

Recording Academy
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RECORDING ACADEMY™ TO TRANSITION TO ONLINE VOTING FOR THE 60TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS®

Additional Rule Amendments To Go Into Effect Immediately For The 60th Annual GRAMMY Awards® On Jan. 28, 2018 At Madison Square Garden

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (June 14, 2017) — The [Recording Academy](http://www.grammy.com)™ has completed its annual review of awards rules and regulations and established a series of new amendments to guide the GRAMMY Awards® process moving forward. All changes go into effect immediately, including the transition to online voting, a move that provides the Recording Academy's more than 13,000 voting members greater access and flexibility than ever before. Additional amendments, including changes to the Album Of The Year category, album definitions, and Music For Visual Media Field are outlined below.

"As an Academy, it's imperative that we continue to meet the needs of music creators everywhere, and this year's transition to online voting is an enormous step forward in the evolution of our voting process," said Bill Freimuth, Senior Vice President of Awards for the Recording Academy. "We work diligently to ensure we're keeping up with our ever-changing industry and team up with music people year round, across all genres and disciplines, to make sure we are doing everything we can to support the creative community."

Throughout the year, the Recording Academy accepts proposals to update awards-related rules and policies, and its Awards & Nominations Committee, comprised of a cross-section of Academy voting members, meets annually to review all proposed amendments, which are then voted on and ratified at the Recording Academy's semiannual Board of Trustees meeting held in May.

2017 RULE AMENDMENTS

GRAMMY Awards Voting Will Now Be Online

For the first time, voting members will cast their GRAMMY Awards votes online rather than by paper ballot. This transition will provide greater flexibility for touring artists, eliminate the possibility of invalid ballots, and protect further against fraudulent voting. All voting members in good standing will be eligible to vote online in both rounds for the 60th Annual GRAMMY Awards.

Songwriters Now Recognized In Album Of The Year

Moving forward, all music creators (songwriters, producers, engineers, mixers, mastering engineers, featured artists) credited with at least 33 percent or more playing time on the winning album will be eligible to receive a GRAMMY in the Album Of The Year category. Previously, songwriters were not recognized in this category.

Nominations Review Committees Established For Rap, Contemporary Instrumental, And New Age Fields

(more)

Beginning this year, Nominations Review Committees will be created and implemented for the Rap, Contemporary Instrumental, and New Age Fields. A Nominations Review process was established in 1989 as an additional round of checks and balances to eliminate the potential for a popularity bias that puts emerging artists, independent music, and late-year releases at a disadvantage. Since then, Nominations Review Committees have been established across 15 awards fields.

Album Definition Expanded To Allow For More Inclusion In Classical, Dance, And Jazz Fields

To be eligible for GRAMMY® consideration, an album must comprise a minimum total playing time of 15 minutes with at least five distinct tracks or a minimum total playing time of 30 minutes with no minimum track requirement. Prior to this amended album definition, the only delineation was 15 minutes and five tracks. The definition expansion allows for greater inclusion of music creators who produce longer pieces, particularly in the Classical, Dance, and Jazz Fields.

Amendments To The Music For Visual Media Field

As a general rule, only one version of a track is permitted for entry in the GRAMMY Awards process. Moving forward, an exception will be made in the Best Song Written For Visual Media category, allowing the film version of a track to be entered in the category, even if a different version of the track is submitted in other categories.

In the Best Compilation Soundtrack For Visual Media category, eligibility guidelines have been amended to require soundtrack albums for a documentary or biopic to contain 51 percent or more of newly recorded music.

Additional amendments were made to the Technical GRAMMY Award qualifications, and procedural updates were made to Nominations Review Committees. For information on the GRAMMY Awards process, visit www.grammy101.com.

KEY DATES

Eligibility Period: Oct. 1, 2016–Sept. 30, 2017

First-Round Ballot Period: Oct. 16–29, 2017

Nominations: Nov. 28, 2017

Final-Round Ballot Period: Dec. 7–21, 2017

60th Annual GRAMMY Awards: Jan. 28, 2018

About the Recording Academy

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music's history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards—music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.

For more information about the Academy, please visit www.grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/RecordingAcad), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RecordingAcademy), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/RecordingAcademy), [Tumblr](https://www.tumblr.com/RecordingAcademy), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/RecordingAcademy).

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