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

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

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
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. 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.

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 – Beth Haynes (323) 549-6858 or beth.haynes@sagaftra.org.