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Grammys go to SF Conservatory faculty, alumni

Chorus Director Ragnar Bohlin takes home 'Best Classical Album' Grammy with MTT; Sergio Assad, other faculty win for Yo-Yo Ma, Mahler recordings

Faculty members and alumni of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music had a winning night at the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards on Jan. 31:

- Conservatory Chamber Choir Director Ragnar Bohlin won the Grammy for “**Best Choral Performance**” for his direction of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus on their recording of Mahler *Symphony No. 8*.
- **Mahler No. 8** also won for “**Best Classical Recording**,” which bestowed Grammy honors on more than 20 Conservatory faculty who are also members of the San Francisco Symphony, as well as recent vocal alumna Elza van den Heever, who was one of three featured soprano soloists in “The Symphony of a Thousand.”
- Guitar faculty member (and previous Latin Grammy winner) Sergio Assad performed on Yo-Yo Ma’s *Songs of Joy and Peace*, which won the Grammy for “**Best Classical Crossover Album**.”

- Though a fellow faculty member (Assad) took the top prize, Conservatory violin **alumna and Preparatory Division faculty member Alisa Rose** was nominated in the “**Best Classical Crossover**” category with **Quartet San Francisco** for their “**QSF Plays Brubeck.**” The album was also nominated in the “Best Engineered Album” category for classical music.
- Violinist and Conservatory **alumna Erin Benim’s string quartet, Quartet Rouge, performed live with Green Day** during the awards ceremony, showing off their **musical adaptation of *American Idiot*.**

About San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane, and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, many of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the “most enticing classical-music setting” in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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