

How to produce MPTF-sponsored streaming performances during COVID

HOW TO PRODUCE MPTF- SPONSORED STREAMING PERFORMANCES DURIND COVID

The MPTF is funding 100% of both live and streaming performances during the pandemic. It costs the “employer” nothing but a little paperwork. For live performances during COVID, you must upload a letter from the employer and/or venue stating that (1) the performer(s) have the venue’s permission to stage a performance, and (2) safety protocols will be followed. Contact the MPTF directly with questions about live performance applications.

Instructions for streaming performances are as follows:

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

1. The local emails a proposal to the MPTF for approval. Include a brief description of the performance, the date, venue (inc. city/province), cost, and the contact information of the 3rd party “employer” and local tech support. Local tech support should be provided by someone who insn’t performing. The tech support person can be paid along with the musicians as long as you include them in the MPTF application. If the local doesn’t have a scale for tech support, they can be paid as a sideperson, leader, or contractor.

Performances must be live-streamed, not recorded in advance, and the stream may not be recorded, captured, or archived in any way. The simplest way to do this is for the performance to be streamed on the MPTF Facebook page, however, streams may be hosted on external platforms if the repertoire is public domain and other strict conditions are met. For questions related to proposals, contact Samantha Ramos at sramos@musicpf.org.

2. Once the MPTF approves your proposal, they will instruct you to submit the details to Mary Beth Blakey at mblakey@afm.org. Mary Beth will create the live streaming agreement, which is an ADD-ON to a live engagement contract (see #3). The employer will sign the streaming agreement, and Mary Beth will sign on behalf of the AFM.

The current (pandemic) rate for live streaming agreements is 10% of your local’s live engagement scale, e.g., if someone performs a one-hour solo live-stream, they receive your local’s minimum scale for a one-hour solo performance PLUS 10% and a pension contribution. Every local has unique live engagement scales, doubling, leader/contractor premiums, etc. Remember, Mary Beth will walk you through this step.

3. Now that the live streaming agreement has been signed, you may complete the online grant application. Vidrey and/or Samantha can assist with this if needed. The MPTF can now give final approval.
4. The local procures a live engagement contract (L-1, L-2, or LS-1) signed by the contractor/leader and the 3rd party “employer.” You’ll contract this as a regular ol’ live performance even if there’s no audience.

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AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

5. The employer writes at least two checks: one to the leader or payroll service to cover the musician(s)' wages, extras, benefits, and payroll rollups, and a separate check for the pension contribution(s). Streaming agreements always require a pension contribution. If the live engagement contract also requires a pension contribution, the two contributions can be combined into one check.
Alternatively, if the Local wants to help facilitate paperwork etc, the “employer” could write one cheque to the local, who then can process the paperwork, retain workdues, and send paperwork and pension contributions in on behalf of the “employer”.
6. The MPTF will reimburse the employer in full.
7. The contractor/leader completes a B-7 report form and sends it to the local. For assistance with B-7 report forms, contact Mary Beth in the West Coast Office.
8. For MPTF-sponsored performances, the work dues rate is 5% of scale (in this case, scale PLUS 10%). Locals keep half (2.5%) of the work dues and remit the other half to the Federation via line 4 of the Federation Work Dues report form.

For questions or clarification please contact you IR