



# 189 QUARTERFINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2020 MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD™ PRESENTED BY THE RECORDING ACADEMY™ AND GRAMMY MUSEUM®

RECIPIENT AND FINALISTS TO RECEIVE CASH HONORARIUMS, WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT AND RESOURCES PROVIDED BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

**WHO:** A total of 189 music teachers from 179 cities have been announced as quarterfinalists for the Music Educator Award™ presented by the Recording Academy™ and GRAMMY Museum®. In total, more than 3,300 initial nominations were submitted.

<b>Name</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
James Alder	Greenbrier East High School	Lewisburg	W. Va.
Corey Ames	Deer Path Middle School	Lake Forest	Ill.
Bonnie Anderson	Coronado Village Elementary	Universal City	Texas
Michael Antmann	Freedom High School	Orlando	Fla.
Nathaniel Arnold	Upper Dublin High School	Fort Washington	Pa.
David Bachart	New Hope-Solebury High School	New Hope	Pa.
Wade Baker	Olney Central College	Olney	Ill.
Amanda Balarin	Southwest Legacy High School	Von Ormy	Texas
Elton Ball	Mineral Wells High School	Mineral Wells	Texas
Patrick Beare	Tony Hillerman Middle School	Albuquerque	N.M.
James Beckman	Muskego High School	Muskego	Wis.
Andrew Bennett	Fredonia High School	Fredonia	N.Y.
Elizabeth Bennett	Buffalo Grove High School	Buffalo Grove	Ill.
Gary Bernice	Springfield High School of Science and Technology	Springfield	Mass.
Kaci Berry	Willis D Shaw Elementary	Springdale	Ark.
Brandon Bitner	Central Dauphin High School	Harrisburg	Pa.
Matthew Blom	Eagle School Intermediate	Martinsburg	W. Va.
Lynnette Boschulte	Research Triangle Charter Academy	Durham	N.C.
Cherie Bowe	Colmer Middle School	Pascagoula	Miss.
Andrew Bowerly	Tenino High School	Tenino	Wash.
George Bradshaw	Dover Area High School	Dover	Pa.
Brittany Brings	Centennial High School	Boise	Idaho
David Brown	Sprague High School	Salem	Ore.

Delton Brown	DeSoto High School	DeSoto	Texas
Douglas Brown	Middleton High School	Middleton	Wis.
Tim Brown	Ripley High School	Ripley	Ohio
Vashti Burgess	Marlton Elementary School	Upper Marlboro	Md.
Andrea Burke	Binford Middle School	Richmond	Va.
Christopher Burns	Lakeview Elementary School	St. Cloud	Fla.
Jamin Burton	Colony High School	Palmer	Alaska
Teresa Cameron	Eastside Elementary	Lake City	Fla.
Sean Carrier	Southside High School	Fort Smith	Ark.
Christopher Castro	Redland Middle School	Miami	Ala.
Michalee Christy	Mercer High School	Mercer	Pa.
Robert Cody	Living Word Lutheran High School	Jackson	Wis.
Mark Collins	John S. Battle High School	Bristol	Va.
Lauren Conrad	Concord High School	Wilmington	Del.
James Cooney	Mayville High School	Mayville	Wis.
James Cornn	Corbin High School	Corbin	Ky.
Stephen Cox	Eastland High School	Eastland	Texas
Justin Cusick	Osceola County School for the Arts	Kissimmee	Fla.
Christina Custode	Niagara Falls High School	Niagara Falls	N.Y.
Brandon Czubachowski	Spring Valley Hall High School	Spring Valley	Ill.
Richard Davenport	Chipley High School	Chipley	Fla.
Victor de los Santos	Santa Ana High School	Santa Ana	Calif.
Buddy Deese	Fouke High School	Fouke	Ark.
Jason DeGross	University of New Haven	West Haven	Conn.
David Dehnet	Cornerstone Christian Schools	San Antonio	Texas
Heather Dipasquale	Todd County Middle School	Todd County	Ky.
Tony DiPasquale	Central Junior High School	Belleville	Ill.
Thomas Dougherty	Jensen Beach High School	Jensen Beach	Fla.
Patrick Dunham	Dundee Central School	Dundee	N.Y.
David Eckert	New Braunfels High School	New Braunfels	Texas
Kurt Eckhardt	Newtown High School	Sandy Hook	Conn.
Stephen Elford	Hancock Place High School	St. Louis	Mo.
Jessica England	Sahuarita Middle School	Sahuarita	Ariz.
Aaron Evens	Spring Hill High School	Columbia	Tenn.
Christina Farrell	Long Beach Middle School	Long Beach	N.Y.
Christina "Mina" Fleteau	Woodsville High School	Woodsville	N.H.

