

Capitalised terms are defined in the BECS Articles of Association (Articles) and Membership Agreement (both available on the BECS website).

WHAT IS BECS?

BECS, the British Equity Collecting Society, is the only UK-based Collective Management Organisation (CMO) representing the rights of audio-visual performers. Its primary role is to collect, administer and distribute remuneration due to performers under statute, or paid to BECS on a collective basis for the benefit of performers.

BECS enforces the statutory rights of performers globally and collects revenues arising as a result of application of the statutory rights and other collective rights from within the UK and overseas.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN BECS?

Some statutory rights which you have as a performer are only able to be asserted on a collective basis through a CMO either because the law says so or because collective licensing is the only practical way of securing licence fees or other payments. Individual members may therefore find it impossible (or difficult) to directly access monies arising from these statutory rights, especially from overseas. By acting on behalf of a large group of performers, BECS is able to enter into agreements which ensure that monies which might otherwise not be identified as due are collected and paid out to performers. The more members BECS has, the more it will strengthen BECS' position to get the best collections for UK performers and keep costs down through administrative savings.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP?

To qualify, you must be either:

- a Performer where at least one of your credited performances has been broadcast or otherwise communicated to the public or recorded and fixed for subsequent audio-visual use, or
- a beneficiary of the relevant rights of such a Performer who is deceased. Such a beneficiary can become a Member of BECS as a Performer Heir.

WHY DO I HAVE TO SIGN A MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BECS?

The statutory rights of a Performer belong to the individual Performer and the benefit of the rights of a Deceased Performer can be passed on to a beneficiary who can join BECS as a Performer Heir. Therefore, individual Performers or Performer Heirs (and not any agent on their behalf) need to authorise BECS to exercise the "Mandated Rights" and assign certain rights to BECS, as described in the Membership Agreement and the Articles.

Membership of BECS ends on the death of a Performer, but the beneficiary of the relevant rights of the Performer can become a Member to receive payments arising after death. Supporting documents will be required from the Performer's estate representatives.

DO I HAVE TO PAY TO JOIN BECS?

No. There are no membership fees payable. The Board of BECS and the Supervisory Committee determine the administration fees charged by BECS which are intended to cover BECS' collection and distribution costs. BECS is not-for-profit.

CAN I JOIN MORE THAN ONE SOCIETY?

Different collecting societies administer different rights. If you are already a member of another collecting society in your capacity as a performer, you can still apply for BECS membership and assign rights to BECS that have not already been mandated to another CMO, either relating to the type of right (e.g. audiovisual vs audio) or the region it relates to.

Please note it is important that you do not mandate the same rights to more than one CMO. Mandate conflicts will arise where you have signed a worldwide or regional mandate for the same rights with multiple CMOs. This could result in monies being held up at the originating society.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WISH TO LEAVE BECS?

Members assign the Mandated Rights to BECS only whilst they remain in membership. A minimum of 6 months' notice of withdrawal is usually required but a shorter period may be agreed. The rights mandated to BECS will revert to the Performer/Performer Heir upon expiry of membership as set out in the Constitution.

WHERE DO MANDATED RIGHTS APPLY?

BECS' Members usually assign worldwide rights to BECS. Should you wish to, you can limit the mandate region to specific countries only. This needs to be specified when the Membership Agreement is signed and detailed on the performer registration form, but Members are free to change the territory of the mandate later by giving BECS written notice.

WHAT ARE COLLECTING SOCIETIES?

The companies and rights organisations from which BECS can source collective remuneration include rights societies and collection agencies and bodies known as Collective Management Organisations (CMOs). The Articles of Association and Constitution of BECS (available on the BECS website: www.becs.org.uk) define how BECS can work with these organisations. BECS enters into Representation Agreements with other CMOs to ensure the members' rights are recognised around the world.

Changes to the Articles of Association and Constitution are only made by the Supervisory Committee and are approved by the Members of BECS in general meetings.

HOW WILL BECS COMMUNICATE WITH ME?

BECS will communicate with Members as set out in its Constitution, including by electronic means, which includes posting notices and information on the BECS website, and directly by email, post or the telephone regarding

- (a) any matter connected to the Mandated Rights,
- (b) all matters relating to membership or the termination thereof, and
- (c) any payments to be made in respect of Performers' Remuneration whether during the time that a Performer/ Performer Heir remains in membership or after this.

Members are asked to specifically opt in on the registration form if they would like to hear from BECS (by email, phone or post) regarding additional ancillary services that are offered from time to time.

DATA PROTECTION

Please see the Data Protection Statement within the Registration Form and the [Privacy Policy](#) on BECS' website (which may be updated from time to time).

In signing the Membership Agreement, you will consent to BECS collecting and processing your "Personal Data" as set out in BECS' Privacy Policy.

"Personal Data" means information about you and relevant performances which is treated as personal data under data protection laws applicable within the UK and in the European Union (including the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679) and/or such other applicable laws or regulations as may be enacted or amended from time to time.

Further Information

British Equity Collecting Society Limited,
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Please visit www.becs.org.uk for
further information about our
work and membership.



BECS can be contacted at
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