

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The 63rd GRAMMY Awards eligibility period is Sept. 1, 2019 through Aug. 31, 2020.

The GRAMMY Awards are open to new recordings released during the eligibility period. These recordings must be commercially released, nationally distributed and available from any date within the eligibility period through at least the date of the current year's Final Ballot voting deadline.

NEW RECORDINGS

"New recordings" is defined as material that has been recorded within five years of the release date and not previously released.

Recordings that are not newly recorded are only eligible in Best Historical Album, Best Compilation Soundtrack Album, Best Immersive Audio Album (if the multichannel mix is new), Best Remixed Recording (if the remix is new), Best Recording Package, Best Special Package (if the package is new), Best Album Notes (if notes are new), and certain multidisc sets in the Classical Field. These classical multidisc releases are eligible even if more than 51% of the playing time was recorded more than five years before the release provided the album contains 100% previously unreleased material, employs a single artist or ensemble only, and contains the work of a single composer only.

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

"General distribution" is defined as the broad release of a recording, available nationwide via brick-and-mortar stores, third-party online retailers and/or streaming services. (Imports are not eligible.)

Streaming services is defined as paid subscription, full catalog, on-demand streaming/limited download services that have existed as such within the United States for at least one full year as of the entry deadline. All recordings entered must have an assigned International Standard Recording Code (IRSC).

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

Recordings must be available to the public as stand-alone, audio-only purchases or streams, (exceptions: opera, immersive audio album, and music video/music film) beginning on any date within the eligibility year to be GRAMMY-eligible.

LIMITED EDITION RELEASES

Limited edition releases do not meet the distribution requirement for eligibility. Distribution eligibility is based on an artist's typical shipment policies. The Academy may inquire with the manufacturer as to the number of recordings normally shipped, and if the shipment varies or is substantially less than normal for a particular artist, the Academy reserves the right to determine whether the release is eligible.

DIGITAL RECORDINGS

The original digital file and the product sent to the Academy must have quality comparable to at least 16 bit 44.1 kHz and 44 kHz/16bit audio for both Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical and Best Engineered Album, Classical. A copy of label credits (producers, mixers, songwriters, etc.) must

be included in the required metadata file. Any requested documentation (including a list of retailers/ streaming services) must be provided if requested by the Academy in order to verify crediting or release date.

AUTHORIZED RECORDINGS

Recordings must be non-infringing, original works of authorship. To the extent a recording embodies in whole or in part the copyrighted work of a third party, appropriate authorization to use and incorporate such copyrighted work must have been obtained. If allegations are made that a recording is unauthorized and does not meet these criteria, the Academy will consider the allegations and determine, in its sole discretion, the eligibility of such recording.

SINGLES AND TRACKS

A single is a song or instrumental recording that is released separately from an album, while a track is an individual song or instrumental recording released as part of an album. A single will often appear as a track on a subsequent album release and a track from a released album can be issued as a single. The GRAMMY rules describe eligibility for tracks and singles in terms of different release structures but the two are judged identically in the categories in which they are both eligible.

A track or single from a previous year's album is eligible in the General, Pop, Dance, Gospel/CCM, Rock, R&B, Rap, Country, and American Roots Music Fields provided the recording was not entered as a track or single the previous year and provided the album did not win a GRAMMY in a performance category. (Best New Artist is not a performance category; therefore, singles from the previous year's album are eligible in cases where an artist received the Best New Artist award for that album.)

A track from an album released in the current eligibility year is eligible provided the track was not entered as a single the previous year.

A single or track is eligible in one specialized genre field. However, a track or single may be screened into one genre field, while the album on which the track appears may be screened into a different genre field.

If a single is released one year and the music video is released in a different eligibility year, both are eligible in their respective years, even if the music video was nominated or won a GRAMMY Award.

ALBUMS

An album is a collection of audio recordings issued for sale, download or streaming as a unit. To qualify as an album, a release must contain at least five tracks (different songs, not different mixes) and have a total playing time of at least 15 minutes or it may have any number of tracks if the total playing time is at least 30 minutes.

