

Who pays for

music

at receptions, conventions, assemblies and fashion shows



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

who SOCAN is

ABOUT SOCAN

SOCAN is a member-owned collective representing the people who create the music that is such an important part of our lives. Our members number more than 85,000 Canadian songwriters, composers, lyricists and publishers. And through our affiliations, we represent hundreds of thousands of other creators and publishers around the world. For those who use music as part of their businesses or functions, SOCAN sells access to virtually the world's entire repertoire of copyright-protected music for public performance and telecommunication – based on fees set by Canada's Copyright Board.

More than 80% of all monies collected from fees makes its way into the pockets of the creators and publishers entitled to it.



WHO ACTUALLY PAYS?

SOCAN provides access to virtually the world's entire repertoire of copyright-protected music through our agreements with similar organizations around the globe. So if you're the operator of a venue using any music, live or recorded, you need a SOCAN performing rights licence. This includes hotels, halls, clubs – anywhere people gather for receptions, conventions, assemblies and fashion shows. To operators, this is a cost of doing business, just as electrical, water or telephone services. Fees vary, depending on whether dancing is included or not. Anyone renting the venue for functions may have their share of this cost passed along by the venue operator. Depending on their individual policies, some may choose to include music licensing fees as a separate item on their estimates, and some may simply include it as part of their rental fee.



WHY MUSIC ISN'T FREE

There's nothing new about this. Performing rights have existed in Canada for over 80 years. Of course, every single song or melody played at every public function was written, and published, by somebody. And those people are entitled to be paid for its use. Having their music used is part of how they earn their livelihood. As in any other business, they deserve to get paid for their work (no, it's not included in the price of a CD). This holds true for live and recorded music – even when played at private functions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How does this apply to me?

A: Every piece of music belongs to somebody. And these music creators and publishers are entitled to be paid when their music is played in public. Music enhances any event, whether there is dancing or not. It's as important to a gathering as the seating or refreshments. If you're paying for a function, it is certainly worth paying for the music.

Q: Is everyone paying this?

A: Everyone is obliged to pay their share. And SOCAN's job is to ensure that all public performances of music are licensed. As new types of businesses and venues using music emerge, we ensure that they're aware of their responsibilities and help them do the right thing.

Q: Why do I have to pay a licence fee for my private function?

A: The venue where you are holding your function is a public place. As with any other expense related to your function, it may be the venue's policy to pass a share of their licensing costs to you – either by rolling it into their estimate or by billing you for it as a separate item.

THE VALUE OF MUSIC

To truly appreciate the value music brings to your business – or your event – just imagine them without music. For more proof of music's contribution to business – and our lives – please go to www.socan.ca or see our brochure, "*Imagine your Business without Music!*" SOCAN helps to ensure that music creators and publishers keep on bringing us the music that so enriches our lives. Venue-operators pay for the use of music in their businesses. Those renting the venue may be asked to pay their share of the venue's costs. And the creators and publishers of the music receive the monies they're entitled to. All as it should be.

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what's right for music
la musique a ses droits