

# *Film Scoring Info For Producers*

FILM MUSICIANS  
SECONDARY MARKETS  
FUND 

Est. 1972

**Supporting the  
Film and Television Music  
Community**



**15910 Ventura Bl., Suite 900  
Encino, CA 91436  
[www.fmsmf.org](http://www.fmsmf.org)**



What do...

...Classics like *The Godfather* and *Schindler's List*,  
Blockbusters like *Frozen* and *American Sniper*,  
Low Budget Indies like *Nebraska* and *Copperhead*,  
and Micro Budget shorts like *Dinner With Fred*

...all have in common?

***THE MUSIC THAT FUELED THESE FILMS  
WAS SCORED HERE AT HOME.***

The best musical talent anywhere is yours right here in North America and within your budget.

Take advantage of the world-class orchestras that feature versatile musicians accomplished in all music genres and playing styles. The main recording centers in North America, from Southern California to Atlanta to New York, offer state-of-the-art technologies that accommodate any size ensemble, from small jazz combos to 110-piece orchestras with choir. Expert music preparation and other support services – as well as tax incentives -- are available to you close to home.

***What about residuals?***

The FMSMF is your best resource for questions about residuals. We're here to assist you in understanding how to secure the very best talent for your film or television score.





## Frequently Asked Questions

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### *How many minutes can I record per session?*

With the current AFM Motion Picture Agreement, there is NO LIMIT to the total minutes that can be recorded in a given session.

### *Does the secondary markets obligation increase with a bigger orchestra?*

No! Size doesn't matter. Hiring more musicians does not increase the producer's obligation and there is no per person minimum guarantee.

### *Is the composer responsible for the Assumption Agreement?*

The assumption agreement is signed by the Payroll/Signatory Company and the producer and /or distributor who are responsible for the terms of the assumption agreement.

### *Can a film be scored on an AFM contract even though the film is not signed to other guilds?*

Absolutely. A picture can be otherwise non-union but still have an AFM score.

### *How can I minimize overtime and stay within budget?*

The knowledgeable and experienced contractors and supervising copyists can help you by budgeting according to different sized orchestras and save you additional scoring days.

- Save time and money
- Avoid the hassle of overseas travel
- Secure the best musicians, facilities and support for your next project



## The Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund...

...receives and distributes residuals for musicians who work on a score when the film is sold into a secondary market.

The residual contribution is 1% or less of the revenue (after deductions) derived only from secondary markets. Secondary markets for films include DVDs, TV release, web streaming, and similar platforms. No residuals are owed or paid on a film's domestic or foreign box office receipts.

The FMSMF processes the paperwork and payroll taxes for every musician and handles sending each musician his/her residuals. A producer only has to pay one check to the FMSMF; everything else is handled by us.

All residual contributions are made *before* income taxes are paid, thereby reducing the producer's IRS obligation. Also, by executing a Buyer/Distribution Assumption Agreement, a producer can transfer and/or terminate residual obligations, as is routinely done with DGA and SAG.

### GET THE FACTS ABOUT LOW BUDGET RATES

In general, theatrical films with budgets of up to \$45 million qualify for the reduced rates in the AFM's Low Budget Agreement, and those with budgets up to \$15 million now qualify for even lower competitive rates.

<b>Basic Theatrical Motion Picture</b>	
Single Session (3 hour session, 23 musicians or less):	\$324.50
Double Session (6 hours of recording within an 8-hour period):	\$649.00
<b>Low Budget Motion Picture (≤\$45M)</b>	
Single Session (3 hour session):	\$202.49
Double Session (6 hours of recording within an 8-hour period):	\$404.98
<b>Indie Motion Picture (≤\$15M)</b>	
Single Session (3 hour session):	\$174.11
Double Session (6 hours of recording within an 8-hour period):	\$348.22
<b>Independent/Festival Film (≤\$2M)</b>	
Single Session (3 hour session, 10-24 musicians):	\$132.00
Double Session (6 hours of recording within an 8-hour period):	\$264.00

More information about scoring costs for lower budget films—and television— is available from the AFM Electronic Media Services Division at (323) 461-5401 or (212) 869-1330.

# FILM MUSICIANS SECONDARY MARKETS FUND

A 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization

15910 Ventura Blvd.  
9th Floor  
Encino, CA 91436

[www.fmsmf.org](http://www.fmsmf.org)

818.755.7777

Kim Roberts Hedgpeth - Executive Director



**The Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund is a separate 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization that works in cooperation with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) and the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) to ensure accurate and efficient collection, processing and distribution of residuals to qualifying musicians who provide the music for films and television. *This document offers only a very general overview of the formula for paying residual contributions and nothing in it supersedes the provisions of those Agreements.***