



Church Copyright Fact File

Playing and Performing Music

This Fact File has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications when 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 ccli.com or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

What do I need to know?

If music is played or performed on church premises outside of regular worship services, the church is responsible for ensuring that copyright permission has been obtained.

Music during regular services (Acts of Worship)

Music which is played from a recording or performed live during your regular worship services (Acts of Worship) does not currently require the cover of a licence. This includes all main Sunday services, special services, weddings and funerals. This concession does not include any service where an entry charge is made, civic Christmas carol concerts or any other public performance.

Music outside of regular services

There are two distinct types of music use 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, DVD or MP3 in a public place. This includes background music used in coffee mornings, youth groups, parent/toddler groups, music contained on the soundtrack of a film/video or played from the radio or TV.

Which licences does my church need?

CCLI acts as an agent to churches on behalf of the two collection societies that license the public performance of live music and pre-recorded music:

PRS for Music	Represents the rights of composers, copyright owners and music publishers in the public performance of music (live, in a mechanical format, via radio/TV, or streamed over the internet).
Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL)	Represents the rights of performers and record companies when playing or broadcasting music recordings and music videos in public.

NB: In February 2018, PRS for Music and PPL created a joint venture organisation called PPL PRS Ltd. in order to sell their respective rights under a single licence called TheMusicLicence. For further information visit pplprs.co.uk.

At the time of writing there is no change for customers holding either a PRS for Music Church Licence or PPL Church Licence from CCLI. Further details of what these licences cover can be found overleaf.

Music performance licences available from CCLI

- **The PRS for Music Church Licence** permits live music to be performed on church premises* outside of Acts of Worship (regular worship services, weddings/funerals). 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: prsformusic.com. This licence, together with the PPL Church Licence, also permits commercial music recordings to be played on church premises* 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.
- **The PPL Church Licence** provides cover for your church to play music 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 (e.g. recording a meeting in which a music CD is played) 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*).

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

For full details and licence fees visit uk.ccli.com/playing-music

*Separate church 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 (there is no internal access), then the hall may need to be licensed separately by PRS for Music. Details can be found in the FAQs section of our website: uk.ccli.com/playing-music or contact our Customer Service team on 01323 436100.

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 will together cover this activity.

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.

Rehearsals

Band, choir and/or other music rehearsals are not deemed public performances and no performance licence is required for these.

What is copyright?

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.

Updated: May 2018

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.