

202 QUARTERFINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2027 MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD™ PRESENTED BY THE RECORDING ACADEMY® AND GRAMMY MUSEUM®

RECIPIENT, FINALISTS AND SEMIFINALISTS TO RECEIVE CASH HONORARIUMS

WHAT: The [Music Educator Award](#)™ was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college and 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. In a partnership and presentation by the [Recording Academy](#)® and [Grammy Museum](#)®, the recipient will be recognized during Grammy® Week 2027.

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 13th annual honoree will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 2027 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.

Fifteen semifinalists will receive a \$500 honorarium with matching school grants. 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.

WHO: A total of 202 music teachers from 177 cities and 36 states have been announced as quarterfinalists for the [Music Educator Award](#) presented by the Recording Academy and Grammy Museum. In total, over 2,100 initial nominations were submitted. In addition to our quarterfinalists, 187 legacy applicants from 2026 will also be eligible to win the award this year. View the full list of quarterfinalists and legacy applicants [here](#).

QUARTERFINALISTS

Name	School	City	State
Casie Adams	Martinsburg High School	Martinsburg	West Virginia
Tyler Adel	Paramus High School	Paramus	New Jersey
John Aguilar	Arlington High School	Arlington	Washington
Christopher Alberts	School Without Walls	Washington	Maryland



Michael Alfieri	United Charter High School Advanced Math & Science	Bronx	New York
James Alder	Greenbrier East High School	Lewisburg	West Virginia
Erin Althen	Westhill High School	Syracuse	New York
Justin Anderson	McNeil High School	Austin	Texas
Christopher Andrews	Hephzibah High School	Hephzibah	Georgia
Michael Antmann	Freedom High School	Orlando	Florida
Michael Baker	Palmetto High School	Williamston	South Carolina
Daniel Balkema	Pilot Point HS	Pilot Point	Texas
Thomas Bankert	Wakefield Memorial High School	Wakefield	Massachusetts
Cory Barnfield	Norton Commons Elementary	Prospect	Kentucky
Deanna Bell	Vestavia Hills Elementary East	Vestavia Hills	Alabama
Michael Benge	Helix Charter High School	La Mesa	California
Connor Bentley	Pontiac High School	Pontiac	Michigan
Adem Birson	New York University	New York	New York
Nina Bishop	Brookline High School	Brookline	Massachusetts
Andrew Boland	J. Sterling Morton West High School	Berwyn	Illinois
Brandon Booth	ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School	Baltimore	Maryland
Lynnette Boschulte	Forest Oak Middle School	Gaithersburg	Maryland
Patrick Bowen	Las Vegas Academy of The Arts	Las Vegas	Nevada
Andrew Bowerly	Tenino High School	Tenino	Washington
Ryan Bulgarelli	Williamsport Area High School	Williamsport	Pennsylvania
Dr. Walter Busse	Miami Beach Senior High School	Miami Beach	Florida
Gene Butler	Smiths Station High School	Smiths Station	Alabama
David Cardona	Coral Springs Charter School	Coral Springs	Florida
Tammy Carley	Denmark School District	Denmark	Wisconsin
Christopher Carr	Carrollton High School	Carrollton	Georgia
Marcos Carreras	Conservatory of The Arts	Springfield	Massachusetts
Curtis Carver	Harlem High School	Harlem	Georgia
Louise Chernosky	Bard High School Early College	Newark	New Jersey
Ernesta Chicklowski	Roosevelt Elementary School	Tampa	Florida
Kaylene Clark	Mclane High School	Fresno	California
Ashley Cobb	Catawba Trail Elementary School	Elgin	South Carolina
David Colella	Girard High School	Girard	Ohio
Theresa Crombach	Corinth Central School District	Corinth	New York
Ashley Deane	Queen Creek High School	Queen Creek	Arizona
Brittany DelSignore	Berkeley High School	Moncks Corner	South Carolina
Jack Eaddy	University of Georgia	Athens	Georgia
Lesley Earles	Edison High School	Minneapolis	Minnesota
Jonathan Eldridge	Weston High School	Weston	Massachusetts
Stephen Elford	Bayless High School	Saint Louis	Missouri
Brandon Ellsworth	North Salinas High School	Salinas	California
Gracie Elswick	Salisbury Middle School	Salisbury	Maryland
Micah Erickson	Lake Linden Hubbell High School	Lake Linden	Michigan
Andreas Farmakalidis	Calabash Elementary	Los Angeles	California



