



**\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT FOR MARCH 3 – MARCH 15, 2016\*\*\***

**NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR FOURTH ANNUAL MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD™  
PRESENTED BY  
THE RECORDING ACADEMY® AND THE GRAMMY FOUNDATION®**

*Winner And Nine Finalists To Receive Cash Honorariums, With Generous Support And Resources Provided  
By The GRAMMY Foundation®'s Education Champions Converse, Disney Performing Arts,  
Ford Motor Company Fund, And Journeys*

**WHO:** Applications for the fourth annual Music Educator Award™ are currently online; to nominate a teacher, visit [GRAMMYMusicTeacher.com](http://GRAMMYMusicTeacher.com). The deadline to nominate a teacher is **March 15, 2016**, while the deadline for applications is March 31, 2016. 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. Nominated teachers will be notified and invited to fill out an application.

The Music Educator Award application process will adjust each year to allow the broad array of effective teaching styles and methods used in the discipline to be recognized and awarded.

**Phillip Riggs** of North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, N.C., was announced as the recipient of the 2016 Music Educator Award presented by **The Recording Academy®** and the **GRAMMY Foundation®**. **Nine** other music teachers from **nine** cities across **eight** states were selected as finalists for the award. In total, more than 4,500 initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states.

**WHAT:** 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 the schools.

Each year, one recipient will be selected from 10 finalists and will be recognized for his/her remarkable impact on students' lives. The fourth annual winner will be flown to the host city of the GRAMMY Awards to be recognized during GRAMMY Week 2017. The winner will also attend the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards® ceremony, and a range of GRAMMY Foundation events. The nine additional finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants. 15 semifinalists will receive a \$500 honorarium with matching school grants. The honorariums and 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, the National Association for Music Education, the NAMM Foundation, and the National Education Association support this program through outreach to their constituencies.

**WHEN:** The **deadline** for nominations is **March 15, 2016**. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2016.

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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 Academy, please visit [www.grammy.com](http://www.grammy.com). For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @TheGRAMMYS on **Twitter**, "like" The GRAMMYS on **Facebook**, and join The GRAMMYS' social communities on **Foursquare**, **GetGlue**, **Google +**, **Instagram**, **Pinterest**, **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. For more information about the Music Educator Award, please visit **GRAMMYMusicTeacher.com**. For more information about the Foundation, please visit [www.grammyfoundation.org](http://www.grammyfoundation.org). For breaking news and exclusive content, please "like" "GRAMMY in the Schools<sup>®</sup>" 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"<sup>™</sup> and has been associated with a rich heritage of legendary shoes such as the Chuck Taylor<sup>®</sup> All Star<sup>®</sup> shoe, the Jack Purcell<sup>®</sup> shoe and the One Star<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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 California and the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. Disney delivers workshops and performance opportunities that enrich, inspire and often lead to life-changing personal achievement.

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](http://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](http://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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