



GigFinesse

FINESSE FAQs | LICENSING

WHAT IS MUSIC LICENSING?

A public performance license is an agreement between a music user and the owner of a copyrighted musical work that grants the user permission to perform the owner's copyrighted music in public.

WHEN DO I NEED A LICENSE?

A venue will need a license if they host live or play recorded music on property.

A public performance is defined as any music played outside a normal circle of friends or family that occurs in any public space. When you purchase copyrighted music, you are granted the right to **non-public** performance of the material. Although you may have paid for a copy of the music, you are still required by US Copyright Law to obtain the proper permission for the playback of the songs publicly. The same holds true when copyrighted music is performed live and/or by a DJ.





WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

If you choose to broadcast copyrighted material without the proper licensing, regardless of how long your establishment has done so without issue, if a copyright holder or its representative (PRO) is made aware of your establishment's unlicensed broadcasting of songs, they can hold you liable for damages. Damages for such infringements range from \$750 - \$150,000 per song played, depending upon the usage and song in question.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE LICENSE?

Some people mistakenly assume that musicians and entertainers must obtain licenses to perform copyrighted music, or that businesses where music is performed can shift their responsibility to musicians or entertainers. As it is the business owner who obtains the ultimate benefit from the performance, it is the business owner who obtains the license. License fees are generally considered a cost of doing business.

WHO ARE THE PROS

Performance Rights Organizations, or PRO's for short ensure that songwriters, publishers and composers are paid for the use of their music. They do this by collecting royalties on behalf of the rights owner via music licensing fees. Purchasing a blanket public performance music license from a PRO is the best alternative to having to contact each individual copyright holder separately for each song that is performed.

NAMES TO KNOW:

- ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)
- BMI (Broadcast Music International)
- SESAC (Society of European Stage Authors and Composers)



BMI

<https://www.bmi.com/>

Austin
austin@bmi.com
(512) 350-2033

New York
newyork@bmi.com
(212) 220-3000

Nashville
nashville@bmi.com
(615) 401-2000

Los Angeles
losangeles@bmi.com
(310) 659-9109

SESAC

<https://www.sesac.com/>

New York
(212) 586-3450

Nashville
(615) 320-0055

Santa Monica
(424) 291-4750

ASCAP

<https://www.ascap.com/>

Account Manager: Ontario Haynes
Email: ohaynes@ascap.com
Telephone: (310) 922-5683
Toll Free: (888) 610-8088

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ANY LICENSING OR LOCAL PERMITTING.

CONTACTS