



SAG-AFTRA
YOUR VOICE IN MUSIC

2019 Commercials Contracts for Singers

The Commercials Contracts are used when an advertiser hires an ad agency who then hires a music house to compose music for a commercial. There are two ways singers can receive payment: session fees plus residuals under the traditional Commercials Contracts or through new Upfront Packages.*

Top Things Singers Need to Know

- Session fees cover each two-hour period of recording.
- Documents singers may need to bring to a session: an unexpired passport, driver's license or Social Security card.
- Session fees must be postmarked 15 business days after a session.
- If a commercial airs, residuals must be postmarked 15 business days from the air date.
- Commercials and residuals payments are sent directly to singers, not the union.
- Singers should make note if they multi-tracks** and/or sweeten*** — rates differ.
- In addition to session and residuals fees, the signatory contributes 19% towards a singer's Pension and Health benefits or 18.5% if the signatory is a JPC authorizer.



Top Things Vocal Contractors Need to Know

1. If there are three or more singers, one of the singers should serve as the vocal contractor, unless it's a children's choir or gender precludes the vocal contractor.
2. Documents a vocal contractor may need to bring to a session: A-1 contract or member report.
3. Cast Clearance (once referred to as Station 12) is not required in the Commercials Contracts, but is highly recommended. Call SAG-AFTRA's Cast Clearance at (323) 549-6794 for more information.

Television Commercials Contract Rates

On-Camera Singers

- Solo/duo (8-hour day): \$712
- Group Singers 3-5 (8-hour day): \$521.20
- Group Singers 6-8 (8-hour day): \$461.50
- Group Singers 9+ (8-hour day): \$381.60

Off-Camera Singers

- Solo/duo (2-hour session): \$535.40
- Group Singers 3-5 (2-hour session): \$301.90
- Group Singers 6-8 (2-hour session): \$262.10
- Group Singers 9+ (2-hour session): \$213.70

Vocal Contractor (for on- or off-camera vocal groups of three or more)

Receives session rate according to group size, plus the following additional contracting fee:

- Group Singers 3-8: \$114.20
- Group Singers 9+: \$225.10

SAG-AFTRA Pension & Health Contribution

The applicable Commercials Contract SAG-AFTRA Pension & Health contribution shall apply, paid by separate check directly to SAG-AFTRA Health Plan at the rate of 19% based on a performer's total earnings or 18.5% if the signatory is a JPC authorizer.

Multi-Tracking for Television Commercials

- Solo/Duo: additional 50% of above applicable rate, which allows unlimited multi-tracking of same vocal parts.
- Group singers three or more: additional 50% of above applicable rate, which allows unlimited multi-tracking, sweetening or both, without limit to the number of tracks per commercial.

Sweetening for Television Commercials

- Solo/Duo: additional 100% of above applicable rate for each additional track.
- Group singers three or more: additional 50% of above applicable rate, which allows unlimited multi-tracking, sweetening, or both, without limit to the number of tracks per commercial

** For more information on Upfront Packages, please visit sagaftra.org/upfront.*

*** Multi-Tracking/Over-Dubbing is recording over the original track with vocal tracks of the same notes to enhance or thicken the sound*

**** Sweetening is recording over the original track with additional harmonies or parts that differ from the original track*

Non-Air Television Commercial Demos

Rates below are only for commercial demo sessions. The resulting commercials may not be broadcast without payment of full commercial rates; all multi-

tracking and/or sweetening must be noted on the contract and/or member report.

Off-Camera Singers

Payment is for a two-hour session, in which up to four commercials can be recorded for this single fee:

- Solo/duo: \$206.93
- Group Singers 3 or more: \$135.26

For each additional half-hour or additional commercial, whichever is greater, the following fees apply:

- Solo/duo: \$51.73
- Group Singers 3 or more: \$33.82

On-Camera Singers:

- Solo/duo (8-hour day): \$534
- Group Singers 3-5 (8-hour day): \$390.90
- Group Singers 6-8 (8-hour day): \$346.15
- Group Singers 9+ (8-hour day): \$286.20

Radio Commercials Contract Rates

Payment is for a 90-minute session:

- Solo/duo: \$316
- Group Singers 3-5: \$232.80
- Group Singers 6-8: \$206
- Group Singers 9+: \$182.70

Sessions Including Multi-tracking for Radio Commercials:

- Solo/duo: \$474
- Group Singers 3-5: \$349.20
- Group Singers 6-8: \$309
- Group Singers 9+: \$274.05

Sessions Including Sweetening for Radio Commercials:

- Solo/duo: add 100% of basic session fee per track
- Group Singers 3-5: \$349.20
- Group Singers 6-8: \$309
- Group Singers 9+: \$274.05

Vocal Contractor (for vocal groups of three or more)

Receives session rate according to group size, plus the following additional contracting fee:

- Group 3-8: \$108.49
- Group 9+: \$173.53

SAG-AFTRA Health Plan & Retirement Contribution
The applicable Audio Commercials Contract
SAG-AFTRA Health & Retirement Fund contribution
shall apply (paid by separate check directly to the
SAG-AFTRA Health Plan at the rate of 19% based on a
performer's total earnings or 18.5% if the signatory is a
JPC authorizer).

Non-Air Radio Commercial Demos

Rates below are only for commercial demo sessions.
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without payment of full commercial rates. All multi-
tracking and/or sweetening must be noted on the
contract and/or member report.

Payment is for a two-hour session, in which up to four
commercials can be recorded for this single fee:

- Solo/duo: \$219.75
- Group Singers 3 or more: \$143.65

For each additional half-hour or additional
commercial,
whichever is greater, the following fees apply:

- Solo/duo: \$54.95
- Group Singers 3 or more: \$35.90

For all other specific questions regarding rates,
residuals, Upfront Packages, and conditions, including
information about made-for-internet, made-for-new
media, Spanish-language, foreign, single-market and
regional commercials, please call the SAG-AFTRA
Commercials Department – Claudette Singh
(323) 549-6473 or claudette.singh@sagaftra.org.