



Payment Channels

This document covers all the channels that will pay you in the music industry. These channels may require that you open multiple accounts based on your role in the song(s). Please use this as a guide for your music administration and royalty collection.

BMI - Performance Rights Organization (PRO)

- Creator Account (Free)
- Publisher Account (\$150 or \$250)

You will need 2 accounts with BMI when registering your music. The Creator Accounts will take care of the writers of the song. The publisher account will take care of the publisher of the song.

- Not only do you need to register your songs, but you can already report performances of your songs.

SoundExchange

- Artist
- Label/Publisher/Rights Owner

You will need to register with SoundExchange if you are an artist or musician and contribute to songs in anyway; you will need to register. Labels, Publishers, and Rights Owners will need to register as well. Depending on your roles, independent artists will need to register as an Artist and Rights Owner.

The MLC (The Mechanical Licensing Collective)

- Songwriters
- Publishers

Anyone who is entitled to receive digital audio mechanical royalties in the United States will need to become a member of The MLC. This will include music publishers and administrators; self-administered songwriters, composers, and lyricists; and ex-U.S. collective management organizations (CMO).

SongTrust (suggested)

- Artist (\$100)
- Labels (\$100/artist)

Independent artists will need an account. SongTrust will ensure your publishing royalties are collected. Labels can register to ensure their artists' publishing royalties are collected.

Payoneer (suggested)

- All Music Professionals

Certain companies require you to obtain a Payoneer account to allow you to receive payments, especially if royalties are collected from international sources. You will be directed to open an account if it is needed.

Distribution

- Artists
- Labels

The company that you distribute your music through i.e., CDBaby, DistroKid, Symphonic etc. will distribute mechanical royalties from the sale and streaming of your music. Some even collect sync licensing royalties which you will receive as well.