

*Do not tape,  
paperclip,  
or staple  
check to  
form*

# BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

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## 2023 BMI/SESAC LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SHOW CLEARANCE

Chapter Number (i.e. Z-000) \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

The USA Chapter referenced above requests show clearance, BMI License, and SESAC License for

\_\_\_\_\_ Our chapter show will be held at \_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) of Concert Venue / City / State

which has the capacity of \_\_\_\_\_ seats. The highest ticket price for our concert will be \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and  
# of seats Highest Ticket Price

we will present \_\_\_\_\_ performance(s). A check is enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to BHS  
# of performances Check Amount

or SPEBSQSA, Inc.) which represents our fee due for the BMI License and for the SESAC License **for each performance.** (See below rate table to determine fee.)


We understand that upon receipt of our chapter's copy of this form, **endorsed by the district secretary**, our show clearance, BMI License, and SESAC License, via the Barbershop Harmony blanket agreement with these organizations, has been granted.

### Submission & Approval of Clearance:

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chapter Secretary Chapter Name Date of Request

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ District on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature of District Secretary (or assignee) \*\*\*REQUIRED\*\*\* District Name Date of Approval

 BMI  
 National Director Musical Attractions

 SESAC  
 Director General Licensing

**\*\*\*Submit form/payment to your District Secretary (or assignee) for processing.\*\*\***

### BMI/SESAC Rate per Concert Performance [Highest Price of Admission (exclusive of tax)]

Seating Capacity	Any Price	Ticket Price	
		\$0.00 – \$15.00	Over \$15.00
0 – 1500	\$50		
1501 – 3000	\$65		
3001 - 5500	\$95		
5500 - 7500		\$120	\$190

# 2023 BMI/SESAC LICENSE APPLICATION FOR SHOW CLEARANCE (USA)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Is my chapter required to submit a BMI/SESAC Show Report Form for each show?*

Yes; all U.S. Chapters are required to submit a form and payment if the chapter is performing copyrighted music in public, whether ticketed or a free/benefit show.

### *Where do I send the completed form and applicable payment?*

All BMI/SESAC show report forms and payments should be sent to the chapter's District Secretary (or Assignee) for approval for the show calendar and for signature. The District Secretary (or Assignee) will then forward the completed paperwork and payment to the Barbershop Harmony Society for processing.

### *Why should we pay for singing/performing music in public?*

We often use the expression "they're playing my song," not always remembering that while we may have emotionally adopted the song, it still legally belongs to the songwriter who created it, and the copyright holder who controls the rights in the song. When you use other people's property, you need to ask, and receive, permission, and pay any fees accordingly.

### *We bought the learning tracks and/or sheet music of the songs we are singing in our show. Why do I need additional permission to perform the music in public?*

Copyright holders enjoy exclusive rights under the law, including performing rights. The rental or purchase of sheet music and/ or learning tracks does NOT authorize its performance in public. Separate permissions are required by law.

### *What are performing rights?*

Performing rights are the right to perform music in public. It is part of copyright law and demands payment to the music's copyright holder(s). "Public performance" means that a musician or group is performing a piece of music live, as opposed to the playback of a pre-recorded song. Performances are considered "public" if they take place in a public place and the audience is outside of a normal circle of friends and family, including concerts, nightclubs, restaurants, etc. Public performance also includes broadcast, streaming, television, radio, and any other transmitted performance of a live song. Permission to publicly perform a song must be obtained from the copyright holder or a collective rights organization (such as ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC in the United States).

### *Does the BMI/SESAC Show Report Form and payment cover all of the songs in the public performances my chapter produces in our show?*

No. BMI and SESAC do not represent all music copyright holders. An **ASCAP Reporting Form** and fee payment must be filed with the Barbershop Harmony Society each calendar year, based on your public performance activity.

### *What does the BMI/SESAC Show Report Form and Payment cover for my chapter?*

BMI and SESAC members grant to their member organization only the right to license public, nondramatic performances of the members' copyrighted musical works. The blanket license that BMI and SESAC have granted to BHS on behalf of its chapters is for concerts and similar public performance events. This blanket concert license grants the right to perform any song in the BMI and SESAC catalogs.

### *Who can I contact if I have additional questions and concerns regarding the BMI/SESAC Report Form and process?*

For direct assistance please contact [library@barbershop.org](mailto:library@barbershop.org) . Also, the Society's online document center has additional information and resources regarding copyright and licensing in the BHS Member Center at <https://members.barbershop.org> .

***Thank you for your efforts to maintain copyright compliance for your group!***