



*****MEDIA ALERT FOR DEC. 8, 2016*****

**10 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2017 MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD™
PRESENTED BY THE RECORDING ACADEMY® AND THE
GRAMMY FOUNDATION®**

Award Recipient and Finalists to Receive Cash Honoraria with Generous Support and Resources Provided by the GRAMMY Foundation®'s Education Champions: Converse, Disney Performing Arts, Ford Motor Company Fund, and Journeys

WHO: A total of 10 music teachers from 10 cities across 7 states have been announced as **finalists** for the **Music Educator Award™** presented by **The Recording Academy®** and the **GRAMMY Foundation®**. **Initial nominations** were submitted from all **50 states**. **Nominations and applications** for the **2018 Music Educator Award** are now open via www.grammymusicteacher.com. **A complete list of finalists is below.**

Name		School Name	City	State
Erica	Breitbarth	Reagan IB High School	Milwaukee	Wis.
David	Dehner	Monte Vista Christian School	Watsonville	Calif.
Jose	Diaz	MacArthur Senior High School	Houston	Texas
Keith	Hancock	Tesoro High School	Rancho Santa Margarita	Calif.
Elizabeth	Hankins	Lakewood High School	Lakewood	Ohio
Keith	Hart Sr.	KIPP Believe College Prep	New Orleans	La.
Henry	Miller	Sierra Vista Middle School	Irvine	Calif.
Richard	Nickerson	Windham High School	Windham	Maine
Ulli	Reiner	Bernardo Heights Middle School	Poway	Calif.
Nicole	Thompson	Taylor Road Middle School	Johns Creek	Ga.

WHAT: A joint partnership and presentation of The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation, the **Music Educator Award** was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college, public, and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools.

The award is open to current U.S. music teachers, and anyone can nominate a teacher — students, parents, friends, colleagues, community members, school deans, and administrators. Teachers are also able to nominate themselves, and nominated teachers are notified and invited to fill out an application.

Each year, one recipient is selected from 10 finalists and recognized for their remarkable impact on students' lives. The 2017 honoree will be flown to Los Angeles, the host city of the GRAMMY Awards®, and will be recognized during GRAMMY Week in February 2017. The recipient will also attend the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards ceremony and a range of GRAMMY Foundation events. In addition, the recipient will receive a \$10,000 honorarium. The nine finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants.

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Additionally, the previously named 15 semifinalists will receive a \$500 honorarium with matching school grants for the first time in the award's history.

The grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the generosity and support of the GRAMMY Foundation's Education Champions: **Converse, Disney Performing Arts, Ford Motor Company Fund, and Journeys**. In addition, the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, NAMM Foundation, and National Education Association support this program through outreach to their constituencies.

WHEN: The winner will be announced during GRAMMY Week. For more information, please visit www.grammymusicteacher.com.

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is an organization of musicians, songwriters, producers, engineers, and recording professionals dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards—the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music—The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture. For more information about The Recording Academy, please visit www.grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), like "Recording Academy / GRAMMYs" on [Facebook](#), and join The Recording Academy's social communities on [Google+](#), [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#) and [YouTube](#).

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 Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation partnered to present their first Music Educator Award in 2014. Open to current U.S. music teachers in kindergarten through college, the fourth annual Music Educator Award will be given out during GRAMMY Week 2017 and [nominations](#) are being accepted for the 2018 cycle. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.grammyfoundation.org. For breaking news and exclusive content, please "like" GRAMMY in the Schools® on [Facebook](#), follow the GRAMMY Foundation on [Twitter](#) (@GRAMMYFdn) and join us on [Instagram](#) (@GRAMMYFdn).

Converse Inc., based in Boston is a wholly owned subsidiary of NIKE, Inc. Established in 1908, the Converse brand has built a reputation as "America's Original Sports Company"™ and has been associated with a rich heritage of legendary shoes such as the Chuck Taylor® All Star® shoe, the Jack Purcell® shoe and the One Star® shoe. Today, Converse offers a diverse portfolio including lifestyle men's, women's and children's footwear, apparel and accessories and is sold globally by retailers in over 160 countries. For more information, visit Media.Converse.com and follow [@converse](#).

Disney Performing Arts unlocks student potential and helps young people make their own dreams come true—whether it's performing in front of an international audience of thousands at Disney theme parks and resorts or honing their craft in enriching workshops and clinics taught by entertainment professionals. Every year, thousands of vocal, instrumental and other ensembles travel from around the world to participate in Disney Performing Arts programs at the Disneyland Resort in Southern Calif. and the Walt Disney World Resort in Fla. Disney delivers workshops and performance opportunities that enrich, inspire and often lead to life-changing personal achievement.

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Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services works with community and global partners to advance driving safety, education and community life. Ford Motor Company Fund has operated for more than 65 years with ongoing funding from Ford Motor Company. Ford Driving Skills for Life is free, interactive, hands-on safety training focused on skill development and driving techniques, while addressing inexperience, distractions and impaired driving. Innovation in education is encouraged through Ford Blue Oval Scholars, Ford Next Generation Learning and other inspiring programs that enhance high school learning and provide college scholarships and university grants. The Ford Volunteer Corps enlists more than 30,000 Ford employees and retirees each year to work on local projects that strengthen their communities and improve people's lives in more than 40 countries around the world. For more information, visit community.ford.com.

Journeys is a leader in the teen specialty retail scene, with more than 800 stores in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada. Journeys uses fashion savvy and merchandising science to keep in step with the fast-paced footwear and accessories market for 13- to 22-year-old guys and girls. Journeys offers a wide variety of trendy, relevant brands that cater to teens that seek the hottest, new styles. However, the Journeys store is more than a retail environment—it's an extension of the teen lifestyle. From the plasma TVs playing exclusive content and the latest music videos, to the visual merchandising strategy and promotions, to the employees whose image and style reflect the customers' lifestyle and attitude. In addition to retail stores, Journeys reaches its customers through journeys.com, catalogs, social media, and grass-roots events like the Warped Tour, Alternative Press Music Awards, and national club-level music tours in the spring and fall seasons. Journeys—An Attitude You Can Wear! Journeys is a division of Genesco Inc.

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