Victor Figueroa	Lehman High School	Kyle	Texas
Zachary Foster	Dickinson High School	Dickinson	Texas
Rick Fowler	Creekside High School	Saint Johns	Florida
Natalie Frakes	Niles West High School	Skokie	Illinois
Bridgette Franks	Carl Sandburg Middle School	Levittown	Pennsylvania
J.D. Frizzell	Briarcrest Christian School	Eads	Tennessee
Chesteron Frye	South Pike High School	Magnolia	Mississippi
Carol Gacesa	Weisenberg Elementary School	New Tripoli	Pennsylvania
Gregory Gatewood	Milby High School	Houston	Texas
Guillermo Gonzalez	James A Garfield High School	Los Angeles	California
Serena Gorham	Weare Middle School	Weare	New Hampshire
Jess Gronberg	Hawkes Bluff Elementary	Davie	Florida
Jason Groon	Harrisburg High School	Harrisburg	South Dakota
Marissa Guarriello	University of Texas Austin	Austin	Texas
Angela Guira	Bartow High School	Bartow	Florida
Adam Gumble	West Chester University	West Chester	Pennsylvania
Carolyn Hankins	Page Middle School	Franklin	Tennessee
Cordara Harper	Grambling State University	Grambling	Louisiana
Sky Harris	Liverpool High School	Liverpool	New York
Colin Harte	Bard High School Early College Bronx	Bronx	New York
Anthony Harvey	Kipp Scholar Academy	Los Angeles	California
Jessica Harvey	John F. Kennedy High School	New Orleans	Louisiana
Roland Hatcher	Adlai E. Stevenson High School	Lincolnshire	Illinois
Colette Hebert	School 23	Yonkers	New York
Bobby Helms	Copiah-Lincoln Community College	Wesson	Mississippi
Matt Heritage	Innovation High School	Spokane	Washington
John Hermanson	Fort Collins High School	Fort Collins	Colorado
Mike Hernandez	Franklin High School	El Paso	Texas
Preston Huber	TREE Academy	West Hollywood	California
Christopher Hughes	Betty H. Fairfax High School	Laveen	Arizona
Natalie Humble	Henryville Jr/Sr High School	Henryville	Indiana
Beth Hurley	Northwest Guilford Middle School	Greensboro	North Carolina
Andrew Hutchens	Benedict College	Columbia	South Carolina
Andria Hyden	Bedichek Middle School	Austin	Texas
Avious Jackson	William Mason High School	Mason	Ohio
Devin R. James	Salem High School	Conyers	Georgia
Aaron Jaramillo	Cherokee Trail High School	Aurora	Colorado
Jason Johnson	Pike County Central High School	Pikeville	Kentucky
Esau Jones	St. Rose of Lima Catholic School	Philadelphia	Pennsylvania
Liam Keller	Chatham High School	Chatham	New Jersey
Larry Kennon	Troy Christian Schools	Troy	Ohio
Min Sang Kim	Austin Peay State University	Clarksville	Tennessee
Dorina Kingston	Homer J. Morris Middle School	McAllen	Texas
Jee-Yeoun Ko	Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans	Louisiana
Heidi Kohler	Clarence Middle School	Clarence	New York
Sarah Labrie	Lexington High School	Lexington	Massachusetts



