

Music Teaching rates of pay 2022-2023

Our recommended music teaching rates are updated for each academic year. They cover music teaching (one-to-one and small group), workshop leading (one-off larger group sessions) and school concerts (one rehearsal plus performance).

Our rates factor in all the financial obligations of being self-employed, such as holiday pay, sick pay, pension contributions and parental leave. They are recommended minimums and should be used as a starting point for negotiating where work involves additional travel, increased preparation time or greater responsibility. Rates do not reflect regional cost-of-living differences or experience level, which should be negotiated on top.

Rates are for self-employed work and do not apply to employed teaching work. For advice on employed rates, or further advice on how to set self-employed rates, contact the MU.

Individual lessons and small-group teaching: £38.50 per hour

This baseline rate can be interpreted as follows:

- Pro rata for lessons shorter than, or more than, one hour
- Increase as appropriate for the number of students per lesson
- Increase for whole-class, large-group or ensemble direction to reflect additional skill and any longer-than-usual preparation time
- Increase if travel time is unusually long

Workshop leading: £222 per day, maximum 5 hours length

This baseline rate can be interpreted as follows:

- Pro rata for workshops of less or more than five hours
- Increase to reflect longer-than-usual preparation time
- Increase to reflect any equipment or resources you are required to provide
- Increase if you are leading or overseeing other musicians
- Increase if travel time is unusually long

School concerts: £95 per 1 x same day rehearsal and 1 x same day concert for performers, conductors and accompanists

This baseline rate can be interpreted as follows:

- Increase if additional rehearsals are required
- Increase for additional performances
- Increase to reflect longer-than-usual preparation time
- Increase if travel time is unusually long

Exam accompanists

For rates relating to accompanying exams please see the MU Live Accompanist rates.

How we set our rates

We are recommending an increase of approximately 7% to all our rates. This acknowledges the sharp increases to cost of living and fuel prices, and that our rates did not increase in 2020 during the pandemic.

The following table gives our 2021-2022 rates and how they would change with different increases applied, with 7% sitting at an approximate midpoint. We believe that 7% represents an increase that is achievable for members and reasonable for engagers.

While we advise members to refer to our rates and guidance, members are free to set their rates according to their own criteria.

	2021 rate	Consumer price index: 2.5%	ONS wage s increase: 4.2%	Global food prices: 6.7%	Inflation rate: 9%	Bank of England predicted inflation rate: 11%
Individual and small groups	£36.00	£36.90	£37.51	£38.41	£39.24	£39.96
Workshop leading	£208.00	£213.20	£216.74	£221.94	£226.72	£230.88
School concerts	£89.00	£91.23	£92.74	£94.96	£97.01	£98.79