ASCAP Reporting Form: 2025

This form must be completed by each USA chapter to comply with the agreement between the Barbershop Harmony Society ("BHS") and ASCAP (The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers).

- **SECTION A:** If your chapter produces NO (zero) live, in-person shows/events in 2025, complete **Section A** and submit the first page of this form to BHS via email to library@barbershop.org or via regular mail to: Barbershop Harmony Society, Attn: Music Library, 110 7th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203-3704.
- **SECTION B:** If your chapter's produced shows/events (live, in-person) do not gross more than **$38,118.47** in ticket sales in 2025, **complete Section B** and mail page one to BHS with a check payable to "Barbershop Harmony Society" or "BHS" for the minimum amount due for 2025, which is **$310.00**.
- **SECTION C:** If your chapter grosses ***more than* $38,118.47** in ticket sales for all live, in-person shows/events that it produces in 2025, complete **Section C** and mail page one to BHS with a check payable to "Barbershop Harmony Society" or "BHS" for the applicable fee, computed using the rate table/formula provided below.

******This report and/or payment is due to BHS by December 31, 2025.******

***** DO NOT MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ASCAP AND DO NOT MAIL FORM or PAYMENT TO ASCAP******

Chapter Code (i.e. A001): _____ **Chapter Name:** _____ **Chorus Name:** _____ **Location (City/State):** _____	**Chapter Secretary or Treasurer Signature:** _____ **Date Submitted:** _____/_____/_____

SECTION A:

Our chapter has **not** produced, and **will not** produce, any live, in-person shows/events (free, benefit or ticketed) during the year 2025.	As such, I certify that my chapter is not liable for an annual ASCAP licensing fee for the 2025 calendar year. _____ Chapter Secretary or Treasurer Signature

SECTION B:

Our chapter will **not** gross more than **$38,118.47** in ticket sales for all shows/events that it produces during the year 2025.	Accordingly, my chapter is paying the minimum licensing fee of **$310.00**. Check #:_____

SECTION C:

	Seating Capacity		**% applied to Gross Ticket Revenue** (see FAQ for definition of GTR)	**Multiplier**
	Low	**High**		
	0	2,500	0.80%	0.0080
	2,501	5,000	0.40%	0.0040
	5,001	10,000	0.25%	0.0025
	10,001	25,000	0.20%	0.0020
	over	25,000	0.10%	0.0010
		A	***B***	***A x B***
	Show Date	**Gross Revenue ($)**	**Multiplier**	**Fee ($)**
Show 1				
Show 2				
Show 3				
Show 4				
			TOTAL PAYMENT:	$

EXHIBIT A

Rate Schedule

FOR LIVE CONCERT EVENTS OTHER THAN FREE CONCERT EVENTS

Seating Capacity*	Percentage Applied to Net Revenue
0 -> 2,500	0.80%
2,501 -> 5,000	0.40%
5,001 -> 10,000	0.25%
10,001 -> 25,000	0.20%
More than 25,000	0.10%

- Where the total seating capacity of a location has been altered to accommodate a particular performance, the term "Seating Capacity" shall mean the total number of seats made available for that particular performance and shall be so indicated on the report.

FOR BENEFIT CONCERT EVENTS AND FREE CONCERT EVENTS

Seating Capacity*	Rate Per Event
0 -> 5,500	$12.00
5,501 -> 10,000	$64.00
10,001 -> 20,000	$133.00
20,001 -> 60,000	$225.00
More than 60,000	$439.00

MINIMUM ANNUAL FEE. The minimum annual fee payable hereunder shall be $310.00.

Per-Event Rates For Year 2026 and Thereafter

The per-event rates for Free Concert Events, and the minimum annual fee for each calendar year commencing 2026 shall be the license fee for the preceding calendar year, adjusted in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) between the preceding October and the next preceding October, rounded to the nearest $1.00.

ASCAP 2025 Chapter Reporting FAQ

Note: The following FAQ applies to chapters located in the United States only. Chapters located outside of the United States should contact library@barbershop.org for further assistance. Please be advised that this FAQ is provided as general information only and is not rendered legal advice. The copyright landscape is ever evolving; should you require legal advice regarding copyright please contact an attorney.

