

“If It Feels Good, Do it!” – Music, Your Business & SOCAN

Music is one of the truly universal things that make people all over the world feel good. It also sells ideas, services and products. The value of music to business owners is obvious and, in some cases, integral to their success. Imagine a dance club or an aerobics program without music. In restaurants, music helps create the desired atmosphere. At hockey games and other sporting events, songs are used to pump up the crowd and the home team. When music is performed or communicated to the public, the people who write and publish these songs must be compensated for it. In Canada, the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) is the organization that makes sure businesses acquire the correct licence when music is publicly performed.

“SOCAN is an important association in supporting the development of Canadian writers and publishers. ABLE recognizes SOCAN's role in assisting this talent, and works on behalf of our members to keep their fees reasonable to ensure the viability of our businesses.” (Al McCreary, Director, ABLE BC)

SOCAN provides music users, or licensees, with a “one-stop-shop.” For the applicable licence fee, we offer access to virtually the world’s entire repertoire of copyright-protected music. We also support many associations across Canada by holding memberships in them, through education outreach initiatives, by attending trade shows and undertaking sponsorships. As well, SOCAN is a not-for-profit organization, and more than 86% of all monies collected from SOCAN licensees are distributed back to the songwriters and publishers who are entitled to it.

"Many people don't realize that SOCAN is a not-for-profit organization owned and controlled by the actual songwriters and publishers. We receive money when our songs are played during live performances, on the radio and TV, but I know people also enjoy dancing and listening to music while eating and socializing so collecting money for that is equally important. We love to be able to make music for a living and part of that is continuing to write great songs. SOCAN actually gets us paid for working! Now who doesn't want that and think it's fair?!" (Jacob Hoggard, lead singer, Hedley)

SOCAN helps music creators – songwriters, composers, lyricists and their publishers, as well as members of affiliated international performing rights organizations throughout the world – by licensing access to their music based on licence fees set out by the Copyright Board of Canada, in tariffs published in the Canada Gazette. By paying their licence fees, SOCAN licensees also have a hand in the success of SOCAN members, and the members of our affiliated PROs worldwide.

“I am attached to SOCAN for survival. No matter what goes wrong within the industry, SOCAN is right there every three months with my performing rights cheque. For many years, the March SOCAN cheque was how I paid my income tax. The assistance they've given me over the years has been invaluable. SOCAN is there for the new up-and-coming writer as well as the established ones. I am proud to be a member of SOCAN.” (Randy Bachman, founder of the Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive)

In the end, not only does music bring value to business, but securing a licence is the right thing to do... so, if it feels good, do it! Obtain the appropriate SOCAN licence(s) for your business and know you play a part in supporting the music creators of the world.

For full details on SOCAN and our tariffs, visit www.socan.ca or give us a call at our toll free numbers. For new licensees, please call 1-866-944-6210, and for existing licensees' queries, please call 1-866-944-6223.