

Folk Music Ontario strongly encourages artists to become members of SOCAN, as it costs them nothing, and they can receive further royalties on the authorship of their songs, whenever they are performed live, by anyone (including themselves). FMO encourages house concert hosts *equally strongly* to get a SOCAN license – it is yet another way that hosts can support artists in their craft.

The SOCAN tariff which best fits a house concert format is the 4A2:

https://www.socan.ca/tariff/Infocard_4A2_EN.pdf

The license costs **\$60/year or 3% of what the artist earns, whichever is greater**. (i.e. - if a host had four successful house concerts in one calendar year [\$20.pp with 15-25 people at each concert], the amount paid would be \$66.60).

The process is easy:

- pay the \$60.00 at the beginning of the year (Jan)
- note the following details for each concert throughout the year:

a) the date of each concert

b) the name of the artist(s)

c) the amount that the artist collected at the concert (*not counting CD/merch sales*)

- At the end of the year, report the collected information (a, b, and c), calculating 3% of the accumulated artist-earnings. If that amount is less than \$60, the licensee owes nothing to SOCAN. If the amount is more than \$60, the licensee pays SOCAN the additional amount.

That's it!

(No need to report set lists... that's what the artist fills out in their report. It's also important to note here that whether or not the artist reports your concert to SOCAN has no bearing on your being a licensed music presenter, and is an independent matter.)

Note: An easy option is to collect the 3% off the top of the "door" at the end of each concert, if the host prefers not to cover the cost of the license. This should be discussed with the artist, and clearly stated *during the planning stages of the house concert*.

Although artists have *formerly* been counseled by SOCAN reps to present themselves at house concerts, it appears that that is no longer an option. The tariff was a bit more unwieldy: **\$35** for each concert, rather than the more affordable **\$15***.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call!

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FMO Lifetime Member

Host of Westboro House Concerts in Ottawa ON, Canada since 1996

*(3% held back and collected 'til the end of the year – i.e. \$20pp X 25ppl = \$500/3% = \$15.)