

Joining PPL and ensuring PPL royalties are paid

'Once I understood how to claim on PPL, I started getting an additional £2,500 per year.'
ISM Performers' Special Interest Group member

If you have performed on, or own the rights to recorded music you should become a PPL member.

Who is PPL and what do they do?

PPL represents tens of thousands of performers and record companies (from major names to small businesses and sole traders) and licenses hundreds of thousands of businesses and broadcasters – large and small – across the UK.

On behalf of its members, PPL collects royalties for a range of uses of recorded music – when it is played in public or broadcast on TV, radio and certain digital media services.

Why should you join PPL?

- As a PPL member, you can start to collect the money you are owed for your recorded music. **It's free to join.**
- Apart from administration costs, members receive 100% of the money PPL collects for them.

If you've performed on recorded music that has been broadcast or played in public, you could be entitled to royalties. You should strongly consider joining PPL as a **performer member**.

If you own or control rights in a recording that is broadcast and played in public, PPL could be making money for you. You should strongly consider joining PPL as a **recording rightsholder member**.

Who can join PPL?

1. Anyone who has performed on recorded music can join PPL as a **performer member**.
2. Anyone who owns (or is the exclusive licensee) of a recording that is broadcast or played in public in the UK can join PPL as a **recording rightsholder member**.

How to become a PPL member

The myPPL service allows you to register with PPL online for both types of memberships. It is free to register and PPL aims to approve applications within four weeks.

To complete an online registration form, go to [PPL's website](#) and follow the instructions. If you are a performer who also owns the rights to the recordings that you perform on, you should join PPL with separate performer and recording rightsholder accounts.

Once you have registered as a PPL member, there are numerous ways to make sure you are earning the most you can from your recorded repertoire.

1. Sign up for international royalties

PPL collects royalties for members from all across the world. So if your track is played in a different country, you'll still earn the money you deserve.

It's free to sign up to this service – once you're a PPL member all you have to do is complete an international mandate allowing PPL to collect on your behalf. If you are already a member of a music licensing company in another country, you will need to cancel that membership if you wish PPL to collect from that country on your behalf.

If you receive international payments from PPL, you could be earning up to 30% more from the US. PPL is the first music licensing company to be given Qualified Intermediary (QI) status by the US tax authorities. This means that the money PPL collects for you will not have to be subject to US withholding tax.

2. Sign up for digital royalties (recording rightsholder members only)

PPL can collect royalties for rightsholders from certain internet radio and digital/on-demand streaming services. It's free to sign up for this service – if you haven't already done so, you can sign a new media mandate allowing PPL to collect on your behalf.

PPL can also collect digital royalties for you internationally, increasing your earnings even more.

3. Provide correct bank and contact details

Make sure that your current bank details are listed correctly on your online myPPL account. PPL pays via BACS transfer only and into the account that you specify. If these details are incorrect, PPL will be forced to hold payments until the details are updated.

PPL will also be forced to hold your payments for UK tax reasons if you do not supply a postal address. Make sure all your contact details are up-to-date so they can inform you of any changes to their service.

4. Keep your repertoire up-to-date (recording rightsholder members only)

If you, as a rightsholder, have not added full details of the recordings you own into PPL's database, you might not be earning all you could be. The more recordings that you include in the PPL Repertoire Database, the more you have the potential to earn.

'I now receive about £300 per year from a number of recordings I am included on – this includes payments from radio stations and businesses using my music.'

A recorded 'non-featured artist'

If PPL is given inaccurate data about recordings, such as an incorrect country of commissioning or an incomplete performer line-up, it may negatively affect your payments.

By providing accurate information about recordings you are making sure you always earn the most you can from PPL.

Remember to regularly check your myPPL account to see if PPL needs any further information from you.

5. Make claims on recordings (performer members only)

Receive the royalties you are due by making sure you are included on all your recordings in the PPL Repertoire Database.

If you, as a performer, find a recording in PPL's database on which you performed but you are not listed as a performer, submit a claim for your share of the royalties. You must be prepared to produce evidence that you performed on that track. If your claim is accepted, you could receive up to six years' worth of royalties for recordings you performed on.

6. Register your music videos (recording rightsholder members only)

VPL is PPL's sister company and specifically deals with the licensing of music videos. If you, as a recording rightsholder, own the necessary rights to music videos, VPL can collect royalties on your behalf.

Register as a VPL member, list the music videos you own the rights to in the database and start receiving the money you are due. As the law treats music videos differently from recorded music, performers do not receive VPL income.