



PODCAST #1 – SHOW NOTES

PERFORMING RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (PROs)

Hey creatives!

I have my cup of coffee, and today we are going to be discussing PROs.

What are the performing rights organization in the USA?

ASCAP, BMI and SESAC. Learn more about them here:

www.ascap.com

www.bmi.com

www.sesac.com

What is a PRO and what do they do?

Performance Rights Organizations collect performance royalties. They issue licenses to venues, organizations, radio stations, or anywhere live music is performed. They collect license fees which translates into performance royalties for the owners of the copyrights and the creators of the music/songs.

Do I need a PRO before I write a song or demo a song? When do I need a PRO?

No, you do not need a PRO before you write or demo a song. You will need a PRO when you have a song or music being used for public performance. If you have a song on the radio, on a TV show, in a movie, or if it is performed on a tour, you should register it with a PRO.

Before you sign with a PRO you should take a meeting or multiple meetings with the various PROs to determine where you fit in. If you signed with a PRO before meeting them, that's okay. Make regular appointments with a songwriter representative at the PRO where you are signed and let them get to know you and your material.

COFFEE WITH Camilla

Should I register my songs as I write them?

I recommend that songwriters should wait to register their songs with a PRO until they anticipate royalty collections.

Does registering my songs create copyright protection?

No, registering your song with a PRO is a separate registration from a U.S. Copyright registration. As your songs are being released you should register the song with the U.S. Copyright Office as well as your PRO. Do both every time a song is released for public consumption. For more information on registering a song with the copyright office, visit: <https://www.copyright.gov/registration/>

If I'm already signed to a PRO can I switch to a different PRO?

You can, but the process is not easy. When you sign with a PRO, you are entering into a contract, and each PRO has its own set of rules on how to get out of it.

I live outside the USA, are there other PROs around the world?

Every country has a PRO and they communicate with each other to help detect and pay performance royalties around the world. You should find the PRO in your country.