



A division of the Canadian Independent Music Association (CIMA)

Grants and funding for Canadian Artists and Organizations

Canada Council for the Arts

Offers a broad range of grants and services to professional Canadian artists and art organizations in dance, literature, dramatic and performance art, music and visual arts. The purpose for the Canada Council for the Arts is to help foster and promote Canadian artists and art. The Council has multiple grants that apply to touring, production, composing, choirs, operas and conductors as well grants dedicated towards aboriginal music programs.

The full list of grant programs and eligibility are located [here](#).

Canadian Heritage – Canada Music Fund aka MEC and FACTOR

Canadian Heritage provides a wide range of grants and services to Canadian artists and organizations to help promote Canadian content. There are two main sources funding that artists and business can apply to, the first is FACTOR and the second, MEC.

[FACTOR](#) is a private non-profit organization, FACTOR is dedicated to providing assistance toward the growth and development of the Canadian music industry. The foundation administers contributions from private radio broadcasters as well as two components of the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada Music Fund. FACTOR has been managing federal funds since the inception of the Sound Recording Development Program in 1986 (now known as the Canada Music Fund).

Support is provided to Canadian recording artists, songwriters, managers, labels, publishers, event producers and distributors through various programs. Whether an artist is looking to record a demo, full length sound recording, market and promote an already existing album or showcase and tour domestically and internationally, funding is available. FACTOR supports many facets of the infrastructure which must be in place in order for artists and music entrepreneurs to progress into the international arena.



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Deadlines for FACTOR programs vary and many are rolling deadlines.

[MEC](#) is The Music Entrepreneur Component and is one of four components of the Canada Music Fund. The MEC program is administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

MEC is comprised of three sub-components:

- [The MEC – Aid to Canadian Sound Recording Firms](#) is intended to support the ongoing production and promotion of Canadian sound recordings.
- [The MEC – Aid to Canadian Music Publishing Firms](#) is intended to strengthen music publishing firms' ability to develop Canadian songwriters and
- [The MEC – Aid to Canadian Music Industry National Service Organizations](#) is intended to increase collective promotional activities for Canadian artists and music content, as well as services to the Canadian music industry.

Updated application forms and deadlines are listed directly on the MEC website.

[Ontario Arts Council](#)

The Ontario Arts Council's primary mandate is to help develop the creation and production of art in Ontario. The OAC has over 50 different programs for Ontario-based artists and organization. The OAC offers prizes, awards and grants to Ontario based artists to help develop their projects. Funding for these programs are from private funds managed by the OAC.

There are two grant programs that [popular musicians/artist](#) can apply for:

- **Category 1 Grants** provide support to individuals, bands and collectives who are creating new songs intended for publication, performance or recording, or who want to produce a project, demo or home recording of new songs. No budget is required with your application.



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- **Category 2 Grants** support individuals, bands and collectives who are creating new professional full-length audio recordings. Grants can cover costs of producing, recording, mixing, editing, mastering, designing, packaging and manufacturing up to 1,000 units. You must submit a detailed budget with your application.

The OAC also provides different [touring programs](#) for Ontario artist. Funding from these programs can help artists with traveling costs and production while on the road.

[Ontario Media Development Corporation](#)

The Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC) is an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. The OMDC promotes, enhances and leverages investment, jobs, and original content creation in Canadian cultural media. The OMDC does this by working to contribute to expanding new business projects, develop relationships between private and public sector entities and assists in the administration of provincial tax credit programs.

The OMDC acts as a leading force in research and technological development that has a direct impact on Canadian cultural media. The OMDC strives to promote and market Ontario's cultural media industry as a world class leader.

The OMDC also provides funding to Canadian artists and/or business when partnering with established trade and event organizations to offer initiatives, events and activities that stimulate the growth of the cultural media industries.

Guidelines to qualifying for OMDC funding can be found [here](#).