Deborah Fleischer	Schofield Middle School	Las Vegas	Nev.
Claire Foote	Jesse S. Bobo Elementary School	Spartanburg	S.C.
Greg Forton	Hortonville High School	Hortonville	Wis.
Nathan Froebe	The Villages High School	The Villages	Fla.
Joshua Gardner	Bryant High School	Bryant	Ark.
Chris Gleason	Patrick Marsh Middle School	Sun Prairie	Wis.
Laurence Glenzer	Nekoosa High School	Nekoosa	Wis.
Vivian Gonzalez	Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer	Miami	Fla.
Geoffrey Gould	Swift River Elementary School	Belchertown	Mass.
Sheena Graham	Warren Harding High School	Bridgeport	Conn.
Jonathan Grantham	Amador Valley High School	Pleasanton	Calif.
Chris Griffith	Rotolo Middle School	Batavia	Ill.
Sherie Grossman	Mt. Juliet High School	Mt. Juliet	Tenn.
Robert Groves	Jones County High School	Gray	Ga.
Melissa Gustafson-Hinds	O'Fallon Township High School	O'Fallon	Ill.
Eric Hahn	Bangor Area High School	Bangor	Pa.
Kate Hardt	Grafton High School	Grafton	Wis.
Bethany Hardwick	Clayton Downing Middle School	Flower Mound	Texas
Micah Haven	Meeker Middle School	Tacoma	Wash.
Leverett Hedgemon	Westlawn Middle School	Tuscaloosa	Ala.
Timothy Heichelheim	Skyview High School	Vancouver	Wash.
Elizabeth Hering	Churchill High School	Livonia	Mich.
Michael Hood	Wissahickon High School	Ambler	Pa.
Heath Hopper	Sullivan South High School	Kingsport	Tenn.
Lea Ivanovic	One World Middle School	Bronx	N.Y.
Michael Jefferson	Western Alamance High School	Elon	N.C.
Gerard Patrick Jones	University High School	Fresno	Calif.
Richard Kane	Mount Union Area Jr High School	Mount Union	Pa.
Michael Kasper	Carpentersville Middle School	Carpentersville	Ill.
Scott Katona	Jackson Liberty High School	Jackson	N.J.
Christopher Keene	Phoenix Boys Choir	Phoenix	Ariz.
Steven Kirkland	Hammocks Middle School	Miami	Fla.
Janet Duguay Kirsten	South Miami K-8 Center	South Miami	Fla.
Lou Kitchner	Bedford Middle School	Westport	Conn.
Kevin Kriegel	Glendale Community College	Glendale	Ariz.
Brad Laibly	Hartland High School	Hartland	Mich.
Michael Leonas	Ginnings Elementary School	Denton	Texas



