

Who Needs to Connect to Collect™

Becoming a Member of The MLC

Starting in 2021, a new entity called The Mechanical Licensing Collective (The MLC) will collect digital audio mechanical royalties from eligible streaming and download services in the United States who elect to secure blanket licenses from The MLC. The MLC will strive to ensure that music publishers and self-administered songwriters, composers and lyricists receive their share of the mechanical royalties that The MLC collects from these services accurately and on time.

Who Needs to Connect to Collect?

Anyone who wishes to receive digital audio mechanical royalties from The MLC will need to become a “Member” of The MLC. This will include music publishers, administrators, ex-U.S. collective management organizations, and self-administered songwriters, composers and lyricists. Becoming a “Member” of The MLC is how you Connect to Collect.

Members of The MLC will also be able to use The MLC’s user portal to register new musical works and review and update their existing musical works data in The MLC’s database. Although The MLC will not begin distributing royalties until 2021, it is important for writers and publishers to begin registering their new musical works and checking the accuracy of their existing musical works data now, to ensure their data is as accurate and complete as possible when The MLC begins processing royalties next year.

Here’s who needs to Connect to Collect and become a Member of The MLC:

- **Self-Administered Songwriters:** Songwriters, composers and lyricists are “self-administered” if they have retained the right to register their own musical works with The MLC **AND collect their own mechanical royalties directly** or through a business manager, accountant, lawyer or other representative/agent).
 - *If you have assigned your rights to register your musical works and collect your mechanical royalties in the United States to a music publisher or administrator, you will not need to become a Member of The MLC. Your publisher or administrator will handle your collection and registration. If you work with a music publisher or administrator in any capacity, please check with that music publisher or administrator before becoming a Member of The MLC.*
- **Music Publishers and Administrators:** Music publishers and administrators will need to become Members of The MLC in order to register the musical works they control with The MLC, review and update the data for those works, and collect mechanical royalties for those works.
- **Ex-US Collective Management Organizations (CMOs):** These CMOs will need to become Members of The MLC in order to register the musical works they control with The MLC, review and update the data for those works, and collect digital audio mechanical royalties in the U.S. for those works on behalf of their clients and members.

For more information, please visit www.themlc.com.