ROYALTY POLICY

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Where your money comes from, what gets taken out and by whom, and when it lands in your account. Written to be read, not to be survived.

Last updated Applies to All plans Read with Terms of Use This page explains. The Terms decide. Everything here is written in plain language to help you understand how royalties work at One Side. It is not a contract. If anything on this page ever conflicts with our Terms of Use or your Distribution Agreement, those documents control.

THE SHORT VERSION

Master royalties, every plan 100% to you Publishing, any release we did not market 75% to you Publishing, marketed release on Artist Pro 45% to you Publishing, marketed release on Artist Elite 25% to you Minimum withdrawal $50 Fees to take your music down None If you stop paying Releases stay live and keep earning

HOW MONEY REACHES YOU

Your money does not travel in a straight line from a listener to your bank account. It passes through several hands, and each one takes time and, in some cases, a cut. Here is the whole chain.

1 Someone plays your song.

Spotify, Apple Music, TikTok, YouTube or any of the other 200+ stores we deliver to.

2 The store calculates what it owes and keeps its share.

Every store keeps a portion of subscription and ad revenue before paying anything out.

This happens before your music reaches anyone in the chain below, and no distributor on earth receives the full headline rate you may have read about.

3 The store pays our delivery partner, who takes their fee.

We deliver through a distribution partner with direct store relationships. Their rate is % on streaming and download revenue, and % on user generated content and Content ID revenue from TikTok, YouTube and similar.

4 What is left reaches One Side. We pass on all of it.

We take zero percent of master royalties, on every plan, on marketed and unmarketed releases alike. This is what we mean by keeping 100% of your master royalties: 100% of everything that reaches us. We have not added a cut of our own.

5 It lands in your balance, and you withdraw it.

Once your balance reaches $50.

Why "100%" is worth pinning down. Any service telling you that you keep 100% means 100% of what reaches them, because steps 2 and 3 happen before anyone can pay you. We would rather show you the whole chain than let you discover it from a statement. The honest claim is that One Side adds no cut of its own to your masters, and that is true on every plan.

MASTER ROYALTIES

Master royalties are what your recording earns: streams, downloads, and the money stores pay for the audio itself.

You keep 100% of master royalties on every plan. No tier changes this. Marketing campaigns do not change this. There is no release where we take a percentage of your masters, and there is no circumstance in which we will.

You also own your masters outright, before, during and after. Nothing in our agreement transfers copyright, takes an option on your future work, or gives us any claim on a recording you made.

PUBLISHING INCOME

Publishing is different money from a different source. Where master royalties come from the recording, publishing comes from the song underneath it: the melody and the lyrics you wrote. It is collected by performing rights organisations and mechanical rights societies rather than by stores, and it is paid to songwriters rather than to recording artists.

Every plan includes publishing registration. We register your songs with collecting societies worldwide, chase what they owe, and collect it. That service is where we make our money, and there are two possible deductions.

1. The administration fee — 25%, every plan We keep 25% of the publishing income we actually collect on your writer share, and pay you the other 75%. This is the same on Artist, Artist Pro and Artist Elite. It never increases.

2. The marketing share — only on releases we market, only on Pro and Elite If you are on Artist Pro or Artist Elite and we confirm in writing that we are running a paid campaign on a release, we take an additional share of the publishing income from that release.

We fund those campaigns ourselves, at our own risk, and you are never invoiced for the ad spend or asked to pay it back if the campaign underperforms.

On a marketed release, both deductions come out of the same pot. Here is exactly how that lands.

YOUR PLAN RELEASE WE DID NOT RELEASE WE MARKETED

MARKET Artist 75% to you (25% admin) Not applicable, no campaigns on this plan Artist Pro 75% to you (25% admin) 45% to you (25% admin + 30% marketing) Artist 75% to you (25% admin) 25% to you (25% admin + 50% Elite marketing) Read this part twice, because it is the one that surprises people. On a marketed release, Artist Elite leaves you with 25% of the publishing income from that release, and the marketing share runs for 20 years from the release date. In exchange we plan, fund and run the campaigns, and your master royalties from those extra streams stay 100% yours.

If that trade is not worth it to you, the Artist plan keeps 75% of your publishing with no marketing share at all. Choose deliberately.

What the publishing deductions never touch Your co-writers' shares. We register and collect on your writer share only. If you wrote a song 50/50, we deal with your half. Your co-writer's half is theirs and we never touch it.

Songs already registered elsewhere. If you are with Songtrust, a publisher, or another administrator, tell us and we exclude that song. No fee is charged on it.

Your masters. Neither publishing deduction ever reduces your master royalties.

Your live income, merch, or a sync you arrange yourself. None of it passes through us and none of it is ours.

