

Remember that you can enhance your application and offset the potential impact of an adverse union opinion if you submit "favourable" opinions (i.e., letters of recommendation) from recognized professional U.S. arts associations, management organizations or individual experts in your particular artistic field. Written advisory opinions from such non-labour sources assist U.S. Immigration officers, who are not always artistically inclined, to evaluate the merit of your ability.

When requesting an advisory opinion, don't be modest. Flaunt your accomplishments and artistic qualities. If you are relatively unknown to American audiences, focus on enhancing your petition by submitting local reviews, articles or other materials that attest to your talent and the quality of your performances. Furthermore, if you belong to an established Canadian entertainment group and have yet to enter the American market due to certain factors that you feel are beyond your control, you may consider requesting a special waiver that relaxes the entrance requirements applicable to your group (see "Waiver from International Recognition Requirement" "P-1 Member of an Internationally Recognized Entertainment Group" and "Essential Support Personnel," below).

Finally, if you are an unknown, but Canadian, musician, you can take advantage of a special provision that virtually pre-certifies your visa approval if you perform within 50 miles of the Canadian border (see "H-2B Musicians to be Employed Within 50 Miles of the Canadian Border," below).

Visa Classifications for Performing Artists

The visa classifications listed here apply to individual performing artists and entertainment groups, as well as their accompanying performers and essential support personnel. Separate petitions are required for each classification.

A completed petition must:

1. indicate the specific visa classification you are requesting;
2. include the related O and P Supplement to Form I-129;
3. be accompanied by a written advisory opinion; and
4. include documented evidence of your, or your group's, credentials and other information as indicated under your particular classification.