

57th OEP CATEGORY DESCRIPTION GUIDE

- 1 Record Of The Year** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For commercially released singles or tracks of new vocal or instrumental recordings. Tracks from a previous year's album may be entered provided the track was not entered the previous year and provided the album did not win a GRAMMY. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), recording engineer(s) and/or mixer(s) and mastering engineer(s) if other than the artist.
- NOTE: Associate producers and executive producers are not eligible.
- 2 Album Of The Year** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental recordings. Award to the artist(s), and to the album producer(s), recording engineer(s) and/or mixer(s), and mastering engineer(s) if other than the artist.
- NOTE: Associate producers and executive producers are not eligible. Albums of previously released recordings (reissues, compilations of old recordings and "Best Of" packages) are not eligible.
- 3 Song Of The Year** **Singles or Tracks Only**
A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material. Do not enter instrumental recordings in this category.
- 4 Best New Artist** **Albums, Singles or Tracks**
A new artist is defined as any performing artist who releases, during the eligibility year, the recording that first establishes the public identity of that artist as a performer. Any previous GRAMMY nomination for the artist as a performer precludes eligibility in the Best New Artist category (including a nomination as an established performing member of a nominated group). Any previous songwriting GRAMMY nomination will disqualify the artist if the nominated song had gained its prominence through a performance by the songwriter as the primary artist.
- Exception: If an artist/group is nominated (but does not win) for the release of a single or as a featured artist or collaborator on a compilation or other artist's album before the artist/group has released an entire album (and becomes eligible in this category for the first time), the artist/group may enter in this category for the eligibility year during which his/her/their first album released.
- NOTE: The artist must have released, as a featured performing artist, at least one album but not more than three; and the artist must not have been entered for Best New Artist more than three times, including as a performing member of an established group. (Choirs, choruses and large band ensembles are not eligible.)
- 5 Best Pop Solo Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new vocal or instrumental pop recordings. Award to the artist.
- 6 Best Pop Duo/Group Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new vocal or instrumental duo/group or collaborative pop recordings. Award to the artists.
- 7 Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new traditional pop recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category is for performances of a specific type of song that cannot properly be intermingled with any other past or present form of 'popular' music. This is basically the body of music, often identified as the Great American Songbook that was first created by the Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley songwriters and is still being written by the artistic successors to those writers. It specifically does not include previous forms of contemporary pop - the term 'traditional' being a reference, equally, to the style of composition, vocal styling and the instrumental arrangement, without regard to the age of the material.
- 8 Best Pop Vocal Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal pop recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

- 9 Best Dance Recording** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental dance recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s) and mixer(s).
- NOTE: This category is intended for recordings specifically and originally targeted for the dance/club market, not for recordings of dance styles such as polka, salsa, waltz, swing, etc.
- NOT ELIGIBLE: Remixes. Remixes may be entered in Best Remixed Recording.
- 10 Best Dance/Electronic Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new dance/electronic recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category is intended for groove-oriented recordings with electronic-based instrumentation.
- NOT ELIGIBLE: Compilation albums of licensed recordings (re-releases) or compilation albums of remixed recordings.
- 11 Best Contemporary Instrumental Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing approximately 75% or more playing time of instrumental material. For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: Albums must contain 51% or more playing time of music of a contemporary nature (other than American roots, classical, jazz, new age, world music, and purely traditional styles), and incorporating elements of modern music and/or production techniques. Eligible are solo artists, established duos/groups or collaborations or Various Artists (compilation albums).
- 12 Best Rock Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental solo, duo/group or collaborative rock recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 13 Best Metal Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental solo, duo/group or collaborative metal recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 14 Best Rock Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Includes rock, hard rock and metal songs. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 15 Best Rock Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new rock, hard rock or metal recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 16 Best Alternative Music Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new alternative recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This Best Alternative Music Album category is intended for recordings that take as a starting point any existing musical genre or combination of genres, and expand and redefine the boundaries of those genres. (Though there may be considerable overlap with the Alternative radio format, this category is not intended to mirror it.)
- 17 Best R&B Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental R&B recordings. Award to the artist(s).

