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# CANADIAN PERFORMERS

## How to Enter the United States QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The following is designed for those already familiar with U.S. INS procedures. It is the intention of this guide to provide a checklist for INS visa classifications, procedures, required materials and deadlines related to individual Canadian performing artists as well as theatre, dance, circus and musical groups based in Canada, but not necessarily employing solely Canadians.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the complete guide, contact:  
Enquiries Service, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2  
Tel.: 1-800-267-8376 (in Canada) or (613) 944-4000

Both versions are also available on-line: [www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca)

### THE INS TIMELINE

- Book performance date/tour; determine INS classification; gather materials needed for INS petition.
- Designate petitioner (must be U.S.-based).
- Prepare the INS petition package.
- Send copy of INS petition to labour union(s) for consultation letter(s).
- Receive labour consultation(s) (2-10 days); make copies for petition.
- Petitioner sends petition (in duplicate) to INS service center.
- Send copy of petition to artist.
- Artist contacts U.S. embassy or consulate to obtain forms and instructions for visa application (non-Canadians only).
- Petitioner receives Notice of Receipt from the INS (2-3 weeks).
- Petitioner receives I-797 Approval Notice (15-120 days, depending on whether Premium Processing Service is used).
- Petitioner sends original of I-797 to artist.
- If applicable, artist makes appointment with U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for and obtain visas (Canadian nationals need only present I-797 at port of entry or pre-flight inspection).

### NON-IMMIGRANT VISA CLASSIFICATIONS

**O-1**  
*For an individual (one person only on the petition) of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, athletics, or extraordinary achievements in the motion picture and television fields. An O-1 visa is approved for a maximum of three years for a specific performance, film shoot or tour.*

**O-2**  
*For essential support personnel (including performers) accompanying the O-1. Submit documented evidence demonstrating that the support personnel possess "critical skills and experience" based on a long-standing working relationship with the O-1 artist. An O-2 visa is approved for the same length of time as the accompanying O-1.*