



# 2022 MAC AWARDS ELIGIBILITY RULES AND CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

## THE AWARDS PROCESS

For an artist to be considered for a MAC Award, an application must be submitted documenting his/her eligibility. The application can be submitted by:

- The artist him/herself (or by someone else with the artist's permission)
- A MAC member club in which the artist performed
- A member of the Eligibility Committee or one of the specialist committees (see below)

The MAC Awards Eligibility Committee will review all submissions to verify eligibility and ensure that applicants have consented to being submitted for an Award.

For most categories, there will be two ballots submitted to all MAC members:

- The preliminary ballot, prepared by the Eligibility Committee, which will list all eligible applicants in each category. The people appearing on this preliminary ballot are not nominees and may not be advertised as such. Every MAC member may select up to three choices in each category—except in categories for which the instructions on the ballot specifically state otherwise. The votes will be tallied by the independent voting company retained for this purpose.
- The final ballot listing the top vote-getters from the preliminary ballot, with a maximum of five in each category (unless a tie in the preliminary ballot voting requires that the number be expanded, or if the Eligibility Committee, in its sole discretion, determines that a greater number is appropriate—for example, if warranted by the large number of candidates in the category). The people appearing on this ballot are *MAC Award nominees* and may be advertised as such in publicity or press materials. Every MAC member may select one choice in each category; the votes will be tallied by the independent voting company retained for this purpose, and the MAC Award winners will be determined.

**For other categories, specialist committees will select the nominees;** those categories are identified in the category definitions below. Each such nominating committee shall consist of at least four members, at least one of whom will be a MAC Board Director; the committees will choose the nominees in each category. This selection process will take place concurrently with the first round of membership voting described above. Nominees in these categories will appear on the final ballot, to be voted upon by the MAC members as described above.

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Only work performed live (not virtual) in calendar years 2020 and 2021 is eligible (collectively, the “Eligibility Period”), with the exceptions detailed in the categories Virtual Presentation and Show of the Year. Shows performed during the Eligibility Period that had first been performed in a prior year are eligible, so long as that show did not receive a MAC nomination in a prior year. Shows performed during the Eligibility Period that have substantially the same content as a show nominated in a prior year are not eligible.

Either the candidate must have been a MAC member in good standing at the time of the application process or the work to be considered for an award must have been performed in a MAC member club, in accordance with the rules. (MAC member clubs are listed on the MAC web site, [www.macnyc.com](http://www.macnyc.com).) People who are not MAC members or who did not work in a MAC member club can qualify by joining MAC no later than the application submission deadline.

**Because of the extraordinary challenges presented by the pandemic, the minimum number of performances required for most categories has been reduced for this year only.** For a majority of the categories, MAC members must have given at least three eligible performances during the Eligibility Period. At least two of these performances must have been performed in calendar year 2021. All three performances must have been performed live in an eligible venue before an in-person audience (virtual performances do not contribute to satisfying the minimum). The three performances do not need to have been of the same show.

For MAC members, all but one of the required number of shows must have taken place in the greater New York metropolitan area (within a 90-mile radius of New York City). For non-MAC members, all of the required number of shows and/or performances must have taken place in MAC member clubs located in the greater New York metropolitan area. **See the category definitions, below, for rules and exceptions specific to individual categories.**

Guest spots in benefits, anniversary shows, variety shows and special events do not count towards eligibility. However, complete shows that were presented as benefits are eligible for consideration. Shows not open to the general public (e.g., performances with an invited guest list or shows open only to members of a club) are not eligible.

No person may appear in more than one category in any given year for essentially the same work (e.g., Female Vocalist and Female Musical Comedy Performer)—except for shows chosen by the Board as nominees for Show of the Year. However, where categories are clearly different, one person may be eligible in more than one category (e.g., vocalist and director). Performers are not eligible in the Director category for directing their own shows, and vocalists who accompany themselves are not eligible in the Musical Director category for those shows. The MAC Awards Eligibility Committee will review the categories in which the artists have been submitted and will adjust them if it deems appropriate. Artists will be given the opportunity to appeal category reassignments with the Committee; the Committee's ultimate decision will be final.

