

= Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance Vocal or Instrumental =

The Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance Vocal or Instrumental was an award presented at the 31st Grammy Awards in 1989 to honor quality hard rock / metal works ( albums or songs ) . The Grammy Awards , an annual ceremony that was established in 1958 and originally called the Gramophone Awards , are presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to " honor artistic achievement , technical proficiency and overall excellence in the recording industry , without regard to album sales or chart position . "

The Academy recognized hard rock music artists for the first time in 1989 with the category Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance Vocal or Instrumental , combining two of the most popular music genres of the 1980s. Metallica , who were expected to win the inaugural award for their album ... And Justice for All , lost to Jethro Tull whose album Crest of a Knave won instead . This choice led to widespread criticism of the Academy , as journalists suggested that Jethro Tull 's music did not belong in either the hard rock or heavy metal genres . In response , the Academy separated the genres creating the categories Best Hard Rock Performance and Best Metal Performance . This incident is often considered an example of the Grammy Awards being out of touch with popular sentiment , and was named the biggest upset in Grammy history by Entertainment Weekly .

In 2012 , the combined Hard Rock / Metal category returned following a major overhaul of Grammy Award categories . The separate Best Hard Rock Performance and Best Metal Performance categories were merged into the slightly renamed Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance category . However , in June 2013 , it was announced that the combined category was being discontinued in favor of reinstating Best Metal Performance . Beginning in 2014 , quality hard rock performances were recognized under the category Best Rock Performance .

= = Award = =

In 1988 , the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences added a Hard Rock / Metal Performance category for the 31st Grammy Awards . Nominated works for the award included Blow Up Your Video by AC / DC , " Cold Metal " by Iggy Pop ( from the album Instinct ) , Nothing 's Shocking by Jane 's Addiction , Crest of a Knave by Jethro Tull , and ... And Justice for All by Metallica . Jethro Tull 's lead singer Ian Anderson was surprised by the band 's nomination , as both Anderson and music critics did not consider the group 's music to be part of the heavy metal music genre .

Metallica 's performance at the ceremony , held in February 1989 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles , marked the first time a heavy metal group had performed during the Grammy Awards . Metallica was expected to win the award , and members of Jethro Tull were told by their record label Chrysalis Records not to bother attending the ceremony because they " weren 't likely to win . " However , Jethro Tull won the award ( recipients included members Ian Anderson , Martin Barre , and Dave Pegg ) , and when presenters Alice Cooper and Lita Ford announced the result , booing could be heard from the crowd . Anderson , who assumed that the band was being recognized for their twenty @-@ year history , as opposed to a single album , later stated that he was " lucky " not to have attended the ceremony , admitting that there was " no way [ he ] could have accepted [ the award ] under those circumstances . "

= = Controversy and aftermath = =

The result , considered an " embarrassment " for the Academy , generated much controversy . In response to the criticism they received over the award , Jethro Tull 's record label took out an advertisement in Billboard magazine with a picture of a flute ( part of their trademark sound ) lying amid a pile of iron rebars and the line , " The flute is a heavy , metal instrument ! " Metallica also added a sticker to subsequent releases of ... And Justice for All , reading : " Grammy Award LOSERS " .

Separate awards for Best Hard Rock Performance and Best Metal Performance were introduced in

1990 . Beginning that year , Metallica won three consecutive Grammy Awards for Best Metal Performance for the song " One " from ... And Justice for All , their cover of Queen 's " Stone Cold Crazy " , and their eponymous album in 1992 . When Metallica won the Grammy in 1992 , drummer Lars Ulrich referenced the previous award by facetiously " thanking " Jethro Tull for not putting out an album that year , though they actually had released the album Catfish Rising in 1991 . A decade after Jethro Tull defeated Metallica , Ulrich admitted : " I 'd be lying if I didn 't tell you I was disappointed . Human nature is that you 'd rather win than lose , but Jethro Tull walking away with it makes a huge mockery of the intentions of the event . " As of 2010 , Metallica holds the record for the most wins in the metal category , with a total of six .

This incident is often cited as an example of the Grammy Awards selection committee being out of touch with popular sentiment , and was named the biggest upset in Grammy history by Entertainment Weekly . Other publications that have included the Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance upset in their lists of top Grammy moments include Cracked.com ( number one ) , Time ( number ten ) , and the Ventura County Star ( number twenty ) .