

Writer Roles

Communicating the name of a writer of a Musical Work is an important part of a number of DDEX messages – specifically: ERN, RIN, DSR and the various messages to support the licensing of Musical Works. There are, several aspects to writing a Musical Work that DDEX messages can differentiate:

- Has the writer contributed to the **lyrics** of the Musical Work?
- Has the writer contributed to the **melody** or tune of the Musical Work?
- Has the writer contributed to the **lyrics and the melody**/tune of the Musical Work? Or
- Is it only known that the writer has **contributed** to the Musical Work but not whether they contributed to the lyrics or the melody/tune?

These four cases can be communicated in all standards published in 2020 or later with four role codes: `Lyricist`, `Composer`, `ComposerLyricist` and `ComposerAndOrLyricist`.

In older versions of DDEX standards only three values, `Lyricist`, `Composer`, `ComposerLyricist`, are available. When using those standards it is suggested to use a `ComposerAndOrLyricist` as a user-defined value as described on <https://kb.ddex.net/display/GBK/User-defined+Values>.

Note: DDEX of course also supports additional Musical Work-related roles such as `Adapater` and `Arranger`.