

Insurance Essentials For Musicians 2024 Edition

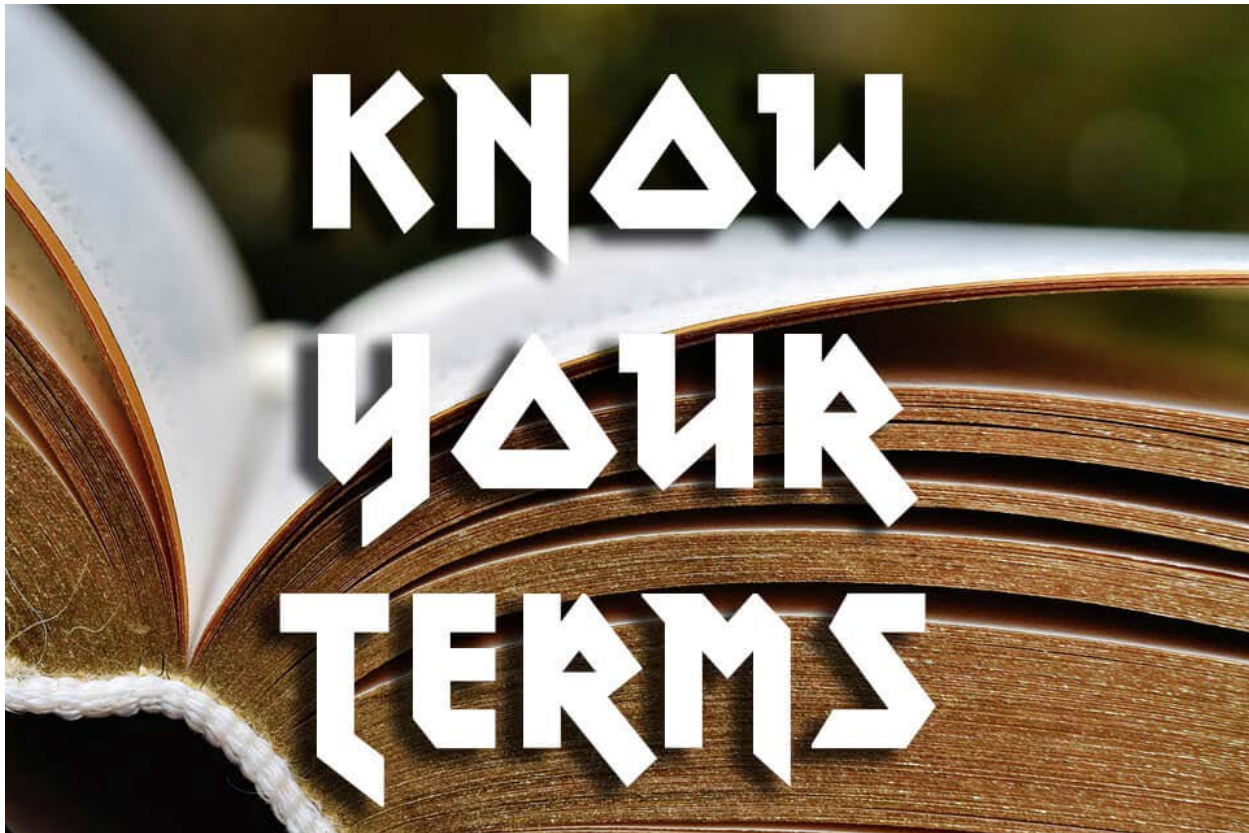


Presented by



and PERFORMER MAGAZINE

Clearing up the Most Common Misconception About Musician Insurance



When it comes to the life of your band, or your solo career, we understand that insurance topics might not be the sexiest thing to cover. That said, it's oftentimes a misunderstood, and crucial part of your business plan. Look, we don't wish for the worst or unthinkable to happen to you while you're out enjoying your exciting tour, but stuff happens.

And if it does, we want to make sure you're not making costly mistakes by confusing what your insurance policy covers (or worse, doesn't cover). So, with all that said, let's dive into a common mistake a lot of musicians

make when shopping for (and securing) and insurance policy.

SO, WHAT'S THE BIG CONFUSION?

The confusion typically lies with semantics, which can have real-world (and big-time financial) repercussions for you.

When shopping for "musician insurance," especially if a venue or live event requests (or requires) it of your act, what you're usually going for is a liability insurance policy. Now, typically this is in place on the off chance that you (or someone in your party)

causes actual damage to the property on-site, or worse -- bodily harm to an individual or individuals on-site.

Now, that makes sense, right? Of course, a venue or festival wants to cover all bases, and requiring insurance against liability claims would seem to fit with that.

