



Dolby Laboratories and the Recording Academy Bring 45th Annual GRAMMY Awards to HDTV Viewers in Dolby Digital 5.1

New York, February 11, 2003--Dolby Laboratories is proud to announce that the 45th Annual GRAMMY® Awards will be broadcast live in Dolby® Digital 5.1 audio on February 23. Dolby engineers will be working closely with Recording Academy technical personnel on the transmission from Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"This is a perfect illustration of the Recording Academy's mission to spotlight both the art and the science of music and its makers," said Academy President Neil Portnow. "We have always taken into consideration how the music and performances of the GRAMMY Awards are being seen and heard, and now--thanks to the magic of Dolby Digital surround sound--we are able to give viewers a chance to truly feel the impact of the show and to experience the world's premier music event as if they were right there in Madison Square Garden."

The GRAMMY Awards technical staff comprises audio innovators who use the most current technology to enhance the show. Phil Ramone, chairman of the Recording Academy's Producers & Engineers Wing, and Hank Neuberger, advisory council member of the P&E Wing, will supervise the broadcast audio for the Recording Academy. Murray Allen will oversee for Cossette Productions. Music mixers include John Harris and Jay Vicari, the production mixer will be Ed Greene, and Randy Ezratty will be the 5.1 sound designer.

"The GRAMMY telecast is the most complex audio production in live entertainment television, with more than 800 audio inputs from more than 15 live performances that need to be balanced during the three-and-a-half-hour telecast," said Ramone, who is also credited as being a pioneer in the evolution of the 5.1 format.

During the GRAMMY telecast these 5.1 surround mixes will be balanced in a dedicated 5.1 control room and then delivered over fiber-optic cable for broadcast. Dolby Laboratories engineers will be on-site to provide assistance with the Dolby Digital 5.1 broadcast.

Several links in the transmission path, beginning at the show's Madison Square Garden production center, will use Dolby E to deliver the high-quality, multichannel digital audio program.

To accomplish this, Dolby E encoders and decoders will be present in the location production facilities, at the broadcast operations center, and at local digital television stations around the US. Local stations participating in this broadcast will use a Dolby E decoder and Dolby Digital encoder to convert the feed from Dolby E to Dolby Digital 5.1, its final transmission format.

Designed for use with existing broadcasting infrastructures, Dolby E carries up to eight channels of digital audio over a single AES pair. This allows the transmission of 5.1 and stereo programs over existing digital stereo channels within the broadcasting network until conversion to Dolby Digital for final transmission to the home. The consumer will never receive a Dolby E signal.

"Dolby is thrilled that the 45th Annual GRAMMY Awards will be broadcast in Dolby Digital 5.1," said Tom Daily, marketing director, professional products marketing, Dolby Laboratories. "The GRAMMY Awards is the perfect award show to highlight the all-encompassing impact that 5.1-channel surround sound brings to television viewers."

About the Recording Academy

Established in 1957, the Recording Academy is dedicated to improving the quality of life and cultural condition for music and its makers. An organization of 18,000 musicians, producers, and other recording professionals, the Recording Academy is internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards, and is responsible for numerous groundbreaking outreach, professional development, cultural enrichment, education, and human services programs. For more information, please visit www.grammy.com.

About Dolby Laboratories

Dolby Laboratories, the worldwide leader in sound innovation, creates technologies that enhance the entertainment experience, making it richer, fuller, and more involving. For almost four decades, Dolby has been instrumental in defining high-quality audio and surround sound in cinema, broadcast, home audio systems, cars, DVDs, headphones, games, televisions, and personal computers. Based in San Francisco with European headquarters in England, the privately held company has entertainment industry liaison offices in New York and Los Angeles and licensing liaison offices in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, and Tokyo. For more information about Dolby Laboratories or Dolby technologies, please visit www.dolby.com.

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