Derek Limback	St. James High School and St. James Middle School	St. James	Mo.
Harvey Lockhart	Riverview Gardens High School	St. Louis	Mo.
Clarissa Lopez	Meridian World School	Round Rock	Texas
Jager Loyde	Round Rock ISD	Round Rock	Texas
Ed Luckey	Wilson Southern Middle School	West Lawn	Pa.
Ryan Mack	P.S. 052 Sheepshead Bay	Brooklyn	N.Y.
Lisa MacVicar	Hackensack High School	Hackensack	N.J.
Jason Majerczak	Drexel Hill Middle School	Drexel Hill	Pa.
Peter Manzi	Carlsbad High School	Carlsbad	Calif.
Anthony Marinello	Illinois State University	Normal	Ill.
Jesus Martinez	Sam Houston High School	Arlington	Texas
Chris Maunu	Arvada West High School	Arvada	Colo.
Melinda Mauter	Drew Charter School	Atlanta	Ga.
Alyxis Mayeaux	Brusly High School	Brusly	La.
Anthony Mazzocchi	John J Cali School of Music at Montclair State University	Montclair	N.J.
Matt McVeigh	Fond du Lac High School	Fond du Lac	Wis.
Anthony Merlino	Albright College	Reading	Pa.
David Middlin	South Arbor Charter Academy	Ypsilanti	Mich.
Sarah Milazzo-Payne	Bryan Station Middle School	Lexington	Ky.
Rodney Miller	Port Clinton City Schools	Port Clinton	Ohio
Samuel Minge	East Clinton High School	Sabina	Ohio
Laura Moates Stanley	Brookwood High School	Snellville	Ga.
Amber Moss	Lakeside Middle School-Garland Co.	Hot Springs	Ark.
Jennifer Moss	Acton-Boxborough Regional High School	Acton	Mass.
Michael Murphy	Sherrard Middle School	Wheeling	W.Va.
Mark Nichols	Brazoswood High School	Clute	Texas
Scott Nulty	Intermediate School	Manahawkin	N.J.
Greg Odom	Roswell High School	Roswell	N.M.
Meredith Olson	Longfellow Elementary	Marion	Iowa
Topher Otake	Moberly Middle School	Moberly	Mo.
Edward Owens	Lyman C. Hunt Middle School	Burlington	Vt.
Joy Paffenroth	Kaukauna High School	Kaukauna	Wis.
Kristy Pagan	Amelia Earhart Elementary	Hialeah	Fla.
Maria Palassis	Oak Hills High School	Cincinnati	Ohio
Kelly Parra	P.S./I.S. 266Q	Bellerose	N.Y.
Rob Pethel	Sutton Middle School	Atlanta	Ga.

Jason Phipps	Ridgway Area High School	Ridgway	Pa.
Jaime Pitnell	Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts	Buffalo	N.Y.
John Pohland	Waconia High School	Waconia	Minn.
Juvon Pollard	Belaire Magnet High	Baton Rouge	La.
Courtney Powers	Edison High School	Philadelphia	Pa.
Bryan Poyzer	North Dakota State College of Science	Wahpeton	N.D.
Crystal Pridmore	Finney Elementary School	San Diego	Calif
Amy Putlock	Broughal Middle School	Bethlehem	Pa.
Amy Rangel	Glendale High School	Glendale	Calif.
Jennifer Reece	Dunlap High School	Dunlap	Ill.
Malcolm Richardson	Great Oaks Charter Middle School	Wilmington	Del.
John Riley	Crawford High School	San Diego	Calif.
Stephen Rivero	Charles W. Flanagan High School	Pembroke Pines	Fla.
Daniel Robbins	La Paz Intermediate School	Mission Viejo	Calif.
Marcos Rodriguez	Avant Garde Academy of Broward	Hollywood	Fla.
Xavier Rodriguez	Covert Avenue Elementary School	Elmont	N.Y.
Chad Rose	Worland High School	Worland	Wyo.
Lynne Ruda	Lancaster High School	Lancaster	N.Y.
Thomas Ruggieri	Boardman High School	Youngstown	Ohio
Markeise Russell	Nicholas Senn High School	Chicago	Ill.
Peter Sampson	Whiteland Community High School	Whiteland	Ind.
Eric Sayre	Minneapolis South High School	Minneapolis	Minn.
Heather Schenck	Mountain Range High School	Westminster	Colo.
Kati Seiter	Whitnall Middle School	Greenfield	Wis.
Renee Shane-Boyd	Catalina Foothills High School	Tucson	Ariz.
Matt Smith	Liberty High School	Liberty	S.C.
Matthew Smith	Simi Valley High School	Simi Valley	Calif.
Mickey Smith	Maplewood Middle School	Sulphur	La.
Robert W. Smith	Troy University	Troy	Ala.
Brandon Sparkman	Chester Elementary School	Chester	N.Y.
Suzanne Spencer	Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush	Philadelphia	Pa.
Elisabeth Stambach-Fuller	South Glens Falls High School	South Glens Falls	N.Y.
Beverly Stearns	Williams High School	Williams	Ariz.
Don Stinson	Joliet Central High School	Joliet	Ill.
Allen Strawbridge	M.C. Perry High School	Alexandria	Va.
Jamie Stroffolino	Walter Panas High School	Cortlandt Manor	N.Y.



