

Success in the Music Industry Music Industry

Plainfield Public Library Pathfinder

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- There are aids to help you with copywriting your music online.
- The federal web site www.copyright.gov can help you find the right forms to use to copyright your works, as well as apply trademarks and patents to them.
- Learn about the *Performance Rights Act and Parity Among Music Delivery Platforms* issue from the above web site.
- Band names are not protected under copyright law, whereas some band names may be protected under trademark law.
- One does not have to use their real name on the U.S. Copyright Office registration form; they can use their stage name.
- On the above web site, one may use a credit card to pay fees if they use the eCO eService.



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Perhaps you've written a song and want to know to copyright it. Or your aims might be more complex if you are trying to break into the music industry. If you don't know where to start, the *Plainfield Public Library* can get you started by offering you a selection of print and electronic media to demystify any aspect of the music industry that interests you.



The real names of *The Supremes* were: Diana Ross, Mary Wilson, and Florence Ballard.

In addition to the many forms you will deal with, it would behoove you to either refresh your memory or learn more about the industry issues of the day from parity among music delivery platforms to the economic losses caused by Internet music piracy. With each technological wave of change, both opportunities and abuses present themselves to musicians and performers, and awareness with help to safeguard you while you learn the ropes and enter the industry.

Some Highlighted Music Industry Resources

You may wish to begin with electronic sources. Some ideas are: www.afm.org, which stands for the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. This is an excellent web site to consult for information of industry issues and to see how organizations such as this one protect musicians. Another web site, www.aftra.org/home.htm, covers a variety of industry niches.

One of our helpful resources here is the title *The Independent Working Musician: the Complete Guide to Do-It-Yourself Success in the Music Business* (call number R 780.23 COS).

“Entertainment law is all over the place in terms of payment arrangements. There are some firms that will work on a percentage of an artist's income, some that require some sort of retainer upfront, some that charge by the hour and some that charge a hybrid of these.”

Attorney Aaron Rosenberg,
Billboard -
8/29/2009, Vol.
121 Issue 34,
p10-10, 1/2p

Books

- *Ferguson Career Coach: Managing Your Career in the Music Industry* by Shelly Field (call number R CAREER 780.23 FIE)
- *Ripped: How the Wired Generation Revolutionized Music* by Greg Kot (call number 780.285 KOT)
- *R&B, Rhythm and Business: The Political Economy of Black Music* by Norman Kelley (call number 338.477 R&B)
- *Secrets of Negotiating a Recording Contract: the Musician's Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Sneaky Lawyer Tricks* by Moses Avalon (call number 343.73 AVA)

Articles

- Gomes, Lee. Pirates Rule the Sea. *Forbes*. January 18, 2010, Vol. 185 Issue 1, p38-38, 1p.
- Turner, Jason. Working Together to Save the Music. *Billboard*. October 17, 2009, Vol. 121 Issue 41, p4-4, 5/9p.
- Author Unknown. More Regulation Threats Loom Over the Radio Industry. *NJBIZ*. December 15, 2008, Vol. 21 Issue 51, p19-19, 1/3p.
- Karlovits, Bob. How to Build a Music Career. *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*. December 28, 2009, Arts & Entertainment/Music sections.

Online Resources

- *Music Publishers' Association of the United States*. Web site: <http://mpa.org>
- *Key to Music Success*. Web site: <http://k2ms.tripod.com>
- *Getsigned.com*. Web site: www.getsigned.com/ruthless22.html
- *Music Organizations Information*. Web site: www.business.com/directory/media_and_entertainment/music/organizations
- *Music Law*. www.music-law.com
- *Copyright, Trademarks, and Publishing*. Web site: www.musicbizacademy.com/directory/copyright.htm