

BAND TIPS:LIST OF ACRONYMS



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A&R - Artist and Repertoire

The person at a record label or publisher whose job it is to find new talent, and then be the contact at the company for the artist in question.

AAC - Advanced Audio Coding

Like MP3, but in theory a bit better. AAC delivers a better quality sound at a similar file size, but is still quite far away from toppling the trusty old MP3 as the standard digital music format.

AIFF - Audio Interchange File Format

Basically Apple's version of a WAV file. When your music has been recorded then it'll either be in AIFF or WAV; a massive filesize but crammed full of audio quality goodness before you compress the into an MP3 so it's easier to send/store. As I said above; a high quality MP3 will suffice in the vast majority of situations within the music industry; so rip everything at 320KBPS (kilobites per second) and you'll be fine.

AIM - Association of Independent Musicians

<http://www.musicindie.com/home>

APRA - Australian Performing Rights Association

Australia's version of IMRO.

ASCAP - American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers

Unlike Ireland where IMRO is pretty much the only option you have in terms of signing up to a PRO, in the States you have three choices. ASCAP, BMI and SESAC.

AURA - The Association of United Recording Artists

Formerly the royalty paid for the public performance and broadcast of records had been distributed solely to record companies but since performers have become legally entitled to a proportion of this income a plethora of organisations has emerged to offer to administer this right on their behalf. AURA is one of a number of organisations set up to administer the payments due to performers on records.

ASCI - The Association of Songwriters and Composers of Ireland

is an information service. Newly formed and at its embryonic stage. Our aim is to tackle important issues such as: Perpetuity of Copyright and a higher content ruling on all licensed radio stations in Ireland for Irish songwriters and composers works.

BMI - Broadcast Music Incorporated

Another US PRO alongside ASCAP and SESAC.

BMR - British Music Rights

BMR is a lobbying body aimed at improving the legal framework within which everyone in the music industry operates. It addresses the issues both within Britain and on a European level, pressing for legislation in such areas as improved anti-piracy measures or stronger copyright enforcement measures.

BPI

BPI is the umbrella group for the entire record industry in the UK. It aims to raise the profile of recorded music. It is best known for the annual 'Brits' awards which have, alongside the Mercury Music Prize and the MTV Awards, done much to glitzy music in the same way the Oscars did for film.

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CAE - from the French 'Compositeur, Auteur and Editeur' (Composer, Author & Publisher)
When you join a PRO (Performing Rights Organisation) you're given a CAE number. This is basically your identification number so that any money that you'll make from your publishing rights can find their way back to you.

CAI - Copyright Association of Ireland
While the CAI is not primarily concerned with music, it is committed to the improvement of the conditions under which all copyright owners operate. They run lectures and seminars on copyright issues and act as a forum for copyright owners, copyright users and lawyers working in the field.

CISAC - International Confederation of Societies of Authors & Composers
Effectively the 'trade union' of all PRO's.

DRM - Digital Rights Management

EAN - European Article Number
A European barcode which has one extra digit over a UPC (Universal Product Code).

EPK - Electronic Press Kit
An EPK is a press kit equivalent in electronic form. An EPK usually takes the form of a website or e-mail, though they are also known to exist in CD and DVD form.

FLAC - Free Lossless Audio Codec
Another digital media file type.

FMC - First Music Contact
FMC is an all-Ireland umbrella group set up to promote, develop and encourage the work of music collectives in facilitating the needs of grass roots musicians. FMC also provide an information and advice service for musicians.

GEMA - Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs & mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte
Germany's version of IMRO

GS1 - Global Standards
The guys who create barcodes.

IASCA - Irish Association of Songwriters Composers and Authors

ICE - International Copyright Enterprise
This is the system used by IMRO (Irish Music Rights Organisation – Ireland's sole PRO) to create, store and administer all the information regarding the songs they look after. Within a song registration you usually find information regarding the composer (the person who wrote the music), the author (the person who wrote the lyrics), their CAE numbers (which tells you who PRO they belong to) and their publishers CAE number (which also tells you which PRO they belong to).

IFPI - International Federation of the Phonographic Industry
Effectively the 'trade union' of all record labels.

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IMRO - Irish Music Rights Organisation

IMRO is the body which administers the performing right on behalf of its members, be they publishers or individual members. If you are a songwriter whose work is performed in public or broadcast then membership is a must. See the [IMRO FAQ](#) for more information.

IP - Intellectual Property

As a musician you've got tons of this stuff. With every song, lyric, riff, hook, chorus, breakdown etc you create you've got a shiny new bit of intellectual property to call your own. IP refers to something that is rightly yours but isn't tangible and even though it doesn't physically exist you can still sell it or exploit it in various ways to make money from it.

