

# Watch this Louisville native on the new season of 'MasterChef'

**Kirby Adams, Louisville Courier Journal** Published 10:27 a.m. ET June 5, 2018



*(Photo: Provided by MasterChef)*

Get ready to cheer on this school teacher and Louisville native as he tests his mettle and kitchen skills as a competitor in season nine of Fox's popular "[MasterChef](https://www.fox.com/masterchef/)" series.

Gerron Hurt, a Fern Creek High School and Western Kentucky University graduate, said teaching high school English in Nashville, Tennessee, is a wonderful job but being a part of the "MasterChef" competition has reignited his passion for cooking.

Hurt returns to Louisville every couple of weeks to see family and when he does, he's the designated chef. But taking part in the nationally televised cooking show has raised the bar to a whole new level.

"My mother taught me to cook and after she passed away I became the one who cooks for my seven siblings and their families on holidays and for other gatherings," Hurt said. "They love my turkey and stuffing and Nashville hot chicken."

**You may like:** [Here's where 'Top Chef' hosts and judges have stopped in Louisville](/story/life/food/2018/05/24/top-chef-2018-kentucky-season-restaurants-louisville/638022002/)

But will the judges love this Louisvillian's food?

For the first time on "MasterChef," chefs Gordon Ramsay and Aarón Sánchez along with restaurateur Joe Bastianich will choose their favorite home cooks and mentor them throughout the competition.

In the season premiere, which airs 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, the nation's best home cooks travel to Los Angeles to compete for a spot in the Top 24.

That's when the twist kicks in — the judges each will have eight aprons to hand out to the home cooks whom they deem worthy — and they will then mentor those contestants throughout the competition.

As in all prior seasons, only one home cook will claim the MasterChef title and the \$250,000 grand prize.

**Read this:** [Big changes for Kentucky's 'MasterChef' finalist Brandi Mudd — year off of teaching, new business and a cruise](/story/entertainment/television/2017/07/26/big-changes-kentuckys-masterchef-finalist-brandi-mudd/509269001/)

Hurt's fiancée encouraged him to try out for the show when auditions were held in Nashville.

"I am so glad she talked me into it because it's been amazing so far," Hurt said. "Being able to cook with so many unusual ingredients and with such high-end kitchen equipment has been so much fun."

You may remember that another teacher from Kentucky had a successful run on "MasterChef."

[Brandi Mudd \(/story/entertainment/television/2017/07/26/big-changes-kentuckys-masterchef-finalist-brandi-mudd/509269001/\)](/story/entertainment/television/2017/07/26/big-changes-kentuckys-masterchef-finalist-brandi-mudd/509269001/), an elementary school teacher from Irvington, made it all the way into the finals on the show in 2016. She has since left the teaching profession and cooks full time. She was also a recent participant in the Courier Journal's Storyteller Project. Listen to her story [here \(/videos/news/local/storytellers/2018/05/17/storytellers-brandi-mudd-being-masterchef-finalist/34992389/\)](/videos/news/local/storytellers/2018/05/17/storytellers-brandi-mudd-being-masterchef-finalist/34992389/).

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