



What is ASCAP?

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is a performing rights organization (PRO) that collects and distributes royalties for public performances of your music. Founded in 1914, ASCAP represents over 900,000 songwriters, composers, and music publishers.

Why Join ASCAP?

Royalty Collection

- **Performance Royalties:** Collect money when your music is played on radio, TV, streaming services, restaurants, bars, concerts, and other public venues
- **Digital Royalties:** Earn from Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, YouTube, and other digital platforms
- **International Collection:** ASCAP has agreements with PROs worldwide to collect your royalties globally

Benefits & Services

- **ASCAP Plus Awards:** Additional payments for writers of works with unique prestige value
- **Health Insurance Options:** Access to group health insurance plans
- **Career Development:** Workshops, showcases, and networking events
- **Legal Support:** Assistance with music business legal issues
- **Industry Discounts:** Savings on music software, equipment, and services

Who Should Join?

Writers (Songwriter/Composer Membership)

- Songwriters who write lyrics
- Composers who write music
- Anyone who creates original musical works

Publishers (Publisher Membership)

- Music publishers who own or administer musical works
- Self-published songwriters who want to publish their own works
- Companies that exploit musical compositions

Membership Costs

- **Writer Membership:** \$50 one-time fee
- **Publisher Membership:** \$50 one-time fee
- **No annual dues or ongoing fees**

What You Need to Sign Up

Required Information

- Personal/business contact information
- Social Security Number or Tax ID
- Bank account information for direct deposit

Documentation

- Government-issued photo ID
- Proof of citizenship or work authorization (if applicable)
- Business registration documents (for publisher membership)

Sign-Up Process

Online Application

1. Visit **ascap.com/join**
2. Choose Writer or Publisher membership
3. Complete the online application
4. Upload required documents
5. Pay the \$50 membership fee
6. Submit application for review

Application Review

- ASCAP reviews applications within 2-4 weeks
- You'll receive membership materials and welcome packet
- Begin registering your songs immediately upon approval

After You Join

Register Your Works

- Log into ASCAP's Member Access portal
- Register each song with title, writers, publishers, and percentages
- Include recording and publishing information when available

Start Collecting Royalties

- ASCAP distributes royalties quarterly
- Direct deposit available for payments over \$1
- Payments under \$1 accumulate until they reach the minimum

Stay Connected

- Update your contact and banking information as needed
- Attend ASCAP events and workshops
- Use ASCAP's resources for career development

Important Notes

Exclusivity

- ASCAP membership is exclusive - you cannot belong to multiple PROs simultaneously
- You can switch to another PRO, but there are waiting periods and procedures

International Writers

- Non-U.S. writers can join if they have works commercially released or performed in the U.S.
- Additional documentation may be required

Publisher Considerations

- You need separate writer AND publisher memberships to collect both shares
- Publisher membership allows you to collect the publisher's share of performance royalties

Visit ascap.com/join or call 1-800-95-ASCAP

Questions? Contact ASCAP Member Services at memberservices@ascap.com