



cdbaby™ Presents

THE COMPLETE MUSIC DISTRIBUTION CHECKLIST

Everything You Need to Sell & Stream Your Music Online

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You only get one chance to release a new song or album, so you want to **do it right**. Here's what you'll need to properly distribute your music worldwide:

1. AN ARTIST NAME

This is the name you release music under. It could be your given name, a band name, or a moniker. If you're releasing music for the first time, Google your artist name to make sure it's not already being used by another group or artist.

2. ANY OTHER PRIMARY OR FEATURED ARTISTS

This info will be included in the metadata sent to digital music platforms, and help your music reach those other artists' audiences.

- Primary artists are the main artists on a recording. Often there is only one primary artist (for example: Ed Sheeran), but occasionally music is released with multiple primary artists listed. This is done when two or more artists that do not usually work together collaborate on an album or single (for example: Robert Plant & Alison Krauss). Multiple primary artists for a release are also referred to as "compound artists."
- Collaborators who DO work together on an ongoing basis can enter their "band name" as a single primary artist (for instance, "Brooks & Dunn" or "Simon & Garfunkel").
- "Featuring" artists are those who collaborate on specific tracks, but who should not receive primary artist billing for the release.

□ 3. THE SONG TITLES

Because songs need titles, just like babies need names.

□ 4. THE ALBUM TITLE

Your name for this collection of songs.

□ 5. THE SONGWRITER & PUBLISHER INFO FOR EACH SONG

In order to ensure that digital music services are paying publishing royalties properly, and that all songs are correctly licensed, you will need to provide:

- The names of the songwriters for each track (including cover songs)
- The names of those songwriters' publishers (if applicable)
- The "splits" for each songwriter (the percentage of a song that each songwriter owns)

If you're releasing a cover-song, you MUST secure the proper mechanical license before you distribute the track. Check out [Easy Song Licensing](#), an online service that will help you quickly license the cover you've recorded.

□ 6. ADDITIONAL METADATA

Digital music services like Spotify and Apple Music need to know if your recording is a live version, a cover song, in the Public Domain, or has explicit content.

□ 7. HIGH-QUALITY AUDIO

16-bit WAV or FLAC is ideal (in stereo, at 44.1kHz sample rate). No crappy MP3s!

□ 8. COVER ARTWORK

Must meet these requirements:

- 1400 x 1400 pixels minimum; 3000 x 3000 pixels maximum
- PNG, GIF, JPG, or JPEG file type
- 72 - 300dpi (300dpi is the best)
- Less than 25mb
- RGB color scheme (not CMYK)
- Other guidelines available [HERE](#)

□ 9. UPC CODE

This a product identifier code that differentiates your music in the marketplace and aids in proper accounting. CD Baby can provide a UPC.

□ 10. ISRC CODES

These are song identifier codes, essential for proper tracking of activity and payments in the digital music world. CD Baby can assign them.

□ 11. THE RELEASE DATE

When do you want your music to drop? You get to set the date that your new release becomes available. There are many promo opportunities on digital platforms that require advance planning, so be sure to set your release date far enough ahead. If possible, set your release date at least 3-4 weeks out.

CD Baby **CAN** make your music available in a matter of days, but you will miss out on your chance to do things like pre-save campaigns, *Release Radar* submissions, and more.

□ 12. PRE-SALE DATE

Do you want your fans to be able to purchase your music on iTunes or Amazon ahead of its official release? Set that up at least 30 days in advance.

□ 13. DESCRIPTIONS OF YOUR MUSIC

To describe your music, what it sounds like, and who it's for, compile the following things:

- Written blurb about your music
- Genre designations
- Suggested moods
- Sounds-like artists (also sometimes referred to as RIYL or “Recommended If You Like”)

□ 14. A PAYMENT METHOD

How will get paid for your sales, streams, etc.? Make sure to set up either a PayPal account or a checking account that allows automatic deposit.

□ 15. YOUR LABEL AND COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

If you funded your recording or created your music on your own, YOU are the label and copyright owner. If another person is claiming ownership of the sound recording, they should be listed as the label and copyright owner.

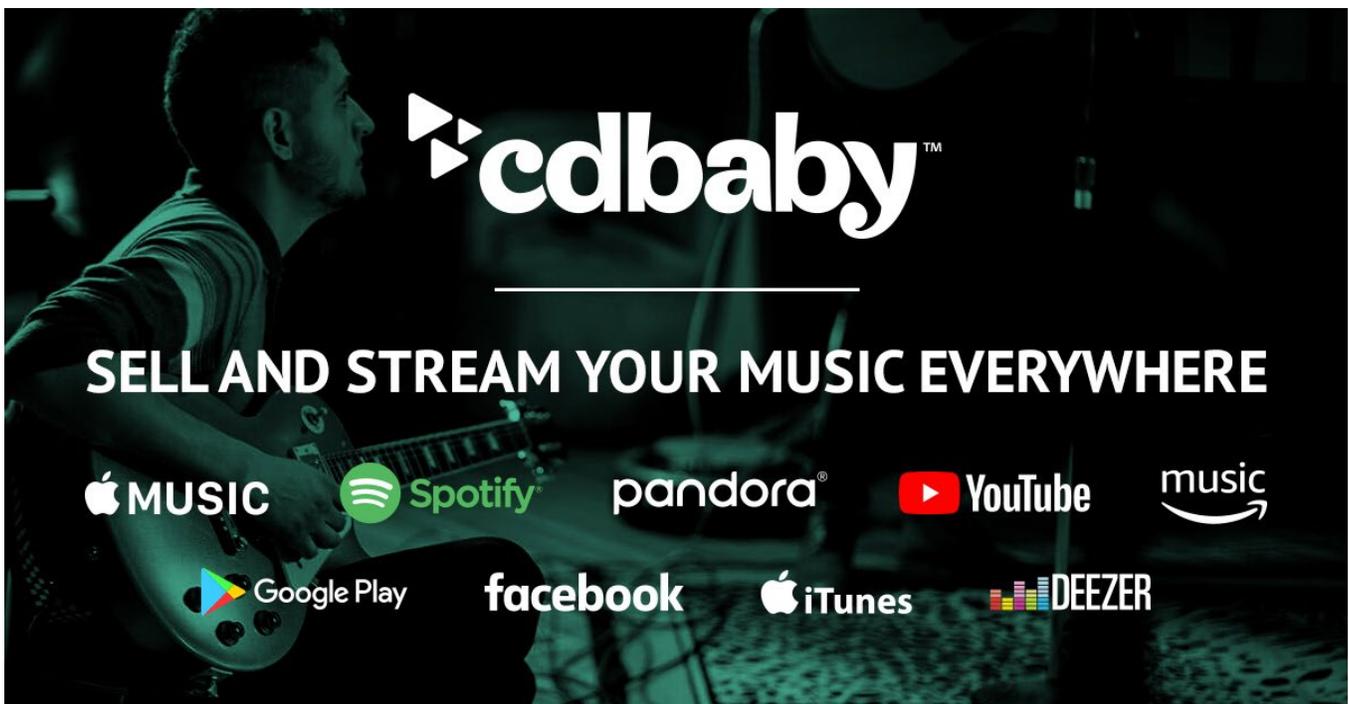
Get The Most Revenue Streams for Your Music!

With CD Baby you will:

- Distribute your music to **150+** stores (Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, etc.)
- Make money from your music on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and more
- Get free major label marketing tools
- **NEVER** pay annual fees

Distribute music worldwide with CD Baby!

www.cdbaby.com



cdbaby™

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