

NOMINATING PROCESS

Nominations are determined by Voting Members through the first round ballot or through either the Nominations Review Committee or Craft Nominating Committee processes. All Voting Members are encouraged to vote on the four categories of the General Field. Additionally, voters may vote in up to 15 other categories — based on individual areas of expertise — on both ballots.

NOMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEES

General Field (Record Of The Year, Album Of The Year, Song Of The Year, Best New Artist): This committee consists of at least 20 music generalists who are Voting Members of the Academy, approved by the Trustees. The committee reviews the top 20 selections resulting from the general membership vote on the first ballot, then vote via confidential ballot to select the top eight nominations in each category.

American Roots, Regional Roots, Children’s Music, Classical, Contemporary Instrumental/ New Age, Country, Dance/Electronic Music, Gospel/CCM, Jazz, Latin, Music Video/Film, Rap, Rock, R&B, and Global Music Nomination Review Committees: These committees are panels of 13-17 Voting Members who are recognized experts in their respective fields. The committees meet to review and listen to the top 15 selections resulting from the general membership vote on the first ballot in those categories. They then vote via confidential ballot to determine the five finalists in each category.

The Classical Nominations Review Committee can make up to three, rather than two, additions to the first ballot selection list, as long as the vote by the committee to make the third addition is unanimous. Also, the Classical Nominations Review Committee is provided with the top 20 selections from the first ballot in two categories: Best Instrumental Solo and Best Chamber Music/ Small Ensemble.

Populating The Committees

Each of the Academy’s 12 Chapters engage their Chapter Nominating Committees to suggest and submit names of appropriate members for each Nomination Review Committee. This list is compiled in consultation with the Chapter Executive Director and Chapter President.

The Nominating Committees make best efforts to propose at least two names per committee each year of persons who have not served in the past, in addition to recommending returning members. Chapters are encouraged to increase their outreach efforts throughout each year in order to create a wider and more diverse talent pool from which to draw.

Those suggestions go to the committee chair and staff genre manager, who develop an appropriate and balanced committee slate. This list goes to the National Chair, President/CEO and Awards Department head for further refinement. The refined list then goes to the National Board of Trustees for ratification.

In order to ensure that each committee is not only made up of the most qualified people, but also is balanced by gender (50/50 goal for each committee) and other demographic markers and by subgenre (if applicable), the following approaches are in effect: