

FAQ

LIVE PERFORMANCE RETURNS



APRA
AMCOS

Membership enquiries 1800 642 634 writer@apra.com.au www.apraamcos.com.au

WHAT IS A LIVE PERFORMANCE RETURN (LPR)?

A Live Performance Return (LPR) is an online form submitted by performers to APRA AMCOS, which reports details of their live performances in Australia and New Zealand. APRA AMCOS processes and uses this information to distribute royalties to songwriters whose works are being performed live.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

APRA AMCOS collects licensing fees from venues which have live performances on their premises. These licence fees are combined into a “distribution pool”. APRA AMCOS then allocates royalties from the distribution pool to songs performed at licensed venues using information supplied from LPRs.

HOW DOES THIS ALL WORK?

Before the August 31 cut off each band or performer will need to notify APRA AMCOS of their live performances for the previous year (1 July - 30 June). This is done by logging onto the APRA AMCOS website and completing an LPR. You will be asked to enter your band/performer name, list where and when you performed, and enter the songs you performed at those venues.

WHEN WILL I GET PAID?

LPRs are currently paid annually, usually in APRA AMCOS’s November distribution payment. To receive a payment LPRs must include performances at eligible licensed venues and be submitted prior to the August 31 cut off date.

WHAT IF I PERFORM AT A CORPORATE GIG OR PRODUCT LAUNCH?

You will need to contact your local APRA AMCOS office as this may be considered a performance outside of our Live Performance Return parameters.

WHAT IF I PERFORM ON A CRUISE SHIP?

If the cruise line is operated and owned by an Australian company, these performances can go on your regular LPR. If the cruise line is operated and owned by an overseas company, these performances will need to be submitted on an **Overseas Live Performance Return**.

I’VE PERFORMED OVERSEAS. HOW DO I CLAIM ROYALTIES FOR THESE GIGS?

To claim royalties for live performances outside of Australia/ New Zealand, you’ll need to complete and submit an **Overseas Live Performance Return**. Once APRA AMCOS has been notified of an overseas performance through an overseas LPR, we will contact the relevant foreign society on your behalf to claim any relevant royalties. The August 31 deadline for LPRs does not apply to Overseas Live Performance Returns.

Please note that payment for overseas performances is not guaranteed, as it depends on the distribution rules of the foreign society.

DO WE NEED TO SUBMIT ONE LPR FOR EACH MEMBER OF OUR BAND?

No, you only need to submit one LPR per band.

DO I NEED TO INCLUDE COVERS?

It is appreciated if you include all covers you perform in your LPR. Royalties will go to the original composers of the work.

I’M SUBMITTING THE LPR FOR MY BAND, BUT SOME OF THE SONGS AREN’T WRITTEN BY ME. HOW DO I SUBMIT THESE SONGS?

You submit these songs just as you would any song not written by you. You will tick the ‘Cover?’ box to confirm that this work was not written by you (but by another member of your band) then complete the song title and writer details.

WHAT IF I DO AN ARRANGEMENT OF A POPULAR WORK THAT IS STILL IN COPYRIGHT AT MY GIG?

Unless you have permission from the copyright owners of the work, you cannot claim and be paid for an arrangement of another person’s work. You will, however need to enter this work on your LPR as being written by the original writers so they will be allocated a royalty for your performance of their song.

WHAT IF I IMPROVISE AT GIGS? HOW DO I LOG THESE?

You can claim LPR royalties for improvisations as long as the musical work is in a material or tangible format and therefore protected by copyright. If your gigs are not recorded, then you’re not able to claim LPR royalties for improvised works.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN BY “RESIDENCY”?

If you are performing in one venue on a regular basis, please indicate this with a ‘Y’ in the Residency section. Then in the comments section, list the date of your first and last performances at that venue, as well as the total number of performances. This will save you listing the same venue numerous times.

WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN THE “COMMENTS” SECTION?

Anything you think will help APRA AMCOS process your LPR. Examples include information on long sets you have performed, how many times you performed at the listed venue or if you played certain songs more than once.

