

Release Day

Maximizing Your Music's Views and Streams
with a Multi-Format Release Plan

The Release Cycle

A release can include a single, EP, album or Official Music Video

Pre-Release

Release Day

Post-Release

700M+

times fans discovered a song on
Shorts and consumed it on
long-form video within a week.¹

94%

Out of a random sampling, fans who
saw a given music video consumed 94%
more of that artist's music in the following
month compared to fans who didn't see
the music video.

What is a multi-format release strategy?

A promotional strategy that uses **more than one type of content format** to promote the release of a song or project.

ON YOUTUBE, YOU CAN USE:



SHORTS



VIDEO



LIVE

Why use multi-format release strategy?

1. Audiences may differ across formats, so you can attract a wider audience and cater to content preferences.
2. YouTube's recommendations take into account a viewer's watch preferences in each format. **What your fans watch on Shorts can influence recommended videos.**

Release Day Hacks

1

Keep Creative Consistency

- Use similar creative branding and themes across all of your release content - visualizers, lyric videos, channel banner, promotional content, etc. - for cohesion. Fans can more easily recognize content.

2

Make The Most Noise On Release Day

- Release day should host all of your best content to get fans talking about your release. Use *all formats* on this day to reach fans from all angles

PRO TIP

It's okay to post Shorts on the same day as your music video Premiere.
Posting Shorts will not negatively affect YouTube's recommendations of your long form content to users or vice versa.

Shorts

Create a Variety of Shorts to Promote Your Track

Upload consistency is key on Shorts. It's up to you to find content that works best for you and your fanbase. Aim to create compelling, original content that will attract new fans.



WHY?

- Let fans know the full song is available
- Expand the reach of your song
- Entice new and returning fans to listen to the full song or watch the Official Music Video
- Inspire fans to create with your track

Video

Your Official Music Video:

- Serves as your **main storytelling visual**
- **Immerses fans** and drives deeper relationships
- Serves as an **opportunity for monetization**

When Should I Premiere My Music Video?

1. Same Day As Song or Album Release (Recommended)

We've seen that Official Music Videos uploaded on the same day as the audio release results in higher subscriber growth and higher views in the first two weeks.²

2. Around a Big Marketing Moment

As an alternative, you can also plan to upload your music video if there's another big moment for your release - like a remix or big performance - or if the song starts to gain traction and trend.

Your Release Videos

If you have an Official Music Video, avoid uploading other release videos at the *exact same time*.

If you're unable to release an Official Music Video on release day, consider these types of videos as alternatives.

• Art Tracks

A video that is generated with your audio delivery that includes the sound recording and album or single art. You do not upload this yourself, but make sure your label or distributor delivers your audio release to us.

• Alternative Versions

Different versions or renditions of the song, like slowed down, sped up, acoustic, etc.

• Lyric Videos

Videos that show the lyrics as the song plays.

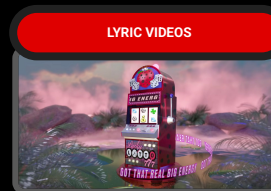
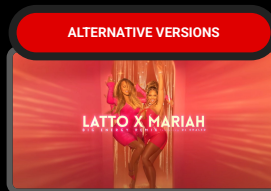
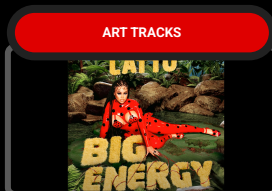
• Performance Videos

Videos of you performing the song.

• Visualizers

An alternative video - usually lower lift and separate from the official music video to support the song.

LATTO - "BIG ENERGY"



WHY?

More content can reach more people, and fans have more options to watch and listen, the way they prefer.

PREPARING FOR AN EP OR ALBUM RELEASE?

Consider making at least one type of release video available for each track.

Live



REMEMBER: The more you chat and engage with fans during a Premiere, fans can be more likely to engage with you and your new release.

It's Almost Time For The Main Event!

In your live stream **before your Official Music Video Premiere**, remember to:

- Enable chat replay
- Invite fans to ask questions or answer prompts
- Use a moderator to find and reply to comments
- Engage with fans by liking, pinning or reply to comments

Live Stream



PHOENIX

Thought Starters

1. Plan for your live stream to last at least 15 minutes
2. End the live stream and set your Live Redirect at the same time your Premiere is set to begin. You don't have to leave time in between.

PRO TIP

Hype and promote your live stream beforehand across socials to bring in a crowd.

Live vs. Premiere

What's The Difference?

Live Stream

A video platform that allows artists to broadcast footage live.

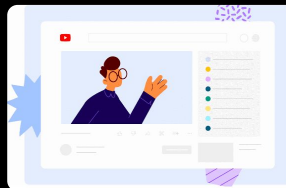
Premiere

Creates a watch page for artists to join their fans to watch uploaded content, like a new music video, together in real-time.

BOTH

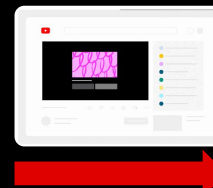
Artists can interact and chat with fans in real-time.

YOUR LIVE STREAM



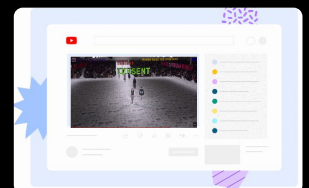
"Hey everyone, stick around for the Official Music Video premiere!"

LIVE REDIRECT



Your live stream will end with a countdown leading to your music video premiere.

YOUR PREMIERE



Automatically takes fans from your live stream to your music video premiere page.

Channel Optimization

- Set your official video (or main visual) as the **featured video** on your channel
- **Create a featured playlist** with all content related to your new release and place towards the top of your channel
- **Update your channel banner** to highlight that your release is out now
- **Update your store** with the latest merch and remove merch from past releases. Learn more [here](#).

Community

Types Of Posts



Photo

Great for **informing fans**



Polls

Great for **getting more engagement from fans**



Quizzes



Video Links

Great for **featuring fan content**

Best Practices

- Promote your music, including **release streaming links**
- Curate and share things you love, like **fan videos** or **collaborations**
- Ask for **feedback** from fans

Release Day Checklist

SHORTS:

- ☐ Post Shorts with your song, using the Shorts audio picker.
- ☐ Inspire and encourage fans to create their own content with your song.

CHANNEL:

- ☐ Set Official Music Video as your featured video

COMMUNITY:

- ☐ Post media (photos, graphics, gifs, etc.) to continue promoting your music, including streaming links wherever it makes sense

VIDEOS:

- ☐ Upload your Official Music Video
- ☐ Consider uploading additional release-related videos (like visualizers, lyric videos, alternative versions [ex. Sped up, slowed down], etc.) if you're unable to release an Official Music Video.

LIVE:

- ☐ Set up a live redirect from your live stream to your Official Music Video Premiere
- ☐ Pre-plan the flow of your live stream (what you'll do, talk about, Q&A, etc.)

PREMIERE

- ☐ Engage with fans in the chat during your Premiere

Measure Ongoing Success

Watch the following metrics in YouTube Analytics for Artists to measure success and how to keep promoting your song:

→ Unique Viewers → Creations → Views → Engagement

[LEARN MORE ABOUT ANALYTICS FOR ARTISTS HERE →](#)

Want More Resources for Artists?

[LATEST BEST PRACTICES PLAYBOOKS, AND ARTIST SUCCESS STORIES ON OUR WEBSITE →](#)