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THE GRAMMY AWARDS

The GRAMMY Awards are the most prestigious music award show featured each year. The GRAMMYs are presented by The Recording Academy and recognize musicians of every age and every genre.

History of Grammy Awards. Every awards show has to start somewhere and Music's Biggest Night is no different. More than a decade before the annual GRAMMY Awards telecast debuted on CBS in 1973 for everyone to see, the GRAMMY Awards got off to a swingin' start back in 1959. Though no television cameras were present, there was plenty of awards, black-tie formal wear and star power to go around.

The inaugural GRAMMY Awards was a bicoastal affair. On May 4, 1959, a black-tie dinner and awards presentation was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles. Hosted by comedian Mort Sahl, among the music elite in attendance were Rat Packers Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin, singing cowboy Gene Autry, singer Peggy Lee, Tin Pan Alley alum Johnny Mercer, composer Henry Mancini, and pianist/conductor André Previn. At the same time, Recording Academy members convened for a simultaneous function at the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City.

Grammy Award, any of a series of awards presented annually in the United States by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS; commonly called the Recording Academy) or the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (LARAS; commonly called the Latin Recording Academy) to recognize achievement in the music industry.

Winners are selected from more than 25 fields, which cover such genres as pop, rock, rap, R&B, country, reggae, classical, gospel, and jazz, as well as production and postproduction work, including packaging and album notes. Four general awards are also given for record, album, song of the year, and best new artist; in total more than 75 awards are presented. The honorees receive a golden statuette of a gramophone.

Since the first Grammy Awards ceremony in 1959, the statuette presented to winners is a gold-plated gramophone, also known as a phonograph or record player. The name Grammy is an homage to the gramophone and its revolutionary impact on the music industry.

Sinatra was at the top of his acting and music game in the late '50s, so it's no surprise he emerged as the top nominee at the 1st GRAMMY Awards. His six nominations included two nods for Album Of The Year for *Come Fly With Me* and *Only The Lonely*, Record Of The Year for "Witchcraft," and two nominations for Best Vocal Performance, Male. Though the Chairman of the Board didn't win any of these categories, he did pick up his first win for Best Album Cover for *Only The Lonely*.

A total of six artists were big winners at the first show, with two wins each. Mancini, jazz bandleader Count Basie, singer Ella Fitzgerald, conductor Felix Slatkin, Italian singer/songwriter Domenico Modugno, and Alvin And The Chipmunks music group creator Ross Bagdasarian Sr. (aka David Seville) picked up two GRAMMYs.

Each year, an award is given in dozens of categories. TV viewers often see the most well-known artists receiving awards, but there are actually dozens more that are not shown live on screen. The number of categories and GRAMMYs awarded each year has fluctuated as more categories have been added and some have been retired. The very first GRAMMY Awards event included just 28 categories, while in 2019, there were 84 categories presented, including awards for the following genres:

- Pop
- Rock
- Dance / Electronic
- Contemporary Instrumental
- Alternative
- R&B
- Rap
- Country
- New Age
- Jazz
- Gospel / Contemporary Christian
- Latin
- American Roots
- Reggae
- World Music
- Children's
- Spoken Word
- Comedy
- Classical
- Composing
- Musical Theatre

There are also categories awarded each year which encompass all genres and musical types. These include:

- Best New Artist
- Song of the Year
- Album of the Year
- Record of the Year

The GRAMMY Awards have been held at various locations over the last few decades, including: the Staples Center in Los Angeles; Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles; Madison Square Garden in New York City; Radio City Music Hall in New York City; Tennessee Theatre in Nashville.

This year's ceremony was taken place "in and around" the Los Angeles Convention Center. In lieu of celebrity presenters, the Grammys was payed tribute to workers in the live music industry by having staff from New York's Apollo Theater, Los Angeles's the Troubadour and Hotel Café, and Nashville's Station Inn giving out statuettes on the night.

What is the eligibility period for the 2021 Grammy Awards? Any music released between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 is eligible for the 63rd Grammy Awards

Who was performing at the 2021 Grammy Awards? The Recording Academy revealed the full list of performers on 14 March, and it's genuinely impressive, with a line-up that includes Cardi B, BTS, Billie Eilish, Doja Cat, Haim, Dua Lipa, Megan Thee Stallion, Harry Styles and Taylor Swift. (You can almost hear the BTS ARMY's screams already.) Also taking to the stage: Bad Bunny, Black Pumas, Brandi Carlile, DaBaby, Mickey Guyton, Brittany Howard, Miranda Lambert, Lil Baby, Chris Martin, John Mayer, Maren Morris, Post Malone, and Roddy Ricch. It's going to be a long night.

The Grammys proper will begin at 5pm PT in Los Angeles and run for three and a half hours. That's 1am GMT, in case you're wondering. However, the red carpet will begin two hours before the actual ceremony, if you're keen to tune in.

Winners list of big 4:

1. Record Of The Year: Everything I Wanted – winner Billie Eilish Finneas O'Connell, producer; Rob Kinelski & Finneas O'Connell, engineers/mixers; John Greenham, mastering engineer.

2. Album Of The Year: Folklore – Winner Taylor Swift Jack Antonoff, Aaron Dessner & Taylor Swift, producers; Jack Antonoff, Aaron Dessner, Serban Ghenea, John Hanes, Jonathan Low & Laura Sisk, engineers/mixers; Aaron Dessner & Taylor Swift, songwriters; Randy Merrill, mastering engineer.

3. Song Of The Year: I Can't Breathe – Winner Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. & Tiara Thomas, songwriters (H.E.R.)

4. Best New Artist: Megan Thee Stallion

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