

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Erica Shekell, **Byrum & Fisk Communications**, [\(517\) 333-1606](tel:5173331606)

Fitzgerald High School Band Teacher Named Quarterfinalist for National Music Educator Award

For the third consecutive year, Brian Roelandt is named among the nation's top 290 educators by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy

WARREN, Mich. — **Fitzgerald High School** band teacher **Brian Roelandt** is among only 290 educators in the country to qualify for the 2017 Music Education Award presented by The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation. More than 3,300 nominations were submitted from all 50 states, and he is one of only 14 educators selected from Michigan.

“Brian Roelandt is a fine example of excellence in music education, and we’re proud to see him receive recognition on a national scale,” said Superintendent **Barbara VanSweden**. “Brian’s dedication to music education is a critical component of our mission to provide students with a well-rounded education in the arts and sciences.”

The Music Educator Award was established to recognize educators 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 schools. The educators are selected from U.S. public and private schools at all grade levels, ranging from kindergarten through college.

Anyone can nominate a teacher, including students, parents, friends, colleagues, community members, school deans and administrators. Nominated teachers are notified and invited to fill out an application.

“I am absolutely honored that Fitzgerald Schools has nominated me for this distinction,” Roelandt said. “I have the best job in the world. I work with incredible colleagues who are deeply committed to our students, and my fellow educators support and inspire me to be the best that I can be for my students.”

This is the third consecutive year that Roelandt has been selected as a quarterfinalist. Semifinalists will be announced in September. Ten finalists will be selected, and from there, one top recipient.

The top honoree will be flown to the host city of the GRAMMY Awards to be recognized during GRAMMY Week 2017. The recipient will also attend the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards ceremony and a range of GRAMMY Foundation 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 honorariums and grants provided to the finalists and schools are made possible by the generosity and support of the GRAMMY Foundation's education champions **Converse, Disney Performing Arts, Ford Motor Company Fund** and **Journeys**. The American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and the National Education Association also support the program through outreach to their constituencies.

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