

# Collecting societies and PROs (Performance Rights Organizations)

## Collecting Societies and PROs (Performance Rights Organizations)

Copyright and Royalties play a crucial role in ensuring that creators and rights holders are adequately compensated for their work. In the music industry, Collecting Societies and Performance Rights Organizations (PROs) play a vital role in managing and collecting royalties on behalf of artists and copyright owners. In this tutorial, we will explore the functions and importance of collecting societies and PROs in relation to copyright and royalties.

### 1. What are Collecting Societies?

Collecting Societies are non-profit organizations that are responsible for collecting and distributing royalties on behalf of creators and rights holders. These societies have been established to simplify the process of collecting royalties and to ensure that artists receive fair compensation for the public performance, communication, and reproduction of their work.

### 2. What are PROs?

Performance Rights Organizations (PROs) are specific types of collecting societies that focus primarily on the collection and distribution of royalties for the public performance of musical works. PROs act as intermediaries between artists and music users (such as radio stations, venues, and online streaming platforms) to ensure that artists receive their fair share of royalties for the public use of their music.

### 3. Functions of Collecting Societies and PROs

a. **Licensing:** One of the main functions of collecting societies and PROs is to issue licenses to music users, granting them the legal permission to use copyrighted material. These licenses may be in the form of blanket licenses, which allow music users to access an extensive catalog of copyrighted works for a specific period.

b. **Royalty Collection:** Collecting societies and PROs collect royalties from music users on behalf of artists and rights holders. They use various methods to track and monitor the usage of copyrighted material, such as radio airplay monitoring, online streaming data analysis, and licensing agreements with venues and businesses. These societies ensure that royalties are collected accurately and efficiently.

c. **Distribution:** After collecting royalties, collecting societies and PROs distribute these funds to the artists and rights holders. The distribution process involves identifying the works that have been performed or used, determining the respective shares of multiple rights holders, and distributing the royalties accordingly. This process ensures that creators receive the appropriate compensation for the use of their work.

### 4. Importance of Collecting Societies and PROs

a. **Fair Compensation:** Collecting societies and PROs play a vital role in ensuring that artists and rights holders receive fair compensation for the use of their work. Without these organizations, it

would be challenging for individual artists to monitor and collect royalties from various music users worldwide.

b. **Efficiency:** Collecting societies and PROs streamline the licensing and royalty collection process, making it easier for music users to obtain licenses and for artists to receive their royalties. These organizations have established efficient systems that track and collect royalties from various sources, reducing the administrative burden on artists and rights holders.

c. **Global Reach:** Collecting societies and PROs often have international affiliations and agreements, allowing them to collect royalties on behalf of artists from different countries. This global reach ensures that artists receive royalties for the use of their music around the world, regardless of the territorial boundaries.

d. **Legal Protection:** Collecting societies and PROs play a crucial role in enforcing copyright laws and ensuring that music users comply with licensing regulations. They protect the rights of artists and rights holders by monitoring public performances, pursuing legal actions against copyright infringements, and advocating for fair compensation within the industry.

In conclusion, collecting societies and PROs are pivotal entities in the music industry that facilitate the licensing, collection, and distribution of royalties for artists and rights holders. These organizations simplify the process of copyright management, ensuring that creators are adequately compensated for the use of their work. By supporting the infrastructure of copyright and royalties, collecting societies and PROs foster a fair and sustainable ecosystem for artists and music users alike.