And you want protection as well, don't you? In all likelihood, you would probably be smart to look into this regardless of whether or not it's being required of you for live events.

So far, so good. If you're looking to initiate a quote online for entertainer insurance, or musician insurance for live performances you've got coming up, we recommend you check out our friends at K&K Insurance. They can help shape the policy that's right for your needs, and provide a level of coverage that'll help make things whole if things do, unfortunately, go awry at some point. You can even get the ball rolling online to make things easier.

What that sort of policy, and again we're specifically talking about liability here, does NOT cover, are things like your personal property from common things like theft, fire, damage, etc. Meaning that this isn't an all-encompassing policy that protects you if someone is injured AND if your gear is stolen from your tour van or home studio.

No, and that's where we've heard from heartbroken artists who mistakenly assumed their policy was a one-stop deal that covered every aspect of their career, including their musical instruments whether on the road or at home.

That's simply not the case, and in fact there are specific types of policies that DO offer that sort of coverage for you, and can help make you whole again if your favorite guitars meet an unfortunate fate.

While we won't be delving into how to obtain those types of policies in this article, we have touched upon it in the past, and the types of policies you'll want to inves-

tigate include homeowner's or renter's insurance, depending on your living situation, and perhaps even an "inland marine policy" - as bizarre as that sounds - to cover your belongings while they're in transit or at home. Yeah, it can be confusing, but you'll find some helpful tips here that might help you and your bandmates navigate the waters.

The key concepts to keep in mind when doing any insurance policy homework are as follows:

1) Liability insurance comes into play when you are 'liable' for damage, most commonly to person or property. Harm has befallen others' property and/or bodies.

2) Personal property types of insurance are best suited to cover the replacement costs of your actual owned belongings, and again we're likely talking about your musical instruments and gear, if they're damaged, destroyed or otherwise rendered inoperable due to things like theft, fire, or other types of damage. The liability insurance you procure for your live shows will likely not help you out in these instances, sorry.

IN SUMMARY

So now that we've cleared up one of the most common misunderstandings when it comes to selecting the right types of insurance for your act's career, we recommend you talk to some agents about the policies they offer, what sorts of coverage options and limits they deal with, and determine for yourself which policy (or likely policies) are best suited to your needs.

As always, stay safe out there, and it's our sincerest hope you never have to actually make use of your policy, either on tour or back home!

To learn more and get started today before your summer gig schedule fills up completely, head to

<https://www.kandkinsurance.com>

Why Your Band Needs Insurance Coverage TODAY!

If the pandemic taught us anything as musicians and music-lovers, it's how much we took for granted seeing live music (and performing live on-stage for those of us who do so). And during the past few years, if you were spending more time in the studio than on the road, you might be open to welcoming back the wonderful world of touring, gigging and playing those big outdoor festivals this summer.

That also means being prepared for life on the road, and that means not just getting the right gear for your upcoming tour.

WHY NOW?

Understandably, one of the things you may not have kept front of mind during the past few years is your touring needs outside of the obvious: gear, transportation and merch to sell. Namely, we're talking about liability insurance to cover you and your act in case something goes wrong during the gig. Now, this is obviously something we don't want to think about, but sometimes things don't go according to plan, and people (and property) can get hurt and damaged as a result of people's actions (or, in some cases, inactions).

While many of us had been homebound for a while, touring is back in full effect, so now is the PERFECT time to start looking into insurance options if you are not currently covered, or if your coverage lapsed while you were not performing. The last thing you want is to be left vulnerable in the event that you become responsible for something other than your au-

dience's good times.

Luckily, companies like K&K Insurance have made the process of evaluating affordable options for musicians and live entertainers easy, and you can even start the quote process online before talking with an agent to address your specific needs.

WHY DO I NEED INSURANCE AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR

This is a great question - you may be thinking that wherever you're playing surely already has insurance, right? Maybe (well, hopefully), but some venues and promoters will specifically require performing talent to also carry their own liability coverage to protect themselves, so knowing what you need in terms of certificates and proof of insurance is something your booking agent should be able to provide after speaking with the promoter.

It's also just a good idea in general to explore insurance coverage for yourself so that you're not leaving it up to the venue, who may be looking out for their best interests first.

When it comes time to actual move ahead with a policy, your insurance provider should be able to help you determine how much insurance you need, what to cover for your specific act, as well as how to handle claims in the event that something does actually go wrong during the big day.

Look for insurance that provides the best liability coverage you can afford, and at least meets

the minimum requirements that you may need to contractually fulfill for your performance. You should also work with agents who deal specifically with live entertainers as they'll be more in tune (no pun intended) with your specific job risks and can help provide helpful information on how to avoid said risky situations so that you can prevent the need for claims to ever be filed in the first place (for example - knowing what you can and cannot touch during load-ins and load-outs is a really good thing to be aware of, ask me how I know).

