

## MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD™ SEMIFINALISTS ANNOUNCED BY THE RECORDING ACADEMY™ AND GRAMMY MUSEUM®

**WHO:** A total of 25 music teachers from 25 cities across 18 states, have been announced as semifinalists for the Music Educator Award™ presented by the Recording Academy™ and GRAMMY Museum®. In total, more than 3,300 initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states. Nominations for the 2021 Music Educator Award are now open at [www.grammymusicteacher.com](http://www.grammymusicteacher.com).

Name	School Name	City	State
Michael Antmann	Freedom High School	Orlando	Fla.
Elizabeth Bennett	Buffalo Grove High School	Buffalo Grove	Ill.
Andrew Bennett	Fredonia High School	Fredonia	N.Y.
Stephen Cox	Eastland High School	Eastland	Texas
Victor de los Santos	Santa Ana High School	Santa Ana	Calif.
Heather Dipasquale	Todd County Middle School	Elkton	Ky.
Geoffrey Gould	Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Mass.
Sherie Grossman	Mt. Juliet High School	Mt. Juliet	Tenn.
Bethany Hardwick	Clayton Downing Middle School	Flower Mound	Texas
Elizabeth Hering	Churchill High School	Livonia	Mich.
Michael Jefferson	Western Alamance High School	Elon	N.C.
Harvey Lockhart	Riverview Gardens High School	Florissant	Mo.
Jason Majerczak	Drexel Hill Middle School	Drexel Hill	Pa.
Chris Maunu	Arvada West High School	Arvada	Colo.
Amber Moss	Lakeside Middle School	Hot Springs	Ark.
Joy Paffenroth	Kaukauna High School	Kaukauna	Wis.
Courtney Powers	South Philadelphia High School	Philadelphia	Pa.
Crystal Pridmore	Finney Elementary School	San Diego	Calif.
Lynne Ruda	Lancaster High School	Lancaster	N.Y.
Peter Sampson	Whiteland Community High School	Whiteland	Ind.
Renee Shane-Boyd	Catalina Foothills High School	Tucson	Ariz.
Mickey Smith Jr.	Maplewood Middle School	Sulphur	La.
Kokoe Tanaka-Suwan	Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls	Bronx	N.Y.
Johnathan Vest	Centennial High School	Franklin	Tenn.
James Yaques	Palm Beach Central High School	Wellington	Fla.

**WHAT:** The **Music Educator Award** recognizes current educators 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 the schools. The recipient will be recognized during GRAMMY® Week 2020.



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 seventh annual honoree will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 62nd Annual GRAMMY Awards® and a range of GRAMMY Week events. The nine additional finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants.

The remaining fifteen semifinalists will receive a \$500 honorarium with matching school grants.

The matching grants provided to the schools are made possible by the generosity and support of the GRAMMY Museum's Education Champion **Ford Motor Company Fund**. 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.

The **finalists** will be announced in **December**. For more information, please visit [www.grammymusicteacher.com](http://www.grammymusicteacher.com).

### **ABOUT THE GRAMMY MUSEUM**

Established in 2008, the GRAMMY Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music through exhibits, education, grants, preservation initiatives, and public programming. Paying tribute to our collective musical heritage, the Museum explores and celebrates all aspects of the art form—from the technology of the recording process to the legends who've made lasting marks on our cultural identity.

For more information, visit [www.grammymuseum.org](http://www.grammymuseum.org), "like" the GRAMMY Museum on Facebook, and follow @GRAMMYMuseum on Twitter and Instagram.

### **ABOUT THE RECORDING ACADEMY**

The Recording Academy represents the voices of performers, songwriters, producers, engineers, and all music professionals. Dedicated to ensuring the recording arts remain a thriving part of our shared cultural heritage, the Academy honors music's history while investing in its future through the GRAMMY Museum, advocates on behalf of music creators, supports music people in times of need through MusiCares®, and celebrates artistic excellence through the GRAMMY Awards—music's only peer-recognized accolade and highest achievement. As the world's leading society of music professionals, we work year-round to foster a more inspiring world for creators.



For more information about the Academy, please visit [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com). For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @RecordingAcad on [Twitter](#), "like" Recording Academy on [Facebook](#), and join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#), and [YouTube](#).

***About Ford Motor Company Fund***

*As the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company, Ford Fund's mission is to strengthen communities and help make people's lives better. Working with dealers and nonprofit partners in more than 60 countries, Ford Fund provides access to opportunities and resources that help people reach their full potential. Since 1949, Ford Fund has invested more than \$2 billion in programs that support education, promote safe driving, enrich community life and encourage employee volunteering. For more information, visit [www.fordfund.org](http://www.fordfund.org) or join us at @FordFund on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

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