**There is a unique application form for each category. A separate application form must be submitted for each category in which the artist is competing. DO NOT submit multiple categories on the same application. For example, if you are applying in both the Recurring Series and Emcee categories, two separate applications must be submitted.**

**All required supporting documentation must accompany the application. The withholding of information that could affect eligibility or category placement, or supplying information that proves to be materially false, may result in disqualification or subsequent revocation of an Award.**

The timetable for application submission will be communicated to members well in advance of the deadline.

To avoid the uncertainties inherent in postal delivery, **all applications must be submitted by email**, as follows:

- Your completed category-specific application form and all supporting documentation should be

included **in a single email**. The subject line of the email should identify the category in which you are submitting—e.g., Female Vocalist submission. If you are submitting in multiple categories, **a separate email must be submitted for each category**. The email, including your application form and all supporting material, should be sent to:

**submissions@macnyc.com**

You will receive an immediate confirmation of receipt.

- Instructions for submitting physical CDs can be found on the application form for the two Recording categories. Instructions for submitting songs can be found on the respective application form for the Song and Comedy/Novelty Song categories.
- If you have any problems submitting your application by email, either email us at info@MACnyc.com or leave a message on the MAC Hotline (855-622 6921) and someone will get back to you.

## **CATEGORY DEFINITIONS:**

Following are the requirements for eligibility in each award category. Unless otherwise specified, the general eligibility requirements stated above apply. *Note: Categories may be added, combined or eliminated during a given Awards year if the MAC Awards Eligibility Committee, in its sole discretion, determines it appropriate to do so.*

### **NOMINEES IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL APPEAR ON BOTH THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL BALLOTS**

#### **VOCALIST (MALE and FEMALE)**

A singer who has performed his/her own show, regardless of genre ("cabaret," jazz, R&B, pop, etc.): A vocalist is not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category.

#### **MAJOR ARTIST (MALE and FEMALE)**

Artists in this category should have achieved clearly recognized stature and prominence within the MAC live performance community. In addition, they may have received reviews by major publications and may have appeared in a major New York venue. This category encompasses all performing art forms and genres: vocalist, instrumentalist, comic; jazz, "cabaret," pop, etc.

An artist is not eligible in this category if he/she appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies.

#### **CELEBRITY ARTIST**

Artists in this category should have achieved national or international stature and prominence, and should be established names outside the performing arts community. They will have received reviews by major publications. The category encompasses all performing art forms and genres.

### **NEW YORK DEBUT (MALE and FEMALE)**

A performer who is presenting his/her own show in New York City for the first time. Performers must be doing an entire act to qualify. Performers who may have previously appeared as opening acts or as a performer in a revue or as part of a group are eligible for this category. Performers will not be disqualified by virtue of having done either (a) no more than two performances in the last three months of 2019 or (b) a single performance of a show in any prior year—but not (a) *and* (b). Prior year performances that were not open to the general public do not impact eligibility. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category. Performers who have achieved a high degree of success and visibility in another medium or in another city are not eligible. To be eligible in these categories, all three required performances must have taken place **in the greater New York metropolitan area.**

### **SPOKEN WORD ARTIST**

A performer who entertains in his/her own show predominantly through the spoken word. This category includes all genres (comedy, drama, monology, etc.). An artist is not eligible in this category on the basis of having performed short routines or having appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category.

### **IMPERSONATION/CHARACTERIZATION/DRAG ARTIST**

A performer who entertains in their own show by impersonating a non-fictional character or creating one of their own, either with or without music. A performer is not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category.

### **MAJOR IMPERSONATION/CHARACTERIZATION/DRAG ARTIST**

A performer who entertains in their own show by impersonating a non-fictional character or creating one of their own, either with or without music. Artists in this category should have achieved clearly recognized stature and prominence within the MAC live performance community. In addition, they may have received reviews by major publications and may have appeared on national television or in a major New York venue. A performer is not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category.

