



The Church of Scotland

Using music in online services

This guide offers an introduction to the permissions and licences you may require when using music in online services, along with a list of sources providing recordings and videos for churches to include in online worship. While some congregations may have been streaming their services before the closure of church buildings and have the necessary licences in place, for most people this is new territory. Music is one of the more challenging elements of worship to include online, yet it is something meaningful for many people in our congregations and something we are encouraged to do in Scripture:

“Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” (Ephesians 5:19)

Please note that what is offered below is guidance only. It is your responsibility to check the terms and conditions of licences to ensure you will be covered for your specific situation or whether anything has changed since the date this guide was written.

Copyright

Music is in copyright in the UK if the composer, lyricist or arranger are still alive or died within the last 70 years. For online worship there are four categories of rights that you need to be covered for which are each outlined below. At the end of the document there is a flowchart which can help you work through this step by step. If you are using music, lyrics and an arrangement that are all out of copyright then you will only need to get permission for the recording (Section D).

This is a particularly important time to ensure that you have the appropriate licences for any music that you use. Although the money is collected by agencies, it goes back to the people who wrote the songs, many of whom will be freelance and potentially struggling for work right now. If we want to sustain the ministry of songwriters then supporting them financially is crucial.

A: Sync

A licence to cover synchronisation (sync) rights allows you to synchronise music with visual media. This means that you require such a licence if you are using music in any form of video. This is covered by licences available from CCLI and OneLicence, each of whom include different songs within their catalogues. With CCLI (<https://uk.ccli.com>) you will need their Streaming Licence (which is an add-on to their Church Copyright Licence (CCL)) while with OneLicence (<https://onelicense.net>) you need the Limited Podcast / Streaming Licence. They are priced according to your typical weekly attendance.

You don't need to obtain a licence for sync rights if the music is out of copyright, you are only providing audio content, or if you have explicit permission from the copyright holder to use the song in this way. If

the music is in copyright but not covered by either CCLI or OneLicence then you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holder directly.

B: Print

A print licence allows you to display lyrics in videos for songs which you have obtained a Streaming Licence for (see Section A). This is covered by the same agencies as the sync rights. The CCLI Streaming Licence includes this right for their catalogues as it is an add-on to the Church Copyright Licence (CCL). The Annual Licence from OneLicence (<https://onelicense.net>) includes this right for their catalogue. Many congregations will already have a CCL and/or Annual Licence to cover projecting or printing lyrics in their services.

You don't need to obtain a licence for print rights if the music is out of copyright, you are only providing audio content, or if you have explicit permission from the copyright holder to use the song in this way. If the music is in copyright but not covered by either CCLI or OneLicence then you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holder directly.

C: Performance

Copyright permission is normally required to perform music that is still in copyright. There is an exemption for this in a regular church service, but this does not extend to worship online. The main consideration here is what platform you are using for your services. YouTube, Facebook and Instagram all have an agreement for performance rights which mean that you do not require a licence for live music performances. However, if you are using any other platform, whether for video or audio, including your own website or a videoconferencing platform such as Zoom, then you will require a Limited Online Music Licence (LOML) from PRS for Music.

D: Streaming Music Recordings

The performance rights described in Section C cover the agreement with composers, lyricists and arrangers to perform their music, but they don't include the rights of the artists/performers in a recorded work captured during the stream. This right is covered separately, and permission must be obtained from the owners of any music recording you will capture during your stream. This will not be an issue if the performers are musicians from your church or community who have recorded something for this purpose. However, if you wish to use commercial music recordings then you will require permission from the artist or owner.

If you are only providing audio content then it may be possible to obtain a licence from PPL (<https://www.ppluk.com>) if it falls within certain criteria. However, if you are providing video content then there is unfortunately no licence available and you will need explicit permission from any artist/owner whose recording you want to use. You can't assume that because something is freely available online, or because you have purchased the recording, that you can then include this in your stream.

However, there are a range of sources listed below who have granted permission for using their recordings in online worship during the coronavirus lockdown. This will probably be your safest option if you don't have local musicians who can record for you.

Sources for music

If you don't have musicians locally who are able to perform live or record music for you, then there are a range of sources where you can download recordings and videos from artists/performers who have granted permission for using their recordings in online worship during the coronavirus lockdown. While this will cover you for permission to use the recording, you are still required to have any other licences outlined in Sections A, B and C above which cover the copyright for the composer, lyricist and arranger.

Church of Scotland CH4 website

This website was designed to provide one-verse streams to help people leading worship become familiar with the range of material in CH4. However, during this time we are making a collection of over 100 full recordings, made by musicians from across the Church of Scotland, available for download with permission for churches in Scotland to use in their online worship.

<https://music.churchofscotland.org.uk>

Small Church Music

Accompaniment tracks on organ or piano for over 7000 hymns available for free download from hymnary.org. Use is permitted for non-commercial purposes.

<https://hymnary.org/hymnal/scm>

iSing Worship

This website, along with its sister site "Worship Lyric Videos", allows you to download songs with a fee per song or a monthly subscription.

<https://www.isingworship.org>

Royal School of Church Music

There is a video of a new hymn posted every day. Churches are permitted to use these in their online worship as long as it is streamed from YouTube (not downloaded) and not altered in any way.