Publishing administration is included on every plan and is not optional. It does not affect your plan, your price, or your distribution, and it continues after your subscription ends, on the songs you released through us, for as long as they earn.

WHY THERE IS A DELAY

This is the question we get most, so here is the honest answer: the lag is real, it is not us holding your money, and it is longer for publishing than for masters.

INCOME TYPE TYPICAL LAG WHY

Master royalties 1 to 3 months Stores close their books monthly, then report and pay on their own schedules Master royalties, Up to 6 Smaller stores and regional platforms report smaller territories months less frequently Publishing 2 to 4 Collecting societies match usage to quarters songwriters by hand in many cases, then distribute quarterly Publishing, foreign Can exceed Money passes between societies before territories 12 months reaching yours A stream you got in January may appear in your balance in March, or in the following January if it happened in a territory with a slow society. We report earnings as they are reported to us. We do not hold funds back, and we do not earn interest on your balance.

GETTING PAID

Minimum withdrawal is $50. Below that, earnings keep accruing until you reach it. Nothing expires and nothing is forfeited.

Tax forms come first. We cannot release any payment until you have submitted a valid IRS Form W-9 (United States) or W-8 (everywhere else). We may be required by law to withhold tax on some payments.

Processor and conversion costs are deducted from the withdrawal. Payment processor fees, currency conversion and any bank charges come off the amount you withdraw. These are third party costs and we do not mark them up.

Publishing and master income are reported separately so you can see which is which, and withdraw against the combined balance.

STATEMENTS AND DISPUTES

Statements are available in your account as store and society reports are processed. Each one shows the period covered, the income type, the store or society, and any deduction applied.

If you think a statement is wrong, tell us. Email with the statement period and what looks off, and we will investigate and come back to you. Raise it within 12 months of a statement being made available, after which it is treated as accepted.

You can ask us for the supporting detail behind any marketing share, including the campaign channels, dates and the spend we funded, once per year at no charge.

IF YOU CANCEL

Releases you have already put out stay live and keep earning, and we keep collecting and paying you for them. You are not charged an exit fee, a takedown fee or a reactivation fee, ever.

What stops is your ability to deliver new releases and the features of your plan. A marketing share already attached to a marketed release continues for its stated term whether or not your subscription is active, because the campaign was already funded and run. Publishing administration on every song you released through us continues too, on the same terms and at the same fee, for as long as the song earns.

You can request a takedown of any release at any time, free. Stores control their own removal timelines. Anything earned before removal is still yours and still gets paid.

ARTIFICIAL STREAMING

Bots, click farms, purchased plays and manipulated playlists are prohibited. This is not a moral position, it is a financial one: when a store detects artificial activity it withholds revenue, claws back money already paid, and charges penalties.

Those charges are passed through to you in full. If a store reverses $500 and fines us $200 on your release, that $700 comes out of your balance, or is invoiced to you if your balance is short. We cannot absorb it.

This applies whether you did it, someone you hired did it, or a promoter did it without telling you. If you are paying anyone for streams or playlist placement, know exactly what they are doing.

QUESTIONS

Why is my payout smaller than a per-stream calculator said it would be?

Per-stream rates published online are averages across all listener types and territories, and they are usually calculated before the store's own share. A play from a free tier listener in a low revenue territory can be worth a fraction of one from a paying subscriber in a high revenue one.

Your actual rate depends on who listened, where, and on what tier.

I see streams on Spotify for Artists but nothing in my balance.

Spotify for Artists updates in near real time. Payment reporting does not. Expect one to three months between the play and the money appearing.

Do I have to use your publishing service?

Yes. It is included on every plan and it is not optional. It also does not end when your plan does: the arrangement on a song is set when you release it, and cancelling, closing your account or moving the recording to another distributor does not change it. The one exception is a song already registered elsewhere, by anyone. Tell us before you submit it and we will leave it alone, because a song registered twice freezes payment at the society for everyone on it.

What happens to my co-writer?

Nothing. We register and collect your writer share only. Your co-writer keeps their share and makes their own arrangements for it. They are not bound by anything you sign with us.

Does the marketing share apply to my back catalogue?

No. A release is only subject to the marketing share if we confirmed in writing, before the campaign started, that we were marketing it. Anything we have not marketed carries the 25% administration fee alone.

Can I get my music taken down and go elsewhere?

Yes, any time, free. Keep your ISRCs and UPCs and your streams and playlist placements travel with you to your new distributor. We will not obstruct a catalogue transfer or charge you for it. Moving a recording does not change the publishing administration on the song underneath it, which stays with us as agreed when you released it.

One Side Global Distribution LLC This page is explanatory. The Terms of Use and your Distribution Agreement are the binding documents and control in the event of any conflict.