

Playing and Performing Music in Church

COPYRIGHT FACT FILE

This FACT FILE has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) as a guide to the copyright implications for playing and performing music in a public place such as your church building. If you do not find all the information you need in this FACT FILE, please visit www.ccli.co.uk or contact CCLI (details overleaf)

COPYRIGHT AND THE LAW

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

- **Economic** - this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.
- **Moral** - this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

Those playing or performing music in churches are responsible for ensuring that copyright permission has been obtained before any performance takes place.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

There are two distinct types of music performance that may take place during your church

- **Live Performance** - when an individual or group of people sing and/or play musical instruments in a public place, such as a church building or open-air event.
- **Sound Recordings** - when music is played from a mechanical format such as a CD, cassette or MP3 player etc. in a public place. This includes background music used in coffee mornings, youth groups, parent/toddler groups and music contained on the soundtrack of a DVD/Video. etc.

LICENSING ORGANISATIONS

- **PRS For Music** - represents the rights of artists, composers and music publishers in the live performances and sound recordings played in a public place. Music played through media such as radio, TV and streamed directly from the Internet is also included.
- **Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL)** - licenses sound recordings and music videos on behalf of performers and record companies, for broadcast, public performance and new media.
- **Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)** - acts as an agent to PRS for Music to license churches for playing/performing music. For details and licence fees visit www.ccli.co.uk.

MUSIC WITHIN WORSHIP

Music which is played or performed within an act of divine worship (either live or from a sound recording) currently does not require the cover of a licence because PRS for Music chooses not to charge for this activity. The term "act of divine worship" includes all main Sunday services, special festivals, weddings & funerals. This exception does not include civic Christmas carol concerts or any other public performance.

COPYRIGHT LICENCES

If music is performed live or played from a sound recording on your church premises, outside times of worship, then your church is required to hold a PRS for Music Church Licence.

- **PRS for Music Church Licence** - available from CCLI this provides cover for your church to play or perform music. If your church holds more than six concerts or recitals a year your premises may be deemed a 'concert venue' and you will need to contact PRS for Music directly.

Note: Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) Licences: At the moment the law provides exemptions to certain charities and religious organisations, however please note that this is currently under review. Should the law be amended and this provision removed, churches will be required to hold a PPL licence to cover music played from a sound recording.

SEPERATE CHURCH BUILDING/HALL

If your church hall is an integral part of your church building, then a PRS for Music Church Licence will cover the entire premises - church and hall. However, if your church hall is a seperate building from the main church premises (eg a community building or school hall), then you may need an additional licence from PRS for Music directly. Details can be found at www.ccli.co.uk/playing-music

MUSICALS

Musicals are protected by a provision called Grand Rights, which protects all the aspects of a musical, including lyrics, performance, choreography etc. and as such they fall outside the scope of PRS for Music. Therefore, you will need to obtain permission from the production company to perform the musical.

REPORTING USAGE

You do not need to report the use of songs played or performed during your church activities. In order to calculate royalties, PRS for Music and PPL use information such as album sales and broadcast data.

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