

## BMI 101

BMI 101 is a free, virtual, one-hour introductory workshop for affiliates to learn about the basics of performing rights and the role BMI plays in the music industry. This summary is a great starting point, and we invite you to attend our workshop to unlock even more valuable information.

### BMI

BMI was founded in 1939 by forward thinkers who wanted to represent songwriters and emerging genres and protect the public performances of their music. Today, BMI is the largest music rights organization in the United States, representing over 22.4 million musical works owned by more than 1.4 million songwriters, composers, and music publishers.

### Rights & Royalties

The Right of Public Performance, or Performance Royalties, occurs when a composition is performed publicly, including on radio stations, TV networks, venues, sports arenas, restaurants, bars, interactive and non-interactive streaming services. **This is the only royalty that BMI pays.** Learn more about the different types of royalties [here](#).

### BMI's Role

BMI is a performing rights organization or PRO. We issue licenses to businesses and organizations that use your music, then collect the licensing fees and distribute those fees back to you as performance royalties, so you can continue to create new music. Learn more about our role in the music industry [here](#), and see how we network worldwide to ensure you are paid for your music wherever it is performed [here](#).

### Join BMI

BMI has an open-door policy, meaning anyone can sign up as an affiliate. To join BMI, visit [www.bmi.com/join](http://www.bmi.com/join). Learn more about joining BMI [here](#).

### Account Number & IPI Number

Once you join BMI, you will receive a confidential **BMI account number**, which you can learn more about [here](#). Additionally, you will receive a public **interested party information (IPI) number**. Learn more about IPI numbers [here](#).

### Online Services Account

Your first step after joining BMI will be to set up your Online Services account. This is your portal for all things BMI. Here you can register your works, manage royalty statements, update your information, enroll in direct deposit, and more. Get started [here](#).

### Registering Works

You need to register your works under the Works Registration tab in your Online Services account in order to be paid when they are publicly performed. To do so, you'll need to provide the names of your co-writer(s), their IPI number(s), their affiliated PRO(s), publisher information, and the allocated split/share of the work. Learn more about registering your works [here](#).

### Royalty Payment Schedule

BMI pays out royalties on a quarterly basis. See the schedule [here](#).

### BMI LIVE

If you are a songwriter going on the road to perform, BMI Live is a program that allows performing songwriters to input up to six months of their performance data to be considered for payment. Learn more about BMI Live [here](#).

**Questions?** Contact [bmi101@bmi.com](mailto:bmi101@bmi.com)