

MUSIC

# LGBTQ+ Artists Are Already Dominating the 2021 Grammys

Brilliant queer musicians swept today's nominations, including Brittany Howard, Chika, Phoebe Bridgers, Lido Pimienta, Arca, Kaytranda, and more.

BY TAYLOR CRUMPTON

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - JANUARY 24: CHIKA attends Instagram's GRAMMY Luncheon on January 24, 2020 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Rodin Eckenroth/WireImage) Rodin Eckenroth

The Recording Academy announced nominees for the 2021 Grammy Awards on Tuesday, and LGBTQ+ artists from Lido Pimienta to Lady Gaga may be on track to sweep next year's ceremony.

Though [last year's Grammys](#) were also a big win for queer musicians — from eye-popping performances by Lil Nas X to a Best Rap Album win by Tyler, The Creator — this year's nominations delivered nods for a slew of queer entertainers across multiple categories, showing that diverse LGBTQ+ talent is taking over the music industry.

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## Phoebe Bridgers Is the Spooky Prophet of End Times America

The singer-songwriter has already stolen hearts with her darkly funny folk songs. On her new album *Punisher*, she plumbs her psyche and demons anew to unveil larger truths about the world's dystopian horrors.

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In the Best Rock Performance category, women dominated, and queer women in particular — like Brittany Howard, [Phoebe Bridgers](#), Grace Potter, and Adrienne Lenker of the band Big Thief — composed a majority of the nominees. Nominees in Best Latin Rock Album and Best Dance/Electronic Album categories included [Lido Pimienta](#), [Arca](#), and [Kaytranda](#) — the latter of whom was also nominated for Best New Artist, even though the Haitian-Canadian DJ has been producing and releasing music for years. He was accompanied by [Chika](#) and Megan Thee Stallion in that category, two Black Queer women who have respectively had a major impact on pop culture through their releases and advocacy throughout the year. In the Pop categories, Lady Gaga secured two nominations for [Chromatica](#), her sixth studio album, while Katie Pruitt was nominated for Production, Non-Classical.

The Grammy Awards have been criticized in the past for spotty recognition of talent from marginalized communities, especially from the worlds of hip-hop and R&B. This July, the Recording Academy announced that it had offered membership to [over 2,300 music industry professionals](#)

from a diverse array of backgrounds as part of an effort to shake its “toxic boys club culture,” as former CEO Deborah Dugan described it to the *Los Angeles Times* in January. This year’s expansive inclusion of queer nominations may reflect the Recording Academy’s more expansive membership — and while it remains to be seen how the changes will shake out at next year’s awards, it’s a promising start.

Check out the [full list of 2021 Grammys nominees here](#). The 63rd annual Grammy Awards will be televised on January 31 on CBS.

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