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd>

Getty Music

These hymnwriters, who have songs included in many hymnals and song collections, are providing permission to use lyric videos and accompaniment tracks in online worship.

<https://www.gettymusic.com/streaminginfo>

New Scottish Hymns

A Glasgow-based band providing videos of their own songs and recordings of well known hymns.

<https://newscottishhymns.com>

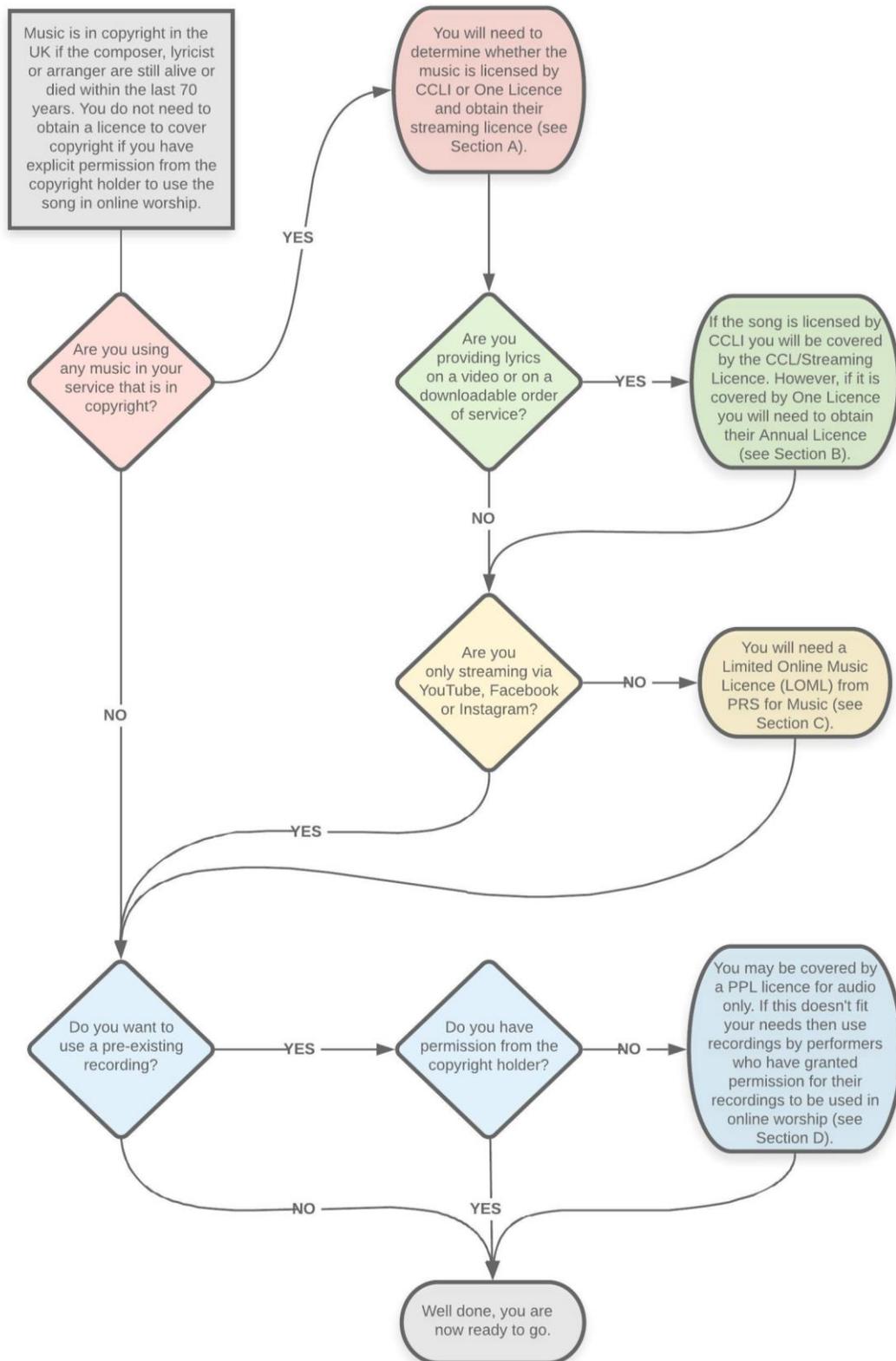
Resound Worship

A British worship songwriting collective writing songs that are rooted in the local church. These are less well known but some would be easy for people to pick up if you are interested in introducing new songs.

<https://resoundworship.org>

Music Licensing for Online Worship

Iain McLarty | May 1, 2020



Further Guidance

If you need further help with anything in this guide, or are looking for support in online worship in general, please contact Faith Nurture (faithnurture@churchofscotland.org.uk). This is a new area for many people and there is no such thing as a silly question. We will be happy to offer one-to-one support or to signpost you to places where you can get further help.

A guide on “Live Streaming and online publication of worship and other events” from the Law Department is available on the Church of Scotland website (<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/covid-19-coronavirus-advice/live-streaming-guidance>).

You can also contact any of the agencies mentioned above directly. They all have excellent customer service and will be happy to answer any questions you have around their licences.

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Version 1.2
7th May 2020

The Church of Scotland
www.churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number SC011353