

Musicians'  
Union



# National Gig Rate

April 2026

MU Standard Contract: L1, L2

## Minimum rates per musician

For casual engagements for groups performing in pubs and clubs  
of up to 3 hours: **£167.16**

For casual engagements for groups performing at functions  
of up to 4 hours: **£222.88**

## Overtime

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

## Setting up time

The engagement is payable at the full hourly rate from whatever time the musician is required to have his/her instruments and equipment set up.

## 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](http://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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