

GRAMMY AWARDS CATEGORY RULES

Classical Field

Several categories in the Classical Field accept albums and tracks. In classical categories where both albums and tracks are eligible, if the entire album qualifies as an entry, then tracks from that album are not also eligible in the category.

Classical tracks (newly recorded) are allowed entry as separate entities regardless of the percentage of playing time of the album and/or other recorded material on the album that may be of a non-classical genre.

BEST ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE

FOR ALBUMS OR TRACKS

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in recordings of classical orchestral performance. Recordings that are predominantly orchestral in performance and intent by large ensembles of 25 or more, regardless of instrumentation, are eligible. The recordings may include incidental vocal elements.

If one or more orchestral works are coupled with a solo or chamber recording, only the orchestral portion is eligible in this category.

Concertos with solo instrumental performances are eligible in Best Classical Instrumental Solo only.

The orchestral organization is not considered a nominee, only a statuette winner.

BEST OPERA RECORDING

ALBUMS ONLY

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums of complete opera recordings. (Opera highlights albums, recordings of opera arias, recital repertoire, and albums of vocal solos or choral numbers extracted from complete operas are not eligible.)

Both audio-only and audio-video (DVD) entries are eligible; but in the latter case, only the audio portion is considered.

BEST CHORAL PERFORMANCE

FOR ALBUMS OR TRACKS

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in recordings of classical choral performance. Choral ensembles comprised of 16 or more vocalists, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by any number of instrumentalists, with or without conductor, singing in unison or multiple parts are eligible in this category. Choral numbers, operatic or otherwise, qualify only if they have been recorded as separate productions and are not extracted from a complete work.

Choral performances extracted from opera or symphonic recordings are not eligible.

The choral organization is not considered a nominee, only a statuette winner.

BEST CHAMBER MUSIC/SMALL ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

FOR ALBUMS OR TRACKS

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in classical chamber music and small ensemble performance recordings. Instrumental, vocal or mixed instrumental/vocal groups, with or without conductor are eligible as long as the number of instrumental, vocal, or mixed instrumental/vocal group participants does not exceed 24, not including the conductor.

Choral ensembles comprised of 16 or more vocalists, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by any number of instrumentalists, with or without conductor are eligible in Best Choral Performance only.

BEST CLASSICAL INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

FOR ALBUMS OR TRACKS

FOR SOLO INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCES (WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMPANIMENT)

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in classical instrumental solo recordings, including concertos and concerto-style works (including multi-instrumental concertos).

BEST CLASSICAL SOLO VOCAL ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS ONLY

FOR SOLO VOCAL PERFORMANCES

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums of classical solo vocal recordings. Eligible albums may contain song literature, operatic arias, vocal cycles (i.e., multi-movement works) and/or other types of vocal music, with one or more collaborating artists such as accompanists, chamber ensembles, choruses and orchestras, with or without conductor. Multiple soloists are eligible in this category.

Arias, operatic or otherwise, qualify only if they are recorded as separate productions and not extracted from a complete work.

BEST CLASSICAL COMPENDIUM

FOR ALBUMS ONLY

VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes albums of classical music recordings developed and united by an artist, composer, tribute, thematic idea, musical or other unifying concept, including crossover albums that contain greater than 50% classical material.

Albums may include historic, spoken, and/or documentary material, as long as these are in service of the album concept and do not exceed 50% of the total playing time. Albums entered in Classical Compendium may not be entered in other classical categories; however, individual tracks from Compendium entries may be eligible in other classical categories.

BEST CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL COMPOSITION

A COMPOSER'S AWARD FOR ALBUMS OR TRACKS VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in contemporary Classical composition. It is open to original Classical compositions, including newly composed operas, composed within the last 25 years and released on a recording for the first time during the eligibility year. Eligible compositions must be individual works and world premiere recordings. Classical motion picture and television compositions are eligible here. Audio-video (DVD) of new operas are eligible, but only the audio portion is considered.

New versions, arrangements, suites, transcriptions, re-orchestrations, remixes and/or any other types of variants of pre-existing compositions are not eligible.

The full-length score on PDF must be submitted with each entry for this category.