[The Radio StarMaker Fund](#)

The Radio Starmaker Fund was created in the fall of 2000 on the initiative of the [Canadian Association of Broadcasters](#) and approved by the CRTC. It is a private fund which has as its stated purpose to "make a substantial and discernable



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difference to the careers of Canadian artists" by providing substantial incremental investment where the artist has established a proven track record and his or her label is making a **Significant Investment** in their future career.

Important to understand -

The Radio StarMaker is a fund that supports established artists and/or record labels with a proven history of media success and record sales who are now looking for further development.

The eligibility requirements are [here](#).

[MuchFACT](#)

The MuchFACT funding program was created during the launch of MuchMusic in the 1980's. The fund is now composed from a percentage of Much and M3's gross annual revenues. Applications are considered six times per year.

The fund considers application for:

- [Viral videos](#) (considerd viral small-budget music videos) as well any music related online content.
- Co-financing for [music videos](#) and music related content.
- [Electronic Press Kit](#) and [website production](#) for artists, indie labels and management companies.

[Toronto Arts Council \(TAC\)](#)

The Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto's funding organization for artist and art organizations. Developed in 1974, TAC has and continues to play a major role in the city's cultural industries by supporting a broad range of artists and the arts. From emerging independent artists to established professionals. TAC provides grants to a wide range of artists endeavours including the development of popular music.



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Two TAC grants that popular music qualifies for are:

Organizations and collectives – Projects (all music genres)

- February 3 & August 1, 2015

Individual artists – [Music Creation & Audio Recording](#)

[Canadian Independent Recording Artists Association \(CIRAA\)](#)

The Canadian Independent Recording Artist Association (CIRAA) is a valuable resource for Canadian artists. The CIRAA is a program designed to help improve Canadian artists by developing their talent through education, opportunity and support. Its membership is free and provides access to multiple programs such as The New Indie (a podcast turned online resource centre), The CIRAA Mentorship Program and The Groundbreaker Grant.

The Mentorship program offers upcoming artists a chance to interact with industry professionals and to learn from the best in the business.

The Groundbreaker Grant is a micro grant system that awards independent artists funding for their live performances. Members can receive \$100.00/month from the grant program.

[SOCAN](#)

What is SOCAN and why is it important if you're an artist?

SOCAN (the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Canadian performing rights of millions of Canadian and international music creators and publishers.

Through licenses, SOCAN gives businesses that use music the freedom to use any music they want, legally and ethically. SOCAN licenses more than 125,000 businesses coast to coast and distributes royalties to its members and peer organizations around the world.



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SOCAN also distributes royalties to its members for the use of Canadian music around the world in collaboration with its peer societies. SOCAN also advocates on behalf of their members to ensure that copyright law is respected and that creators are appropriately compensated for the use of their work.

What this means for you –

By becoming a member of SOCAN you can receive royalties from your live performances or from the use of your music by other artists or businesses.

Royalties are distributed to SOCAN members on a quarterly basis; Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15, and Nov. 15. Generally, members can expect to receive payment seven to ten months after their performances within Canada and longer for international performances.

SOCAN collects royalties for many different kinds of performances and uses such as:

- Internet
- Concerts
- Radio
- Satellite Radio
- Television and Cable
- Cinema
- Ringtones
- International
- Private Copying

SOCAN also supports artists with their own [grants and funding programs](#). There are three main categories for the programs - Concert Music, Popular Music and Annual Operations.



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See below:

- **Popular Music:** activities involving Canadian songwriters, lyricists and music publishers, focusing on popular music (eg. jazz, folk, world, hip-hop, blues or roots music).
- **Concert Music:** activities involving Canadian composers and music publishers, focusing on concert music.
- **Annual Operations:** Grants are provided to Canadian, national, not-for-profit associations or organizations representing songwriters, composers, lyricists or music publishers, to support core activities, as distinct from project funding. Applicants must have an established history within the Canadian music community, or have received substantial project funding from the SOCAN Foundation.