- 18 Best Traditional R&B Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new vocal or instrumental traditional R&B recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- NOTE: This category is intended for those artists whose music may incorporate additional elements associated with blues, gospel & jazz. Traditional R&B may include such styles as soul, funk, neo-soul and smooth jazz.
- 19 Best R&B Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 20 Best Urban Contemporary Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded contemporary vocal tracks derivative of R&B. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category is intended for artists whose music may include samples and elements of hip-hop, rap, dance, and electronic music. It may also incorporate production elements found in urban pop, urban Euro-pop, urban rock and urban alternative.
- 21 Best R&B Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new R&B recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 22 Best Rap Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new rap recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 23 Best Rap/Sung Collaboration** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For a newly recorded Rap/Sung collaborative performance by artists who do not normally perform together. Award to the artist(s).
- NOTE: This category is intended for performances by featured (singing) vocalists and featured (rapping) rap artists. The collaborative artist(s) should be recognized as a featured artist(s). In addition, there must be significant performance by the collaborative artist(s) beyond what might be considered merely accompaniment. These guidelines are essential for a collaboration to qualify. Final determination will be made by The Recording Academy's Screening Committees.
- 24 Best Rap Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
A song must contain music and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 25 Best Rap Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new rap recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 26 Best Country Solo Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new vocal or instrumental solo country recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 27 Best Country Duo/Group Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
For new vocal or instrumental duo/group or collaborative country recordings. Award to the artist(s).
- 28 Best Country Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 29 Best Country Album** **Albums Only**
For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new country recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

- 30 Best New Age Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental new age recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: Seasonal recordings are not eligible in this category.
- 31 Best Improvised Jazz Solo**
 For new improvised jazz solos.
- NOTE: This category is intended to recognize improvised jazz solos (including vocal) of substantive content, as opposed to embellishments or fills, written-out solos, or solos that while demonstrating some jazz flavorings, are directed more at the pop or R&B fields. Entrants are requested to limit entries in this category to two solos per artist. Entries in this category may only be made by soloist or soloist's representative (management or artist's primary record label).
- 32 Best Jazz Vocal Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal jazz recordings. Award to the vocalist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 33 Best Jazz Instrumental Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new instrumental jazz recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 34 Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new large ensemble jazz recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category is primarily for recordings with a "big band sound," or other large ensemble or orchestral jazz recordings. Generally, large ensembles must contain 9 or more members to be eligible in this category.
- 35 Best Latin Jazz Album** **Albums Only**
 For vocal or instrumental albums containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded material. The intent of this category is to recognize recordings that represent the blending of jazz with Latin, Iberian-American, Brazilian, and Argentinian tango music. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 36 Best Gospel Performance/Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This award is given to the artist(s) and songwriter(s) (for new compositions) for the best traditional Christian, roots gospel or contemporary gospel single or track. Award to the artist(s) and songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 37 Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This award is given to the artist(s) and songwriter(s) (for new compositions) for the best contemporary Christian pop, Christian rap/hip-hop, or Christian rock single or track. Award to the artist(s) and songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 38 Best Gospel Album** **Albums Only**
 This award is given to the artist(s) and any producer(s) or engineer(s) responsible for at least 51% playing time of an album containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded, vocal, traditional or contemporary/R&B gospel music recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.
- 39 Best Contemporary Christian Music Album** **Albums Only**
 This award is given to the artist(s) and any producer(s) or engineer(s) responsible for at least 51% playing time of an album containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded, vocal, contemporary Christian music, including pop, rap/hip-hop, or rock recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. (Subject to eligibility criteria)

- 40 Best Roots Gospel Album** **Albums Only**
 This award is given to the artist(s) and any producer(s) or engineer(s) responsible for at least 51% playing time of an album containing at least 51% playing time of newly recorded, vocal, traditional/roots gospel music, including country, Southern gospel, bluegrass, and Americana recordings. (Subject to eligibility criteria)
- 41 Best Latin Pop Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new Latin pop recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 42 Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new Latin rock, urban or alternative recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 43 Best Regional Mexican Music Album (Including Tejano)** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new regional Mexican (banda, norteño, corridos, gruperos, mariachi, ranchera and Tejano) recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 44 Best Tropical Latin Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new tropical Latin recordings. Includes traditional and contemporary styles of salsa, merengue, vallenato, cumbia and bachata. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- 45 Best American Roots Performance** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 For new vocal or instrumental American Roots recordings by solo artists, duos/groups, or collaborations. This is for performances in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots. Award to the artist(s).
- 46 Best American Roots Song** **Singles or Tracks Only**
 This category is for original songs in the style of any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music field including Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots. A song must contain melody and lyrics and must be either a new song or a song first achieving prominence during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.
- 47 Best Americana Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental Americana recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category recognizes recordings of contemporary music that incorporate elements of various American roots music styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound that lives in a world apart from the pure forms of the genres upon which it may draw. While acoustic instruments are often present and vital, Americana often uses a full electric band.
- 48 Best Bluegrass Album** **Albums Only**
 For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental bluegrass recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.
- NOTE: This category recognizes bluegrass recordings performed in vocal or instrumental styles, that utilize bluegrass acoustic instrumentation (variations of fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass and Dobro) and singing style, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

