

Playing & Performing Music in Church

This Fact File has been created by 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 here, please visit www.ccli.co.uk or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

COPYRIGHT AND THE LAW

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 either during your church activities or on your church premises:

- **Live Performance** - when an individual or group of people sing and/or play musical instruments in a public place, such as a church building.
- **Music 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 composers, copyright owners and music publishers in the public performance of music, either live or from a music recording, including music played via media such as radio, TV or streamed over the internet.
- **Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL)** - represents the rights of performers and record companies for the public performance and broadcast of music recordings and music videos.
- **Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)** - acts as an agent to both PRS for Music and PPL to license churches for playing/performing live and pre-recorded music. For details and licence fees visit www.ccli.co.uk.

MUSIC DURING REGULAR SERVICES

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

MUSIC WITHIN FILMS

A PRS for Music Church Licence is required to cover the soundtrack within films or films scenes shown on church premises, outside of acts of divine worship. To show all or part of a film at any time you will also require a Church Video Licence (see the *Showing Films at Church* Fact File).

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA) 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.

COPYRIGHT LICENCES

If music is performed live or played from a sound recording on your church premises, outside of acts of worship, then your church is required to hold the appropriate performance licences.

Activity	Licence(s) Required
If live music is performed outside of acts of worship	PRS for Music Church Licence
If sound recordings are played outside of acts of worship	PRS for Music Church Licence & PPL Church Licence
If films or film scenes are shown outside of acts of worship (a film's soundtrack is considered a sound recording)	PRS for Music (Church Video Licence also required, see <i>Showing Films at Church</i> Fact File)

PRS for Music Church Licence - available from CCLI, this provides cover for your church to play live music outside of acts of worship. If you hold or host more than six concerts or recitals per year your premises may be deemed a 'concert venue' and you will need to obtain a licence directly from PRS for Music.

This licence, along with the PPL Church Licence, also covers your church to play music from music recordings outside of acts of worship. Both licences are required because PRS for Music and PPL each represent the performance rights of different groups and organisations associated with the sound recording.

PPL Church Licence - available from CCLI, this provides cover for your church to play music from sound recordings (CD, music DVD, MP3, cassette etc.) during church activities, outside of acts of worship. A PRS for Music Church Licence is also required. No dubbing rights are included in the PPL Church Licence. You do not need a PPL Church Licence to show films or film scenes (see the *Showing Films at Church* Fact File).

Note: Neither of these licences is currently required for sound recordings if they are only played during your regular services (acts of worship).

MUSIC ON HOLD

If your church plays music on its phone system whilst callers are on hold, the PRS for Music Church Licence and the PPL Church Licence cover this activity.

SEPARATE CHURCH BUILDING/HALL

If your church hall is an integral part of your church building, then the PRS for Music Church Licence and PPL Church Licence will cover the entire premises - church and hall. However, if your church hall is a separate building from the main church premises, 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. You will therefore 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 under the terms of your PRS for Music Church Licence. Reporting is required for the PPL Church Licence – this process will be included in the CopyReport software sent to you from CCLI.

Last updated: March 2013

This Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, CCLI can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)

Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1BF

Tel: 01323 436100 Fax: 01323 436112

Email: info@ccli.co.uk

