shore Country Day School	Media Team
Kyron	Neveaux	New Orleans	La.	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	Media Team

[Watch this video](#) for a look at past Jazz Session participants in action or embed it using the code below:

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<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/_tLX_EoheI8" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
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The GRAMMY Foundation was established in 1988 to cultivate the understanding, appreciation, and advancement of the contribution of recorded music to American culture. The Foundation accomplishes this mission through programs and activities that engage the music industry and cultural community as well as the general public. The Foundation works in partnership year-round with its founder, The Recording Academy, to bring national attention to important issues such as the value and impact of music and arts education and the urgency of preserving our rich cultural heritage. In recognition of the significant role of teachers in shaping their students' musical experiences, The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation partnered to present their first Music Educator Award™ in 2014. Open to current U.S. music teachers in kindergarten through college, the fourth annual Music Educator Award will be given out during GRAMMY Week 2017 and [nominations](#) are being accepted for the 2018 cycle. For more information about the Foundation, please visit [www.grammyfoundation.org](http://www.grammyfoundation.org). For breaking news and exclusive content, please "like" GRAMMY in the Schools on [Facebook](#), follow the GRAMMY Foundation on [Twitter](#) (@GRAMMYFdn) and join us on [Instagram](#) (@GRAMMYFdn).

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