

CFM liability Insurance

Early in 2012 the CFM launched a survey of membership to gather information from the members regarding the state of the business and their concerns. The goal was to generate a dialogue with members and consider their opinions on issues and services, to better understand the challenges faced by members and what actions the CFM might take to assist freelance musicians. A major issue that came up was the need for affordable liability insurance.

Liability insurance is being required more and more in the freelance field, particularly downtown and the museum campus venues. Event planners, purchasers and venues are requesting proof of coverage or are asking to be named as additionally insured on liability coverage letters. It appears the purchasers and venues are attempting to spread liability costs to providers such as musicians, caterers, sound and lighting providers, florists and others.

Liability coverage can be expensive for a leader or a solo performer and if you lead occasionally (leading only a few days a year) the cost per job can be prohibitive. According to the survey, members are paying from \$400 to over \$3000 a year for coverage.

The CFM investigated the possibility of getting a group liability plan to offer to CFM members. Holmquist Northern insurance Company, an insurance broker who works on other products for the CFM, found a provider who would offer us coverage. The CFM is offering this coverage as a pilot program, free to members in good standing. We hope that this free coverage will be a help to the freelance membership.

The coverage is for \$1 million per event and has a \$500 deductible. Eligibility is simple: be a member in good standing, file a contract for the engagement you want covered and fill out a liability request form. Once the CFM has received these materials we forward it to the company who prepares a coverage letter for your event. The expected turn around time for this process is two business days.

You can't beat the cost it's free. But just as important, the CFM is reaching out to help the freelance community. This liability coverage was designed to give members concrete help in defraying their costs and providing coverage that will be requested by purchasers. This coverage is designed for those types of engagements that are most commonly performed by our members. Examples include weddings, dinners, corporate parties, galas, receptions and similar events. The coverage is not for concerts, stages, rock venues and bars, but as always if you have questions call the CFM

The needs of freelance musicians as well as the health of the freelance business are important to the CFM and its officers. We will continue to make the utmost effort to bring ideas, services and support to our freelance community. Your ideas, concerns, comments and feedback are always welcome.