



**Music  
to your  
ears?**



**Did you know  
that you don't  
always need to  
apply for a licence  
from your local council  
to have live or  
recorded music  
playing in your  
premises?**



## Contact your local council licensing officers first to talk through the range of options available to you. For example...

- If you would like to have live music in a restaurant or café then this may not need a licence if the music is **incidental** and **not** the main reason for attracting customers to your premises. For instance if your customers are there to eat, drink and talk, with some background music, you may qualify for the **incidental music exemption**.
- Or you can apply for **Temporary Event Notices** (TENs) to put on live music and other licensable activities up to 12 times a year for up to 500 people, at low cost (£21) and minimal paperwork.
- Or, if you already have a premises licence but without permission to have live music, there is now a simplified and cheaper application procedure – called the **minor variation process** – which might allow you to add live or recorded music to your existing premises licence for £89, and no requirement for a newspaper advertisement.
- If you are thinking about starting a new business, remember to ask for live or recorded music when applying for your first **premises licence**. It is a good idea to seek technical advice from your council licensing officer before you submit the formal application and fee.

Whatever option you choose you must also apply for a music licence from PRS for Music which will allow you to play music on your premises live or by any recorded means. You will also need a PPL licence if you play CDs, tapes or records.

**Licensing officers in your local council will discuss the most appropriate option for you in order to maximise the benefits of music for your business, enhancing the cultural activities in your area as well as balancing the needs of your local community.**

**A jazz guitarist at a café whilst patrons are dining?**

**A keyboard player at a restaurant?**

**An art gallery with a chamber orchestra providing background music for an exhibition opening night?**

**A pianist at a cocktail bar?**

**A bistro with a trio providing music whilst customers are dining?**

**A pub promoting a stand-up comedian, accompanied by a pianist?**

**A conference centre running a wedding exhibition with a band providing background music?**

**PRS**

[www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com)

**LACORS**

[www.lacors.gov.uk](http://www.lacors.gov.uk)

**BBPA**

[www.beerandpub.com](http://www.beerandpub.com)

**Musicians Union**

[www.musiciansunion.org.uk](http://www.musiciansunion.org.uk)

**DCMS**

[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

**LGA**

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