### **MUSICAL COMEDY PERFORMER (MALE and FEMALE)**

A performer whose act consists mostly of comic songs, parodies, novelty songs and/or other musical comedy material. To be eligible, the performer must have done his/her own show; he/she is not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as a guest in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performer qualifies for this category.

### **DUO/GROUP**

Two or more performers (vocalists and/or instrumentalists) performing together as a group. The category encompasses all musical performing arts and genres: vocal groups, musical comedy groups, jazz ensembles, etc. An accompanist singing with a vocalist does not qualify as a duo/group unless this is a considerable part of the act and the two are billed equally together. To be eligible, the duo or group must have done its own show; they are not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as guests in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performers qualify for this category. For purposes of this category, performances need not have fixed sets or starting times, but may be open sets or performances throughout an evening.

## **MAJOR DUO/GROUP**

Two or more performers (vocalists and/or instrumentalists) performing together as a group. Artists in this category should have achieved clearly recognized stature and prominence within the MAC live performance community. In addition, they may have received reviews by major publications and may have appeared in a major New York venue. The category encompasses all musical performing arts and genres: vocal groups, musical comedy groups, jazz ensembles, etc. An accompanist singing with a vocalist does not qualify as a duo/group unless this is a considerable part of the act and the two are billed equally together. To be eligible, the duo or group must have done its own show; they are not eligible in this category on the basis of having appeared as guests in someone else's show. In a show that includes guest artists or back-up vocalists, only the headline performers qualify for this category. For purposes of this category, performances need not have fixed sets or starting times, but may be open sets or performances throughout an evening.

## **REVUE**

This category includes the following examples:

- a revue of original material written specifically for the show
- a revue of material written for another show or medium, linked together for the first time by a theme
- a revue of material from multiple sources written by one songwriter/songwriting team
- a thematic revue of material by multiple writers
- a revue consisting primarily of parodies, novelty songs and other forms of musical comedy material

A revue must have at least two performers and should be able to be recast without suffering artistically. A revue should not rely on any specific performer's participation for its identity. The award will go to the driving or creative force(s) behind the production, who must be identified in the application; this might be, for example, the producer, the director, the developer or the writer(s). If none of the driving/creative forces is a MAC member, all required performances must have taken place in a MAC member club in the greater New York metropolitan area.

## **RECURRING SERIES**

A show or series with a standard format and a changing lineup of acts. This category includes all formats (open mic, variety show, etc.), and the acts can consist of any combination of musical performers, comedy performers, songwriters, and/or variety acts. Benefit series are not eligible in this category. The award will go to the driving or creative force(s) behind the series, who must be identified in the application; this might be, for example, the producer, the director, the emcee, the developer or the writer(s). If none of the driving/creative forces is a MAC member, all required performances must have taken place in a MAC member club in the greater New York metropolitan area.

## **EMCEE**

A person who emcees a show or a series. This person must have served as emcee at least three times during the Eligibility Period; the shows need not all have been the same show or in the same series. Emcee duties typically include introducing the acts, banter with the performers, and non-musical entertainment of the audience. The emcee may or may not also be involved with the production of the show and may or may not also perform in the shows. In a show with multiple emcees, only the primary emcee(s) are eligible.

## **VIRTUAL PRESENTATION**

This category includes shows of various types and formats: musical, non-musical, vocal, instrumental, single performer and accompanist(s), variety shows, etc. The presentations may have been ticketed (either free of charge or paid admission) or unticketed and must have been available for viewing by the general public (via social media, streaming services, etc.). The minimum number of episodes presented during the Eligibility Period is eight, of which at least five must have been presented during the period when live performances at clubs were largely not possible (March 2020 through July 2021). Each episode must have been at least 30 minutes long, and each must have been unique, i.e., at least 50% of its content must have been different from the content of any other episode. The main performer of the show must be a MAC member, or if the cast changes from show to show, the driving/creative force must be a MAC member. The Award will go to the main performer or the driving/creative force, as appropriate. We do not expect this category to be continued beyond the 2022 MAC Awards.