An album must contain greater than 50% playing time of newly recorded (within five years of the release date), previously unreleased recordings. (Best Compilation Soundtrack, Best Historical Album, Best Immersive Audio Album, Best Recording Package, Best Special Package and Best Album Notes accept albums of recordings that are not newly recorded.)

To be eligible in a specific genre field, an album must contain at least 51% playing time of the genre specified by the field. A recording may not be in more than one specialized genre field. However, an album may be in one genre field while one or more tracks from the album may be in a different genre field.

If an album is released one year and an associated music film is commercially released in a different year, both are eligible in their respective years, even if the music film was nominated or won a GRAMMY Award.

FEATURED ARTISTS

To be recognized as a GRAMMY nominee, a featured artist must be credited as a featured artist; and make a significant and artistic contribution beyond accompaniment.

Featured artists are GRAMMY-eligible in Album Of The Year if they perform on more than 33% of the playing time of an album; they are eligible in the genre album categories if they perform on more than 51% of playing time; and are eligible in performance categories if they are credited as a featured artist on the track/single.

If an album is credited to one artist but has many tracks featuring guest artists, it may have to be considered a "Various Artists" album. That determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Academy.

MULTIPLE MIXES AND REMIXES

Only one version/mix of a recording is eligible in the GRAMMY process in any year. In cases where different versions of a recording (with featured artists, for example) are released in the same eligibility year, the decision as to which mix of a recording to enter will be made by the label releasing the original artist's version (provided that the chosen mix is otherwise eligible to be entered in the GRAMMY process).

In the Best Song Written For Visual Media category, the film/soundtrack version of a song can be entered, even if it is different from the version entered in other categories.

Otherwise, any current remixes, alternate mixes and any new mixes of recordings released in a previous awards year are only eligible in Best Remixed Recording.

SAMPLED AND INTERPOLATED MATERIAL

A sample is defined as an element of a previously released recording incorporated into a new recording. Samples can be entire parts of earlier recordings or isolated sections of earlier recordings including, but not limited to, tracks with vocals removed, hooks, riffs, bass lines, or background vocals.

Recordings that feature samples and/or any interpolations of previously released material are eligible in all performance categories only if the performance up for GRAMMY consideration is newly recorded per the Academy definition.

Recordings featuring samples are eligible in songwriting categories; however, the writers of the sampled or interpolated material are not considered to be nominees or GRAMMY recipients.

VOICES USED AS “INSTRUMENTS”

Vocal performances are never eligible as instrumental performances, regardless of the method of vocal production (e.g., scatting, beatboxing, throat singing, or vocally mimicking the sound of a particular instrument or ensemble of instruments).

RECORDING ACADEMY OR GRAMMY TELECAST RECORDINGS

Recordings released by the Recording Academy or affiliate-produced releases, including releases of performances from GRAMMY Awards telecasts, are not eligible in the Awards process.

STUDENT RECORDINGS

Student recordings are eligible if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

PLAYBACK SYSTEMS

If a specialized piece of equipment is needed to play a recording (other than a common consumer device such as a CD player, MP3 player, turntable, etc.), the recording is not eligible. For example, Pianocorder cassettes are not eligible because they only play back on a Pianocorder Reproducing System retrofit onto a piano.

RECORDINGS MADE OF PLAYBACK SYSTEMS USING PREVIOUSLY RECORDED PERFORMANCES

A new recording that records a device playing a previously “recorded” performance (i.e., piano rolls, player piano systems, Zenph players, Welte-Mignon systems, etc.), is not eligible in the Best Historical Album category. (A piano roll, etc. is not eligible as a “recording” on its own.) These types of playback-system recordings are only eligible in Best Engineered Album, where the new recording of the playback would be considered.

TRANSLATIONS

For song lyrics or album notes originally written in one language and translated or adapted into another for release, the original writer is always the eligible writer.