



UNISSON



For all foreign opera singers
working in France
Kit Lyrico

About us

Unisson

UNISSON is an Organisation which was created in April 2020 in France, at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. We represent any classical singer who works in fixed-term employment and has at least one contract in France.

Our mission is to provide information, legal advice and support to all our members; to work towards improving the working conditions and contractual agreements of performing artists working in France; be a mediator between employee and employer in case of request; participate in discussions taking place in the cultural world alongside other representatives of artists or employers; redirect victims of harassment to competent and professional structures.



Welcome to France !

Here is some information to help you prepare your stay in our country.

A foreign artist who is a citizen of the European Union must provide the following forms :

- **A1** (formerly E101 and E 103) to prove the payment of social security contributions in another EU country
- **S1** (the portable document S1 replaces forms E 106, E 109, E120, E 121 which were used under Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 to certify the rights of the worker and/or members of his family as well as for the pension seeker or holder and/or his family members).

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A1 form

The A1 form is a certificate indicating which legislation is applicable to the person concerned, used to prove the payment of social contributions in another EU country (e.g. posted workers or persons working in several countries at the same time). It is issued by the social security organisation to which you are affiliated in your country of origin.

Remember to ask for it before you leave (note that for France, it is now the URSAFF that manages this issue, see our article A1/U1).

Downloading the A1 form?

Some websites supposedly offer you to download the A1 form. This is useless, because the form must be filled in by your social security. You cannot fill it in yourself. The blank A1 form is therefore of **no use** to you.

Here is a list of the organisations that issue it for each country :

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/social-security-forms/contact_points_pd_a1.pdf

S1 form

This S1 form is a certificate which proves that the holder is entitled to health benefits. Useful for people who do not reside in the country where they are insured (posted workers, frontier workers, pensioners, civil servants and their dependants). Contact your health insurance organisation to find out which organisation is responsible for issuing the S1 form.

This certificate confirms that you and your family are entitled to sickness, maternity and equivalent paternity benefits in kind (i.e. health care, medical treatment, etc.) in your country of residence. Family members are covered only to the extent that they meet the conditions laid down by the legislation of the State of residence.

This certificate must be submitted as soon as possible to the health insurance institution in your place of residence.

For Spain, Sweden and Portugal, this certificate must be sent to the Provincial Directorates of the National Social Security Institute (INSS), the Social Insurance Office and the Social Security Institute of the place of residence respectively.

A list of health insurance institutions can be found at the following address :
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/social-security-directory/pai/pai/select-country/language/en>

The European Health Insurance Card

What is its purpose ?

Are you going to a country of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland?

With the European Health Insurance Card, you are covered by the health insurance system and your medical expenses are paid according to the legislation in force in the host country.

Therefore, it allows you to be treated without returning to your country, but covers you only for medically necessary care and during temporary stays.

How to obtain the European Health Insurance Card ?

To obtain your EHIC, contact your Health Insurance Agency.

The EHIC is not issued automatically. It is free of charge, individual, nominative and valid for 2 years, since 1 July 2014.

Each member of your family must have one, including your children under 16.

Apply for your EHIC at least 2 weeks before your departure. If you apply too late, a provisional certificate may be issued.

This certificate will be valid for 3 months :

https://www.cleiss.fr/particuliers/ceam_cp_r.html

How to use the European Health Insurance Card ?

At the doctor's, pharmacist's and public hospitals, you can present your EHIC. Your medical expenses will be covered according to the social legislation and formalities in force in the country of stay.

Depending on the country of stay :

- you do not need to pay medical expenses in advance,
- you pay the costs and are soon after reimbursed by the host country's social security organisation



- **The European Health Insurance Card does not replace the Carte Vitale (French social security card)**
- **It is not a means of payment**
- **It does not contain any medical information about its holder.**

The limitations of the European Health Insurance Card

The EHIC has several drawbacks :

- reimbursements are based on the rates and legislation in force in the host country. In some countries, health costs are very expensive and reimbursements are very limited
- you are only reimbursed within the framework of public medicine, private medicine is not covered. For some countries, the time taken to access public medicine is very long (e.g. United Kingdom)
- it is only valid in European countries and for a limited period of time
- repatriation assistance is not covered by the EHIC

It is therefore advisable to check with your mutual insurance company, complementary health insurance and insurance contract or bank card guarantee what you are covered for (repatriation insurance, civil liability in the event of damage caused to others, luggage theft, etc.).

- in the event of damage caused to others, luggage theft, etc.)



**For more information
contact :**

https://www.cleiss.fr/particuliers/ceam_cpr.html

Performance paid leave or "Congés Spectacles "

What is its purpose ?

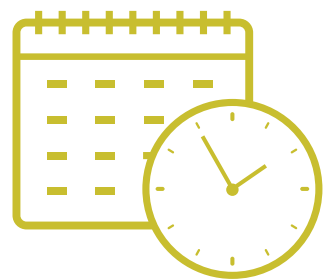
As an artist, as long as you are employed on a fixed-term contract of less than 12 months, you are entitled to paid leave, which your employer pays to Audiens (French organisation for social protection of the culture industry) for each of your fees.

The gross amount of paid leave is 10% of the gross salary received for the period from 1 April of a given year to 31 March of the following year. For example, if your income is €5000, you will receive €500 for paid leave.

If you are working in France for the first time, it is up to your employer to register you with this organisation so that you can obtain a personal registration number. This number is permanent, which means that you will keep the same number forever.

Do keep it safe!

<https://www.audiens.org/solutions/vos-conges-spectacles.html>



Remember to apply for your annual leave online from mid-April each year and by 31 March of the following year at the latest, at least 15 days before the start of your desired leave to receive your allowances.

<https://conges-spectacles.audiens.org/home.html>



You will receive a bank transfer and a certificate of payment to be kept for an unlimited period. This leave allowance is included in the calculation of your social security contributions in the same way as your wages and therefore entitles you to benefits (health insurance, basic and supplementary pensions).



Getting support from Unisson

If you need UNiSSON to help you with a situation, there are 2 possible options.

Free of charge support for :

- General/Admin/Contracts support with information accessible on our website.
- Harassment, UNiSSON can help by putting you in touch with the relevant organisations.

UNiSSON membership required for :

- General / Administration / Contracts : any request requiring a **consultation/advice with our lawyers.**
- Harassment : request for a 1h-consultation with our lawyer, specialising in harassment cases

UNiSSON membership fee :

- €70 for a foreign artist.
- €30 discounted membership for any artist who is already a member of another LyriCoalition organisation with reciprocity agreement ([see www.lyricoalition.art](http://www.lyricoalition.art) for more information).

www.unisson.net





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