Important to understand -

SOCAN provides licenses for music at events, live music, websites, mobile devices, business environment and broadcast. If you plan to use music in any of these settings you must apply for a license to use the music and pay the appropriate fee. Licenses and fee calculators can be found [here](#).

Organizations that Support Artists and Businesses

Music Canada

Music Canada is a non-profit trade organization founded in 1964 that promotes the interests of its members as well as their partners, the artists. It's members are engaged in all aspects of the recording industry, including the manufacture, production, promotion and distribution of music. Music Canada member companies actively develop and nurture Canadian talent throughout the world.



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Music Canada also works closely with recording studios, live music venues, concert promoters and managers in the promotion and development of the music cluster.

Music Canada works in a variety of methods to help promote Canadian artists and music such as:

- administers the gold/platinum awards program for best selling recordings in Canada.
- gathers and shares technical, statistical and other information about Canada's music community.
- seeks to develop a greater understanding of Canada's recording industry among key stakeholders and the general public.
- represents Canada's recording industry to government and public agencies on legislative and regulatory matters.
- works with other industry organizations to help curtail piracy and counterfeiting, and to build a legitimate music market in Canada.
- promotes the growth and development of legal digital music services in Canada.
- develops and promotes high ethical standards in the creation, manufacture and marketing of sound recordings.
- represents the Canadian recording industry to its international counterparts as a member of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI);
- participates in charity events and educational projects on behalf of the industry;
- participates in industry-wide initiatives to promote music; and,
- works with organizations representing music publishers, musicians, artists, retailers of music and musical instruments,
- and broadcasters as well as like minded organizations in film, television, digital gaming, book publishing and business
- on issues of common interest.



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[Canadian Independent Music Association \(CIMA\)](#)

CIMA is the not-for-profit national trade association representing the English-language, Canadian-owned sector of the music industry. CIMA's membership consists of Canadian-owned companies and representatives of Canadian-owned companies involved in every aspect of the music, sound recording and music-related industries. They are exclusively small businesses which include: record producers, record labels, recording studios, managers, agents, licensors, music video producers and directors, creative content owners, artists and others professionally involved in the sound recording and music video industries.

CIMA's mandate is to develop and advocate policies and services that serve to support a strong and economically stable Canadian independent music and sound recording industry, ensuring the long-term development of the sector and to raise the profile of Canadian independent music both in Canada and around the world.

CIMA continues to take a leadership role in improving the economic viability and well-being of the independent music and sound recording sector in important areas such as cultural industry policies and programs; intellectual property and copyright law; tax laws and tariffs; international export and trade development programs; and professional development.

[American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada](#)

AND

[Toronto Musicians Association](#)

The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada is dedicated to helping its member succeed. It is the largest organization in the world representing the interest of professional musicians. Whether it be negotiating fair agreements, protecting music ownership or securing health



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benefits. The AFM is dedicated to maintaining and raising industry standard for their members.

The Toronto Musicians' Association, Local 149 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM) is a member driven association of 3,500 members, the Toronto Musicians' Association represents professional musicians in all facets of music in the greater Toronto area. Dedicated to the development of musical talent and skills the Toronto Musicians' Association has for the past 100 years fostered the opportunity through the collective efforts of our members for professional musicians to live and work in dignity.

The TMA offers their members such benefits as access to working visas in the USA, equipment insurance, health and dental benefits, legal advice, resource centre and networking opportunities.

Additional membership information can be found [here](#).

There are 13 branches of the AFM in Ontario alone! [Here](#) is a list for all 13 locations.

[Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency \(CMRRA\)](#)

Founded in 1975, the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency Ltd is a music licensing collective representing music rights-holders who range in size from large multinational music publishers to individual songwriters. Together, they own or administer the vast majority of songs recorded, sold and broadcast in Canada. On their behalf, CMRRA issues licences to individuals or organizations for the reproduction of songs on various media, a list of which appears below.

