

# Did You Know?

## What Happens If You Go Back to Work After You Retire

*Retiring as a musician can be a little different from other industries. When you retire, you may have every intention of not working anymore, but then you get the call: “Hey, could you work for a couple of engagements?” And before you know it, you’re performing again. In that case, the American Federation of Musicians and Employers’ Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) may pay additional benefits but only under some specific conditions, which are summarized below.*

It is possible to earn Plan contributions after starting your pension – either because you return to work for a contributing employer or continue receiving income for previous work (such as new use or reuse of a previous recording). Benefits based on those contributions are called re-retirement – if earned *before* age 65 – and re-determination – if earned *after* age 65.

### **Earning Additional Benefits BEFORE Age 65**

Re-retirement benefits may apply if you start your pension before age 65 and later return to work, also before age 65. You *must* meet the Plan’s [eligibility requirements for early retirement](#), including the special rules for those in steady employment. Under these requirements, there are certain rules that will invalidate your early retirement if you return to work too soon, so it is important that you review them carefully before deciding to return to work after early retirement.

If you retire before age 65 and earn contributions of \$50 or more in at least one calendar year between your Pension Effective Date and 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, you may be eligible for re-retirement benefits. If so, the Fund Office will send you a pension application on or around your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Plan recalculates re-retirement benefits as if you retired at age 65 using contributions earned throughout your career (both before and after you started receiving your initial pension benefit). That amount is reduced (offset) to account for Plan payments you’ve already received and the monthly benefit you currently receive. The resulting re-retirement monthly benefit is added to your initial monthly pension benefit.

You cannot change the [form of benefit payment](#) you elected for your initial pension benefit. For example, if you chose a 50% joint and survivor benefit, you’ll continue to receive your initial pension benefit in that form even if you get divorced or your spouse dies. However, you may elect a different payment option for the re-retirement portion; the same payment options as a regular benefit are available (see the [Summary Plan Description](#) for details).

### **Earning Additional Benefits AFTER Age 65**

Re-determination benefits are additional benefits you earn if you start your pension and then work after age 65. This benefit is calculated starting July 1 each year based on Plan contributions received and deposited in the prior calendar year. The additional re-determination benefit earned each year is reduced (offset) by the value of re-determination benefits received in the prior year.

In general, the benefit payment form selected for your re-retirement benefit will also apply to any future re-determination benefits. Under certain limited circumstances, you may select a different payment form for your re-determination benefits in the first year you receive them (the [Summary Plan Description](#) explains how this works).

*This is only a summary of the rules. For more detailed information, please review the Summary Plan Description and Plan document at [www.afm-epf.org](http://www.afm-epf.org).*