April 8, 2020

RE: Remote Recording of Theatrical and Television Film Soundtracks During The COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Producers and Contractors:

In consideration of governmental limitations on group in-person recordings because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and whereas AFM-signatory producers may have responded by instructing instrumental musicians to separately record single tracks to later be combined with other separately-recorded tracks on the same soundtrack recording, the AFM will temporarily apply and interpret the following provisions of the AFM Basic Theatrical Motion Picture Agreement and Basic Television Motion Picture Agreement, Paragraph 15, "Minimum Rates and Conditions," subsection (b)(9) ("Leader – Double Recording Musician's Rate"), thusly. That contract language reads as follows:

"When only one recording musician is called for a session, he/she shall be paid double the Recording Musician’s rate to perform alone."

Notwithstanding the preceding language, if the Producer employs fifteen (15) or more unique instrumental musicians to perform on a recording for each 3-hour recording session, AFM shall only require the Producer to pay Leader scale to one instrumental musician per 3-hours session for such recording.

Under no circumstances shall the Producer construe such temporary interpretation to avoid paying Leader scale to those individual or soloist instrumental musicians whom the Producer has previously established to be entitled to such Leader scale for such recording.

The effective start date of the conditional application and interpretation would take effect retroactively to Monday, March 16. We will inform you when this conditional application and interpretation ends, although in no case shall it extend beyond the date on which the relevant governmental authorities permit resumption of in-person group recordings. This temporary conditional application and interpretation is made on a non-citable, non-precedential basis.

Sincerely,

Raymond M. Hair, Jr.
President