

GRAMMY AWARDS CATEGORY RULES

Jazz Field

BEST IMPROVISED JAZZ SOLO

FOR SINGLES OR TRACKS WITH AN IMPROVISED JAZZ SOLO VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMPANIMENT

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes improvised jazz solos (including vocal jazz solos) of substantive content. It is not for embellishments or fills, written-out solos, or solos that demonstrate some jazz flavoring but that belong in the Pop or R&B fields. Intent and content are the over-riding criteria in determining eligibility of an improved jazz solo.

The improvised jazz solo performances may be taken from an instrumental or vocal single or track. The track must be from an album released in the current eligibility year but may be from an album in another genre field. The soloist need not be the group leader or top-billed artist on the track. Two performers on one recording who solo equally or near-equally may be eligible as one entry at the discretion of the Academy.

Entries in this category are limited to two per artist and may only be made by the soloist or the soloist's representative (management or soloist's primary record label).

BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

VOCAL ONLY

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums of vocal jazz performance. Jazz elements may include inflection, phrasing, arrangements, repertoire, and/or improvisatory variations. The vocal performances, vocal styling and interpretation must be jazz in content (and not merely performances with some jazz flavoring or those that may use jazz musicians for backup). Pop, R&B or other genre styles of vocal performance, even those by well-established jazz artists, are not eligible.

The vocal performance may be by a solo performer, duo, group (including large jazz vocal ensembles) or collaboration and may be in any language (including Portuguese and Spanish).

If a vocalist(s) and an instrumentalist(s) are billed equally, both (or all) may be eligible for a GRAMMY. This determination, as with cases in which the co-billing involves a band as a whole, will be at the discretion of the Academy.

An entire album entered in the Jazz Vocal category may not be entered again in a Jazz Instrumental category, even if the artist is shifted. If the vocalist(s) and instrumentalist(s) are billed equally, the Academy will determine the appropriate category based on number of vocal tracks versus instrumental tracks; or, if the number of tracks is equal, the total playing time of the vocal versus instrumental tracks.

BEST JAZZ INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

INSTRUMENTAL ONLY

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums by individuals or groups generally thought of as “small jazz groups,” typically from one to eight musicians performing jazz music, including straight-ahead jazz and contemporary jazz.

This category may also include albums with larger back-up ensembles that provide coloring and background to what is essentially a small group performance. The extent of interaction between the soloist(s) and the large ensemble employed in the arrangements is the deciding factor for eligibility in those cases. The size of the ensemble is not determinative as much as the instrumental make-up and how the music is scored.

BEST LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

INSTRUMENTAL OR INSTRUMENTAL WITH VOCALS

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence on albums of large jazz ensemble performance, primarily recordings with a “big band sound.” Other large ensemble or orchestral jazz recordings where a number of musicians come together, most commonly to play arrangements featuring the orchestrational possibilities of a large ensemble of musicians are eligible. In some instances, arrangements may be less structured (so-called “hear arrangements”) that nonetheless demonstrate the orchestration possibilities of a large ensemble setting.

Generally, these ensembles must contain nine or more members to be eligible in this category (excluding the conductor or bandleader). The ensembles may be billed as ensembles or under the name of a solo artist who is the featured band or orchestra leader.

Recordings that use synthesizers to imitate the sound of a large jazz ensemble are not eligible in the category.

Large jazz vocal ensemble albums must be entered in Best Jazz Vocal Album.

BEST LATIN JAZZ ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in Latin Jazz albums by ensembles of any size that represent the blending of jazz with Latin and Iberian-American, Brazilian, and Argentinian tango music.