

# 67th Annual Grammy Awards Voting Council

Chair: Dante Minacapilli '25

Co-Chair: Aaron Dargie '25



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

My name is Dante Minacapilli, class of 2025 at BC High. I would like to welcome all of the esteemed delegates to our committee on the Grammys Voting Council! This will be my first time as a Chair, however, I have been involved with Model UN for the past three years. I've gotten to travel and compete at NAIMUN in D.C. in February 2023, and this past November I was a delegate at UCLA BruinMUN. Outside of Model UN, I am president of Philosophy Club and Chemistry Club (Lab Rats) at BC High, a member of the Hispanic Latino Association, and I play Ultimate Frisbee.

I love Model UN because it allows me to take on a role and debate certain issues or topics from that perspective which is something most people won't get to experience in their everyday life. The friends I have made through Model UN and the different conferences I've taken part in have been some of the best parts.

Lastly, I am so excited to experience my first time as a Chair with you all in a brand new committee. It'll be a great time! If you have any questions, reach out to me or my co-chair Aaron and we'll be glad to help!

Best,

Dante Minacapilli '25 Committee Chair

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## LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

My name is Aaron Dargie, a senior at BC High, and the co-chair of this committee. I would like to welcome you all to BC High MUN XXXIII. I cannot wait to hear what you all have to say about the Grammys Voting Council! I hope we are able to have structured discussions, but most importantly that we all have fun.

I first joined Model UN in eighth grade. This was less of a choice and more of a requirement, but that did not mean I didn't have fun. I was able to engage in important, but interesting discussions about the deeply diverse world around us. At BC High, I joined Model UN my freshman year, and have loved it ever since. I was able to meet many of my friends and form meaningful relationships with a handful of BC High faculty. This past November, I attended my first-ever conference at the UCLA Bruin MUN. I was so nervous about my abilities, but each delegate was so nice and inclusive, that all my worries seemed to wash away.

This is my first time being a co-chair, so bear with me, but I know we are going to have a great time. I am super excited to see what you all have in store for this committee and all the various perspectives that come with it. If you have any questions, feel free to email me!

Sincerely,

Aaron Dargie

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The 67th Annual Grammy Awards Voting Council is an exciting committee where delegates will take on the role of members of the Recording Academy's Voting team. Voters will hold different backgrounds of musical expertise and debate on their choice for 2025's winners of "Song of the Year" and "Album of the Year." Additionally, voters will look back on Grammy voting procedures of the past, along with the controversies and inequalities surrounding their outcomes, in order to make the best choices for this year's winners recognizing the art and the process it took to get there. Aside from choosing the two winning awards, the goal of this committee is to debate on reforms in the voting process that will allow for more unanimous, fairer decisions. Resolution papers will focus on those reforms to the voting system and new rules to be implemented. After presenting and voting on resolution papers, the committee will then vote using these newly implemented rules to choose their winners for this year's Grammy Awards (ignoring the real world winners of the 2025 awards).



# History of the Grammys and How Voting Took Place

When the Grammys first originated in 1959, voting was carried out by members of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, an organization of musicians, producers, and recording engineers. The Recording Academy sent out its list of nominations for its members to select their choice for each category. After this, the votes were tallied up and the final winners were decided.

However, concerns about fairness and inclusivity rose as the music industry grew more diverse and complex.

The Recording Academy implemented specialized committees in the 1990s to address these concerns. These committees, composed of industry experts, reviewed nominations in certain categories to ensure that deserving, lesser-known artists were not overlooked. This system aimed to cause balance between popular and critical acclaim, though it also introduced a layer of secrecy to the voting process and who had the final say.

In the 2000s, the voting process continued to evolve. The Recording Academy expanded its membership and categories to reflect the diversification of musical styles. By then, voting was divided into two rounds: members would first vote in their areas of expertise during the nomination phase, and then a general vote determined the final winners. Despite these changes, critics argued that the process favored mainstream artists and lacked transparency.

A major turning point came in 2018 when the Academy faced backlash over gender and racial disparities in nominations and awards. This criticism led to internal changes, including the addition of more women and POC members to the council. Additionally, this led The Academy

to change the former “Best Urban Contemporary Album” award to “Best Progressive R&B Album” and create a category for “Best African Music Performance.” The Academy also increased the number of nominees in major categories from five to eight, a move intended to provide greater representation.

In 2021, the Recording Academy eliminated its controversial secret review committees. These committees had major influence over which artists were nominated and won in the major categories, often fueling accusations of favoritism, bias, and unfair voting. The decision to abolish these committees marked a change toward a more democratic, clear, and fair voting process, where nominees were meant to be determined solely by the general voting membership. That same year, The Academy stated more than 90 percent of members would have gone through a requalification process to ensure that the voting body was actively engaged in music creation.

However, in recent years accusations of influential secret committees, which have the final say on the nominations and winners of the awards, have begun to arise again. Additionally, various deserving artists have been consistently passed over in nominations or wins causing immense controversy.





# The Grammys Today

Overall, the voting committee today consists of over 13,000 members. The Grammy voting process comprises several stages: submission, screening, nominating, special nominating committees, final voting, and results. Now voters can only cast their votes in up to 10 categories and those categories must be within no more than three genre fields. This is meant to ensure voters are voting in the fields they are most knowledgeable in. In addition, the original six craft fields have been condensed into just two fields: Presentation and Production: the Package Field, Notes Field and Historical Field were consolidated to Presentation Field, and the Production, Non-Classical Field; Production, Immersive Audio Field; and Production, Classical Field were consolidated to Production Field. Members are directed to vote only in those three fields in which they are peers of the nominees.