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

At the end of the day, covering your live act with an insurance policy for your performances is a smart way to get instant piece

of mind, one less thing you need to worry about when your full attention should be spent on the creative aspect of the show, and not the (let's face it) less glamorous but still crucially important aspects of the road. So, get your policy taken care of ahead of time - it's easy, usually pretty darn affordable, and there are people to guide you towards the most appropriate coverage for your show.

To learn more and get started today before your upcoming schedule fills up completely, head to

<https://www.kandkinsurance.com/>



Take the Guesswork out of Shopping For the Right Insurance Policy



WHY PLAY GUESSING GAMES?

Sure, as fans we expect you to be an expert at your instrument when you're up on stage, but realistically no one expects musicians to be experts when it comes to selecting insurance policies that cover them in case of misfortunes while out on the road. Luckily, the true experts out there have got your back, so you don't have to play guessing games when it comes to choosing the right level of coverage for your band.

In fact, with the ability to review, compare and even initiate policy options online, it's never been easier to get your act the proper liability insurance coverage - bottom line, there are no more excuses for putting off this important decision!

HOW TO GET STARTED SHOPPING FOR INSURANCE

The first step is to review the websites for insurance providers that specialize in entertainer and/or live performer insurance, as they're going to have the most extensive knowledge and experience when it comes to the specifics that come along with live performing artists, and all the nuances that can arise from covering such acts.

For example, the good folks at K&K Insurance have made things easier than ever; if you head on over to <https://www.kandkin-insurance.com/programs/event-insurance/performer-insurance> you'll encounter a host of resources and information geared toward you: the performing artist. So, you don't have to waste time wading through info that's irrelevant to your needs.

Next, they provide an easy entry to get an application process started, just click on the "Apply Now" button to take the first steps online. And if you need any assistance along the way, a specialized agent is just a call away to answer any questions you may have during the process, and to help finalize the policy that custom-tailored for your needs.

Again, there's never been an easier time to get the process started, so if a festival you've been booked at has let you know that you'll need to come prepared and fully insured, or you simply want peace of mind for upcoming gigs, there are truly no more good excuses to procrastinate any further.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTIONS FOR YOUR NEEDS

Typically, you're going to be choosing general liability options that cover you in the unfortunate event that someone or something (i.e. property) has been injured, damaged or otherwise harmed due to your actions (whether intentional or not). Some quick basics that this would include:

- Bodily Injury and Property Damage
- Products and Completed Operations

- Damage to Premises Rented to You
- Medical Expense (other than participants)
- Bodily Injury to Participants Liability
- Medical Payments for Participants

Another option you'll need to consider up front is whether this is just a policy to cover you as a solo artist or if you'll be applying for a band/group. If you're headed out on the road for live gigs doing the solo thing, but may bring a few accompanists along the way, we'd recommend you look into the full group options when filling out and submitting any online applications - you don't want to find out too late that something a temporary musical pal is responsible for is not covered because you only chose a liability policy for yourself at that particular show date.

Again, the reps at K&K or whichever provider you ultimately go with can help guide you towards the most appropriate policy coverage for your upcoming needs. Even needs that you may not have anticipated yet!

TALK TO A REAL PERSON!

We've harped on it already, but even though getting the ball rolling online is quick and simple, we totally understand the process might still raise some questions you don't have the answers to, or it may feel overwhelming at times. Not to worry, we'll keep repeating the mantra that there are people there to help! In fact, their job is to guide you to the right coverage, so don't feel like your questions are silly or not worth asking. There are no stupid questions, and the ones you ask now might just save you some headaches down the line...

WHY PLANNING AHEAD MATTERS

Look, no one wants to think about accidents occurring when you're supposed to be out on stage having the time of your life. But this is the real world, and things don't always go according to plan. So instead of "figuring it out" and suffering the consequences when untimely problems happen, stay ahead of the game and go out on stage with the full knowledge that you're covered in case of accidents.

There's no reason to add undue stress to what can be an already-stressful situation for artists: touring across unfamiliar lands, in unfamiliar towns and venues, and dealing with lots of unfamiliar (and unpredictable) people along the way.

IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER — SO THERE'S NO EXCUSE

With the world of online ordering, we've become accustomed to clicking the "buy now" button and having our items arrive the next day. Now, while insurance may be a bit more involved than ordering a book off Amazon, you can still begin the application process from the comfort of home, before anyone loads up the tour van.

It's never been more convenient to shop for an insurance policy, and with the fall touring season and 2025 bookings just over the horizon, what are you still waiting for?