Definition: Grammy award from The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide

Any of several prizes given annually by the US National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences since 1958. The categories include Album of the Year, Record of the Year (single), Best New Artist of the Year, and Best Performance subdivided by sex and genre.

The recipients of the Grammy awards are chosen by the US record industry. Genres of music which receive separate awards include pop, rap, R&B, and country.

Summary Article: Grammy Awards Ceremony
From Cultural Studies: Holidays Around the World

The Grammy Awards Ceremony, which recognizes the year's most outstanding talent in the music industry, first took place in 1959. The awards are presented annually by The Recording Academy, also known as the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) of the United States. The Academy consists of singers, songwriters, engineers, producers, managers, and other professionals of the music industry. The venue for the awards has rotated among New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Nashville, but since 2004, the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, has become the permanent venue.

The awards process begins with members of the Academy and record companies submitting eligible recordings for consideration. These entries are reviewed by more than 150 experts from the recording industry and then placed in the appropriate categories for competition, such as Rock, R&B, Jazz, Country, Gospel, New Age, Rap, Classical, and Latin. Selections are also suggested for Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist. Members narrow down the nominations to five per category, which they then vote on during the final-round ballot process. The winners are announced during the Grammy Awards telecast. Before the ceremony, there is a televised red carpet segment during which star performers pose for the media and fans.

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