

Sight Reading Tips

How important is sight-reading ability to the average musician? Very important, considering that in a given amount of time you are expected to record an unfamiliar piece that in most cases is conveyed to you by only sheet music.

Is most of the music at a recording session difficult to read?

In most cases the music is not too difficult, although some arrangers write out every note and expect you to play what is written. On most recording dates, a demo of the song is played for you, and there is sheet music to follow along. This makes it easier to focus on what you need to play and to get a good feel for the song.

How long does it take to record one song? In a three hour session one or two is a good average. Of course, the more the better. These days, when sounds are so important it can take a whole day just to get one song, because of the importance of the sounds.

Who chooses the band for the sessions? In some cases the artist requests certain players; otherwise the decision is left to the producer. Sometimes the arranger of a particular song calls in his or her favorite players, or else the musicians are hired by a music contractor.

Do you make royalties on everything that you play on or is it a onetime payment?

You are paid royalties if you are so song writer on the record or have n arrangement to participate in royalties on sales as part of your fee. Royalties are paid on most commercials (jingles) and they can add up, depending on how often a spot is used.