



## Guidelines for the commissioning of music for BBC programmes

1. The Music Copyright section of the BBC's Talent Rights Negotiation Group is responsible for negotiating terms and issuing contracts for all music commissioned by the BBC for its in-house productions.
2. BBC departments requiring specially commissioned music are encouraged to contact Music Copyright at the earliest opportunity in order that negotiations can be concluded and a contract issued/signed prior to the composer commencing work.
3. Payment schedules may vary from contract to contract, but full payment for commissioned work should be made at the point at which the work is completed, i.e. once Music Copyright receive appropriate notification to this effect from the area concerned.
4. The decision regarding which composer to contract is entirely the responsibility of individual BBC programme makers.
5. Music Copyright offer advice regarding the choice of composer when required, given its extensive knowledge of composers working in television, radio and film. A number of composers may be suggested, the selection being determined solely by the needs of an individual production.
6. Music Copyright will usually negotiate a package deal fee with a composer or their agent. This is a fully inclusive deal that encompasses all the relevant elements associated with the making of a sound master. A package deal may typically include the composition fee, scoring, copying, studio costs, electronic realisation, musician/vocalist fees, fixing, portorage and doubling.
7. Musicians and vocalists will be contracted separately via the BBC Talent Rights Negotiation Group. This is to ensure that the appropriate contracts are used. \*
8. The offer of a commission from the BBC is not dependent on publishing rights being assigned to BBC Music Publishing. It is recognised that publishing is in the gift of the composer and that the composer is under no obligation to assign publishing to BBC Music Publishing or any other publisher.
9. An exception to Clause 8 is music for idents commissioned by the BBC, in which cases BBC Music Publishing would expect assignment of publishing rights on the commission of the music.
10. The contracts issued by Music Copyright are separate from any publishing agreements used by BBC Music Publishing and separate negotiations will take place on each.
11. The manager of Music Copyright at the BBC can be contacted at [nicky.bignell@bbc.co.uk](mailto:nicky.bignell@bbc.co.uk)
12. This document and the operating practices described herein shall be reviewed annually from the date of its first publication.

*\* Composers wishing to engage the BBC performing groups should contact as follows for availability and fees. The performing groups tend to be in high demand and therefore contact at the earliest opportunity is highly recommended.*

Andrew Connolly: BBC Concert Orchestra (London) [andrew.connolly@bbc.co.uk](mailto:andrew.connolly@bbc.co.uk)

Richard Wigley: BBC Philharmonic (Manchester)

David Murray: BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Cardiff)

Paul Hughes: BBC Symphony Orchestra (London)

Gavin Reid: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Glasgow)

Stephen Ashley-King: BBC Singers (London)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras/>