

# GRAMMY AWARDS CATEGORY RULES

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## General Field

### RECORD OF THE YEAR

#### FOR SINGLES OR TRACKS

#### VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

**SCREENING CRITERIA** Recordings entered for consideration in this category should represent the best overall achievement. The elements to be considered are the performance, production and engineering; secondary elements for consideration are songwriting/composition, arranging and performance of the backup vocalists and musicians, as applicable.

### ALBUM OF THE YEAR

#### FOR ALBUMS

#### VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

**SCREENING CRITERIA** Albums entered for consideration in this category should represent the best overall achievement by the performer(s), album producer(s), engineer(s)/mixer(s), and songwriter(s). Other elements to be considered are arranging and musicianship.

### SONG OF THE YEAR

#### A SONGWRITER'S AWARD

#### FOR SINGLES OR TRACKS

**SCREENING CRITERIA** Songs entered for consideration in this category should represent the best achievement in songwriting. Songs that contain samples or interpolations are eligible.

A song must comprise melody and lyrics to be eligible in a songwriting category and must have been released on a recording for the first time, or achieved prominence for the first time, during the current eligibility year.

### BEST NEW ARTIST

#### FOR ALBUMS, SINGLES, OR TRACKS

**SCREENING CRITERIA** This category recognizes an artist whose eligibility-year release(s) achieved a breakthrough into the public consciousness and notably impacted the musical landscape.

In adjudicating this category, the primary element to consider is the artist's performance. If the artist wrote most or all of the songs, this may be a secondary consideration. Production elements of the recording should not be considered.

- Minimum releases to meet eligibility: five singles/tracks or one album.
- While there will be no specified maximum number of releases, the screening committees will be charged with determining whether the artist had attained a breakthrough or prominence prior to the eligibility year. Such a determination would result in disqualification.

An artist may not enter into this category more than three times, including as a performing member of an established group.

- Solo artists and established duos and groups.
- Solo artists formerly with duos/groups, provided the duo/group had not attained prominence.
- New established duos/groups consisting of former solo artists or former group members, provided that none of the previous solo artists nor the duo/group had attained prominence.
- New recording artists who previously achieved recognition in a different discipline, such as songwriters, politicians, actors, astronauts, etc.

#### NOT ELIGIBLE

- Any artist who had achieved a breakthrough in a prior eligibility year.
- Any artist with a previous GRAMMY nomination as a performer, including a nomination as an established member of a nominated group.

Exception: If an artist is nominated (but does not win) for the release of a single or as a featured artist or collaborator on a compilation or another artist's album before the artist has released at least five singles or an entire album (and becomes eligible in this category for the first time), the artist may enter this category in the eligibility year during which the artist's fifth single/track or first album is released.

- An artist with a previous songwriting GRAMMY nomination, if the nominated song had gained its prominence through a performance by the songwriter as the primary artist.

Exception: If an artist received the nomination (but does not win) for writing a song that had gained its prominence through a performance by the songwriter as the primary artist before the artist has released at least five singles or an entire album (and becomes eligible in this category for the first time), the artist may enter this category in the eligibility year during which the artist's fifth single/track or first album is released.

- Collaborations involving two or more individuals who are not an established group.
- Artists who have been credited only as featured artists.
- Choirs, choruses and large band ensembles (16 or more members).
- Non-music-performing video performers (e.g., dancers, actors).
- Musical craftspeople (songwriters, engineers, producers, art directors, remixers, notes writers, etc.).
- Any person active in public life whose entered recording was not intended to be the subject of a commercial release.
- A group carrying on the name and tradition of a previous group that would be ineligible due to number of recordings or prior breakthrough, even if the personnel changes.
- A group that would be ineligible due to number of recordings or prior breakthrough, even if it changes its name.

\* NOTE: The word "artist" is used inclusively to signify performing solo artists as well as established performing duos and groups.