



GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS TO THE MUSIC RECORDING PRODUCTION FUND Level 1 Demo/Commercial Release, Level 2, Level 3

Objectives

To encourage culturally relevant and commercially viable music production activity in the Manitoba music recording industry by providing financial support for costs associated with music recordings. To encourage development of the Manitoba music recording industry's infrastructure by increasing production levels, marketability of projects and improving skill levels.

Applicants may apply under one of three different program levels, which are described below.

Program Requirements for Applicants

Eligible applicants: The applicant must be an artist who is a Manitoba resident. The contact person can be a representative of the artist (e.g., manager, label, grant writer).

Ineligible applicants: Government departments, public agencies or other public institutions, and public or private broadcasting companies are not eligible.

Manitoba residency requirement: A Manitoba resident means an individual who is legally entitled to be and remain in Canada, is currently a resident of Manitoba and has been for not less than three hundred and sixty-five (365) days prior to the date of application to Manitoba Film & Music. In the case of partnerships, a minimum of 50% of the partnership must meet this residency requirement.

Minimum age: Please be advised that the minimum age for application to Manitoba Film & Music's programs is 18. In situations where the artist does not meet the minimum age requirement, a parent or legal guardian may apply on their behalf, providing they agree to the terms and conditions provided in the program guidelines and contract.

First-time applicants: Manitoba Film & Music wants to help you create the best application possible. Please set up a one-on-one consultation with us to ensure you understand our programs and all the requirements by contacting the [Music Programs Coordinator](#) prior to applying.

Artist/applicant in 'good standing': No new applications will be approved if an applicant has overdue files and/or is behind in their loan repayments to Manitoba Film & Music. Note: Loan repayments are due up to March 31, 2020, and then forgiven.

Business registration and bank information: The applicant must be registered as a business or incorporated in Manitoba. Contact the [Companies Office](#) to register your business name. In the case of applicants under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must be a signee on the business registration. This business/incorporation must have a valid Manitoba chequing account to be used for this project.

Other funding: Applicants to Manitoba Film & Music are encouraged to apply to FACTOR, Canada Council for the Arts and MUSICACTION if they meet these agencies' eligibility requirements, and indicate the amount applied for on the application. Inquiries to FACTOR may be directed to the agency's regional evaluation coordinator at Manitoba Music, (204) 942-8650.

Currency: All monies indicated are in Canadian dollars.

Recording Program Guidelines for All Levels

Eligible recording projects: All types and genres of commercially viable music recordings are eligible to apply. Compilations by artists, record labels, management companies and other such groups are not eligible. Live theatre or film projects not directly tied to a commercially released soundtrack recording are not eligible. Soundtracks must be commercially released and sold separately from the theatre or film project.

Note: As of April 1, 2022, Manitoba Film & Music will accept applications for projects that have completed recording and are at the mixing phase for the project.

Unreleased songs: The songs submitted with the application to the Level 1, 2, and 3 recording programs and intended for the finished project must be unreleased.

Ownership: Copyright in completed projects must be beneficial and equitably owned by eligible Manitoba residents or eligible Manitoba companies.

Manitoba Film & Music accredited recording service: For all applications the recording and/or mixing must occur using an accredited recording service (studio, mixer, or producer) for the project to be eligible. Mixing costs are only eligible if the mixing is done in Manitoba. Mastering can occur at any mastering studio and be considered an eligible expense. Note: additional points in the jury scoring are awarded for applications fully completed at Manitoba facilities. See program details below. Studios, mix engineers or producers seeking accreditation should visit www.mbfilmmusic.ca for more information.

Three application rule: An application is only eligible to be submitted three times to the juried recording program. After being declined for the third time, the artist would only be eligible to apply to the music recording production fund with a different recording project.

One application per deadline: Applicants may only apply to one music recording production fund level per deadline and may only be approved to each recording level once per fiscal year (April 1–March 31).

Two-year release window: Artist must release completed recording within two years of receipt of the letter of commitment. If artist fails in this, the funding awarded may be cancelled and all advanced funds must be returned. If the funds are not returned the artist will be placed in default.

Deadlines for Applications

Application deadlines: Manitoba Film & Music shall endeavour to hold juries three times a year. Current recording program deadlines are posted on www.mbfilmmusic.ca. Fully completed applications must be submitted by email before 5 p.m. for each scheduled deadline. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will be declined. Recording and/or mixing can commence and related expenses be incurred up to 30 days prior to the application being received.

Emailed applications only: Manitoba Film & Music is only accepting applications by email to music@mbfilmmusic.ca. Applications must be in a downloadable Google Drive or Dropbox folder, and labeled "Artist Name – Program Applied For." All documents must be in PDF format. Application materials will not be returned. All submissions become the property of Manitoba Film & Music.

