

P2 Work Visas for Canadian Musicians

NOTE: This visa information pertains only to Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are legally entitled to enter the United States. For all other situations, consult with the AFM/CFM office in Toronto, or with your lawyer, or with the US immigration service and provide them with full information about your status.

Did you know that being a member of the HMG makes it easier – and cheaper – for musicians to obtain a temporary work permit in the United States (known as a P2 Visa)?

As a member of the HMG, local 293, you are a member of the AFM/CFM. The American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM/CFM) is recognized by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as an authorized petitioner for temporary work permits on behalf of AFM member musicians. Therefore, Canadian members who wish to perform (work) in the United States may apply for non-immigrant work permits through AFM. The AFM provides the exact same level of service as immigration lawyers or visa service agents, at a fraction of the cost.

The AFM provides immigration consulting services to members and non-members alike. However, petitioning for P2 Work Permits is a member-specific service, processed by AFM's Canadian Office in Toronto exclusively on behalf of Canadian AFM members.

The P2 Work Permit

For most musical work in the United States, musicians require a Classification P2 Work Permit, or other non-immigrant permit. Also see—B1 Business class Visitor Visa, below.

Processing Times and US Immigration Fees

For Regular Processing it is recommended you submit your P2 package 90 calendar days prior first gig. Provide a \$460 USD money order, payable to "Department of Homeland Security". (Starting April 1st. US Immigration is increasing the fee from \$460 USD to \$510 USD. P2 submissions received by CFM office March 22nd or later need to provide the updated fee of \$510 USD)

For Premium Processing it is recommended you submit your P2 package 30 days prior to your first gig. Provide 2 separate money orders in the amount of \$460 USD, the other \$2,805 USD, both payable to "Department of Homeland Security. (Starting April 1st. US Immigration is increasing the fee from \$460 USD to \$510 USD. P2 submissions received by CFM office March 22nd or later need to provide 2 money orders of \$510 USD and \$2,805 USD)

AFM Administrative Fee

Regular Processing is \$125 CAD for the first person, plus \$25 CAD for each additional musicians/technicians.

Premium Processing is \$150 CAD for the first musician plus \$25 CAD for each musicians/technicians.

When changing processing type from Regular Processing to Premium Processing a Change fee of \$25 CAD is required.

The P2 Replacement Letter fee is \$50 CAD.

For more details please email Liana White lwhite@afm.org with questions on the Department of Homeland Security fee.

NOTE: AFM does not have control over the decisions U.S. Immigration makes on their processing times. Therefore, USCIS processing times may increase/decrease at any time, without notice. The AFM's suggested processing timelines are based on weekly observance of the average turnaround time from submission of application to receipt of approval. You may contact our office to confirm times haven't drastically changed.

For more details please email Liana White lwhite@afm.org with questions on the Department of Homeland Security fee & administrative changes.

Forms and Instructions

We suggest DOWNLOADING/SAVING files below to your hard drive BEFORE filling them out.

[P2 – Instructions for Completing a P2 Application](#)

[P2 – Checklist](#)

[P2 – Application Form \(Parts 1 – 4\)](#)

[P2 – Part 5 \(Support Crew\)](#)

[P2 – Part 6 \(Single Performer\)](#)

[P2 – Part 6 \(2 or More Performers\)](#)

[P2 – Tour Itinerary \(Only Necessary When Performing at Multiple Venues\)](#)

[P2 – Travel Engagement Contract \(T2C FORM\)](#)

[P2 – Permanent Resident Visa Process](#)

[P2 – Replacement Musician Application](#)

[P2 – After your P2 is Approved](#)

If you are not yet an AFM member, or if you just joined AFM specifically to obtain a P2, please contact Cathy Lee at cathylee@afm.org for additional information.

If you are an existing AFM member, please contact the P2 Department at immigration@afm.org, or by phone to Ari Vangeest at 416 391-5161 (toll free: 1 800 463-6333) ext. 234 and Melanie Hall at ext. 222.