



B1 Visa Letter of Support – Information and Checklist

American Federation of Musicians Of the United States and Canada

Fax: 416-391-5165 Tel: 416-391-5161 Ext. 223
 swhitfield@afm.org Toll Free: 1-800-463-6333 Ext.223

The following information is taken from applicable section of the US Department of State and Foreign Affairs Manual Volume 9 – Visas, 41.31 N8 – N11.7

INFORMATION

Eligibility Criteria: you must demonstrate the following in order to be eligible for B-1 Status

- The purpose of your trip is to enter the USA for business of a legitimate nature
- You plan to remain for a specific yet limited period of time
- You have the funds to cover travel expenses for your stay in the United States
- You have a permanent residence outside the USA in which you have no intention of abandoning, and other binding ties ensuring your return abroad at the end of the visit
- You are otherwise admissible to the USA

Allowable Business Activities under B1 Classification:

- Commercial transactions, which do not involved gainful employment in the USA
- Negotiating contracts;
- Consulting/Meeting with business associates;
- Participate in scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions, conferences, or seminars

Cultural Program Sponsored by the Sending Country

- Will be performing before a nonpaying audience; and
- All expenses, including per diem, will be paid by the member’s government

Participating in a Competition for which there is no remuneration other than a prize (monetary or otherwise) and expenses.

Utilize Recording Facility:

- The recording will be distributed and sold outside of the USA; and
- No public performances will be given.

Honorarium type payment and associated incidental expense for usual **academic activities** (lecturing, guest teaching, or performing in an academic sponsored festival) if:

- The activities last no longer than 9 days at a single institution or organization
- Payment is offered by an institution/organization described in INA 212(q)
- The honorarium is for services conducted for the benefit of the institution or entity; and
- The alien has not accepted such payment or expenses from more than 5 institutions over the past 6 months.

CHECKLIST

	Application Forms	Forms are required for all musicians and technicians (parts 1, 2 and 3)
	Fee for the support letter	\$45.00 to be paid online –You will be emailed an invoice with instructions on how to pay online after your B1 submission is vetted for eligibility and completeness.
	Documentation	No matter what type of business activity you are attempting to enter the USA under the B1 classification, you will require an American document that has all the following : an invitation letter on letterhead, listing all persons entering the USA, date of the event, venue name and full street address of where the event will take place; purpose of the event; that there will not be a wage or salary (please see above instances where incidental expenses and honorariums apply). Signature is required with name, title and contact information. Email correspondences are not acceptable as the document.
	Identification	A copy of the biometric page of passports are required
	AFM membership Verification	3 ways to verify: a copy of membership card (s), email from your Local confirming names and date dues are paid until, or have a Local officer sign the part 2. The proof you submit must show the end validation date and be valid up until end of the B1 period.

Merchandise/Musical Equipment: please contact your designated Port of Entry or Pre-Flight Inspection with questions regarding custom clearance of instruments, equipment and merchandise and/or visit www.chamber.ca for information in clearing professional equipment.

Insurance (Out-of-Country Health and instrument): It is always advisable when traveling to other countries that you obtain *additional* out-of-country health insurance and equipment insurance. For more information please contact Cathy Lee: cathylee@afm.org.

You can submit your B1 package to Susan Whitfield at the AFM Canada (CFM) Office by fax (416-391-5165) or email swhitfield@afm.org at least 5 business days prior to entry date. AFM/CFM then will process a letter of support for your entry.

PART 1(a)

SHOWCASE/B1 APPLICATION – MUSICIAN PERSONAL INFORMATION

BAND NAME or LEADER NAME:

MUSICIAN NAME: (full legal name as it appears on your birth certificate and passport)

(SURNAME) (FIRST) (FULL MIDDLE NAME)

MALE _____ FEMALE _____ DATE OF BIRTH: (m)____(d)____(y)_____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

TELEPHONE: () _____ () _____

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

ARE YOU A CANADIAN CITIZEN? YES _____ NO _____

IF NO, WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATUS IN CANADA? _____

****PASSPORTS MANDATORY****

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____ EXPIRY DATE: _____

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ PROVINCE OF BIRTH: _____

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON?

YES _____ WHY? _____

IF YES, this may delay the processing of your application.

NO _____

NAMED MUSICIAN MUST PERSONALLY SIGN BELOW:

I certify that the information provided in Part 1(a) is true and correct and that any criminal history has been disclosed to AFM at the time of this request. I further acknowledge by not doing so can delay the processing of this petition in whole or in part and AFM cannot be held responsible for any losses, damages, etc.

