

How to Hire a Musician

Florida Gulf Coast Local 427-721

AFM musicians perform all kinds of music for all kinds of events. Our free referral agents help you to find musicians who best suit your needs. Here are some frequently asked questions:

- *How far in advance of the actual date should a group or solo performer be contracted?*

As early as possible. Many musicians are booked as much as a year in advance of the actual performance date – but last minute bookings can still be done with just a few days' notice.

- *How do you find out about the solo musicians, bands or orchestras in your area?*

Contact us at **727-572-7977** or **afm427721@gmail.com** to find out about musicians and how to contact them. We will be able to give you the telephone number and contact info of the musician or leader of a group.

- *How do I know if particular musicians are available for the date in question?*

Simply contact the individual musician or leader. He or she will be happy to discuss available dates.

- *What if I can't get my first choice of musician?*

If the musician or group you want is already booked, we will recommend several suitable alternatives.

- *How much will the group or solo artist cost?*

The cost will vary. The exact amount will depend on the number of performers, the length of the performance, the occasion, and the popularity of the musician (s).

- *Can I hear a soloist or group before signing a contract?*

Yes. The soloist or leader of the group will tell you when and where you may hear a performance. Most groups have websites or can also make CD's or mp3s available. Individual musicians can provide you with professional references.

- *How can I be sure the musician(s) won't back out at the last minute?*

All you have to do is sign an official AFM contract, which will be furnished to you by the soloist or leader. Both the purchaser and musician must sign the contract to make it binding. An AFM contract is your guarantee that you will get the music you want at the date and time you want it. Once signed, the AFM musician is obligated to honor the contract and so is the purchaser.



- *Non-union musicians give contracts, too. What's so special about an AFM contract?*

A signed AFM contract is "peace of mind" insurance for both the purchaser and the musician. Even if a non-union musician offers a contract, there is no organization or trade association monitoring their activities.

- *What if I sign a contract and then find that I have to cancel my event?*

A cancellation clause may be added to any AFM contract. This clause allows you to cancel the engagement with sufficient advance notice (agreed upon by both you and the musicians). This way, you don't get stuck and neither do the musicians.

Everyday the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada helps thousands of musicians. The AFM is the largest organization in the world representing the interests of professional musicians. The AFM is committed to raising industry standards and placing the professional musician in the foreground of the cultural landscape.

When you hire an AFM Musician, you can be assured that you are hiring the best, a true professional.

--excerpted from the AFM website

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