



GRAMMY FOUNDATION®

For Immediate Release

GRAMMY FOUNDATION® SELECTS STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESTIGIOUS GRAMMY CAMP® — JAZZ SESSION PROGRAM DURING GRAMMY® WEEK 2016

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Nov. 24, 2015) — The GRAMMY Foundation® (www.grammyintheschools.com) announced today that **32 talented high school students** from across the United States have been selected for the **2016 GRAMMY Camp® — Jazz Session**. Their selection launches them into the spotlight surrounding the 58th Annual GRAMMY Awards®, and provides them with unparalleled opportunities to perform for some of music's biggest names. The students, representing **29 cities** and **15 states**, will travel to Los Angeles for a weeklong musical adventure under the direction of Justin DiCioccio of the Manhattan School of Music, Dr. Ron McCurdy of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and associate choral director Susanna Wegner of Kansas City, Mo. Two former GRAMMY Camp students will be joining as members of the **GRAMMY in the Schools® Media Team** to **document the GRAMMY® Week experience** for the **GRAMMY Foundation's social media platforms**.

"Each year, GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session brings together some of the most gifted jazz singers and instrumentalists and gives them an extraordinary musical experience during GRAMMY Week," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy®. "These talented young people demonstrate their gifts by making music with their peers and performing with GRAMMY-nominated and GRAMMY-winning artists at a range of events. We're especially proud that many of them actually go on to have successful careers in our music industry."

From Feb. 12–14, courtesy of **Capitol Studios & Mastering**, the young musicians will record an album (*GRAMMY Jazz 24*) at the legendary facility in Hollywood, Calif. Over the years, **noted members of The Recording Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing®** have worked with the ensembles during the recording process. Again this year, **multi-GRAMMY-winning engineer and Producers & Engineers Wing member Al Schmitt** will be mixing the project. **GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session albums** from 2007–2015 are available for purchase via online music outlets such as **Amazon, iTunes** and **Rhapsody**.

In addition, the selected students will perform at various **GRAMMY Week** events, including — for the seventh year — an appearance at **GRAMMY In The Schools Live! — A Celebration Of Music & Education** sponsored by **Ford Motor Company Fund**. This special event, which is open to the public, will showcase the selectees, along with **special guest artists**, on Feb. 11, 2016, at Club Nokia in Los Angeles. The group will offer additional **public performances** with **special guest artists** at **Spghettini Fine Dining & Entertainment** in Seal Beach, Calif., and **Spghettini & the Dave Koz Lounge** in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 10 and Feb. 12, respectively. GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session members will also attend the **58th Annual GRAMMY Awards** on Feb. 15 as guests of The Recording Academy and will perform at the **GRAMMY Celebration®** after-party.

GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session selectees are eligible for more than \$2 million in college scholarships made possible through the GRAMMY Foundation's college partners: Berklee College of Music, Manhattan School of Music, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, and USC Thornton School of Music. In addition, each selectee's school will receive a professional cymbal courtesy of the Zildjian Company.

The 2016 GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session members are listed by each student's instrument, role or voice:

Band Name		City	State	School	Part
Matt	Richards	Walnut Creek	Calif.	Las Lomas High School	Alto Sax 1
Nathan	Farrell	Montclair	N.J.	Montclair High School	Alto Sax 2
Jason	Chrisman	Weaverville	N.C.	North Buncombe High School	Tenor Sax
Morgan	Guerin	Atlanta	Ga.	Westlake High School	Tenor Sax
Ben	Fitzpatrick	Bethel	Conn.	Bethel High School	Bari Sax
Jonah	Moss	Walnut Creek	Calif.	Northgate High School	Trumpet Lead
Evan	Abounassar	Yorba Linda	Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Trumpet Jazz
Alex	Melnychuck	Tucson	Ariz.	Salpointe Catholic High School	Trumpet 3
Geoffrey	Gallante	Alexandria	Va.	West Potomac High School	Trumpet 4
Carlos	Ramos	Downey	Calif.	Downey High School	Trumpet 5
Remee	Ashley	Berkeley	Calif.	Berkeley High School	Trombone 1
Jack	Kotze	Frankfort	Ill.	Lincoln-Way North High School	Trombone 2
Jasim	Perales	Oakland	Calif.	Oakland School for the Arts	Trombone 3
Ethan	Santos	Fresno	Calif.	Buchanan High School	Bass Trombone
Sam	Towse	Huntington	N.Y.	Friends Academy	Piano
Abeed	Janjua	Pembroke Pines	Fla.	Dillard High School	Bass
Joseph	Bell	Princeton	N.J.	Princeton High School	Guitar
Julius	Rodriguez	White Plains	N.Y.	The Masters School	Drums

Choir

Sharada	Shashidhar	Painted Post	N.Y.	Corning-Painted Post High School	Soprano
Abigail	Berry	Burbank	Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Soprano
Kara	Walton	La Vista	Neb.	Papillion La Vista High School	Alto
Makele	Clemmons	Chicago	Ill.	Chicago High School for the Arts	Alto
Jack	VanGorden	Dallas	Texas	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Tenor
Jack	O'Connor	Dallas	Texas	Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts	Tenor
Daniel	Barbrack	New York	N.Y.	Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and Performing Arts	Bass
Evan	Wright	Temple City	Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Bass

Combo

Jamael	Dean	Redondo Beach	Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Piano
Maxwell	Schwartz	Berkeley	Calif.	Berkeley High School	Bass
Jordan	Reifkind	Los Angeles	Calif.	Los Angeles County High School for the Arts	Guitar
Zachary	Vaughen	Lancaster	Pa.	Manheim Township High School	Drums

Media Team

Anthony	Richard Jr.	Gretna	La.	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	Media Team
Alejandra	Matheu-Rios	Henderson	Nev.	College Southern Nevada High School	Media Team

[Watch this video](#) for a look at past Jazz Session participants in action or embed it using the code below:
 <iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/_tLX_EoheI8" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>

The GRAMMY Foundation was established in 1988 to cultivate the understanding, appreciation and advancement of the contribution of recorded music to American culture. The Foundation accomplishes this mission through programs and activities that engage the music industry and cultural community as well as the general public. The Foundation works in partnership year-round with its founder, The Recording Academy, to bring national attention to important issues such as the value and impact of music and arts education and the urgency of preserving our rich cultural heritage. In recognition of the significant role of teachers in shaping their students' musical experiences, the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy partnered to present their first Music Educator Award™ in 2014. Open to current U.S. music teachers in kindergarten through college, the third annual Music Educator Award recipient will be recognized during GRAMMY Week 2016. For more information about our music education programs, please visit www.grammyintheschools.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, please "like" GRAMMY in the Schools on [Facebook](#), follow @GRAMMYFdn on [Twitter](#) and join @GRAMMYFdn on [Instagram](#).

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