Is my chapter required to submit an ASCAP Chapter Report Form each year?
ALL U.S. Chapters are required to submit a report form whether or not shows/events are produced by a chapter during a calendar year. (See **Section A** of the report form.)

Where do I send the completed form and/or applicable payment?
Mail your ASCAP form and applicable payment (check/money order) to:

Barbershop Harmony Society
Attn: Music Library
110 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203-3704

If no payment is due from your chapter, complete Section A and submit the report via regular mail to BHS or email to library@barbershop.org.

Why should we pay for singing and performing music in public?
We often use the expression "they're playing my song," not always remembering that while we may have emotionally adopted the song, it most likely belongs to another party. When you use other people's property you need to ask - and receive – permission to do so.

Our chapter ensemble was invited to sing at an event. Are we still required to submit an ASCAP report to BHS?
If your chapter is invited by a third party to sing at their show, business, etc., your group would be considered a work-for-hire (even if singing for free) and the party that invited you would be responsible for any public performance licensing that may be required. (Some chapters do go ahead and submit reports/fees to Harmony Hall just in case for peace of mind for instances like this.)

What is a public performance?
A public performance is one that occurs "in a place open to the public or at any place where a number of persons outside of a small circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered." A public performance is also one that is transmitted by means of any device or process to the public – such as radio/ TV broadcasts, telephone, and via the internet. In order to perform a copyrighted work publicly, the user must ensure public performance permission is in place from the copyright holder or its agent (such as ASCAP, BMI, and/or SESAC). For example, an Afterglow Event open to the public is considered a public performance and may be considered as part of the show; however, if the Afterglow Event is limited to cast and family, it would not be considered a public performance.

In the case of BHS chapters producing public, in-person shows/events, there is a two-step permissions process:

1) Complete one **ASCAP Chapter Reporting Form** /payment annually to BHS, preferably after your final show of that year and on/before December 31 of the calendar year.
2) Complete and submit one **BMI/SESAC Reporting Form**/payment (for each event) to your district secretary/assignee (prior to event for approval).

What do you mean by "producing" a show for public performance?
The chapter or entity organizing, marketing, and/or promoting a public performance event is responsible for securing licensing and paying any applicable fees. Your chapter shows/events are typically **your** productions; as a result, ASCAP (and BMI/SESAC) reports/payments must be submitted by your chapter. On the other hand, if you are hired *by another party* to perform in a show, the party hiring you is typically responsible for securing licensing and paying any applicable fees.

Aren't musicians, entertainers and disc jockeys responsible for obtaining permission for the music they perform?
Some people mistakenly assume that musicians and entertainers must obtain licenses to perform copyrighted music, or that show producers or businesses can shift their responsibility to musicians or entertainers. Since it is the show producer who obtains the ultimate benefit from the performance, it is the producer who must secure permission and pay any applicable fee. Music license fees are one of the many costs of promoting a concert, show or performance and it is vital to include these costs in your event budget planning.

What if my chapter only produces virtual shows on the internet this year and does not produce any in-person events?
As of this writing the current major social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Spin Network, Twitch, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) have blanket agreements already in place with ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. If your chapter uses one or more of these platforms for a virtual show/event you are not required to pay any ASCAP or BMI/SESAC fees through Harmony Hall for that show/event. Please note that an ASCAP report is still required by your chapter if no live, in-person events are produced. (Please see Section A of the report form.)

If your chapter broadcasts a virtual show from its own website - or other privately managed website – you must contact ASCAP, BMI, **and** SESAC to secure a public performance license for that virtual show. You may contact these organizations at any time to inquire about the licensing status of the internet platform your chapter wants to use for your virtual event. (Contact information for these organizations are located at the end of this article.)

We've purchased learning tracks and/or sheet music copies of the arrangement we're performing. Why do we need additional permissions?
Copyright holders enjoy a number of different rights under USA law which includes separate public performance rights. The purchase (or rental) of an audio recording or sheet music does not typically authorize its public performance.

What is meant by Gross Revenue from ticket sales (Gross Ticket Revenue or GTR)?
"Gross Revenue" is defined as all monies received by a licensee (such as your chapter) or on a licensee's behalf from the sale of tickets for each concert. Gross revenue shall *not* include per-ticket entertainment, amusement, or sales taxes, commissions or fees paid to automated ticket distributors (such as Ticketmaster, etc.), per-ticket theatre restoration/facility fees, or parking fees when included in the ticket price. It also does *not* include program advertising revenue or other non-ticket, merchandise or ancillary income.

