



RECORDING ACADEMY® INVITES 2,300 QUALIFIED MUSIC CREATORS AND PROFESSIONALS TO JOIN ITS MEMBERSHIP

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (JULY 9, 2020) — Today the Recording Academy® extended membership invitations to more than 2,300 established music professionals from wide-ranging backgrounds, genres and disciplines. The invitation is a reflection of their important contributions to music and potential to influence progressive changes within the music industry. The 2020 class of invitees is 48 percent female, 21 percent African American/African descent, eight percent Hispanic, and three percent Asian American and Pacific Islander. The representation of this class also spans ages, genre and region. The Recording Academy's current membership is 26 percent female and 25 percent from traditionally underrepresented communities.

"We are proud of the strides we've made toward ensuring our membership is diverse and inclusive, which is reflected within this new pool of invitees," said **Harvey Mason jr., Chair and Interim President/CEO of the Recording Academy**. "While this progress signifies meaningful impact, there's still more work to be done. We'll continue to fight to achieve inclusive representation across gender, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and beyond within our community. Furthermore, we're excited to see how the contributions of the incoming new member class will help inspire meaningful change within the music industry."

"Building out our membership body is a process that encourages inclusivity from start to finish, and it's a privilege to extend invitations to the 2020 class of invitees that represent the wide-ranging backgrounds and crafts that makes the music industry so unique," said **Kelley Purcell, Senior Director of Member Outreach at the Recording Academy**. "These individuals will become the driving force behind the Recording Academy, and it's encouraging to see how our membership continues to evolve each year as we take steps toward building a more inclusive and vibrant community."

Convening virtually in April, the Recording Academy's Peer Review Panel of music creators evaluated new member submissions considering a range of criteria — including craft, genre and overall diversity. The more than 2,300 new invitations were extended under the Academy's community-driven and peer-reviewed membership model. Implemented in 2018 in an ongoing effort to build a more representative and relevant membership body, the annual member submission process entails two community-centered key elements: industry recommendations and peer review.

Ensuring that the Recording Academy's membership is fully representative of the music community has been a longstanding goal of Recording Academy Trustees. In December 2019, the Recording Academy pledged to implement 17 of 18 reforms set forth by the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, including increasing outreach to diverse communities and doubling the number of women voters by 2025. Specifically, this means 2,500 new women voters by the year 2025.

To celebrate the incoming new member class, [GRAMMY.com](https://www.grammy.com) Editor-In-Chief Justin Dwayne Joseph hosted a moderated discussion on June 24 titled "**Your Academy: Welcoming The 2020 New Member Class.**" Featuring new invitees and existing members, the conversation showcased an authentic look into what it



means to be a member of the Academy, the important initiatives worked on year-round, progress members hope to see within the Academy, and diversity and inclusion in the music industry at large. The roundtable [debuted today on GRAMMY.com](#).

In order to participate in the process for the upcoming GRAMMY Awards®, new members have to accept their invitations by Sept. 15, 2020. The first voting ballot opens Sept. 30 and closes Oct. 12. The 63rd GRAMMY Awards are set to take place Jan. 31, 2021, at the STAPLES Center in Los Angeles.

For more information on the Recording Academy's membership process and requirements, visit [here](#). For full information and details surrounding the new class visit [here](#).

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. 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](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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CONTACTS

Andie Cox

Recording Academy

T. 310.581.8654

andie.cox@recordingacademy.com

Christina Dudash

Recording Academy

T. 310.581.8678

christina.dudash@recordingacademy.com