Application forms: Applications must be completed on current Manitoba Film & Music-supplied application forms. Self-generated documents, such as Word documents or Excel spreadsheets, will not be accepted. Check our website for the current editions of all applications and guidelines.

LEVEL 1—DEMO or COMMERCIAL RELEASE

Level 1 overview

To encourage the production of a high-quality recording by individual Manitoba recording artists or groups, which may be used as a demo or released commercially. Applicants may apply to record a minimum of one (1) song. The program will only allow for tracking in a non-accredited facility (such as a home studio, jam space, etc.) if the project is done in partnership with a local Accredited Recording Service, where the accredited professional is serving as the producer or mixer. Manitoba Film & Music's contribution will be in the form of a grant. Artists may only access this program once per fiscal year (April 1–March 31).

Demo: A demo is defined as a recording not intended for release or sale through any medium, including streaming. The project plan will highlight what the demo will be used for including: studio experience; soliciting an agent, manager, publicist, etc.; application to festivals, and so on. Production support is available up to 100% of the total approved budget, to a maximum of **\$2,000**.

Commercial release: A commercial release is defined as a recording intended for sale through any and all media. The marketing plan will highlight where it will be released, how it will be promoted, tour plans, etc. Production support is available up to 100% of the total approved budget, to a maximum of **\$3,000**.

LEVEL 2 PROGRAM—EP or FULL-LENGTH ALBUM

Level 2 overview

To encourage the production of recordings of five (5) or more songs by individual Manitoba recording artists or groups to be released for sale through any and all media. Manitoba Film & Music's contribution will be in the form of a grant and may be up to 75% of a project's total budget, to a maximum of **\$10,000**. Tracking or mixing must occur at an accredited studio or with an accredited mix engineer or producer. Mixing must occur in Manitoba to be an eligible expense. Mastering can occur at any facility. The recording must be commercially released following its completion.

LEVEL 3 PROGRAM—FULL-LENGTH ALBUM

Level 3 overview

To encourage the production of full-length recordings (minimum six [6] songs or twenty [20] minutes of music) by individual Manitoba recording artists or groups to be released for sale through any and all media. Manitoba Film & Music's contribution will be in the form of a grant and may be up to 60% of a project's total budget, to a maximum of **\$20,000**. Tracking or mixing must occur at an accredited studio or with an accredited mix engineer or producer. Mixing must occur in Manitoba to be an eligible expense. Mastering can occur at any facility. The recording must be commercially released following its completion.

Level 3 additional eligibility criteria

For level 3 applications, the artist must have Manitoba Film & Music-recognized distribution **AND** have attained a minimum number of approved sales in order to apply for the program. Manitoba Film & Music-recognized distribution and minimum sales requirements may be achieved in the following ways:

1. **Manitoba Film & Music-recognized distributor:** The artist must be party to an executed agreement

assuring national distribution of the proposed recording. Please see the list of approved distributors on Manitoba Film & Music's [website](#).

2. **Minimum sales requirement:** The artist must have sold a minimum of 750 units of their most recent release through any combination of physical sales, streams and/or monetized downloads*. These are quantified as follows:
 - a) Physical sales
 - i) Each CD sold is equivalent of one unit sold
 - b) Download sales and streaming
 - i) Full album sales – Each paid full-album download is the equivalent of one unit sold
 - ii) Individual track sales – Five paid individual track downloads are the equivalent of one unit sold
 - iii) Streams – 1,500 on-demand album streams are the equivalent of one unit sold

**Must be supported by a current sales report from distributor*

Evaluation Process, All Levels

Jury procedures and assessment: All projects will be submitted to a jury of peers for evaluation and must be approved by two juries unanimously. All submissions are evaluated based on the quality of the music, lyrics, vocals, musicianship, originality, radio airplay and sales potential, production team, artist history, touring plan and, particularly, the project/marketing plan.

Timeline for approvals/decline notices: Processing and evaluation of applications will commence as soon as possible after the deadline dates. Manitoba Film & Music will endeavour to notify all applicants of the results within eight weeks.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses: All expenses directly related to the production of the recording may be eligible (for example, Manitoba recording studio and mixing costs, artist fees, producer fees, mastering, manufacturing, etc.). These expenses must be set out in advance in a budget submitted along with the application and approved by Manitoba Film & Music prior to the commencement of recording.

Any expenses incurred more than thirty (30) days before the application is submitted will not be accepted.

In-house costs: In-house costs are not accepted as eligible expenses.

Manufacturing costs: When a label pays for manufacturing and bills the artist at above manufacturing cost rates (e.g., wholesale), Manitoba Film & Music will only allow the artist to claim the actual per-unit manufacturing cost.

Self-producing artists: In situations where the artist is self-producing a record in their own accredited studio, the studio costs are ineligible (these are considered in-house). Self-producing artists can claim either an artist or self-producer fee to a maximum of \$300 per day, plus a per diem of \$45. Both fees and per diems are capped at one day per song recorded (one song recorded = \$300 plus a per diem of \$45). Please note: Self-producing artists can only claim either an artist fee or producer fee.

