

Copyright (2016)

What is copyright?

Copyright, identified by the © symbol, is a legal concept which gives the author or composer of an original work **exclusive rights** to it, usually for a limited time.

The time is generally 50 or 70 years from the death of the author or composer depending on where they lived. Europe uses the longer time.

After that time expires, the work enters the Public Domain and is free for anyone to use.

Generally, it is "the right to copy", but usually provides the author with other rights as well, including:

- the right to be credited for the work
- the right to determine who may adapt the work to other forms
- the right to determine who may perform the work
- the right to determine who may financially benefit from it

The author and composer of a work may, and often do, pass their rights on to the **publisher** of their work, and these companies are very strict in upholding their rights.

Money that is paid for printed music or texts either goes directly to the composer/author or to the publisher who passes some of it on to the composer/author.

What are the rules on copyright?

Generally, if the date after the © symbol is less than 50 years ago (or 70 years, see above) **you may not hand copy or photocopy the music or text without permission or paying to do so.**

Note: There is NO EXCEPTION to this rule just because the music/text is used in a service.

Who you ask permission from or who you pay depends on whose name is given along with the © symbol.

What are licensing schemes?

Some composers, authors and publishers have joined group schemes that will administer the granting of and paying for permission to copy music or texts. This makes it easy to follow the law and give the financial benefit of your use of the music/text to the right person.

There are three main schemes and which you choose depends on the needs of your parish:

OneLicense.net [www.onelicense.net]

OneLicense.net covers all the major publisher you will regularly come across:

- Augsburg Fortress (which now publishes all Anglican Church of Canada material)
- GIA Publications
- Iona Community / WGRG
- Kevin Mayhew
- Les Presses de Taizé



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- Liturgical Press

LicenSing.org [www.licensingonline.org]

LicenSing.org covers other publishers that may not be covered by OneLicense.net:

- OCP (Oregon Catholic Press)
- OUP (Oxford University Press)
- New Dawn
- NALR (North American Liturgy Resources)

Church Copyright License [www.ccli.com]

You will see this referred to as CCLI followed by the license number.

Their website lists the songwriters and publishers they cover.

CCLI covers most of the published praise music.

Occasionally you may need to contact a publisher directly, but they are happy to give permissions when requested.

How do they work?

You pay the scheme an annual fee, tell the scheme what songs or hymns you used, and they pass payment on to whoever holds the copyright right to benefit financially from the work you used.

Your license **permits you** to print songs, hymns and lyrics in bulletins, on overhead transparencies or on PowerPoint or other slides for digital projection – this generally includes the tune of the song or hymn as well as the words.

Your license **does not permit you** to duplicate keyboard arrangements, choir octavo editions, vocal scores, handbell music or orchestrations. For these you must buy the right number of copies of the full edition.

How much do they cost?

This is generally calculated according to the average number of bulletins that are produced on a weekly basis for your congregation.

The precise amounts are available on the websites but, for an average weekly congregation attendance of 99 people:

OneLicense.net	\$145
LicenSing	\$169
CCLI	\$109

Do we need to have a license?

Absolutely, if you want to reproduce music or texts in your bulletins, on overhead transparencies or in PowerPoint or other slides for digital projection.



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This is not just a matter of **law**, it is also a matter of **justice**. To use music and/or texts in these circumstances without paying for a license is **illegal** and deprives musicians and authors of **their rightfully earned income**.

In other words, **it is a form of theft**.

Canon Law requires that we as a Diocese comply with the requirements of Copyright law at all times and in all cases.

It also discourages musicians and authors from writing more for us to use.

This is actually no different a liturgical expense than your purchase of altar wine, bread or wafers.

So what do we do next?

- Firstly, decide which composers, authors and publishers you wish to use.
- Then consult the websites to see which of the licensing schemes will cover these.
- Then **buy a license** and make the correct returns so that the composers and authors get paid for your use of their material.

If you are in any doubt, **contact a member of the Diocesan Music Development Programme Team** who will be happy to advise you.