Zachary Sullivan	Bradford High School	Starke	Fla.
Kokoe Tanaka-Suwan	Bronx Global Learning Institute for Girls, The Shirley Rodriguez-Remeneski School	Bronx	N.Y.
Noah Teachey	The Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science	Bronx	N.Y.
Brian Thomas	Canton High School	Canton	Mass.
Frank Tieri	Oswego High School	Oswego	Ill.
Peter Toews	Mountain View High School	Loveland	Colo.
Martin Urbach	Harvest Collegiate High School	New York	N.Y.
Jeffrey Van Dusen	Basis/Mesa School	Mesa	Ariz.
Matthew Vanzini	Mount Olive High school	Flanders	N.J.
Johnathan Vest	Centennial High School	Franklin	Tenn.
Anthony Vittore	Elmore County High School	Eclectic	Ala.
Erich Wald	Russell O. Brackman Middle School	Barnegat	N.J.
Ash Walker	Mt. Eden High School	Hayward	Calif.
Kristi Wicichowski	Nathan Hale High School	West Allis	Wis.
Dustin Wiley	Firelands High School	South Amherst	Ohio
Eric Willoughby	Woodland High School	Cartersville	Ga.
David Wing	Woodland Middle School	North Port	Fla.
Christopher Wink	North Babylon High School	North Babylon	N.Y.
Kimberly Wolbert	Ashland High School	Ashland	Ohio
James Yaques	Palm Beach Central High School	Wellington	Fla.
Cory Zilisch	Westport Middle School	Louisville	Ky.

**WHAT:** The **Music Educator Award** was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college, 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. A joint partnership and presentation of the Recording Academy and GRAMMY Museum, the recipient will be recognized during GRAMMY® Week 2020.

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 seventh annual honoree will be flown to Los Angeles to attend the 62nd Annual 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. The matching grants provided to the schools are made possible by the generosity and support of the GRAMMY Museum's Education Champion **Ford Motor Company Fund**. 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.

**WHEN:** The **semifinalists** will be announced in **September**. For more information, please visit [www.grammymusicteacher.com](http://www.grammymusicteacher.com).

### **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](http://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](#), [Tumblr](#), and [YouTube](#).

### **ABOUT THE GRAMMY MUSEUM**

Established in 2008, the GRAMMY Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a greater understanding of the history and significance of music. Paying tribute to our collective musical heritage, the Museum explores and celebrates all aspects of the art form—from the technology of the recording process to the legends who've made lasting marks on our cultural identity. In 2017, the Museum integrated with its sister organization, the GRAMMY Foundation, to broaden the reach of its music education and preservation initiatives. As a unified organization, today, the GRAMMY Museum fulfills its mission of making music a valued and indelible part of our society through exhibits, education, grants, and public programming.

For more information, visit [www.grammymuseum.org](http://www.grammymuseum.org), "like" the GRAMMY Museum on [Facebook](#), and follow @GRAMMYMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **ABOUT FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND**

Ford Motor Company Fund is the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company. Established in 1949, Ford Fund invests in transformational programs that advance innovation, empower people, promote social mobility, and improve community prosperity. Ford Fund works with local and global partners to create opportunities in education, encourage safe driving, enlist employee volunteers, and enrich community life. For more information, visit [fordfund.org](http://fordfund.org), or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).





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