Out of province producer fees: If an artist has engaged an out of province producer, the producer's fees and travel expenses for working in an accredited Manitoba studio are eligible. Prior approval of such expenses by Manitoba Film & Music is required.

Per diems and artist fees: Per diems are capped at \$45 per artist, per day in the studio. Artist fees are capped at \$300 per day. Musicians can only claim artist fees and per diems for tracking the recording,

not mixing or mastering. These expenses may be paid in cash and submitted for cost reporting purposes on a single signed receipt per person, for the full amounts paid out. Artist fees may be included as a donated service, paid expense or a combination of the two, not to exceed \$300 per day*. In order to claim artist fees and per diems, a valid receipt signed by the recipient must be included in the final reporting.

*Manitoba Film & Music will permit an applicant to pay higher rates but will only allow the maximum of \$300 per day to be claimed as an eligible artist services day rate expense.

Donated investment: Donated investment will be recognized as an eligible cost. Manitoba Film & Music will recognize up to a maximum of 25% of the final accepted total costs of the project in donated investment. Artist fees may be donated to a maximum of \$300 per day, per person performing, and a valid signed receipt must be submitted for cost reporting. If the full artist fee is claimed as donated, then no paid portion will be eligible. Only those donated expenses which appear on invoices shall be accepted.

Administrative fee: An administrative fee is recognized as an eligible cost. Manitoba Film & Music will recognize up to a maximum of 15% of the final accepted total costs of the project or \$1,500, whichever is less, as the administrative fee.

Financial Participation

Financing plan: Applicants must demonstrate the financial ability to manage and complete the project based on the budget submitted. A financing plan must be submitted along with the application. The financing plan can consist of a written statement saying how the applicant plans to finance the budget shortfall not covered by Manitoba Film & Music funding or other funds/revenues.

Funding contributions: Applicants must disclose all other sources of financial assistance for the project. Manitoba Film & Music's contribution to the project combined with any other funding, including government or terrestrial radio programs, cannot exceed 100% of the total eligible budget.

Manitoba Film & Music credit and logo: Manitoba Film & Music's logo must be placed on all materials produced for this project as credit for funding and include the phrase, "Produced with the financial participation of Manitoba Film & Music." Please refer to the [resources section](#) of our website for print-ready graphics.

Approvals: Approval of all applications is at the discretion of Manitoba Film & Music. Manitoba Film & Music may impose modifications to the budget submitted.

Project changes: It is the applicant's responsibility to inform Manitoba Film & Music of any changes to the original budget, the creative direction, or the financing structure of the project in order for the project to remain eligible for funding.

Recoupment rules: As of April 1, 2020, all recording programs are grants. Applicants with outstanding loans must deliver up-to-date reports for the period ending March 31, 2020. The terms of the loans are detailed below:

Any music recordings commercially released on CD, or any other physical formats, are subject to a recoupment amount payable to Manitoba Film & Music of \$1 per unit sold. Manitoba Film & Music will also be entitled to recoup 10% of digital sales and all other revenue paid to the applicant from the sale of masters recorded under this program. This revenue may include, but shall not be limited to, online sales and licences for film and television. The Manitoba applicant/artist applying is solely responsible for all reporting and repayment for this project.

Final Reporting

Level 1, 2, and 3 completion report requirements: Manitoba Film & Music requires an employment report, copies of the finished recording/songs (two [2] for digital releases, 15 for physical releases) and a cost report that includes all invoices and receipts directly related to the project, as well as their corresponding proof of payment.

Manitoba Film & Music accepts only the following as satisfactory forms of proof of payment:

- Copy of the **FRONT AND BACK** of a cleared cheque, or
- Copy of credit card statement clearly indicating payee and amount disbursed, or
- Copy of bank transfer/eTransfer, or
- Copy of money order.

Verification of services: Manitoba Film & Music will perform a test of invoices and cancelled cheques, and this shall include contacting suppliers and/or payees for verification of submitted invoices and costs.

Receipt copies: Applicants must keep original copies of receipts submitted with their final reporting. Only photocopies of original receipts should accompany the final reporting paperwork. Any final reports submitted with original receipts will be returned to the applicant for resubmission in the proper format.

Payment types: Cash payments will only be accepted for those expenses that are less than \$150 and are substantiated by receipts from verified vendors. Cash payments to non-verified vendors or in amounts greater than \$150 will not be accepted. Artist fees of \$300 or less that are paid in cash are exempt from the \$150 payment limit.

Manitoba Film & Music reserves the right to review and amend the Music Recording Production Fund program guidelines at any time.

All required forms are available on the **Manitoba Film & Music** website under [music programs](#).