

# **Musicians Working Abroad**

Industry Report | March 2020

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Artist Management Services.



## **Musicians Working Abroad**

Have you been given the opportunity to work or tour abroad? As a musician possibly embarking on their first work engagement outside of their home country, it can undoubtedly be a little daunting. Here you will find practical advice and time-saving tips for how you might go about preparing for your exciting new opportunity. If you are an Artist Management Services client and you find any information in this guide confusing, or if you require additional assistance from us, do not hesitate to contact us directly. We are more than happy to offer support in any way we can.

### **Equipment insurance**

It's important to ensure that any equipment you take abroad with you is adequately insured to guard you against theft or damage. We would also recommend that any membership you have with any musician's union is up to date, as often they will offer you additional cover for your gear, but also yourself. It is also strongly recommended that you have a record of your Electrical Safety Certificates for all the equipment that you are planning to take with you, as venues are well within their rights to request these before letting you plug anything in.

### **Tour Management**

If the nature of your work abroad consists mainly of performing, it may make sense logistically to look at using the services of a tour manager. It is their job to make travel arrangements and alleviate many of the logistical stress that usually comes with taking music acts on tours abroad. Yes, this will mean additional costs (which can be considerable for a reputable tour manager), but the gains can be considerable.



### **Written contracts**

Whatever work you are undertaking, whether it be a tour or work in a studio, should be detailed in a written contract which you should have a hard copy of. We would also suggest having this checked over by a union (if you are part of one) or another qualified legal team. Hopefully your work abroad will go ahead without a hitch, but if disputes do occur, it is always easier to resolve them if all parties are in possession of a clear, pre-agreed contract.

### **Fees and Payment**

Your work should be charged at a similar rate to if the work was carried out in the UK. Ideally, ask for a percentage of your fee to be paid in advance, and the rest to be paid at the times set out in your contract.



## Expenses

If you have an expenses policy agreed with your employer, again it is advisable to have this pre-paid to you so that all your tickets to travel are in your possession before you leave. It is likely that you will be asked to keep your receipts, so try and have a safe place to store these so you can provide them to your employer at the appropriate time.

## Accommodation

It is usually the case that your employer or the promoter will arrange your accommodation for you. If this consists of bed and breakfast, an additional subsistence payment should be paid to each musician.

## Medical Needs

Your health and welfare should be your priority whenever you are travelling for work, even as a musician. It is important to be prepared.

Therefore, please ensure that you are covered for medical treatment and legal expenses. The NHS website for details of the healthcare available overseas is good information for you to read before you leave. You should also choose medical cover that is comprehensive; try not to be tempted by the cheapest option available and purchase insurance that you can rely on.





## Public Performance Levies

The following information is particularly pertinent for artists looking to play their own music outside of the UK. As you will know, in the UK, when you perform your songs in a professional capacity, you can be paid a royalty through PRS for Music, if you are a member. As a member, PRS for Music can be hugely helpful in seeing that you are paid any royalties that you may be owed as a result of your work abroad.

## Brexit

We are regularly asked by our clients about the impact that Brexit could have on their work in Europe. Here is a summary of our understanding so far, but of course this is subject to change depending on any announcements made by the UK government before the dates mentioned below.

"There will be a transition period until December 2020, during which freedom of movement and EU laws will continue to apply in the UK. This is the period during which the Government hopes to negotiate a trade deal with the EU."

Of course, it is extremely difficult to accurately predict what might happen after this transition period ends. We hope that the government will manage to secure a deal which will allow the movement of musicians with little or no additional regulations. As soon as more information becomes available, we will ensure to update our clients as early as possible so as to allow them to make alternative arrangements for upcoming work engagements if necessary.