49 Best Blues Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental blues recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: This category recognizes blues recordings in both vocal and instrumental styles that utilize blues song structure, singing style and repertoire, with acoustic or electric instrumentation. Also eligible in Best Blues Album are recordings of southern soul music with significant blues content, that utilize modern production techniques and sounds.

50 Best Folk Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental folk recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: This category recognizes authentic folk recordings in both traditional vocal and instrumental styles, as well as original material by artists who utilize traditional folk elements, sounds and instrumental techniques as the basis for their recordings. Folk music is primarily but not exclusively acoustic, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

51 Best Regional Roots Music Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental regional roots music recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: This category recognizes recordings of regional roots styles of music, including Cajun, Hawaiian, Native American, New Orleans brass band, polka, zydeco and others, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach. Native American music includes contemporary recordings containing substantial traditional elements. On Hawaiian music recordings, the Hawaiian language must be used in 51% or more of the vocal tracks on the album and eligibility will be determined by the screening committee.

52 Best Reggae Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new reggae recordings. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: Includes roots reggae, dancehall and ska music.

53 Best World Music Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new vocal or instrumental world music recordings. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOTE: This category is intended for traditional or contemporary recordings of non-Western classical music, international non-American and non-British traditional folk music and recordings that may combine musical elements indigenous to a culture or country with additional elements of another culture.

54 Best Children's Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new musical or spoken word recordings that are created and intended specifically for children. Albums containing approximately 75% instrumental tracks should be entered in Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

55 Best Spoken Word Album (Includes Poetry, Audio Books & Storytelling)

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new non-musical recordings, poetry & storytelling performances and/or narrations with or without musical collaboration or accompaniment. Award to performing artist(s) or producer in case of various artists.

NOT ELIGIBLE: Incidental talk or conversation in studio used as an accent to a musical recording does not constitute a spoken word performance. Song lyrics which are spoken are eligible only in the appropriate vocal categories. Also not eligible are recordings that are compilations/excerpts of previously broadcast radio or television shows; sound effects; environmental recordings; audio tours.

56 Best Comedy Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new recordings. Recordings may be either spoken or musical comedy but are limited to new comedy performances - either live or studio recordings - originally intended for audio release. Also eligible are recordings that are compilation/excerpts from a current year radio or television program. Award to the artist(s), producer(s), and/or engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album.

NOT ELIGIBLE: Narrations of books (audio books) even though the book may be considered humorous, and recordings that are compilations/excerpts from non-current year broadcast radio or television shows.

57 Best Musical Theater Album

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new recordings. Award to the principal vocalist(s) and the album producer(s) of 51% or more playing time of the album. The lyricist(s) and composer(s) of a new score are eligible for an Award if they have written and/or composed a new score which comprises 51% or more playing time of the album.

NOTE: For recordings of the score of a musical theater work that originally appeared on stage or recordings by studio and/or stage casts, road show revivals, etc. created to support an underlying dramatic intention or theme. Recordings of the score of a musical theater work created for a stage production, as evidenced by the work's book, libretto, and/or other submitted materials may be deemed acceptable. Revues that reflect a dramatic theme, including those consisting of songs from the score of a specific musical theater work and those with scores comprised of pre-existing material re-purposed for said revue are also eligible. (This category is not for archival material whether or not previously released. Albums containing archival material may be eligible in Best Historical Album.)

58 Best Compilation Soundtrack For Visual Media

Albums Only

(Includes Film, TV, Video Games & Other Visual Media)

For soundtrack albums comprised predominantly of song compilation, first released during the eligibility year, created specifically for, or as a companion to, a current legitimate motion picture, television (show or series), video games or other visual media. Award to the artist(s) and/or 'in studio' producer(s) of a majority of the tracks on the album. In the absence of both, award to the one or two individuals proactively responsible for the concept and musical direction of the album and for the selection of artists, songs and producers, as applicable. Award also goes to appropriately credited music supervisor(s).