## **SPECIAL PRODUCTION**

A show that does not fit into any of the other categories. The award will go to the driving or creative force(s) behind the production, who must be identified in the application; this might be, for example, the producer, the director, the developer or the writer(s). If none of the driving/creative forces is a MAC member, all required performances must have taken place in a MAC member club in the greater New York metropolitan area.

## **DIRECTOR**

Must have directed **at least two different shows or performers in the greater New York metropolitan area** during the Eligibility Period, at least one of which must have been presented in calendar year 2021. There is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. The performances must have taken place in MAC member clubs or the candidate must be a MAC member.

## **MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Must have provided musical direction for **at least three different shows or performers in the greater New York metropolitan area** during the Eligibility Period, at least two of which must have been presented in calendar year 2021. There is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. The performances must have taken place in MAC member clubs or the candidate must be a MAC member.

## **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Must have provided lighting and/or sound design for **at least five different shows or performers in the greater New York metropolitan area** during the Eligibility Period, at least three of which must have been presented in calendar year 2021. There is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. The venues must be MAC member clubs or the candidate must be a MAC member.

## **ENSEMBLE INSTRUMENTALIST**

An instrumentalist who, as a member of an ensemble of two or more instrumentalists, provides musical accompaniment for a vocalist(s) in a full-length show or for a different form of entertainment, e.g., a revue or variety show. Musical directors are not eligible in this category. To be eligible, the instrumentalist must have accompanied **at least three different shows or performers in the greater New York metropolitan area** in the Eligibility Period, at least two of which must have been presented in calendar year 2021. There is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. The other ensemble members may be different from show to show. The performances must have taken place in MAC member clubs or the candidate must be a MAC member.

### **PIANO BAR/RESTAURANT SINGING ENTERTAINER**

A singer engaged by a MAC member club recognized as either a piano bar or restaurant, performing as an obligation of employment as part of the entertainment package in such establishments without fixed set lists or specific show times. Eligible singers must have other responsibilities, such as waiting tables or bartending. There is a **ten-performance minimum requirement**, which refers to the number of evenings/afternoons the person performed on his or her regularly scheduled shift(s) during the Eligibility Period. At least seven of these performances must have taken place in calendar year 2021.

### **PIANO BAR INSTRUMENTALIST**

An instrumentalist (piano or other instrument), who may or may not sing, who entertains in a MAC member club recognized as a piano bar. Performers eligible in this category are those who are engaged by the venue and who may either do open sets without fixed set lists or appear at designated times. In addition, they may provide accompaniment for other performers, and/or conduct sing-alongs or other types of audience participation. There is a **ten-performance minimum requirement**, which refers to the number of evenings/afternoons the person performed on his or her regularly scheduled shift(s) during the Eligibility Period. At least seven of these performances must have taken place in calendar year 2021.

### **RESTAURANT/HOTEL LOUNGE/HAPPY HOUR ENTERTAINER**

A performer (instrumentalist and/or singer), who entertains in a restaurant or hotel lounge that is a MAC-member club or who entertains during happy hour in a MAC-member club. Performers eligible in this category are those who are engaged by the venue and who may either do open sets without fixed set lists or appear at designated times. In addition, they may provide accompaniment for other performers. Duos and groups who regularly perform together as restaurant/hotel lounge/happy hour entertainers are also eligible in this category. There is a **ten-performance minimum requirement**, which refers to the number of evenings/afternoons the person(s) performed in his/her/their regularly scheduled shift(s) during the Eligibility Period. At least seven of these performances must have taken place in calendar year 2021.

**NOMINEES IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES WILL BE CHOSEN BY COMMITTEE—  
THE CATEGORIES WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE PRELIMINARY BALLOT.**

**SONG**

A song whose predominant intent /tone is non-humorous.

- The song must have been performed publicly during the Eligibility Period; there is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. If neither the composer nor the lyricist is a MAC member, at least one performance during the Eligibility Period must have taken place in a MAC member club or at a MAC-sponsored event.
- Songs that previously achieved prominence in any medium are not eligible.
- Parodies are not eligible.
- Songs that were submitted in a previous year are not eligible.
- The identity of the songwriter(s) must not be discernible from the song's title or lyrics.

