

1 [Urging the National Academy of Arts and Sciences Reinstate 31 Categories of Music for
2 GRAMMY Consideration]

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4 **Resolution urging the reinstatement of the 31 categories of music that were eliminated**
5 **by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences for GRAMMY consideration on April 6,**
6 **2011.**

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8 WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco, which maintains a proud tradition as a hub of
9 cultural and musical diversity, is home and host to valuable contributors of the American
10 musical lexicon, including numerous GRAMMY® nominated and winning composers, artists
11 and professionals; and

12 WHEREAS, National Academy of Arts and Sciences NARAS, An influential nonprofit
13 501(c)(6), is based in California and home to 30% of its 20,000+ members includes a San
14 Francisco Chapter; and

15 WHEREAS, The decision to drop the thirty-one categories from GRAMMY
16 consideration was done by secret committee without consulting the voting membership of
17 NARAS and without local chapters' Board of Governors knowledge; and

18 WHEREAS, The eliminated categories include Latin Jazz, Contemporary Jazz,
19 Hawaiian, Cajun, Zydeco, Native American, Tejano, Classical Crossover, Instrumental Rock,
20 along with significant reductions in awards given to the categories of Gospel, Blues and R&B;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Protests and meetings have occurred in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New
23 York, Hawaii, Chicago, New Orleans, and other national locations to resolve this severe and
24 extremely insensitive blow to cultural expression and recognition in our country; and

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1 WHEREAS, Respected GRAMMY-winning and nominated artists, including Paul
2 Simon, Herbie Hancock, Bonnie Raitt, Carlos Santana, John Santos, John Calloway, Eddie
3 Palmieri, Wayne Wallace, Bobby Sanabria and many others have joined NARAS members,
4 colleagues, and past Chapter governors in writing letters and signing a petition with 5,000
5 cosigners urging NARAS to reverse their secret decision and reinstate the GRAMMY
6 categories; and

7 WHEREAS, National and international media coverage (KTVU, SF Chronicle,
8 Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC, Reuters, BBC, Wall Street Journal, etc.) has been given to
9 the outcry against this unjust and harmful decision in over 1,200 national and international
10 stories published and syndicated in print, broadcast, and digital formats; and

11 WHEREAS, NARAS has a responsibility to their voting membership to ensure ethical
12 decision practices are maintained because the GRAMMY is considered to be the highest
13 award achievable for music excellence in the United States and therefore should strive to
14 include genres and categories of particular creative and foundational significance; and

15 WHEREAS, The thousands of affected musicians, engineers, manufacturers,
16 composers, arrangers, graphic artists, publicists, distributors, and other industry professionals
17 who work in the eliminated categories will suffer economically from not being able to
18 participate in the GRAMMY awards; and

19 WHEREAS, Thousands of California consumers and patrons of these important
20 musical traditions have also been negatively affected and disrespected by this ill-advised
21 decision; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 16, 2011 the San Francisco Arts Commission unanimously
23 passed a resolution urging NARAS to reinstate the eliminated categories; and

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1 WHEREAS, The NARAS leadership has acknowledged that a “mistake” was made
2 indicates that these genres should never have been eliminated in the first place; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the National
5 Academy of Arts and Sciences to immediately reinstate the eliminated categories in order to
6 restore integrity and diversity to the GRAMMY Awards and fulfill the organization’s
7 responsibilities to its membership and as a non-profit organization representing the interests
8 of diverse musicians and recording professionals; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors directs its
10 administrative staff to send copies of this resolution to NARAS National Board Chair George
11 Flanigen, Board Secretary Glenn Lorbecki, President Neil Portnow, and to California Attorney
12 General Kamala D. Harris.

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