NOTE: At least two-thirds of the music tracks on an album must have been used in the motion picture or television (show or series). Compilation may include previously released (not newly recorded) material, including songs and instrumental compositions.

NOT ELIGIBLE: Live concert films; live or filmed stage shows; musical/variety television shows, and musical documentaries in which the primary focus is live music performance.

59 Best Score Soundtrack For Visual Media

Albums Only

(Includes Film, TV, Video Games & Other Visual Media)

For soundtrack albums comprised predominantly of original score, first released during the eligibility year, created specifically for, or as a companion to, a current legitimate motion picture, television (show or series), video games or other visual media. Award to the composer(s).

NOTE: At least two-thirds of the musical tracks on an album must have been used in the motion picture or television (show or series).

NOT ELIGIBLE: Live concert films; live or filmed stage shows; musical/variety television shows, and musical documentaries in which the primary focus is live music performance. (Original score tracks may be entered in Instrumental Composition category.)

60 Best Song Written For Visual Media

Singles or Tracks Only

(Includes Film, TV, Video Games & Other Visual Media)

A song must contain melody and lyrics and must have been written specifically for and used in a current motion picture, a television show, video games or in other visual media, and commercially released for the first time during the eligibility year. Award to the songwriter(s) of new material; certificate to songwriter(s) of any sampled material.

61 Best Instrumental Composition

Singles or Tracks Only

For an original non-classical composition (not an adaptation), first released on a recording during the current eligibility year. Tracks are eligible only from albums released during the current eligibility year. Award to the composer(s).

62 Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella

Singles or Tracks Only

For an instrumental arrangement on an instrumental recording or an a cappella arrangement on a vocal recording released for the first time on a recording during the current eligibility year. Tracks are eligible only from albums released during the current eligibility year. An instrumental recording with "vocal coloring" is eligible. A vocal arrangement with "instrumental coloring" is eligible. An arranger should not be entered more than twice in the same arranging category, whether for instrumental or vocal arrangement, with the same artist. Award to the arranger(s).

63 Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals

Singles or Tracks Only

For a new arrangement including instruments and vocals in any combination released for the first time during the current eligibility year. Tracks are eligible only from albums released during the current eligibility year. An arranger should not be entered more than twice in the same arranging category, whether for instrumental or vocal arrangement, with the same artist. Award to the arranger(s).

64 Best Recording Package

Albums Only

For newly created recording packages, in any configuration, released for the first time during the current eligibility year, even if contents were previously released. Award to the art director(s).

NOTE: The physical version of the product must have national commercial distribution in order to be eligible in this category.

65 Best Boxed Or Special Limited Edition Package

Albums Only

For newly created boxed, special or limited edition recording packages, in any configuration, released for the first time during the current eligibility year, even if contents were previously released. Award to the art director(s).

NOTE: The physical version of the product must have national commercial distribution in order to be eligible in this category.

66 Best Album Notes

Albums Only

For one piece of original writing by one person for a specific album released for the first time during the current eligibility year. (If a writer is submitting more than one piece of writing, each piece must be entered separately.) The writer must contribute serious time and effort to writing the notes, as evidenced by background research, reflection, analysis and explanation of content. Notes are judged on literary excellence, originality, communicativeness and relevant exposition of recorded content.

Notes must be predominantly new writing. Collaboratively written notes will be considered at the discretion of The Academy. Award to the album notes writer.

Separate pieces of writing by different writers from the same album must be made as separate entries.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

- Lyrics
- Thank-you notes and credits
- Books designed to be sold separately from the recording
- Notes taken from previously issued books, articles or reviews
- Testimonials
- Transcripts of prior interviews not specifically created for the current release
- Brief letters of praise or congratulations

NOTE: The physical version of the product which includes the album notes must have national commercial distribution in order to be eligible in this category unless the notes are available as part of the commercial download.

67 Best Historical Album**Albums Only**

Classical or Non-Classical. For newly created albums that offer historically significant material released for the first time during the current eligibility year. Packaging and annotation of such albums must be new and should present a fresh historical perspective on the circumstances of the recording in areas of program content and technology.

Other significant elements may include quality remastering and/or audio restoration. Previously released recordings, alternate takes and/or heretofore unreleased recordings in any combination are eligible, as are first-time releases of old motion picture or television soundtracks, cast show material and radio broadcasts. Award to the compilation producer(s) and mastering engineer(s).

