

## **SOCAN** (Society of Composer, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada)

CWDIA (The Canadian Western Dance Instructors Association) negotiated with SOCAN with regard to licensing the use of the music used for Square Dancing and a deal was struck that was very favourable to the Canadian Square Dance world.

The people who compose music and songs do this for a living and they make their money from royalties collected when their music is played. Square Dance record companies pay for a mechanical licence to reproduce the music they use. This mechanical license is issued by a different authority (CMRRA in Canada) and does not cover the use of the music when the caller or cuer plays a record at a Square or Round Dance. The SOCAN licensing is how royalties are paid.

CWDIA and Socan agreed that callers and cuers could get a licence under **Tariff 19** (Fitness Activities) which costs (2009) \$64.00 + \$4.48 GST per year and gives callers and cuers the licence to use music when they call.

However, when a club puts on a **special dance** a **Tariff 8 Licence** (Receptions, Conventions, Assemblies and Fashion Shows) is required.

**1. A special dance** is one where tickets are sold, advertising is distributed, non-club members are invited, is not in place of or related to a regular club dance (i.e. not on or in place of a regular club night or at a normal club location) and/or a major association, provincial or national event. Multi-day events should be raised with SOCAN directly.

**2. Club theme dances**, (such as Hallowe'en, Christmas, Wind Up, etc.) are not special dances if held on or in place of a regular night for club members.

It is normally the responsibility of the owners of the hall where the event takes place to obtain this licence - and the cost would probably be added to the hall rental. Halls that hold regular events requiring a Tariff 8 would pay their licence fees quarterly and if they are doing this, would probably explain this to the renter or include it in their rental fees.

However, it seems that the Square Dance Clubs or Associations that stage Special Dances, have been applying for the Tariff 8 licence for the event and this seems reasonable when special dances are held in venues that do not normally take out a Tariff 8 licence and I believe that this was part of the understanding between SOCAN and CWDIA.

So, if you are holding a special event as defined (see above) you are advised to check if the venue owners have a Tariff 8 licence and if not then offer that the club or Association staging the event apply for one - **after all, Square Dancers are honest and law-abiding - right?**

The fees are as follows:

Hall capacity 1 -100 people:	\$41.13 + GST	101 - 300 people:	\$59.17 + GST
301 - 500 people:	\$123.38 + GST	Over 500 people:	\$174.79 + GST

Your SOCAN contacts for **ALL** of Canada are:

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Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (PST)

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