



For **Canadian** artists and groups: Both the American Federation of Musicians and the Actors' Equity Association engage in exchanges between Canadian and American chapters. The American Federation of Musicians will be the petitioner, and you should contact the Toronto office for details. Actors' Equity will provide the necessary exchange documentation for your presenter to submit.

Petitions for support personnel must be filed on a separate form, but submitted in conjunction with the petition for the main performer(s).

A P-2 petition is approved for a maximum of one year for a specific performance or tour. Extensions for completing the same activity must be requested on a new Form I-129 and may be approved in one-year increments. Note that the U.S. union may act as the petitioner in P-2 cases.

### **P-3**

#### ***Culturally unique performers, performing groups, teachers or coaches***

You qualify for a P-3 visa if you are a "culturally unique" individual performing artist or entertainment group entering the United States to perform, teach or coach under a commercial or non-commercial "culturally unique" program.

"Culturally unique" means "a style of artistic expression, methodology, or medium which is unique to a particular country, nation, society, class, ethnicity, religion, tribe or other group of persons." For the P-3 classification there is no specific time the members have to have been together.

The INS allows a fairly broad definition of "culturally unique." Generally, letters from recognized experts, testimonials and affidavits are sufficient. One can also demonstrate cultural uniqueness through press reviews, articles, letters from foreign governments, awards, prizes and other promotional materials.

The P-3 individual or group must be performing for a culturally unique event or series. This can be demonstrated with the support letter(s) submitted by the presenter(s) describing the cultural series the performer or group will be part of, and a statement from the performer or group that they will be presenting a program of culturally unique repertoire.

A P-3 visa is approved for 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 Form I-129 and may be approved in one-year increments.

### **P Support Personnel**

Although similar in procedure, essential support personnel for P-1, P-2 or P-3 groups petition separately from the corresponding P petition for the performers. While the P support petition is separate from its corresponding main petition, **it cannot be submitted in advance of the main petition.** It is recommended you file the P support petition at the same time as its corresponding main petition.

You must submit documented evidence establishing the "essential role, critical skills and experience" of the support person(s) to the group. This usually takes the form of a statement describing the production and the specific roles and essentiality each support person plays. Attached to this statement should be brief biographies (one or two paragraphs) on each support person.