What to watch out for in a publishing contract
(a summary of the Composers publishing checklist)

1. **Assignment or licence of rights**: Make sure you know who will own the rights in your work, and who will benefit from any licences.

2. **Term of the agreement** (plus the Rights or Retention Period): How long is the contract going to last? And what rights will you or your publisher retain after the contract is terminated?

3. **Your royalties / percentage of revenue**: Are you getting a fair share of payment? PRS for Music rules mean you get at least 50% of PRS royalties but how are you going to split the remainder? Get some advice!

4. **How do royalties get calculated?** Is it based on the money made ‘at source’ or on a ‘receipts’ basis (which would allow the Publisher to deduct costs (including overseas publishing costs) before calculating your share).

5. **When are you going to receive payment?** We recommend that you should receive royalty payments at least four times a year (quarterly).

6. **Are you consenting to all sorts of exploitation?** Your music could be used in films or rearranged and sampled. This can be great, but make sure you know whether you will have any say in how your music will be used.

7. **Making the most of your music**: Are there any obligations on your publisher to maximise your income? Or on you to help promote your work?

8. **Reversion of rights**: If your music is going nowhere, will you be able to get the rights back? Get some expert legal advice.

9. **Right to assign to a different publisher**: Could your rights end up elsewhere with a less helpful publisher than the one you originally signed up for?