



Suggested **MINIMUM**
Fee Schedule for
Musicians

Updated effective August 2025

The **Red Deer Arts Council** supports fair pay for musicians. This fee schedule sets **minimum rates** for performances and workshops, based on industry consultations. It is a **guideline**, not a rule, and many artists charge more based on experience and expenses. Additional costs like travel, accommodations, and equipment are separate. The document is updated regularly—contact the Arts Council for details.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO MUSICIAN FEES

Casual Performances	Engagements where live music is not the main focus of the event, such as background music, cocktail lounges, bars, cabarets, hotels, restaurants, weddings, receptions, banquets, fashion shows, exhibition openings, barbecues, and chamber music.
Concert	A performance of a maximum of 3 hours where live music is the main focus of the event. This includes setup/tear-down and sound check time.
Educational Concerts and Clinics	Events that include a combination of performance and/or artist talk or clinic working with school ensemble. Presenters pay concert rates for performances and a minimum of \$82/hour per musician for the talk/clinic portion

Equal Sharing Ensembles/Bands

Groups where all members share revenues and expenses equally, requiring fee negotiations that allow for this structure.

Festivals

A performance at a festival where additional considerations such as meals, guest passes, accommodation, travel, and merchandise sales opportunities may be included in the compensation.

Out-of-Town Acts

Performers from outside the community who require compensation for travel time and expenses. Fees are adjusted based on the distance traveled.

Private Lessons

One-on-one music lessons priced at \$27.50/half hour per student.

Showcases

Events where three or more self-contained groups perform, with production provided. Each musician is paid \$70 for a set of one or less

Special Event

A performance at an event with an expected audience of 300+ where the performance is an advertised feature.

Steady Engagements

Defined as either (a) two or more consecutive days in the same location for the same presenter, or (b) one engagement per week for four or more consecutive weeks in the same location.

CONCERTS

Small Concert	Up to 3 hours in a venue with less than 150 capacity
Concert	Up to 3 hours in a venue with 150+ capacity
Opening Act	A short set before the headliner. If both acts have similar set lengths and experience, it's a double bill , and both should be paid equally.

A concert is a performance up to 3 hours where live music is the main focus of the event. This includes setup, teardown, and soundcheck. If more time is needed for these, an extra \$54.75/hour per musician should be charged. There may or may not be an entry fee for the audience.

MUSICIAN FEES BY GROUP SIZE & EVENTS

Number of Musicians	Opening Act (Max. 1 hour)	Small Concert	Concert
Solo (1)	\$95.25	\$253.25	\$380.00
2	\$158.50	\$421.00	\$633.00
3	\$222.00	\$699.75	\$886.50
4	\$285.00	\$755.00	\$1,140.00
5	\$348.50	\$922.00	\$1,393.00
6	\$411.75	\$1,089.25	\$1,646.50
7	\$467.75	\$1,256.50	\$1,899.75
8	\$538.25	\$1,423.75	\$2,152.75

Performance fees for musicians are based on the number of players and event type. For each additional musician, add 66% of the solo rate. Prices are rounded to the nearest \$0.25 and an increase of 3% should be calculated annually.

CASUAL PERFORMANCE NUMBER OF MUSICIANS

A casual music performance is a performance that's part of an event, but not the primary focus. Casual performances can take place at weddings, corporate parties, supermarket openings, flea markets, and art openings.

Number of Musicians	3 hours	3.5 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	5 hours
1	\$ 209.00	\$ 251.00	\$ 292.75	\$ 334.25	\$ 376.00
2	\$ 358.25	\$ 429.75	\$ 501.50	\$ 573.00	\$ 668.50
3	\$ 507.50	\$ 609.00	\$ 710.50	\$ 811.75	\$ 950.25
4	\$ 781.75	\$ 789.00	\$ 919.25	\$ 1,050.50	\$ 1,182.00
5	\$ 806.00	\$ 967.25	\$ 1,128.00	\$ 1,289.25	\$ 1,450.50
6	\$ 955.25	\$ 1,146.00	\$ 1,337.00	\$1,528.00	\$1,719.00

RATES FOR VARIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

CATEGORY	DETAILS
Equal Sharing Ensembles/Bands	Bands sharing revenues and expenses equally may have slightly higher fees.
Educational Concerts & Clinics	Performance rates + \$82/hour per musician for talks/clinics. Covers prep and expertise.
Casual Performances	Events where music isn't the main focus (e.g. bars, weddings). Fees depend on duration and number of musicians .
New Year's Eve	\$153/hour for the leader and \$87.50/hour for additional musicians (higher fees expected).
Showcases	\$76.50 per musician for self-contained groups (1 hour or less) – no leader fee .
Special Event	Performances at events with 300+ people : Leader: \$492, Sideperson: \$191.25.
Festival	\$285/day per musician , plus additional considerations like meals, travel, and accommodation.
Out-of-town Acts	Compensation for travel: - Up to 65 km: +20% over casual/concert rates - 66-160 km: +40% over casual/concert rates - Transportation: \$0.60/km - Per Diem: Breakfast - \$22.50, Lunch - \$22, Dinner - \$55.50
Steady Engagements	Two or more consecutive days or weekly engagements for four+ weeks at the same location.

MUSICIAN FEES BY TIME & GROUP

Number of Musicians	3 hours	3.5 hours	4 hours	4.5 hours	5 hours
1	\$ 190.00	\$ 228.25	\$ 266.25	\$ 304.25	\$ 342.25
2	\$ 316.75	\$ 380.00	\$ 443.25	\$ 506.50	\$ 570.00
3	\$ 443.75	\$ 532.00	\$ 620.50	\$ 709.25	\$ 798.00
4	\$ 570.00	\$ 684.25	\$ 798.00	\$ 912.00	\$ 1,026.00
5	\$ 696.50	\$ 836.00	\$ 975.25	\$ 1,114.50	\$ 1,253.75



Questions? Contact us.