

**BMI**

# **MUSIC MATTERS**

## **TO YOUR CUSTOMERS**

SAVE UP TO **10% OFF**  
YOUR BMI LICENSE FEES!

**5%**

**For being an  
association  
member\***

**For association  
members\*\* who  
license & pay online**

**5%**

\* Available to members licensed as Eating & Drinking Establishments

\*\* Additional savings may apply

**(888) 689-5264**

**business@bmi.com**

**bmi.com/ede**

## **WHAT IS BMI? WHAT SERVICE DOES BMI PROVIDE?**

BMI is an American performing rights organization (PRO) which has been in operation since 1939. It collects licensing fees from businesses that use music and distributes them as royalties to the songwriters and music publishers whose music they represent. A BMI music license not only provides your business with legal access to the world's largest catalog of music, it also ensures you're in compliance with federal copyright law, which requires businesses to obtain permission from copyright owners before publicly performing their music.

## **WHAT ARE THE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BUSINESSES USING MUSIC?**

Under federal copyright law, when music is used in any business, whether it's on TV or radio, streamed, or performed by a live band, DJ or karaoke, the business must obtain permission from the copyright owner. In almost all cases, that permission comes in the form of a music license from performing rights organizations.

## **HOW MUCH IS A LICENSE AND HOW ARE THOSE FEES DETERMINED?**

Fees for restaurants, bars, clubs, breweries & wineries are determined by the establishment's occupancy (as determined by the local fire marshal) and the type and frequency of music used.

## **I ALREADY HAVE A LICENSE WITH ANOTHER PERFORMING RIGHTS ORGANIZATION. WHY DO I NEED A BMI LICENSE?**

In the United States, different PROs represent different songwriters and license separate catalogs of music. A music license with another PRO only allows you to perform music represented by that organization. It does not cover public performances of music licensed by BMI, which is the largest music catalog in the world. To ensure you are legally covered for BMI music that's performed at your business, you need a BMI license.

## **DO I NEED A BMI LICENSE IF I STREAM MUSIC FROM MY PERSONAL ACCOUNT?**

Although your digital music subscription gives you access to a vast catalog of music, it does not provide the necessary permission to play that music in a business setting. Once you decide to play any music publicly, you need permission from the copyright owners.

## **DO I NEED A BMI LICENSE IF THE MUSICIANS THAT PERFORM AT MY BUSINESS PLAY ORIGINAL MUSIC?**

Yes. When musicians you hire play their own music, that doesn't mean they're not affiliated with BMI or have not co-written what's being performed with another BMI affiliate. It is also nearly impossible to monitor all the songs that musicians play. A BMI license ensures that any music performed at your business which might be part of BMI's catalog is legally covered. As a BMI licensee, BMI songwriters who perform in your business are eligible to receive royalties for those performances when they enroll at BMI Live.

## **DO I NEED A LICENSE FOR TV AND RADIO USE?**

There are certain exemptions for tv & radio use outlined in the copyright law which are based on the size of your business, how many TVs you have in each room, their screen size, how many speakers you have, and if you charge a cover.

Contact BMI at **(888) 689-5264** to discuss your situation.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT [BMI.COM](http://BMI.COM)**