

GRAMMY AWARDS CATEGORY RULES

American Roots Music Field

BEST AMERICAN ROOTS PERFORMANCE

FOR SINGLES OR TRACKS VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in American Roots Music performance. The category encompasses all of the subgenres of the American Roots Field (Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk, and regional roots music).

BEST AMERICAN ROOTS SONG

A SONGWRITER'S AWARD FOR SINGLES OR TRACKS

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in songwriting in any of the subgenres encompassed in the American Roots Music Field, including Americana, bluegrass, blues, folk or regional roots music.

BEST AMERICANA ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums of Americana music: contemporary music that incorporate elements of various American roots music and vocal styles, including country, roots-rock, folk, bluegrass, R&B, and blues, resulting in a distinctive roots-oriented sound that lives in a world apart from the pure forms of the genres upon which it may draw. While acoustic instruments are often present and vital, Americana often uses a full electric band.

BEST BLUEGRASS ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in bluegrass recordings performed in vocal or instrumental styles that utilize bluegrass acoustic instrumentation (variations of fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass and Dobro) and singing style, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

BEST TRADITIONAL BLUES ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in albums of traditional blues recordings. Traditional blues includes blues recordings with traditional blues song structures, harmonic structures and rhythms, including traditional blues instruments such as acoustic and electric guitar, piano, organ, harmonica, horns, acoustic and electric bass and drums. It also includes sub-genres such as Delta blues, Piedmont blues, jump/swing blues, Chicago blues, and classic/Southern soul.

BEST CONTEMPORARY BLUES ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in contemporary blues recordings. It includes blues recordings that vary from traditional blues song and harmonic structures. May employ non-traditional blues rhythms such as funk, hip-hop, reggae and rock. May include traditional blues instruments and non-traditional blues instruments, as well as contemporary production techniques.

BEST FOLK ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in folk recordings in modern and/or traditional vocal and instrumental styles, as well as original material by artists who utilize traditional and/or modern folk elements, sounds and instrumental techniques as the basis for their recordings. Folk music is primarily but not exclusively acoustic, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

BEST REGIONAL ROOTS MUSIC ALBUM

FOR ALBUMS

VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL

SCREENING CRITERIA This category recognizes excellence in recordings of regional roots styles of music, including Cajun, Hawaiian, Native American, second line brass band, polka, zydeco, other musical styles of southern Louisiana and other regional music, with production and sensibilities distinctly different from a pop approach.

Native American music is defined as recordings that contain traditional and contemporary Native American music elements within composition and arrangement.

On Hawaiian music recordings, the Hawaiian language must be used in greater than 50% of the vocal tracks on the album and final eligibility will be determined by the screening committee.