

# CYBER Bulletin Novembre (Copy 01)

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS) ANNOUNCES AN INCREASE IN PERMIT FEES**

**December 15, 2016 is the final day to submit P2 applications at current rates.**

As announced late last spring, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has increased its fees for applications in the O and P categories. The AFM and its long-standing coalition (based in the United States) of non-profit arts organizations vigorously resisted any increase. In spite of their concerted efforts, however, the USCIS last week announced a significant increase (42%) in its fees for applications in the O and P categories, which will rise from US\$325 to US\$460.

Of course, the AFM recognizes that this increase represents a significant extra charge for its Canadian members as well as for musicians throughout the world and artist permit applicants such as the AFM.

On November 2, the USCIS will hold a teleconference with recognized American stakeholders in the non-profit arts sector. The AFM and other parties will present their position, insisting that the USCIS take measures to offer good quality services and pressuring the AFM to standardize and considerably shorten processing times—particularly considering the spike in USCIS fees.

**In order to avoid paying the new fees, please submit duly completed P2 applications to the Canadian office of the AFM (FCM) by no later than Monday, December 19, 2016. The revised fee of US\$460 will apply to all applications received on or after December 20, 2016.**

In addition, please remember that processing delays of about 120 days/four months can be expected (with the exception of applications filed on an expedited basis). The USCIS may increase or reduce these approximate delays without prior notice. The AFM's P2 administrative team tracks the processing of applications on a weekly basis in order to provide useful estimates concerning processing times.

As incredible as it may seem – particularly given the processing times and fees – the USCIS application process for artist visas is simpler (by a long shot) and far more affordable for Canadians than it is for musicians entering the United States from elsewhere in the world.

For further details or if you have any questions concerning AFM lobbying initiatives aimed at improving access to the United States or the role of the AFM as an artist permit applicant, please contact Liana White, Executive Director of the AFM/FCM, at [lwhite@afm.org](mailto:lwhite@afm.org)



### **NEW GMMQ-ADISQ AGREEMENT**

*The parties have shown creativity in regards to the new minimum working conditions for musicians.*

ADISQ and the Guilde des musiciens et musiciennes du Québec recently concluded an arrangement concerning the renewal of the collective performance agreement in force since 2009.

Abandoning the minimum rate \$118 per performance for all musicians, the new collective agreement calls for varying rates for musical directors, accompanists and soloists and for the type of show presented.

Minimum rates will vary between \$125 to \$405 per show, with some flexibility for shows by emerging or niche musicians, opening acts, promotional shows, international development, and halls with fewer than 200 seats.

Signed on October 24, the new collective agreement will come into force on December 8 and cover a period of three years. Until then, producers and musicians are still required to apply the 2009 collective agreement governing shows.

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Starting on **January 1, 2017**:

- Regular member: **\$215**
- Lifetime member: **\$85**

We hasten to remind you that annual fees have been increased for the first time in eight years and that the Guilde is no longer able to absorb the \$10 increase in the per capita contribution imposed by the AFM in 2014.

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## **DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS**

### **New discounts**

[Clinique de l'audition Décarie](#)

- **\$50 discount on custom protective earplugs (regular price \$250 + taxes)**
- **Free hearing tests until November 1, 2017**
- **50% discount on batteries used in hearing aids for musicians (regular price**

for a box of 10: \$60)

**We invite you to take advantage of the discounts available to GMMQ members  
(on presentation of the membership card) through our partners.**

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### **HORAIRES D'OUVERTURE DES BUREAUX DE LA GUILDE**

***lundi au jeudi*** : 8h30 à 16h30 // ***vendredi*** : 8h30 à 15h30

*(fermeture entre 12h et 13h)*

*Téléphone* : (514) 842-2866 (Montréal) / (418) 523-0767 (Québec)

*N° sans frais* : 1-800-363-6688 (Montréal) / 1-888-237-1722 (Québec)



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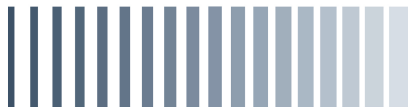


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## **GUILDE DES MUSICIENS ET MUSIENNES DU QUÉBEC**



### **Notre adresse postale:**

Guilde des musiciens et musiciennes du Québec  
505, René Lévesque ouest  
Suite 900  
Montréal, Qc H2Z 1Y7  
Canada

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