

McCandlish Holton Foreign Musicians and Artists Performing in the U.S.

Typical Services

The McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group (IPG) counsels U.S. and international artists, musicians, and music groups on obtaining visas for U.S. performances. We will walk you through the visa process from start to finish:

- Preparing and filing the visa petitions with the INS
- Obtaining the required union consultations
- Obtaining the visa stamp overseas

Because productions are always on a tight time schedule, we will make your production our priority and take all steps necessary to ensure that your artists make it into the U.S. on time. Billing is on a fixed fee basis to assist production coordinators and accountants in budgeting costs.

Temporary Visas and Work Permits for Foreign Artists

- O-1 Visas for artists who have a record of extraordinary ability in the field
- O-2 Visas for supporting artists who are essential to the performance and have unique skills and experience with the O-1 artist
- P-1 Visas for internationally recognized entertainment groups
- Other temporary visas

Who is Eligible for an O-1 Visa?

Must meet three of six criteria:

1. Lead or starring role in a distinguished production
2. National or international recognition for achievement
3. Has performed or will perform in a lead, starring or critical role for production that has a distinguished reputation
4. Record of major commercial or critically acclaimed successes
5. Significant recognition for achievements from critics, organizations, government agencies and experts
6. High salary compared to others in field

Who is Eligible for an O-2 Visa?

Must have unique skills and experience with the O-1 alien which are not possessed by a U.S. worker and:

1. Be coming to the U.S. to assist in the O-1's performance
2. Be an integral part of the actual performance

Who is Eligible for a P-1 Visa?

Members of internationally recognized entertainment groups who:

1. Are coming to the U.S. to perform with the group and
2. Have been with the group for at least one year.