

Turning Down the Pink Noise

Clarifying the roles of SOCAN and Re:Sound in Canadian Theatre production

Definitions

Blanket Licence – a globally employed means of collective licensing where a performance rights organization will collect a licensing fee from a business or company. In exchange the user is free to play any music they like from whatever source they choose.

Composer – a person who writes music. (Lyrics, Music, Melody)

Label – a company that will have varying levels of involvement with artists, performers, composers and recordings. They may also act as managers, publishers, promoters. They have a monetary stake in the success of artists, composers and sound recordings.

Maker – a broad term Re:Sound uses to define someone involved with the creation of a sound recording. The maker is someone who owns a portion or all of the master recording of a song.

Master Rights – a portion of the neighboring rights dealing specifically with the owner(s) of the master recording

Mechanical Rights – a right that has to be paid to the songwriters in order to record their song. This type of right is actually administered by the CMRRA in Canada. Ex. if I want to record a song for my album written by Gordon Lightfoot, I would have to pay him a mechanical right depending on how many copies of the album I wanted to create.

Neighboring Rights – the rights of performers and master recording owners where their recordings are being publicly performed or broadcast.

Performing Rights – the right to perform musical works in public or to communicate them to the public by telecommunication. SOCAN's members have assigned this right to SOCAN to administer (i.e., collect and distribute royalties) on their behalf. Tariffs for performing rights are set by the Copyright Board of Canada. SOCAN fees generally work out to mere fractions of a penny per song.

Publisher – responsible for ensuring the songwriters and composers receive payment when their compositions are used commercially. They also secure commissions for music and promote existing compositions to recording artists, film and television.

Synchronization Licence – a licence fee granted by the composer allowing the user to synchronize their music with some form of visual media (film, TV, commercials, video games etc.)

Tariff – a government fixed charge on a particular product. In Copyright Legislation it is the rate assigned to the use of recorded and/or live music by an organization