

Low Country Chapter AGO 2005-2006 FEE GUIDELINES

- The range of fees are for musicians with degrees in organ or church music or AGO certification.
- Fees vary regionally. The lowest figures reflect smaller, rural areas of this geographic area.
- Fees will also vary based on training, experience, availability, responsibility, dates required.

SUBSTITUTE MUSICIANS

- Single service \$100-\$200 (***organist only or director only***, no separate rehearsal)
- Additional services (organist or director only) not requiring additional preparation, \$50-\$100
- Single service \$150-\$275 (***organist-director combination***, no separate rehearsal),
- Additional services (organist-director combination) not requiring additional preparation, \$75-\$150
- Rehearsal fees range from \$50 - \$100 / hour, depending on whether the substitute is organist only, director only, or organist-director combination and the preparation required
- Mileage of 33 cents/mile is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.
- The charge for contracting singers/instrumentalists is \$15 - \$35 / person hired.

WEDDINGS

- Service fees are \$150-\$300 (service only)
- Wedding rehearsal with bridal party is an additional \$50 - \$100 / hour.
- Additional rehearsals with other musicians is \$30 - \$50 / hour or fraction thereof.
- Mileage of 33 cents/mile is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.
- The charge for contracting singers/instrumentalists is \$15 - \$35 / person hired.

FUNERALS

- Service fees (non liturgical) are \$100 - \$225 (service only)
- Service fees (liturgical) are \$150 - \$250 (service only)
- Rehearsals \$35 - \$100 / hour or fraction thereof, depending on the difficulty of the music and the participation of choirs, soloists, or instrumentalists.
- Mileage of 33 cents/mile is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.
- The charge for contracting singers/instrumentalists is \$15 - \$35 / person hired.

NOTE: Occasionally churches or synagogues will hire musicians as independent contractors instead of employees. According to the IRS, workers are generally considered employees if they:

- Must comply with the employer's instructions about the work.
- Receive training from or at the direction of the employer.
- Provide services that are integrated into the business.
- Provide services that must be rendered personally.
- Are aided by assistants who are hired, supervised, and paid by the employer.
- Have a continuing working relationship with the employer.
- Must follow set hours of work.
- Work full-time for an employer.
- Do their work on the employer's premises.
- Must do their work in a sequence set by the employer.
- Must submit regular reports to the employer.
- Receive payments of regular amounts at set intervals.
- Receive payments for business travel expenses.
- Rely on the employer to furnish tools and materials.
- Lack a major investment in the facilities or equipment used to perform the services.
- Cannot make a profit or suffer a loss from their services.
- Work for one employer at a time.
- Do not offer their services to the general public.
- Can be fired by the employer.
- May quit work at any time without incurring liability.

According to these guidelines, the majority of church and synagogue musicians are employees.

Updated: February 6, 2006