



Glossary for Theatre Musicians

10 out of 12	An AEA 12 hour rehearsal rule for which a maximum of 10 hours are spent working on lights, sound, costumes, and other technical elements.
AFM	American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada, the largest labor organization in the world representing the interests of the professional musician.
Ableton	A Berlin-based music software company that produces and distributes a collection of synthesizer instruments, MIDI and sample libraries, as well as their own hardware controller Ableton Push. Informally referred to as a VO.
AE/AEA	Actors Equity Association
afm.org	The website of the AFM.
AFM-EPF	AFM Employer Pension Fund. The Pension Fund for the AFM.
afm-tma.org	The website of the TMA.
Blocking	The movement and positioning of actors on a stage. Blocking rehearsals sometimes utilize a small group of musicians or keyboard accompanist.
Broadway League	The national trade association for the Broadway theatre industry, based in New York, New York. It was formerly the League of American Theatres and Producers, and the League of New York Theatres and Producers. Its members include theatre owners and operators, producers, presenters, and general managers in New York and more than 250 other North American cities, as well as suppliers of goods and services to the theatre industry.
broadwaymusicians.com	The official website for Broadway orchestra musicians.
Bus and Truck	A self-contained (including actors and sets) traveling production with mostly short engagements consisting of weekends and one-nighters, often on consecutive nights.
chicagotma.org	The website for the Chicago chapter of TMA.
Doubling	The playing of one or more additional instruments.
Engagement	The presentation of a production at a theater.



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Fractal (guitar)	Fractal Audio Systems, a company that creates guitar processors and pedals. Sometimes used informally to refer to a guitar processor. See Guitar Processor.
Guitar Processor	A digital or electronic device that alters the sound of the electric guitar to produce special or multi-effects, which may include the replication of acoustic guitar sounds and/or other acoustic sounds.
IA/IATSE	International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees
ibdb.com	The website for the Internet Broadway Database, the official database for Broadway theatre information.
IBT	International Brotherhood of Teamsters
ICSOM	International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians
IEB	International Executive Board. The governing body of the AFM in-between AFM Conventions. Sometimes referred to as AFM-IEB.
IM	International Musician. The official newsletter of the AFM.
Local Minimums	The minimum number of local musicians that must be hired for a local engagement, as provided in a collective bargaining agreement.
NAGBOR	Net Adjusted Gross Box Office Receipts
OCSM	Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians
Pamphlet B	The AFM collective bargaining agreement for traveling productions of musical theater.
Pit Bulletin	The official newsletter for the Theatre Musicians Association.
Playbill	A monthly U.S. magazine for theatregoers, often customized and printed for particular productions and distributed as the show's program.
Premium Pool	An additional premium that is divided up and paid to two or more musicians in the orchestra for extra duties such as Concertmaster or Principal.



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Presenter	An owner or manager of a theatre, responsible for booking an engagement at the theatre and hiring a local stage crew, wardrobe attendants, and renting equipment to load the show in and out of the venue. A Presenter also hires any local musicians that are required if the production is not self-contained. Sometimes the Presenter is also a Producer or Co-producer for the production.
Preview	A public performance of a theatrical production that precedes its official opening.
Producer	A company, organization, or person responsible for the overall financial and managerial aspects of a theatrical production, including funding, fundraising, and hiring the creative team and performers. Also, sometimes an investor may be referred to as a Producer.
RMA	Recording Musicians Association
ROPA	Regional Orchestra Players Association
Rule 24	The section in Pamphlet B that governs the local minimums for a traveling production.
Run of the Show	The length of an engagement at a theater.
Self-Contained	A traveling production that does not hire any local musicians for the engagements.
SET/SETA	Short Engagement Tour Agreement
Sit Down Production/Show	A local production that runs concurrently with a Broadway production sharing the same producers. Sit Downs generally run longer than 3 months.
Sitzprobe	An opera or musical theatre seated rehearsal, i.e. the singers are seated and sing with the orchestra.
Stop	A local engagement for a traveling production.
TDF	Theatre Defense Fund



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Theatre Defense Fund	An AFM strike fund that is used to pay benefits to musicians in the event of a strike for work covered by an AFM touring agreement. May also be used to pay benefits for a local strike if the local bargaining unit has opted into the TDF program.
The League	See Broadway League.
TMA	Theatre Musicians Association
tmasocal.org	The website for the Southern California chapter of TMA.
Tryout	The staging of performances of a play or musical, usually at an off-site location, before the production premieres on Broadway, for purposes of evaluation, and sometimes revision or re-write.
VO	Virtual orchestra, consisting of hardware and software that electronically reproduces sounds of acoustic instruments. A VO commonly replaces or augments musicians and acoustic instruments in the orchestra.
Walker	A musician who is hired and paid for an engagement in order to meet the local minimums in a CBA but does not perform with the production during the engagement. Originally it applied whenever the score required fewer musicians than the local minimums. More recently, Walkers are utilized to avoid laying off the traveling musicians, thereby keeping the touring orchestra self-contained. Walkers are called such since they only walk in to pickup their checks, and do not play the show.
Wandelprobe	Similar to Sitzprobe, except a Wandelprobe includes some blocking.