SIGNATURE OF MUSICIAN NAMED ABOVE: (faxed signature is acceptable)

_____ **DATE:** _____

PART 1(b)

SHOWCASE/B1 APPLICATION – TECHNICIAN PERSONAL INFORMATION

BAND NAME/LEADER NAME: (if applicable)

TECHNICIAN NAME: (full legal name as it appears in your passport or birth certificate)

MALE _____ **FEMALE** _____ **DATE OF BIRTH: (m)** _____ **(d)** _____ **(y)** _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

TELEPHONE: (_____ **)** _____ **(** _____ **)** _____

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

ARE YOU A CANADIAN CITIZEN? YES _____ **NO** _____

IF NO, WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT STATUS IN CANADA? _____

****PASSPORTS MANDATORY****

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____ **EXPIRY DATE:** _____

COUNTRY OF BIRTH: _____ **PROVINCE OF BIRTH:** _____

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THE UNITED STATES AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON?

YES _____ **WHY?** _____

IF YES, this may delay the processing of your application

NO _____

NAMED TECHNICIAN MUST PERSONALLY SIGN BELOW:

I certify that the information provided in Part 1(b) is true and correct and that any criminal history has been disclosed to AFM at the time of this request. I further acknowledge by not doing so can delay the processing of this application in whole or in part and AFM cannot be held responsible for any losses, damages, etc.

SIGNATURE OF TECHNICIAN NAMED ABOVE: (faxed signature is acceptable)

DATE: _____

PART 2

SHOWCASE/B1 VISA APPLICATION – TRAVELING INFORMATION

Part 2 must be completed for each and every individual of your performing unit
(Including technical crew)

MUSICIAN / TECHNICIAN NAME:

REQUESTED DATE OF ENTRY: (date required in the United States – include traveling time):

(m) _____ (d) _____ (y) _____

Please note you may not request more than 1 day prior to your first engagement unless otherwise authorized by AFM.

REQUESTED DATE OF EXIT:

(m) _____ (d) _____ (y) _____

Indicate the day after your last engagement – no exceptions. As only 1 day maybe requested.

PRE-FLIGHT INSPECTION: (if traveling by AIR):

OR

PORT OF ENTRY: (if traveling by LAND/SEA) :

Note: When utilizing air, land, sea, or train travel, it is imperative to name the proper airport or land port (port of entry) which will be your first entry point into the United States. Please confirm the correct port of entry by consulting a map, your travel agent PRIOR to submitting this application. .

AFM LOCAL OFFICER MUST SIGN TO VERIFY MEMBERSHIP

Technician(s) are not required to fill out this section.
Musician(s) must be 'paid up' for period requested.

AFM LOCAL # _____ DUES PAID UNTIL: _____

SIGNED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

LOCAL OFFICIAL - SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

Alternative to your Local Official signing, Members may provide a copy (front and back) of your current membership card. **OR** provide a receipt from the AFM Local or AFM website (if applying on-line) where you are a member. **AFM will not verify membership on your behalf.**

PART 3

SHOWCASE/B1 VISA APPLICATION – POLICY OF INDEMNITY

When the member(s) or their agent/representative submit an application for a B1 Support letter (Showcase engagement letter), AFM requires a minimum of five (5) business days prior to date of entry for processing this request, along with the administration fee of \$45.

The entertainment unit should acknowledge that after AFM accepts the application, they will be provided with a letter of support. This letter of support does not automatically guarantee entry into the United States. The border officials are the final authority to grant approval or deny entry. The AFM B1 support letter does just that: it supports the letter of invitation received from the US conference/promoter by the entertainment unit.

To qualify legally for the B-1 Entry, you further confirm by signing below, that no monetary or other forms of compensation will be received for your performance under this letter of support; compensation is anything that has a monetary value placed on it, and which is given in direct connection for services provided. Example: hotel, food/drink, registration fees/bracelets, travel. You may be required [at the US border] to present proof of your out-of-pocket expenditures to validate your B1 entry request; such as, hotel confirmation number (booked on your credit card), return flights paid by the band. If you are being charged a fee to showcase your performance, you must obtain a receipt and/or have the fee noted in the invitation/acceptance letter.

MEMBER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (or his/her representative)

"I acknowledge my understanding of this policy, and all terms and conditions as stated herein above".

MEMBER/MUSICIAN/TECHNICIAN SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

- OR -

I am the authorized individual representative for the Entertainment Unit/Musicians known as _____ and I, being the authorized individual acting on behalf of the applicant named herein assume all responsibility to inform the musicians affected of this indemnity; and by signing **"I acknowledge this policy and its terms and conditions"**.

REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

AFM REQUIRES A CONTACT IN THE CASE THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED:

BAND LEADER/AGENT/MANAGER: _____ **TEL:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____