Rachel Lake	Ilwaco High School	Ilwaco	Washington
Frankie Lancaster	Watauga High School	Boone	North Carolina
Dominique Lane	Crisp County High School	Cordele	Georgia
Erik Leung	Oregon State University	Corvallis	Oregon
Jerron Liddell	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff	Arkansas
Josh Lisner	Edison High School	Edison	New Jersey
Ryan Mack	P.S. 10 Magnet School of Math, Science, and Design Technology	Brooklyn	New York
JJ Magallon	Damien High School	La Verne	California
Stefano Marchese	Eliot K-8 Innovation School	Boston	Massachusetts
Stephany Marilley	Vestal Middle School	Vestal	New York
Alvin Martinez	Holmes High School	San Antonio	Texas
Jennifer Martinez	Pittsburg High School	Pittsburg	California
Jesus Martinez	South Grand Prairie High School	Grand Prairie	Texas
Travis Mason	Renaissance charter school at Crownpoint	Ocoee	Florida
Erik Mason	Buford High School	Buford	Georgia
Rachel Maxwell	Traughber Junior High School	Oswego	Illinois
Anthony Mazzocchi	Kaufman Music Center/Special Music School M859	New York	New York
Michael McCabe	Lake Highland Preparatory School	Orlando	Florida
Leigh Ann McClain	Griffin Middle School	The Colony	Texas
Lawrence McCrobie	Valley High School	Louisville	Kentucky
Gary McCullum Jr	Hattiesburg High School	Hattiesburg	Mississippi
Brittany McFall	Centralia Junior High School	Centralia	Illinois
Angela McKenna	Classen School of Advanced Studies @ Northeast High School	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma
Margaret McKenna	Boston Latin School	Boston	Massachusetts
Laurie Meyers	Minneapolis South High School	Minneapolis	Minnesota
Michael Miguez	NSU University School	Davie	Florida
Eddie Milledge	Calibre Academy Surprise	Surprise	Arizona
William Molineaux	The Osceola County School for the Arts	Kissimmee	Florida
Amrutha Murthy	Park Vista High School	Lake Worth	Florida
Joseph Nassar	St. Amant High School	St. Amant	Louisiana
Brandi Neal	University High School	Orange City	Florida
Andrew Nemeth	Penn High School	Mishawaka	Indiana
Dr. Phong Nguyen	Vel Phillips Middle School	Oshkosh	Wisconsin
Phuong Nguyen	Boltz Middle School	Fort Collins	Colorado
Heather Orr	Texas A&M University	College Station	Texas
Michele Paynter Paise	Morehead State University	Morehead	Kentucky
Lindsey Parker	Laguna Beach High School	Laguna Beach	California
Kelly Parra	PS/IS266Q	Bellerose	New York
Michael Parsons	Briarcrest Christian School	Eads	Tennessee
Natasha Pasternak	Orange County School of the Arts	Santa Ana	California
Erika Pierce	Chartiers Valley Middle School	Bridgeville	Pennsylvania
Chantae Pittman	Campbell High School	Smyrna	Georgia
Alan Posner	Bloomfield Hills High School	Bloomfield Hills	Michigan



