

Things to Consider When Thinking About Commissioning a New Musical Work

- Choose a composer whose music moves you and who can write for the occasion and the instrumentation you have in mind.
- The commissioning party may submit a suggested text, or the composer may suggest a text that is fitting for the occasion.
- The commission fee is based on the length of the work in minutes and instrumentation.
- The commission is usually paid for by the commissioning organization, family, or individual.
- Funding for commissions is also available from governmental, foundation, and private sponsors.
- Music copying costs are separate from the commission agreement.
- Discuss in advance the composer's involvement in rehearsals and public presentations, if any.
- Under US and International Copyright Law, the composer owns the commissioned work and retains the rights for publication and performance.

The Commissioning Party usually receives:

- Exclusive right to give premiere performances
- The right to make the work's first commercial recording
- The right to be credited as commissioner and to include a dedication on the title page of published editions, recordings, and programs.