Licensees pay royalties to CMRRA who, in turn, distribute to the publisher clients. The royalty rates are determined pursuant to negotiated agreements or tariffs certified by the Copyright Board of Canada.



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CMRRA offers the following licensing and royalty collection services:

- Mechanical licensing, for the reproduction of songs on CDs, cassettes and similar “sound carrier” products
- Online music licensing, for the reproduction of songs for distribution as permanent downloads (e.g., via iTunes), limited downloads, on-demand streaming and webcasting
- Broadcast mechanical licensing, for the reproduction of songs by radio stations and satellite broadcasters
- Private copying, for the collection of the private copying levy via the [Canadian Private Copying Collective \(CPCC\)](#).

Know your rights as an Artist

[Copyright Board of Canada](#)

The Board is an economic regulatory body empowered to establish, either mandatorily or at the request of an interested party, the royalties to be paid for the use of copyrighted works, when the administration of such copyright is entrusted to a collective-administration society. The Board also has the right to supervise agreements between users and licensing bodies and issues licences when the copyright owner cannot be located.

[The Canadian Private Copying Collective \(CPCC\)](#)

Established in 1999, the Canadian Private Copying Collective (CPCC) is an umbrella organization whose member collectives represent the songwriters, recording artists, music publishers and record companies. The CPCC is a non-profit organization responsible for collecting and distributing private copying levies on behalf of its members. Essentially the CPCC was created to receive and redistribute private copying tariff revenues.



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What the CPCC does:

- Collects the private copying levies
- Enforces the private copying tariff
- Distributes the private copying levies
- advocates on behalf its members

[CSI \(CMRRA-SODRAQ INC\)](#)

CSI is a joint venture of the Canadian Musical Reproduction Rights Agency and the Society for Reproduction Rights of Authors, Composers, and Publishers in Canada (SODRAC). CSI licenses the reproduction rights in the joint repertoire of CMRRA and SODRAC to various music users, including radio stations, online music services and background music. CSI's role is to provide a convenient one-stop licensing shop to access a worldwide music repertoire for in Canada. CSI licenses its repertoire by way of tariffs certified by the Copyright Board of Canada or by way of privately negotiated agreements.

[Re:Sound](#)

Re:Sound is the Canadian not-for-profit music listening company dedicated to obtaining for compensation for artists and record companies for their performance rights in Canada. On behalf of its members, for signing Re:Sound licenses recorded music for public performances, broadcast and new media.

They accomplish this by filing Tariffs before the Copyright Board of Canada on their behalf, contacting and granting licenses to all Canadian broadcasters, music users and suppliers, as well as collaborating with similar organizations.

Re:Sound is a member of the Canadian Private Copying Collective and receives revenues from the CPCC for those artists and record companies it represents and distributes those revenues to eligible artists and record companies.



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Re: sound is also a member of the Canadian Private Copying Collective, created to receive private copying levies from the manufacturers and importers of blank audio recording media.

For example Re:Sound represents performers from:

- [MROC](#)
- [ACTRA](#)
- [ARTISI](#)
- Connect

If you are a record company or an artist that owns your own recording you may be entitled to royalties from Re:Sound.

[Musician's Rights Organization Canada \(MROC\)](#)

MROC is a Canadian federally incorporated not-for-profit entity whose primary objective is to collect and distribute royalties to musicians and vocalists whom have assigned MROC their rights.

MROC distributes the performers share of Neighbouring Rights and Private Copying Royalties. These royalties primarily flow from the broadcast and public performance of their sound recordings are based on various tariffs approved by the Copyright Board of Canada.

Current distribution rules, background musicians and vocalist share 20% of the total royalties allocated to the recording. The remaining 80% goes to the "featured" performers/artists.

MROC applies an administration fee 15% to cover operating costs.

