

6 sign-ups to get paid.

Each one pays you only if you, or someone collecting for you, signed up.

6 sign-ups to get paid.

☐ **A distributor**

Streams, YouTube Content ID, social video

☐ **SoundExchange**

As the artist, and as the master owner if you own your recordings. Free.

☐ **A PRO (performing rights organization)**

ASCAP or BMI for most independent writers

☐ **The MLC**

If no publisher or admin collects for you

☐ **A publishing administrator (admin)**

Your songwriting money worldwide, YouTube and social video

☐ **Neighboring rights**

Your recording played on radio and TV outside the US

Sources

US Copyright Office, Circular 56A

<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ56a.pdf>

17 U.S.C. 114 (Cornell LII)

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/114>

SoundExchange: for artists, labels and producers

<https://www.soundexchange.com/what-we-do/for-artists-labels-and-producers/>

SoundExchange: register

<https://www.soundexchange.com/register/>

SoundExchange: for digital service providers

<https://www.soundexchange.com/what-we-do/for-digital-service-providers/>

SoundExchange: international partners

<https://www.soundexchange.com/international-partners/>

Sources

PPL: what performances are eligible

<https://www.ppluk.com/help-centre/faq/what-performances-are-eligible-for-ppl-royalties/>

YouTube Help: content eligible for Content ID

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2605065>

YouTube Help: how Content ID works

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2797370>

YouTube Help: music asset types

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2822002>

YouTube Help: Shorts monetization

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/12504220>

Songtrust: how music creators get paid by TikTok

<https://blog.songtrust.com/how-do-music-creators-get-paid-by-tiktok>

Sources

ONErpm blog: the power of micro-synchronizations

<https://blog.onerpm.com/onepublishing/the-power-of-micro-synchronizations/>

ASCAP: my ASCAP membership

<https://www.ascap.com/help/my-ascap-membership>

ASCAP: licensing

<https://www.ascap.com/help/ascap-licensing>

SESAC: how do I become an affiliate

<https://www.sesac.com/faq/how-do-i-become-a-sesac-affiliate/>

17 U.S.C. 115 (Cornell LII)

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/115>

The MLC

<https://www.themlc.com/>

The MLC: should I join as a writer or a publisher

<https://blog.themlc.com/resources/should-i-join-the-mlc-as-a-writer-or-as-a-publisher>

Sources

Music Business Worldwide: NMPA TikTok deal ended

<https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/the-nmpas-tiktok-deal-has-officially-ended-what-does-that-mean-for-independent-publishers-in-the-us>

LyricFind: publishers

<https://www.lyricfind.com/publishing/publishers>

Songtrust Help Center: what are printed music royalties

<https://help.songtrust.com/knowledge/what-are-printed-music-royalties>

CD Baby help: How Facebook and Instagram monetization works (updated 2026-07-30)

<https://support.cdbaby.com/hc/en-us/articles/360002633912-How-Facebook-and-Instagram-monetization-works>

Spotify Loud and Clear FAQ

<https://loudandclear.byspotify.com/faq/>

Sources

TuneCore help: why affiliate as a writer with a PRO

<https://support.tunecore.com/hc/en-us/articles/115006503067-Why-do-I-need-to-be-affiliated-as-a-writer-with-a-Performing-Rights-Organization-PRO-Performing-Rights-Society>

CD Baby help: how much does CD Baby cost (updated 2026-09-01)

<https://support.cdbaby.com/hc/en-us/articles/213125406-How-much-does-CD-Baby-cost>

Songtrust help: can Songtrust collect my YouTube royalties

<https://help.songtrust.com/knowledge/can-songtrust-collect-my-youtube-royalties>

The MLC Lawyer Toolkit V4.0 (PDF, read 2026-10-21)

<https://themlc.com/hubfs/Website/The%20MLC%20Lawyer%20Toolkit%20-%20V4.0.pdf>