IRMA - Irish Recorded Music Association

IRMA is an umbrella group for the Irish record industry. In addition to its lobbying role IRMA also commissions the charts for Ireland and organises the annual IRMA Awards. IRMA has recently set up the IRMA Trust which provides instruments to young performers who would not otherwise be able to afford them. This may yet prove to be one of the most vital contributions to the future of Irish music.

ISRC - International Standard Recording Code

A twelve digit alphanumeric code given to every song registered with the relevant body in that territory. Just as the ISWC code; royalties that are generated by that recording can find their way back to the correct copyright owner. Within the code contains the information; the country of origin, the organisation who administers the registration (the PPI in Ireland), the year of registration and then finally the unique identifying number. Remember: ISWC are for songs and ISRC are for recordings.

ISWC - International Standard Work Code

An eleven digit alphanumeric code given to each song registered to any PRO worldwide which makes it uniquely identifiable. Using either this or a 'Tunecode' (which is essentially the same thing but shorter), royalties that are generated by that song can find their way back to the correct PRO and then back to the author, composer and publisher.

JASRAC - Japanese Society for Rights of Authors & Composers

Japan's version of IMRO.

KBPS - Kilobits Per Second

There is usually a number preceding this acronym and the higher the number the better the quality of the file.

LC - Label Code

A four or five digit code given to a record label to identify who has released a record.

MP3

The most common type of digital media file

MCPS - Mechanical Copyright Protection Society

MCPS administer the mysterious 'mechanical' right in music. The mechanical right in fact means the right to make a recording or physical copy of a musical work. So if someone is releasing your music on record, or if they wish to use it in a film or advertising campaign or store it on a computer somewhere, membership of MCPS is a must. Like IMRO, MCPS operates worldwide through a network of related organisations.

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MMF - Music Managers Forum
Effectively the 'trade union' for Music Managers.
<http://musicmanagersforum.ie/>

MPAI - Music Publishers' Association of Ireland
MPAI is the umbrella body for publishers whose catalogue of musical works is used in Ireland.
MPG - Music Producers Guild

MU - Musicians' Union
The MU is the organisation which presses for improved working conditions for professional musicians, especially those who make a living from session work where MU Guidelines will determine what they are paid for a session and what breaks they will have etc. The MU also offers a legal advice service to members.

P2P - Peer to Peer
Kazaa, Limewire, Bearshare, (the original) Napster: all P2P clients that allow the easy transferring of data between two computers over the internet.

PPI - Phonographic Performance Ireland
PPI is the umbrella body for record companies in Ireland and it administers the performance right in its members' releases. It licences broadcasters to use records, as well as premises where records are played, and distributes this income to its members and to those artists who have performed on records released in Ireland.

PPL - Phonographic Performance Limited
These guys are another essential income stream for all artists. They collect money for those who own the master recordings of a song and also the performers on said records. There is money generated every time the record is played on the radio or receives TV exposure.

PRO - Performing Rights Organisation
These are the guys who look after your performing rights and all the information to do with your individual songs. In the Ireland we have IMRO for Music, but there are various PRO's for different territories (which are listed below). Basically if you want to make money from your publishing rights then you simply HAVE to register with a PRO. Not sure what Music Publishing actually is? Click [here](#) for our Music Publishing guidelines.

PRS - Performing Right Society
The PRS is the equivalent of IMRO in the UK, and in fact before the establishment of IMRO was the body which administered the performing right in Ireland.

RAAP - Recorded Artist and Performers
RAAP is a not-for-profit Irish Performers Association which will collect and distribute Royalties to Irish Performers for public plays of their Material.

RIAA -Recording Industry Association of America
The RIAA is to the US what IRMA is to Ireland.

SACEM - Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et éditeurs de Musique
France's version of IMRO.

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SESAC - Society of European Stage Authors & Composers
Another US PRO alongside ASCAP and BMI. (Why European in the title? It goes back to when they originally started).

SGAE - Sociedad General de Autores y Editores
Spain's version of IMRO.

STIM - Svenska Tonsättares Internationella Musikbyrå
Sweden's version of IMRO.

TONO
Norway's version of IMRO.

UPC - Universal Product Code
Or as most people call them; barcodes.

VPL - Video Performance Limited
Part of the PPL; these guys collect all the royalties generated from when your music video has been played on various TV stations worldwide.

WAV - Waveform Audio File
Just like an AIFF, a WAV is a high quality digital file of your music. When you're successful in landing a sync you may often be asked for the WAV file of the song so make sure you keep them rather safe. Also; NEVER reproduce CD's to sell that are MP3's burnt onto audio CD; ALWAYS use the WAVs or you're making yourself sound worse than you actually are.

Taken from The BLOMIA (Big List Of Music Industry Acronyms) written by Sentric Music Publishing – Music Royalties Collection Service - <http://www.sentricmusic.com/>

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