



GRAMMY®-WINNING GOSPEL ARTIST YOLANDA ADAMS JOINS CONTINUING CO-CHAIR SUE ENNIS TO LEAD RECORDING ACADEMY® NATIONAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE WILL FOCUS ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR CREATORS AS WELL AS HELPING MUSIC INDUSTRY RECOVERY EFFORTS AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (SEPTEMBER 29, 2020) — Today, the Recording Academy® announced four-time GRAMMY®-winning artist **Yolanda Adams** will join nationally-recognized songwriter **Sue Ennis** as Co-Chair of the Academy's National Advocacy Committee. Serving as the voice for all music creators alongside the Academy's Advocacy team in Washington, D.C., the committee is comprised of leading performers, producers, songwriters, and studio engineers, and works to determine specific policy positions of the Recording Academy and advance the interests of all music creators.

"We're honored to have Yolanda lead the Recording Academy's Advocacy Committee alongside hit songwriter Sue Ennis to help push forward vital legislation as our industry navigates the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond," said Harvey Mason jr., Chair and Interim President/CEO of the Recording Academy. "We've seen first-hand how music has the power to influence meaningful change, and we're confident the Advocacy Committee's wide breadth of backgrounds and perspectives provide a unique opportunity to build on the Academy's successful efforts this summer in the fight for creators' rights."

Adams brings a strong advocacy background to the committee. She [recently testified at a congressional hearing on intellectual property](#), sharing her perspective on the monetary and moral implications of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act's Fair Use doctrine. Adams also participated in the Academy's 7th annual [District Advocate Day](#) on Aug. 12, advocating alongside nearly 2,000 music professionals for critical support for the music community as it continues dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Advocacy Committee will build on the work of the Recording Academy's "Summer of Advocacy" initiative and the recent achievements by creators, including securing important provisions in the CARES Act by championing legislation that ensures individual creators, as well as small and medium-sized music businesses, including those that are minority-owned, receive the support they need. This includes:

- [HITS Act](#), which allows an individual to fully expense for tax purposes the cost of new studio recordings on their taxes, up to \$150,000, within the same year of production;
- [Mixed Earner Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Act](#), which ensures unemployment relief for independent workers with mixed income types, a category that includes many music creators across the country;
- [RESTART Act](#), which responds to the urgent needs of hard-hit recording studios, concert venues, and other music businesses and nonprofits by creating a loan program to help keep them afloat through the remainder of 2020, and provide loan forgiveness as a backstop against continuing economic challenges; and



- **Save Our Stages Act**, which ensures that live music venues would have access to special grants designed to keep these critical facilities afloat for the next six months.

Other Advocacy Committee members include GRAMMY-winning composer, producer, and singer **Claudia Brant**; GRAMMY-nominated artist **Terry Jones**; GRAMMY-winning engineer **Emily Lazar**; and GRAMMY-nominated artist, songwriter, and producer **Rico Love**. Chair and Interim President/CEO of the Recording Academy **Harvey Mason jr.** and Chief Advocacy Officer **Daryl P. Friedman** serve as ex-officio members.

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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