

WHAT IS BECS?

BECS stands for British Equity Collecting Society Limited. BECS is the only UK based Collective Management Organisation (CMO) representing the rights of audio-visual performers. Its primary role is to collect, administer and distribute remuneration due to performers under statute, or paid to BECS on a collective basis for the benefit of performers.

BECS enforces the statutory rights of performers in the UK and collects revenues arising as a result of application of the statutory rights and other collective rights from within the UK and overseas.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN BECS?

Some statutory rights which you have as a performer are only able to be asserted on a collective basis through a CMO either because the law says so or because collective licencing is the only practical way of securing licence fees or other payments. Individual members may therefore find it impossible (or difficult) to directly access monies arising from these statutory rights, especially from overseas. By acting on behalf of a large group of performers, BECS is able to enter into agreements which ensure that monies which might otherwise not be identified as due are collected and paid out to performers. The more performers join BECS, the more it will strengthen BECS' position to get the best collections for UK performers and keep costs down through administrative savings.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP?

Members need to be either:

- a Performer where at least one of their performances has been, or is reasonably expected to be, broadcast or recorded and fixed for subsequent visual or audio-visual use, or
- a Performer Heir of such a Performer

(all expressions as defined in the BECS Constitution).

WHY DO I HAVE TO SIGN A MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BECS?

The statutory rights of a performer belong to the individual performer and the benefit of the rights of a deceased performer can be represented by a performer heir. Therefore, individual performers (and not any agent on their behalf) need to authorise BECS to exercise the "Mandated Rights" described in the Membership Agreement and the BECS Constitution.

Membership of BECS ends on the death of a Performer, but the heir (Performer Heir) of the individual can become a member to receive payments arising after death. Supporting documents will be required from the performer's estate representatives.

DO I HAVE TO PAY TO JOIN BECS?

No. There are no membership fees payable. The Board of BECS and the Supervisory Committee determine the administration fees charged by BECS which are intended to cover BECS' collection and distribution costs. Where commission rates are charged, they are clearly specified on distribution statements.

CAN I JOIN MORE THAN ONE SOCIETY?

Different collecting societies administer different rights. If you are already a member of a foreign collecting society in your capacity as a performer, you can still apply for BECS' membership and assign rights to BECS that have not already been mandated to another CMO, either relating to the type of right (e.g. audio-visual vs audio) or the region it relates to.

Please note it is important that you do not mandate the same rights to more than one CMO. Mandate conflicts will arise where you have signed a worldwide or regional mandate for the same rights with multiple CMOs. This could result in monies being held up at the originating society.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WISH TO LEAVE BECS?

Members grant the Mandated Rights to BECS only whilst they remain in membership. 6 months' notice of withdrawal is usually required but a shorter period may be agreed. The rights mandated to BECS will revert to the Performer/Performer Heir upon expiry of membership as set out in the Constitution.

WHERE DO MANDATED RIGHTS APPLY?

BECS' Members usually mandate Worldwide Rights to BECS. Should you wish to, you can limit the mandate region to specific countries only. This needs to be specified when the Membership Agreement is signed and detailed on the Performer Registration form.

COLLECTING SOCIETIES

The companies and rights organisations from which BECS can source collective remuneration include rights societies and collection agencies and bodies known as Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) and Independent Management Entities. The Articles of Association and Constitution of BECS (available on the BECS website: www.becs.org.uk) define how BECS can work with these organisations. BECS enters into Representation Agreements with other CMOs to ensure the Mandated Rights are recognised around the world.

Changes to the Articles of Association and Constitution are only made by the Supervisory Committee and are approved by the Members of BECS in general meetings.

HOW WILL BECS COMMUNICATE WITH ME?

BECS will communicate with Members by posting notices and information on the BECS website, and directly by email, post or the telephone regarding

- (a) any matter connected to the Mandated Rights,
- (b) all matters relating to membership or the termination thereof, and
- (c) any payments to be made in respect of Performers' Remuneration whether during the time that a Performer/ Performer Heir remains in membership or after this.

Members are asked to specifically opt in if they would like to hear from BECS (by email, phone or post) regarding additional ancillary services that are offered from time to time e.g. training courses.

DATA PROTECTION

Please note the Data Protection Statement within the Registration Form.

In signing the Membership Agreement, you will consent to BECS processing your "Personal Data" for the purposes of exercising the Mandated Rights and for BECS to communicate with you as provided by the BECS Constitution. This will include BECS processing Personal Data relevant to you and/or transferring it within and outside the European Economic Area and/or disclosing it to third parties for the purposes of giving effect to Representation Agreements, and

- (a) the registration of Performances with Collecting Societies and the collection, administration and distribution of Performers' Remuneration;
- (b) the administration and maintenance of BECS' records and for compliance with legal and regulatory obligations; and
- (c) any other action that in BECS' reasonable opinion is necessary for the legitimate interests of BECS as a CMO and for the provision of services in accordance with BECS' Constitution.

"Personal Data" means information about you and relevant performances which is treated as personal data under data protections laws applicable within the UK and in the European Union (including the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679) and/or such other applicable laws or regulations as may be enacted or amended from time to time.



collecting for you

Further Information

British Equity Collecting Society Limited,
Company Number 3547531

BECS' website at www.becs.org.uk
provides further information about our
work and membership.

BECS can be contacted at Plouviez House,
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