Welcome to the ISM Composers Pack

Prepared in conjunction with the Composers’ Special Interest Group, Composers’ Round Table meetings and colleagues from across the music industry – including Russells solicitors – this pack has been designed to help composers at any stage in their career understand what they should be on the lookout for when they get offered a commissioning opportunity, publishing agreement or synchronisation deal.

One of the issues our composers have repeatedly raised with us at the ISM is the need for guidance on contracts, including suitable template contracts.

In this pack you will find a wealth of information to help you when you are signing up for something new as a composer, whether it be a commission to write a new work, signing up to a publishing agreement or licensing synchronisation rights.

This Composers’ Pack includes a contract checklist, some basic guidance on what you can do to find opportunities for composers, and four template contracts with reference notes to help you.

Perhaps the most important advice, however, is to make sure you are a member of a professional body – such as the ISM – that can help you as you face the challenges of professional composing.

Remember, it always pays to get legal advice on any contract you are offered to make sure you fully understand the terms you are signing up to.

All ISM members get legal help and advice from the ISM in-house team, legal expenses insurance, public liability insurances and guidance and advice on a range of other issues relevant to their professional work.

We hope you find this pack useful, and please feel free to distribute it with attribution of course!

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