

### In brief... what is copyright?

According to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, copyright is an intellectual property right that is given to the creators of original musical (including lyrics), literary, artistic and dramatic works. There is also a separate and distinct copyright in a sound recording, a broadcast and a film or video.

UK law states that a piece of music is in copyright from the moment that it is recorded in some tangible or physical format. In most cases this will be when it is first recorded onto tape or CD but the same is true when the music is written in sheet form. Once a copyright exists it will last for the life of the writer(s) plus 70 years at which point it passes into the public domain.

### Copyright basics

Almost all printed material is subject to copyright protection. Copyright may exist independently in words, translations and adaptations of words, melody, harmonisation and arrangement of music, and in the printed image of a book (music and words).

The duration of copyright protection in the UK is for the lifetime of the creator (author, composer, translator, arranger, editor, etc.) plus 70 years. The copyright in the printed image lasts for 25 years after the date of publication. Even where a book contains a very old item, it is possible that there are new copyrights in the particular version of the music and words printed, as well as in the visual image (the typesetting of words and music).

### Songs and hymnbooks

The majority of worship songs, and many hymns, are subject to copyright protection. Permission must be obtained in writing from the copyright owner or their appointed agent for each work prior to use, whether you are making printed copies, performing the music, or recording it. A fee or royalty may be charged.

In the case of a published collection of hymns or songs, the publisher of the book controls the printed image copyright, but the copyright in the words and music will often be controlled by others, and licensed for publication in that particular collection. So you need to check the printed copyright acknowledgement given with each item.

### Reproducing words

*Church hymn-books, song books and service sheets, overhead transparencies, computer generated lyrics*

Most publishers who hold the copyrights of hymns and worship songs will grant permission to include song words in any of the above formats, subject to a few simple rules:

- That the publication is not for re-sale
- That the correct copyright information is inserted immediately above or below the words of each item
- That any fee set by the publisher is paid.

### *Copies for Visually Impaired Persons*

The Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 permits suitable copies (for example, Large Print or Braille) to be made for Visually Impaired Persons without infringing

copyright, if words and texts are not commercially available in an appropriate accessible format.

### *Special service sheets - weddings, funerals, etc*

Weddings and funerals are special occasions and publishers vary as to whether or not they charge copyright fees. In all circumstances, however, permission must still be obtained.

## Reproducing music

Buying one printed copy of a music book (or indeed any book) and photocopying additional copies for others without permission is an infringement of copyright – unless the book specifically gives permission to do so. Permission should be obtained from the copyright owner of the individual musical item, and the songbook publisher, before copying takes place. Permission is at the discretion of the rights owner, so it cannot be assumed that it will be granted.

### *Copies for Visually Impaired Persons*

As with words, however, please note that sound recordings of musical performance are not allowed as an alternative appropriate format in respect of music.

### *Commercial printing*

If you wish to publish music for sale, publishers will need more detailed information, including retail price, print run, total number of copyrights included and the territories in which the publication is to be made available, and will charge a fee or royalty accordingly.

## Why do churches need to bother with copyright?

There have been some major changes over the past 100 years in the way we access the material we sing in worship. Some still sing from purchased hymn books, but today many others use a mixture of photocopied booklets, song sheets, OHP slides or projecting songs from an electronic light board or video projector. Songs can be reproduced from books, magazines, internet sites, even dictated over the phone...

There is no difference how or from where a work is copied, the copyright still exists on the songs, and we are required to pay the song owner for copying their work.

## How do we pay for copyright?

Either the owner of a song or hymn can pass over the permission after a small fee or a Licence is provided to you to reproduce the work. Writing to each and every song owner or copyright administrator can be an enormous task so the Church Copyright Licence was formed by Christian Copyright Licensing International.

## What is the Church Copyright Licence?

The Church Copyright Licence (CCL), administered to churches, schools and other Christian organisations through an annual licence fee based on the attendance at the main service. This part of the Licence covers the reproduction (not photocopying direct from the book) of words only.

To date CCL has over 150,000 verified hymns and worship songs on data-base and this figure is being added to on a daily basis. The Licence covers the reproduction of the listed hymns and worship songs in to any physical format so long as they are not copied for sale or commercial use. The CCL also covers the video and audio recording of music within services for non-commercial use.

### Does it cover music?

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) administrates a Music Reproduction Licence (MRL) to current holders of the CCL. The additional MRL provides the right to photocopy a great number of pieces of music from a supplied list of music books including Mission Praise, Songs of Fellowship, Spring Harvest, The Source and many more.

### What other licences does CCLI offer?

CCLI act as agent to the Performing Right Society (PRS) for the PRS Church Licence covering the performance or playing of music on church premises outside of worship. Music uses would include - Concerts and recitals; discos, dances, and karaoke sessions; aerobic, keep fit or dancing classes; film or video shows; as well as background music by means of television and radio; tape, record, CD and video players and juke boxes at such events as coffee mornings, youth clubs, fetes, bazaars and so on.

The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) for the CLA Church Licence which covers the photocopying of material from non music books, magazines, periodicals. This licence is ideal if your church produces teaching or research material for use as sermon notes or small group study booklets.

The Church Video Licence (CVL) for the performance of authorised films and film clips within church activities. You would require a CVL to play clips of videos within a sermon, show films for teaching at children's meetings, hold film clubs and more. Currently the CVL includes a number of Christian and mainstream film producers including Walt Disney Pictures, Universal Pictures, 20th Century Fox, Christian Cinema and many more.

### For further information

Contact CCLI  
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### Calamus License

The Calamus UK Copyright Scheme administers copyrights of hymns and other liturgical music in the UK. It represents many publishers and organisations (including the Taize community), giving access to a large proportion of the repertoire used particularly, but not exclusively, in Catholic Liturgy today and allowing reproduction of the words and melody line of the pieces covered under the scheme. It offers two levels of service: Annual licence - mainly taken up by Churches or Christian Communities or Special permission for individual or one-time use e.g. a Workshop or special event.

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

For full details, follow the link to Calamus at  
[www.decanimusic.co.uk](http://www.decanimusic.co.uk)  
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