Does the annual ASCAP Report and fee payment cover all songs my chapter produces and performs in public?
ASCAP does not represent all copyrighted songs. A BMI/SESAC Chapter Reporting Form, with its applicable fee payment schedule, must also be sent to your District Secretary (or assignee) prior to your show/event for approval. ASCAP and BMI/SESAC chapter reporting forms are available for download from the BHS Member Center portal, or you can request a copy via email to library@barbershop.org or customerservice@barbershop.org .

What is a Benefit Performance and why must it be licensed? What about Free Performances?
A "Benefit Event" is defined as a concert which is held to raise money for a specific, bona fide, charitable institution or cause not affiliated in any way with the licensee (your chapter or BHS), to which all the proceeds from the concert, after deducting the reasonable costs of producing the concert, are donated. Even a free-will offering or "free" event generally should be licensed, otherwise you are giving away the copyright holders' rights without their permission. A "fair use" exemption for live performances "without commercial advantage" can be misinterpreted, as that legal provision also provides "otherwise than in a transmission to the public" and contains specific statutory requirements. Unless a chapter produces only shows/events fitting this limited exemption, they are subject to the minimum annual fee. A current rate sheet and "Free and Benefit Concert Reporting Form" is available by contacting library@barbershop.org .

There are reduced ASCAP license fees for "Free and Benefit Events." However, unless the total gross revenue from all your shows/events exceed $38,118.47 (for the year 2025), your chapter will still owe the minimum annual fee of $310.00. If your chapter has a "free or benefit show" and your total gross revenue for all shows exceeds $38,118.47 (Section C of the form), please contact library@barbershop.org for further assistance.

What does the annual BHS ASCAP Reporting Form/Payment cover for my chapter?
The annual ASCAP Chapter Reporting Form with fee payment grants a BHS chapter the right to perform any song in the ASCAP repertoire in its produced/hosted concert or similar show setting. (The same is true for the BMI/SESAC Chapter Reporting Form with fee payment – it grants the chapter the right to perform any song in the BMI and/or SESAC repertoires in its produced/hosted concert or similar show setting.)

The BHS ASCAP license does **not,** however, authorize *dramatic* performances of ASCAP members' works. "Dramatic rights" (often referred to as *grand rights*) in a song are licensed directly by the song's copyright holder, not through its agent (ASCAP, BMI, nor SESAC). Traditionally in dramatic works the main motivation is the telling of a story and the music serves to enhance the drama. For a further discussion of the distinction among nondramatic, dramatic, and "dramatico-musical works" and whether that might affect your show/event licensing, contact a performing rights representative at ASCAP (www.ascap.com.), BMI (www.bmi.com), and/or SESAC (www.sesac.com).

Can BHS Districts use this form for their produced/sponsored shows/events?
Absolutely! Before submitting district officers may want to mark out references to "chapter" and replace with "district" as needed - please do not *re-create* the report form template.

Is there anything else that ASCAP (as well as BMI and SESAC) *doesn't* cover?
ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC do not license the right to:

1) reproduce copies of a musical work;
2) create derivative works of a musical work (such as a barbershop arrangement);
3) distribute copies of a musical work;
4) display a work in public (such as art, sculpture, etc.); or
6) perform a work publicly by means of a *digital audio transmissio*n.

These rights are controlled by other parties and they (or their agent) must be contacted to seek and secure these permissions.

How can I contact ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC?
All three organizations have convenient online links to secure a license, review information about public performance licensing, or contact them with questions or concerns:

- **ASCAP** - https://www.ascap.com/music-users *or* https://www.ascap.com/contact-us
- **BMI** - https://www.bmi.com/licensing *or* https://www.bmi.com/about/entry/contact_us_music_licensing
- **SESAC** - https://www.sesac.com/getalicense

Are there other resources available from BHS regarding copyright?
Additional resources regarding copyright are available in the BHS Member Center, on the BHS YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38), and at the BHS website (www.barbershop.org) (search with keyword ***copyright***). For additional assistance please contact library@barbershop.org .

Thank you for your efforts to maintain copyright compliance for your group!

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