

**Musicians'
Union**



Accompanist Rate

April 2026

Minimum Rates per Musician

Rehearsal Pianists

2 hours minimum call - £111.44

Audition Accompanists

3 hours minimum call - £167.16

Dance Class Accompanists and Ballet School

Minimum call 1½ hours - £83.58

Exam Accompanists

Minimum calls

Grade Prep time (mins) Exam Time (mins) Fee

1 – 5	30	30	£55.72
6 – 7	45	45	£83.58
8	60	60	£111.44

Weekly Rate max 30hrs £1248.05

Overtime

Hourly rate of £55.72 payable at time and a half, therefore £83.58 per hour (or part thereof)

Sundays or Bank Holidays to be paid at double time

Distance fees – in respect of time travelled

£13.23 per hour pro rata.

For travel time and mileage – <https://www.theaa.com/driving/mileage-calculator.jsp>

Fuel fees and travel expenses

56p per mile

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/rates/travel.htm>

Standard class rail fare

www.thetrainline.co.uk

Congestion/Toll Charges/Parking

All charges to be paid by the engager

Porterage

Group A - £41.65 – Electric Guitar (inc' Amp); Bass Guitar (inc' Amp); Double Bass.

Group B - £36.00 – Bass Sax, Tuba, Contra Bassoon

Group C - £28.60 – Baritone Sax, French Horn + 1 other brass instrument; Trombone + 1 other brass instrument or bag of mutes: Two Saxes; Cello; Bass Clarinet: Pedalboards.

Group D – subject to individual negotiation – Drum Kit; Percussion; Harps: Keyboards: P.A.

Doubling/Trebling/Quadrupling

15% of fee for each additional instrument

Breaks

Minimum of 15 mins per 2 hours playing

Late fees

Payable when the time of return is between midnight and 2:00 am: £37.50

Overnight stay

Payable when return would be after 2:00 am: £147.00

Subsistence

Payable per day to cover meals and expenses: £65.80

Guidance notes

The MU's live rates are based on an hourly rate which a self-employed musician needs to charge in order to earn an income, relative to their training, experience and expertise. Individual negotiations can be made based on these minimum rates.

If you're self-employed, you do not have a contract of employment with an employer. You're more likely to be contracted to provide services over a certain period of time for a fee and be in business in your own right.

You'll also pay your own tax and National Insurance contributions.

You don't have employment rights as such if you're self-employed as you are your own boss and can therefore decide how much to charge for your work and how much holiday to give yourself.

You do have some legal protection.

You must not be discriminated against and you're entitled to a safe and healthy working environment on your client's premises.

Self-employed women who have recently left their jobs may be entitled to Maternity Allowance.

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