WHAT IF I AM A CLASSICAL COMPOSER AND OTHER PEOPLE PERFORM MY MUSIC?

You can complete an online LPR using your name as the Performer. Then, when putting in the date of the performance, you can enter the individual performer name in the “Residency Comment” section.

For example:

Date: 18/04/11 Residency? N Venue: Example Hall Street: 1 Example Road Suburb: SYDNEY State: NSW

Residency Comment: Performed by the Example Youth Orchestra.

This way, you are still notifying us of who is performing your works but you don’t have to keep making new LPRs for each individual performer.

WHAT CAN I CLAIM ON MY LPR?

You can claim live performances in public venues in Australia and New Zealand. There are several important exceptions to what you can claim, these are listed below.

WHAT CAN’T I CLAIM ON MY LPR?

Promoted Concerts: Performances at large music festivals, dance parties or venues-for-hire should not be listed on an LPR. APRA AMCOS calls these events “promoted concerts”. Promoted concerts typically include larger ticketed concert events or performances at venues that do not host live music on a regular basis. Examples include the Big Day Out festival, the Gympie Muster or performances at the Palais Theatre in Melbourne. Performances at these events are reported to APRA AMCOS by event organisers using **set lists collected from performers**.

Private Functions: Performances at private functions such as weddings and parties (even if held in public venues) or nursing homes, hospitals etc are considered to be private performances in accordance with the Copyright Act. APRA AMCOS is not able to issue licences for private performances, and therefore cannot distribute royalties to songs performed at private live performances.

Performances at worship services: APRA AMCOS does not license religious worship services.

Performances broadcast on the radio or television: Live performances broadcast over the radio or television are not considered live performances, but rather a Broadcast. We distribute royalties for these performances under our normal distribution for TV and radio.

Busking performances: Busking performances are not licensed by APRA AMCOS and so are ineligible for APRA AMCOS royalties.

Ballets, Musicals Operas: If your music is performed in conjunction with acting, costumes, scenic accessories and scripted dialogue, or other dramatic effects it is considered a ‘dramatic context’ or ‘grand rights’ performance. Live performance royalties generated by music performed in ballets, musicals, operas etc are managed separately to the LPR system. Please contact your local Writer Services department for more information.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY EXCEPTIONS?

There are many different APRA AMCOS licences that venues can hold when they use music in their business. APRA AMCOS can only pay a royalty through the LPR scheme for performances at venues that hold an APRA AMCOS licence specific to hosting live performances. These venues pay APRA AMCOS licence fees which contribute to the LPR “distribution pool”.

I MISSED OUT ON SUBMITTING MY LPR FOR A PREVIOUS YEAR, IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN STILL GET PAID FOR THESE PERFORMANCES?

Retrospective performances from previous financial years can be submitted online after receiving authority from a Writer Services Representative.

Please note, retrospective claims can only be backdated three financial years. For the previous financial year, you may submit an LPR as usual however for performances two and three years previous, you will need to support your claim with third-party evidence such as posters, online advertisements, letters from venues/booking agents, ticket stubs etc. Contact your local Writer Service Representative for more information.

I KEEP GETTING THIS MESSAGE ‘VIEWING IN READ ONLY MODE, NO UPDATE SUPPORTED’ WHEN I TRY TO UPDATE MY LPR, WHAT DO I DO NOW?

It sounds like you’re trying to access the LPR that you submitted last year.

To enter this year’s LPR,

- Go to the LPR menu and click on ‘Create or select the LPR performer’.

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- Type your performer name into the box in the 'New performer for current distribution' section.
- Select the 'additional' boxes below the name if appropriate
- Click on the submit button and the performer name should then appear in the 'current distribution P1210' section.
- Then, hit the 'select' button next to that performer and proceed to enter the venues and works at steps 2 and 3.

If in doubt, please contact us!

Our office details are available at www.apraamcos.com.au/contact-us/ or connect via our live chat feature.