NOTE: You may enter up to three compilation producers per project. The Academy defines a compilation producer as the principal producer who is responsible for supervising and/or exercising control over the work assigned to other producers and engineers. If this authority is shared to an equal or near-equal extent, there may be up to but not more than three designated compilation producers. Where there is no clear compilation producer credit on the recording, the Academy may ask for clarification and/or further definition of the nature and extent of the duties of each producer credited. Be sure to list all properly credited compilation producers and mastering engineers when entering. Any additional requests for credit will not be reviewed prior to the telecast.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

- Reissues of old albums with no change in packaging or program sequence
- Variant forms of previously entered releases
- Newly recorded albums even if they feature historically significant material
- New recordings re-enacting historical events (New recordings may be entered in appropriate fields.)

68 Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical**Albums Only**

For newly recorded albums released for the first time during the current eligibility year. Award to eligibly credited recording engineer(s), mixing engineer(s) and mastering engineer(s).

NOT ELIGIBLE: Historical albums and albums of previously released material do not qualify. Engineers credited as "assistant," "additional," "second" engineer(s), etc. are not eligible.

69 Producer Of The Year, Non-Classical**Albums, Singles or Tracks**

For a producer whose recordings were released for the first time during the current eligibility year and represent consistently outstanding creativity in the area of record production.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

One album credit: Must have eligible producer credit for at least 51% playing time of album.

--or--

Six track/single credits: Must have eligible producer credit for at least six individual tracks or singles. These tracks or singles cannot be from albums released outside of the current eligibility year even if an album track was subsequently released as a single during the current eligibility year. The maximum number of tracks or albums that will be listed under each producer or producer team's body of work on the ballot is nine.

NOTE: Enter producers as a team only if they have worked together exclusively during the current eligibility year. If entering an album, please enter album title only and do not enter individual track titles from the same album. This category is for a producer's body of work.

DO NOT enter all the producers on one album in one entry.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

- Artist self-production credits only. If an artist has produced her or his own recording or her or his own groups' recordings, an entry or entries must be made for at least one track or single produced for a different artist during the current eligibility year in order to qualify.
- Recordings not released during the current eligibility period
- Reissued recordings
- Remixed recordings
- Executive producers, associate producers or "additional production" credits

70 Best Remixed Recording, Non-Classical

Singles or Tracks Only

This category recognizes previously recorded material that has been added to or altered in such a way as to create a new and unique performance. The specific title of the remix must be included, e.g. "Flowers On The Wall (Dance Club Remix.)" Award to the remixer(s).

NOTE: Remixes must have been released for sale or to clubs or radio in the United States for the first time during the current eligibility year. A CD of both the original recording and the remixed version must be provided to The Recording Academy. Please be sure to label clearly which track is the original and which is the remixed version.

71 Best Surround Sound Album

Albums Only

Classical or non-classical. For vocal or instrumental albums in any genre. Must be a commercially released on DVD-Audio, DVD-Video, SACD, Blu-Ray or surround download and must provide a new surround mix of four or more channels. Award to the surround mix engineer, surround producer (if any) and surround mastering engineer (if any).

72 Best Engineered Album, Classical

Albums Only

For albums containing at least 51% playing time of new recordings. Award to eligibly credited recording engineer(s), mixing engineer(s) and mastering engineer(s).

NOTE: Historical albums and albums of previously released material do not qualify. Engineers credited as "assistant", "additional", "second" engineer(s), etc., do not qualify.

73 Producer Of The Year, Classical

Albums Only

For an album producer whose recording(s), released for the first time during the eligibility year, represent consistently outstanding creativity in the production of classical recordings. One album constitutes the minimum release for a producer to be eligible. A producer must have production credit for 51% or more playing time of the album in order for the album to qualify.

NOTE: If the album is self-produced, production credits must include at least one recording for a different artist. Producers may enter as a team only if they have worked together exclusively during the eligibility year. Associate producers or executive producers are not eligible. The maximum number of albums that will be listed under each producer or producer team's body of work on the ballot is nine. Opera DVD's may be submitted in this category only as an addition to audio-only entries.

74 Best Orchestral Performance

Albums or Tracks

For new recordings by large ensembles (25+), regardless of instrumentation. (Ensembles of 24 or fewer may be entered in Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.) Award to the conductor. An additional award to the orchestra headquarters.

NOTE: Concertos with solo instrumental performances belong in the Best Classical Instrumental Soloist Category. Orchestral works which include incidental vocal elements are eligible here. Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

75 Best Opera Recording

Albums Only

For newly recorded, complete opera recordings only. Award to the conductor, album producer(s) and principal soloists.