The award for Song will go to both the composer(s) and the lyricist(s).

Only one song in this category may be submitted by a writer or writing team, and the choice must be made by the writer(s). The song must be submitted as an MP3 file (no other format) attached to an e-mail; the lyrics must be submitted as a PDF or Word file, also attached to the email, and not as a link. The email must contain the submitter's name and a contact phone number, and the Subject of the e-mail should be the writer's last name and the song title, e.g., "Sondheim – Send in the Clowns".

Note: There is a special application form for this category.

**Nominees in this category will be chosen by committee; the category will not appear on the preliminary ballot. The names of the writers of the submitted songs will not be revealed to the committee members during the judging process.**

**COMEDY/NOVELTY SONG**

A song whose predominant intent /tone is humorous.

- The song must have been performed publicly during the Eligibility Period; there is **no minimum-number-of-performances requirement**. If neither the composer nor the lyricist is a MAC member, at least one performance during the Eligibility Period must have taken place in a MAC member club or at a MAC-sponsored event.
- Songs that previously achieved prominence in any medium are not eligible.
- Parodies are not eligible.
- Songs that were submitted in a previous year are not eligible.
- The identity of the songwriter(s) must not be discernible from the song's title or lyrics.

The award for Special Musical Material will go to both the composer(s) and the lyricist(s).

Only one song in this category may be submitted by a writer or writing team, and the choice must be made by the writer(s). The song must be submitted as an MP3 file (no other format) attached to an e-mail; the lyrics must be submitted as a PDF or Word file, also attached to the email, and not as a link. The e-mail must also contain the submitter's name and a contact phone number, and the Subject of the e-mail should be the writer's last name and the song title, e.g., "Sondheim & Rodgers – What Do We Do? We Fly!".

Note: There is a special application form for this category.

**Nominees in this category will be chosen by committee; the category will not appear on the preliminary ballot. The names of the writers of the submitted songs will not be revealed to the committee members during the judging process**

## **RECORDING (LAMOTT FRIEDMAN RECORDING AWARD)**

### **MAJOR RECORDING**

To be eligible in one of these categories, the recording must be a complete album released during the Eligibility Period as either:

- a bar-coded compact disc available for sale to the public.
- OR
- a digital recording, available for download on such sites as CD Baby or iTunes

The recording will be judged on the entire package: performance quality, technical quality, song selection, artwork.

If submitting a physical disc, five copies of the CD must be submitted with the application. If submitting a digital download, the application must include a link to a site where the recording is available for purchase, as well as a link to a drop box or similar folder where the recording and any cover art/liner notes can be accessed at no charge by the MAC recording committee.

The artist, or at least one member of a group of artists, must be a MAC member or have performed at least once in a MAC member club during the Eligibility Period. In the case of a compilation recording, the creative force behind the recording must be a MAC member or have worked in a MAC member club during the Eligibility Period.

Note: There is a special application form for these categories.

**Nominees in these categories will be chosen by committee; the categories will not appear on the preliminary ballot.**

**IF THE BOARD OPTS TO PRESENT AN AWARD IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORY, NOMINEES IN THE CATEGORY WILL BE CHOSEN BY THE BOARD—APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND THE CATEGORY WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE PRELIMINARY BALLOT. THE BOARD MAY ALSO CHOOSE NOT TO INCLUDE THE CATEGORY ON THE FINAL BALLOT AND, INSTEAD, PRESENT THE AWARD DIRECTLY TO A RECIPIENT OF THE BOARD'S CHOOSING:**

### **SHOW OF THE YEAR**

A show, live or virtual, that drew a considerable amount of positive attention from the Cabaret community as a whole, generated an unusual amount of "buzz," and was generally acknowledged to be outstanding in all performance and presentation aspects. In addition, it may also have attracted a more general audience.

**IN ADDITION, THE BOARD MAY BESTOW THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:**

*Benefit Series (The Ruth Kurtzman Award)*

*Hanson Award*

*Board of Directors Award*

*Lifetime Achievement Award*