Courtney Powers	Hoboken Charter School	Hoboken	New Jersey
Johnny Powers	West Florence High School	Florence	South Carolina
Briony Price	Gramercy Arts High School	New York	New York
Francisco Quixtan	Jule F. Sumner High School	Riverview	Florida
Mario Raven	Vista Charter Middle School	Los Angeles	California
Amy Reber	Lake Oconee Academy	Greensboro	Georgia
Dr. Shannon Redburn	Pembroke Hill School	Kansas City	Missouri
Ryan Rimington	Neuqua Valley High School	Naperville	Illinois
Christian Robinson	The Berkeley Carroll School	Brooklyn	New York
Brandon Rockstroh	Green Bay Southwest High School	Green Bay	Wisconsin
Nathan Rodahl	Port Angeles High School	Port Angeles	Washington
Alberto Rodriguez	Mount Vernon High School	Alexandria	Virginia
Jimmie Rogers	Moorpark High School	Moorpark	California
Ryan Rosete	Hanover Junior Senior High School	Colorado Springs	Colorado
Tarik Rowland	Tri-Cities High School	East Point	Georgia
Edgar Rubio	Gulliver Prep School	Coral Gables	Florida
Emily Saenz	Benbrook Middle-High School	Fort Worth	Texas
Rebecca Saltzman	Simsbury High School	Simsbury	Connecticut
Anthony Santanastaso	George W. Hewlett High School	Hewlett	New York
Jordyn Satterfield	Quioccasin Middle School	Richmond	Virginia
Eric Schultz	Coastal Carolina University	Conway	South Carolina
Christopher Scinto	Paradise Valley Community College	Phoenix	Arizona
Mike Scott	Columbia Basin College	Pasco	Washington
John Seaton	Las Vegas Academy of the Arts	Las Vegas	Nevada
Jared Sene	Nampa High School	Nampa	Idaho
Daniel Shafer	Saint Stephen's Episcopal School	Bradenton	Florida
Cameron R. Siegal, Ph.D.	George H. Potter School	Dartmouth	Massachusetts
Katie Silcott	Olentangy Shanahan Middle School	Lewis Center	Ohio
Dylan Sims	Gold Hill Middle School	Fort Mill	South Carolina
Jayne Skoog	Talent Unlimited High School	New York	New York
Adria Smith	Marblehead Community Charter Public School	Marblehead	Massachusetts
Donna Smith	Hueytown High School	Hueytown	Alabama
Jason Smith	Wahoo Public Schools	Wahoo	Nebraska
Jessie Smith	Gruver ISD	Gruver	Texas
Kayla Smith	Lawrence Central High School	Indianapolis	Indiana
Katie Solomon	Old Bonhomme Elementary School	Saint Louis	Missouri
Tony Spano	Culver City High School	Culver City	California
Louis Syrovoy	Legacy High School	North Las Vegas	Nevada
Sabrina Terry	Southwest Middle School	Lakeland	Florida
Jennifer Theisen-Gray	William M. Colmer Middle School	Pascagoula	Mississippi
Mark-Anthony Thomas	New Orleans Center for Creative Arts	New Orleans	Louisiana
Arthur Thovmasian	Longmeadow High School	Longmeadow	Massachusetts
Brian Timmons	Bergenfield High School	Bergenfield	New Jersey
Lyndra Tingley	Woodstock High School	Woodstock	Illinois



Matthew Tiramani	MS54 Booker T. Washington	New York	New York
Mario Torres	Johnston STEM Academy	North Las Vegas	Nevada
Emily Valle	Geneva High School	Geneva	Ohio
Miriam Vazquez	Duane D. Keller Middle School	Las Vegas	Nevada
Emily Vite	Columbia High School	Maplewood	New Jersey
Jeff Vyhlidal	Grand Island Northwest	Grand Island	Nebraska
Dr. Karen Waddell	Nansemond River High School	Suffolk	Virginia
Donald Walter	Northwest Guilford High School	Greensboro	North Carolina
Antwuan Walters	Heights High School	Houston	Texas
Riley Warren	Forney High School	Forney	Texas
Montana Webb	Mountain Home High School	Mountain Home	Idaho
Christopher Weddel	Fremont High School	Fremont	Nebraska
Lisa Werner	St. Bruno Parish School	Dousman	Wisconsin
Krystal Williams	Suitland High School	District Heights	Maryland
Jesse G. Williams, Jr.	Gunston Middle School	Arlington	Virginia
Kelly Winovich	Northgate Middle/High School	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
Jason Womack	Dueitt Middle School	Spring	Texas
Scott Woodard	West Virginia State University	Institute	West Virginia
Cameron Yassaman	Grover Cleveland Charter High School	Reseda	California
Jenna Young	Somerset Berkley Regional High School	Somerset	Massachusetts
Nathan Zamora	Hendrickson High School	Pflugerville	Texas

WHEN: The **semifinalists** will be announced in **September**. For more information, please visit www.grammymusicteacher.com.

ABOUT THE GRAMMY MUSEUM

The Grammy Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating and exploring music from yesterday and today to inspire the music of tomorrow through exhibits, education, grants, preservation initiatives, and public programming. Paying tribute to our collective musical heritage, the Museum values and celebrates the dynamic connection in people's diverse backgrounds and music's many genres, telling stories that inspire us, and creative expression that leads change in our industry.

For more information, visit www.grammymuseum.org, "like" the Grammy Museum on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GrammyMuseum), and follow @GrammyMuseum on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/GrammyMuseum) and [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@GrammyMuseum).

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 Grammy Awards and the Recording Academy, please visit [Grammy and RecordingAcademy.com](#). For breaking news and exclusive content, join the Recording Academy's social communities on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#), and [X](#). For media assets, please visit the [Recording Academy Press Room](#).

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