

If you are an essential support person to the P-3 performer or group, you must submit documented evidence establishing your "essential role, critical skills and experience" in association with the main performer or group (see the section regarding O-2 accompanying performers, above).

Note that essential support visas must be requested separately from visas for the main performer(s) but can be approved only in conjunction with the visas for the main performer(s)

A P-3 visa is approved for up to a maximum of one year for a specific performance or tour. Extensions for continuing or completing the same activity must be requested on a new I-129 Form and may be approved in one-year increments.

O-3 and P-4 *Accompanying Dependents*

The spouse or child accompanying an O-1, O-2, P-1, P-2 or P-3 performing artist or essential support person qualifies for an O-3 or P-4 visa (depending on the related performer's visa classification). Accompanying dependents need only provide evidence of their relationship to the principal performer at the time of application for the artist's status or visa. (If your dependents are not Canadian citizens and require visas to enter the United States, application should be made to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. consulates in Canada.)

The initial O-3 or P-4 approval period corresponds to that of the principal. However, until further notice, extensions must be requested on an I-539 Form (not an I-129 Form) and may be approved in one-year increments, in conjunction with the extension granted to the related performer.

H-2B *Musicians to be Employed Within 50 Miles of the Canadian Border*

If you are going to perform within 50 miles of the Canada-U.S. border, you have the option of applying under a less stringent visa classification rather than under the various O and P categories. The H-2B classification is intended for temporary workers entering the United States "to engage in non-agricultural employment which is seasonal, intermittent, to meet a peak load or need, or a one-time occurrence."

However, the U.S. Department of Labor made special allowances for Canadian musicians by pre-certifying that qualified persons are unavailable along the Canada-U.S. border, and that the admission of Canadian musicians would not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of Americans who are similarly employed. Just as for the other visa classifications, the petition must be filed by your