NOTE: Both audio-only and audio-video (DVD) entries are eligible, but in the latter case only the audio portion will be considered. Opera highlights albums and recordings of opera arias and recital repertoire are not eligible. Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

76 Best Choral Performance**Albums or Tracks**

For new recordings of vocal groups with or without orchestra, singing in unison or in multiple parts. Award to the conductor and to the choir director and/or chorus master where applicable.

NOTE: Choral ensembles comprised of 16 or more vocalists, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by any number of instrumentalists, with or without conductor, are eligible in this category only. (Ensembles of 15 or fewer may be entered in Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.) Choral numbers, operatic and otherwise, qualify only if they have been recorded as separate productions and are not extracted from a complete work. Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

77 Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance**Albums or Tracks**

For new recordings of Instrumental, vocal or mixed instrumental/vocal groups, with or without conductor. The number of instrumental, vocal or mixed instrumental/vocal group participants is not to exceed twenty-four (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 the Best Choral Performance category only. One Award to the ensemble and one Award to the conductor, if applicable.

NOTE: Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

78 Best Classical Instrumental Solo**Albums or Tracks**

For newly recorded solo performances with or without accompaniment. Award to the soloist.

NOTE: Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

79 Best Classical Solo Vocal Album**Albums Only**

For newly-recorded vocal albums. Eligible albums must contain 51% newly recorded material. 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 & 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.

Award to the vocalist(s), collaborative artist(s) (Ex: pianists, conductors, chamber groups), producer(s), recording engineers/mixers with 51% or more playing time of new material.

80 Best Classical Compendium**Albums Only**

For an album, developed and united by an artist, composer, tribute, thematic idea, musical or other unifying concept. Albums may embody historic, spoken, and/or documentary material, as long these are in service of the album concept and do not exceed over 49% of total playing time. Albums entered in Classical Compendium may not be entered in other Classical categories, but individual tracks from Compendium albums may be eligible as entries in other Classical categories. Crossover albums, containing 51% or more classical material, may be eligible and entered in this category. Award to the artist(s) and to the album producer(s) and engineer(s) of over 51% playing time of the album, if other than the artist.

81 Best Contemporary Classical Composition**Albums or Tracks**

For a newly recorded, original classical composition (including newly composed opera) composed within the last twenty-five years and released for the first time within the eligibility year. A full-length score on PDF is required for all Classical Contemporary Composition submissions. This Award is only for a single, complete work. Award to the composer and librettist, if applicable.

NOTE: Only world première recordings are eligible in this category. Audio-video (DVD) of new operas are eligible, but only the audio portion will be considered.

Track entries in the Classical field are actually complete works entered separately from a full-length CD. No individual movements from a complete work are eligible in any Classical category.

82 Best Music Video**Videos Only**

For music videos recognized by the artist and/or the record label as the official video for an individual single or track. Music videos released for sale to the public or first appearing on television or online during the current eligibility year, and which are synchronous or predominantly synchronous to a commercially released recording. Award to the artist, video director, and video producer.

- A word document detailing production credits is required. The required credits are artist(s), video producer(s), and video director(s).
- The Recording Academy would prefer that a credit slate be available at the beginning or end of each music video submission. The credit slate should include the name of the artist(s), video producer(s), and video director(s).

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Non-musical programs
- Fan videos or re-edits that are not recognized by the artist and/or the record label as the official video
- Individual videos taken from video album packages that were eligible in a previous year

NOTE: A nomination or GRAMMY in a performance category does not affect the eligibility of a commercially released music video in the following year(s).

83 Best Music Film**Videos Only**

For concert/performance films or music documentaries released for sale to the public for the first time or first appearing on television or online during the current eligibility year. Music related documentaries must have 51% or more music performance based material. Also eligible are general release theatrical non-fictional music related films with 51% or more music performance based material. Award to the artist, video director, and video producer.

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Non-musical programs
- Episodes from television series, award shows, music competition shows, fictional music films and musical biopics
- Re-editing or re-packaging of old (more than five years from release date) programs
- Concert films in which the concert was recorded more than five years ago (Older concert footage may be used in music documentaries.)
- Compilations of music videos by various artists
- Any video films or promotional clips which were eligible in a previous eligibility year or compilations of such

NOTE: A nomination or GRAMMY in a performance category in a previous year does not affect the eligibility of a commercially released music video in the following year(s). The addition of bonus material to an otherwise ineligible long form video does not make the release eligible.