

APRA|AMCOS MUSIC ESSENTIALS

MUSIC AT YOUR CONCERT OR EVENT

Once you have finalised the concert line up, or decided on the entertainment for your event, there's one organisation you still need to contact before the music begins: APRA (Australasian Performing Right Association). Music is protected by copyright law and you require a licence from the APRA to publicly perform either live or recorded music at your event.

ABOUT APRA

Established in 1926, APRA is a non-profit organisation which collects and distributes copyright royalties for composers, lyricists and music publishers. We have over 60,000 members in Australia and New Zealand representing all musical styles. Through reciprocal agreements with similar collecting societies around the world, we also represent the interests of at least two million overseas copyright owners. Rather than license businesses themselves, composers join APRA which collects licence fees on their behalf and distributes them as royalties.

COPYRIGHT

Australia, along with most other countries, protects and fosters the arts through copyright legislation. Under the Australian Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), an Australian composer enjoys a bundle of exclusive rights from the time he or she commits an original work to a material form such as a manuscript, audio or video tape recording or any electronic or digital format. These are the rights to:

- reproduce the work in a material form
- publish the work
- perform the work in public
- communicate the work to the public
- make an adaptation or an arrangement of the work such as arranging the music or altering the lyrics or do any of the above in relation to the adaptation.

In most instances in Australia, copyright in a musical work lasts for the life of the composer plus 70 years. If, before the composer's death, a work has not been published, communicated or performed in public and recordings have not been offered for sale, then copyright lasts for 70 years from the date on which the first of these events takes place.

WHO OWNS COPYRIGHT?

The composer is usually the first owner of copyright in a musical work and the lyricist the first owner of copyright in the lyrics in a musical work. Copyright protects the intangible products of composers' creativity. It encourages the reproduction of musical works by enabling composers to receive a fair financial reward for the use of those works.

COMPLYING WITH COPYRIGHT

The permission of the copyright owner is required to use a musical work in any of the ways detailed in the list of rights above, including public performances and communications by radio, television, film, CD player, live artists, music on hold, or any other means. APRA acts as a copyright collection agency on behalf of the vast majority of composers, authors and publishers, licensing the use of their music. APRA's licences cover the public performance and communication of music by both Australian and overseas composers who are members of APRA or an affiliated collecting society.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING A LICENCE?

The person authorising a public performance of music is the one who should complete an APRA licence agreement. As an event promoter it is your responsibility to contact APRA prior to the commencement of your event to ensure that you have the appropriate APRA licence in place.

BOX OFFICE EVENTS

Licence fees for concerts, festivals or events which generate a box office (ie. ticket sales) are generally based on a percentage of gross box office receipts. Licence fees for dance parties are a rate per person attending the event. In all cases a minimum licence fee of \$55.00 applies.

As part of administering this licence, you must ensure that all performers provide lists of the works they perform and return these to APRA within 30 days of the event. The song lists are important because they allow APRA to identify the composers who should receive royalty payments.

SPORTING EVENTS

Recorded music and live entertainment used during the course of a sporting event will also require a licence from APRA. Licence fees vary depending on the nature of performances that occur during the event and are subject to a minimum fee of \$55.00.

CORPORATE AND INDUSTRY FUNCTIONS

If your event or dinner function is mainly for invited guests, you still need to take out an APRA licence to play copyright music. The licence issued for these type of events may involve collection of performers' song lists depending on the scale of the event, and are subject to a minimum fee of \$55.00

FREE EVENTS

If your concert, festival or event is free to the public, you will still require an APRA licence to play copyright music. The licence fee can vary depending on the scale of the event, and will have a minimum fee of \$55.00.

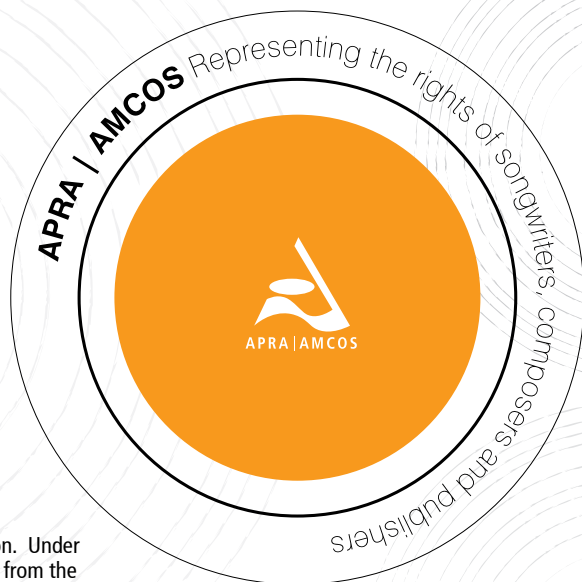
WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Additional information on APRA can be obtained from our website at www.apra-amcos.com.au.

Independent information on APRA is available from the Australian Copyright Council's website at www.copyright.org.au

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A LICENCE?

Simply complete the on-line application form located on the APRA website at www.apra-amcos.com.au or contact the APRA office in your state. Once we have received the details of your event the appropriate licence will be forwarded to you for signature.



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