

## What This Is

You've finished writing/producing your song, now what do you do? You don't want to let your hard work go to waste, so we've collected a checklist of important information to keep you on track. Use this as a guide to strategize your success, but keep in mind that it doesn't include everything, so always make sure to do additional research.

## Creative Process

### Record, Mix, or Master

*Get that song finished and finalized, whichever way you decide. This will be the final recording you upload to digital streaming platforms or send out for physical products (CDs, Vinyls, etc), and share with the world.*

### Fill out your [split sheet](#) (if needed)

*If there is more than one writer on a song, make it common practice to fill out a split sheet at the beginning. This is the record of the conversation you and the other writers have about who will receive what share of future royalties.*

### Create a lyric sheet

*A lyric sheet is an important step if you ever want to share your songs with a label or music supervisor. It contains the lyrics neatly typed, along with the writer's contact information. Make sure it's clean and neat - this sets apart amateurs from experienced songwriters.*

### Keep those records organized

*Log any important information about your song and/or process. Maybe that includes the time spent, the equipment you used, or even the story behind the song. These are useful for future interviews, marketing, or even as historical data for yourself. Think about creating an electronic press kit (aka [EPK](#)) as well, filling it with everything from your band photos, to music samples and contact info.*

## Building Your Team

### Pick a publisher

*A publisher registers and collects your royalties based on your ownership of the composition/copyright. There isn't a one-size-fits-all in music publishing, so doing your research to know what options you have to choose from. Don't forget to talk to other musicians and learn about their experience with their publisher. If you're sure about something, ask about it. Never enter a deal without fully understanding the ins and outs of the agreement. Of course - make sure to check out Songtrust as your publishing administrator option!*

### Know your PRO(s)

*In order to collect performance royalties, you must be registered with performance rights organizations (aka PROs) in your territory. Most publishers, especially Songtrust, will make sure you're properly registered, but knowing which PROs are in your territory keeps you on top of your game.*

## Choose a distribution channel

*Identify all the options you have, within your budget, to maximize the distribution of your music. Whether you go with an established company like CD Baby or Distrokid, or you take a DIY approach, understanding all the options will help you make more informed decisions. Don't forget options like pitching to labels for extra promotion and/or seeking out creative services for help with sync/licensing placements.*

## Find a Mentor

*Not highlighted enough is reaching out to fellow performing musicians and experienced songwriters to learn about their journeys. You can gain a lot of value out of learning from their mistakes and successes to better outline your path.*

## Get The Word Out There

### Share your music everywhere

*We live in a digital age - set up social profiles on all platforms and engage with the communities there. Your family and friends are also a huge resource to give insight into how people will interact with your songs. Share with other like-minded musicians and artists to see if they hear something you missed or that might have suggestions to make your next song better.*

### Book a gig

*If you're also a performing musician, make sure to book a gig. It can be at a coffee shop or a bar - any place where you can get public facing experience is vital to your career. You can even earn money off your gig and setlists using Songtrust! If being on stage isn't your thing, find an artist that can perform your song and continue getting the word out there.*

### Monetize those songs!

*There are so many ways you can earn revenue off your songs and it's so important to know all the avenues available to you. Some include releasing a music video, pitching your song for sync placement in film/tv/ advertising, or even getting it added to a karaoke catalog! You don't want to miss out on earned royalties just because you didn't know - so take the time to do the research.*

---

## Who We Are

Songtrust is the world's largest global royalty collection service and publishing administrator, enabling over 100,000 songwriters to collect music publishing royalties worldwide for almost 1,000,000 copyrights completely online. Songtrust administers publishing rights for labels, publishers, estates, trusts, production companies, and others.

## Our Music Publishing Stats

**15K**

Publishers

**100K**

Songwriters

**75MM+**

Royalties Processed