



# Music Publishing Basics

Music publishing is a process from an outside view that is relatively simple, but as you get further into the weeds, you see that there is a bit more to it that meets the eye.

## Roles of a Music Publisher

- To collect your royalty money that you earn from your song being played
- The role of a music publisher is to take your written music, and sell it off to other artists to perform it. The publisher shares a responsibility to help an artist grow their career along with a songwriter (assuming they're different people)
- The publisher's job is also to be the custodian of the work that you write. Essentially, as a songwriter, they'll have the responsibility of holding on to that work and ensuring you get paid fairly for it.
- Help with collaboration of writers, and co-writers, to create a song.

## Types of Publishers

- Independent publishers exist too, however, they may not have the same swing and pull as a major. However, they will likely be able to fight more to have your songs be sold and shared with the general public.
- Some of the major publishers include Universal Music Publishing Group, Sony Music Publishing, Kobalt, Warner Chappel, BMG and more!

## Places You Can Make Royalties and How They're Collected

A royalty is money that you can collect from someone using your music in another medium or in a live space. For example, you could collect royalties if someone is playing your song in a club even. The way this is regulated and works is through Performing Rights Societies like **ASCAP** and **BMI**.

- What is done is one of these groups like BMI/ASCAP will issue a **blanket license**. What that is, is a license that can be sold that represents all of their artists works and can be used in a public space by anyone that holds one. Obviously prices will vary depending on the medium.

## Bibliography

- Passman, Donald S. "Publishing Companies and Major Income Sources." *All You Need to Know about the Music Business: 10th Edition*, Simon & Schuster, Incorporated, 2019, pp. 221–241.