Voting members must have creative or technical credits on more than six physical, commercially released tracks or 12 credits on a digital album. According to Rob Kenner, a former Academy member, “We assume the people making the choices have listened to everything and made very informed decisions, when in fact you just log on the website and you click what you want to click. [...] People want to believe there is a credible mechanism for recognizing the best music. It’s full of older white men.”

After their “complete” abolishment in 2022, secret nomination and voting committees are rumored to have returned after many shocking and haphazard nominations and wins. One win that raised the alarm was Jon Batiste’s *We Are*, which won Album of The Year that same year over *Happier Than Ever* by Billie Eilish, *Sour* by

Olivia Rodrigo, *Justice* by Justin Bieber, and *Planet Her* by Doja Cat. This pick became very controversial among fans and voters alike.

Currently, racism and extreme bias still have a place in the nominations and wins each year, seen especially in last year's award show with .



# Critical Questions

1. How will this committee pass a resolution to remedy the many issues and snubs present in the award show today?
2. What defines a fair outcome in The Grammys voting process?
3. Does the current voting system allow for collective decision-making and a true focus on the artistic process?
4. How do voters use their personal opinions in conjunction with objective statistics and performances of songs/albums to make their decisions?
5. Do songs/albums that aren't as popular as others in their category deserve to win?
6. How do the ages of certain voters affect their final choices?
7. How does one's specific skill area of music affect their final decision?
8. Is new leadership for The Academy needed?



# Positions

Note: All positions are past Grammy winners, and follow the music credit minimum, and are therefore able to vote.

**1. Max Martin**

Swedish record producer and songwriter known for working on hit pop songs from the 90s onward. Consistently works with artists like Ariana Grande, The Weeknd, and Katy Perry.

**2. Jack Antonoff**

American musician, songwriter, and producer recognized for his indie and alternative pop sensibilities. Frequently collaborates with artists such as Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey, and Lorde, shaping the sound of modern pop and alternative music.

**3. QuestLove**

Drummer and co-frontman of The Roots, known for his fusion of hip-hop, soul, and funk. A prolific producer and musical historian, he's contributed to works by D'Angelo, Erykah Badu, and many others.

**4. Benny Blanco**

Hit-making songwriter and producer behind chart-toppers for artists like Ed Sheeran, Rihanna, and Justin Bieber. Known for blending pop with electronic and hip-hop influences.

**5. Dua Lipa**

British-Albanian singer and songwriter who revitalized modern pop with her disco-inspired sound. Known for her global hits and collaborations with artists like Elton John and Calvin Harris.

**6. Mike Dean**

Legendary producer and engineer, celebrated for his work in hip-hop and rap. Regular collaborator with The Weeknd, Travis Scott, and Jay-Z, recognized for his innovative production techniques.

**7. Leon Thomas**

Singer, songwriter, and producer with a rich, soulful sound. Known for his collaborations with Drake, Ariana Grande, SZA, blending R&B and contemporary styles.

8. **Quincy Jones**

Iconic producer, composer, and arranger with a career spanning decades. Worked with legends like Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, and Ray Charles, shaping the sound of modern music.

9. **Timbaland**

Trailblazing producer renowned for his futuristic beats and rhythmic innovation. Key collaborator with Missy Elliott, Justin Timberlake, and Nelly Furtado.

10. **Alicia Keys**

Multi-talented singer-songwriter and pianist known for her fusion of R&B, soul, and classical music. Renowned for hits like “Fallin’” and “If I Ain’t Got You.”

11. **Smokey Robinson**

Motown legend and prolific songwriter whose soulful vocals and poetic lyrics defined the 1960s. Leader of The Miracles and contributor to hits by The Temptations and Marvin Gaye.

12. **Tame Impala (Kevin Parker)**

Australian musician and producer behind Tame Impala’s psychedelic rock sound. Known for solo production on projects by artists like Lady Gaga, Travis Scott, and The Weeknd.

13. **Lin-Manuel Miranda**

Award-winning composer, lyricist, and playwright. Creator of groundbreaking musicals *Hamilton* and *In the Heights*, blending hip-hop, history, and Latin rhythms. He has also worked on numerous film soundtracks like *Moana* and *The Lion King (2019)*.

14. **Lauryn Hill**

Trailblazing singer, rapper, and songwriter whose soulful and introspective lyrics transformed hip-hop and R&B. Known for *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* and her work with The Fugees.

15. **Chris Stapleton**

Country music artist and songwriter celebrated for his powerful voice and timeless storytelling. His blend of country, blues, and Southern rock has garnered critical acclaim.

16. **Marc Anthony**

Renowned Latin singer and actor, celebrated for his contributions to salsa and pop music. Known for hits like “Vivir Mi Vida” and collaborations with artists like Jennifer Lopez.

17. **Lorde**

New Zealand singer-songwriter whose minimalist, introspective pop redefined the genre. Known for her poetic lyricism and hits like “Royals” and “Green Light.”

18. **Billie Joe Armstrong**

Frontman of Green Day, iconic punk-rock band that shaped 1990s and 2000s music. Known for blending rebellious lyrics with powerful melodies in hits like “American Idiot.”

19. **Carole King**

Legendary singer-songwriter whose work defined 1970s soft rock. Known for the album Tapestry and her songwriting for artists like Aretha Franklin and The Monkees.

20. **H.E.R.**

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist blending R&B, soul, and jazz. Known for her introspective lyrics and collaborations with artists like Daniel Caesar and Chris Brown.



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