



Arrangers, Orchestrators & Copyists: Fees 02/7

An information sheet produced by the Incorporated Society of Musicians

Fees Survey 2005

This fee information is based on a survey of fees charged by ISM members who had undertaken work as professional arrangers, orchestrators or copyists between September 2004 and September 2005. The survey was carried out by the Statistical Services Centre at Reading University.

How to use the Survey

Only 22 members responded to this survey, and of these, only ten had worked as arrangers, orchestrators or copyists in 2004-05. The following information is therefore based on the actual fees that members had charged rather than statistical averages.

Arrangers

Eight respondents said they had undertaken freelance work as an arranger during 2004-05. Fees ranged from 40p to £100 per minute.

Orchestrators

Fees for orchestrating are normally determined by the size of the ensemble. Only two respondents said they had undertaken freelance work as orchestrators during 2004-05, both quoting fees for works for 15 to 60 players: £7 and £4.57 per bar.

Copyists

Six respondents said they had undertaken freelance work as copyists during 2004-05. Fees per A4 sheet ranged from £3.50 to £20. Four of these respondents said they varied their fees. The table includes the highest and lowest fees charged in these cases.

Copyist Fee (per A4 page)		
Typical Fee	Lowest Fee	Highest Fee
£12		
£3.50	£2.50	£6
£20		
£8	£8	£10
£4	£2	£6
£10	£7.50	£15

Notes

When negotiating copyists' fees, factors that would typically be taken into account include the complexity and diversity of the music, the presentation required, and the time it takes to copy a page.

Fees are a matter of negotiation and will depend on the specific requirements of the engagement. Fees negotiated for future engagements may incorporate annual inflationary increases. The latest available rate of inflation – the Retail Price Index (RPI) – when this information sheet was published was 3.3%.