

Composition rates: guidelines

Rates payable to composers as suggested by the music board of the Australia Council



Australian Government



1. Notated instrumental or vocal music

1 independent line	\$431 per minute
2 to 8 independent lines	\$489 per minute
9 to 15 independent lines	\$555 per minute
16 to 23 independent lines	\$613 per minute
24 or more independent lines	\$681 per minute

If a commissioned work for large forces (ie. 16 independent lines or more) has a duration of 30 minutes or more (or in the case of opera/music theatre – 60 minutes), we suggest that the guidelines be regarded as a basis for discussion only, rather than being calculated on a 'per minute' basis. For such works the basis for the nominated fee will need to be explained in the application.

2. Jazz, partly notated or semi-improvised music

1/3 of the duration of the total composition calculated as fully notated music at the full rate (as in Section 1 above)

PLUS

1/3 of the duration funded as partially notated music at half the composition rate.

The final third is not eligible for funding.

3. Electronic music

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| (a) Stereo acousmatic ¹ (tape) works | \$555 per minute |
| (b) Live performance works requiring significant software development; multichannel works with complex spatialisation; or any other work requiring significant research and development of software and/or hardware technologies | \$555 – \$681 per minute
<i>(applicants should include a brief explanation of rate used)</i> |
| (c) Algorithmic works of indefinite or variable length, or works which take the form of performance patches to be used in a (semi) improvised manner should be costed relative to the time taken to compose the patch (and develop the software), as opposed to the duration of the work | |

4. Alternative rates (including contemporary (popular) music/songwriting/ creative development)

Rates of pay may be based on hourly, daily or weekly rates for composition, songwriting or creative development. The basis for this nominated rate will need to be explained in the application.

For freely improvised music we suggest that rates of pay may be based on hourly, daily or weekly rates. The basis for this nominated rate will need to be explained in the application.

Notes:

This fee structure should not be regarded as an industry standard and is intended for use only within the context of an application to the music board. The rates are a guide only, and represent neither a maximum nor a minimum fee to be paid to composers; rather, they reflect the music board's contribution to the composition.

If you need assistance please contact music board staff on (02) 9215 9104.

Updated: February 2008

¹ By 'acousmatic' we mean a work that is presented or diffused solely in recorded form