Important for the Artist -

You still need to be a member of SOCAN as MROC only distributes for the performance. SOCAN distributes to the copyright holder.



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[ACTRA/RACS](#)

ACTRA is the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists. It is the union of more than 22,000 professional performers working in English-language recorded media in Canada including TV, film, radio and digital media. They are actors, recording artists, comedians, announcers, stunt co-ordinators & performers, dancers, narrators, voice performers, hosts, choreographers, models, singers, background performers, puppeteers and more.

RAC is the Recording Artists' Collecting Society and is a division of ACTRA that collects and distributes equitable remuneration (neighbouring rights and private copying) to eligible recording artists. For many years, Canadian songwriters have received royalties from the broadcast or public performance of their songs. These royalties are collected by SOCAN. In 1997, the *Copyright Act of Canada* was amended to acknowledge the essential contribution of recording artists and record companies in the creation of recorded music and to add a right to equitable remuneration which is in line with similar rights in the rest of the world. At RACS, it is our responsibility to put these monies into the hands of recording artists.

[CONNECT Music Licensing](#)

CONNECT music licensing administers licences in Canada for the reproduction of sound recordings, and the reproduction and broadcast of music videos on behalf of the copyright owners (usually the record companies). A licence from CONNECT music licensing ensures that owners receive compensation for the use of their sound recordings and/or music videos.

In Canada, their members consist of all the major record companies, many of the independent labels, as well as artists and producers. Their members own or control the vast majority of the copyright of all the sound recordings and music videos produced and/or distributed in Canada.

Any group or individual making copies of sound recordings, music videos, exhibiting or broadcasting a music video(s) will require an authorization from the copyright holder, or from CONNECT music licensing (as their appointed



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agent). Without this permission, you could be subject to legal prosecution for copyright infringement.

CONNECT music licensing also distributes royalties to its members for the communication, public performance or private copying of their eligible sound recordings.

Reproduction Rights with Connect -

To broadcast your sound recording and/or music video, users (radio & TV stations) must first reproduce these works. The reproduction right allows you to receive royalties for when your sound recording and/or music videos are reproduced. CONNECT has licensing deals with business to business users who reproduce sound recordings for use in stores for other commercial uses.

Definition of Rights

Performance Rights

Whenever a song is performed in public there is a right, which must be paid to the owner of the song's copyright. Public performances include broadcast and internet transmission, cable TV, concerts, nightclubs, restaurants and sporting events. These rights are collected and distributed by [SOCAN](#).

Mechanical Rights

Mechanical royalties are paid to the songwriter or publisher by the record label or any other party that is physically reproducing their songs and then selling them for profit. Mechanical royalties in Canada are calculated at a fixed rate per song. In Canada, the Canadian Music Reproduction Rights Agency (CMRRA) and Societe du droit de reproduction des auteurs, compositeurs, et editeurs du Canada Inc. (SODRAC) negotiate the mechanical rates payable by the record labels with [Music Canada](#) and the Association quebecoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la video ([ADISQ](#)). These societies represent the record



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industry on behalf of their members. These societies collect on behalf of their members.

Synchronization Rights

Synch rights are the fees paid in exchange for the right to synchronize music with moving pictures (film, television shows, radio and commercials, etc). This includes music used in the soundtrack album. Synch rights are negotiated between the copyright owner and the producer of the film or show. The revenues are then given to the songwriter through the publisher.

Neighbouring Rights

In 1997 the Copyright Act of Canada was amended to add a neighbouring rights in the creation of recorded music - this includes vocalists, background musicians and record companies.

Neighbouring Rights is the extending copyright protection for published sound recordings to performers and record companies. This entitles them to receive royalty payment for the public performance or communication to the public of their recordings in Canada. Primarily, this is applicable to when a song is used by broadcasters for radio or television.

What this means for you - Copyright protects the composer of a song whereas Neighbouring Rights protects the performer of the song.