Q. Why do we need permission to perform music?
A. Music is like all personal property; when you want to use it, you need permission. That's why in order to play copyrighted music to the public, you must, by law, obtain permission for each of many musical works you play each year.

Q. Must we obtain a license agreement?
A. To publicly perform copyrighted music lawfully, a license is required.

Q. What happens if I use ASCAP music without permission?
A. If you choose to use another's copyrighted property without permission, you have committed a copyright infringement and a court can assess damages at minimum of $750 or a maximum of $30,000 for each infringed, and can require you to pay attorney's fees and court costs. As an ASCAP licensee, you are entitled to use any of the music we represent.

Q. What is ASCAP?
A. ASCAP, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, is the oldest, largest and foremost organization in the United States that licenses the right to publicly perform copyrighted musical compositions. Founded in 1914 by Victor Herbert, Irving Berlin, John Philip Sousa and other leading American composers and publishers, ASCAP is an unincorporated membership association of writers and publishers of music. It is the only American performing rights organization wholly owned and managed by and for writers and publishers of music.

ASCAP's more than 320,000 members have granted ASCAP a non-exclusive right to license the non-dramatic public performances of their copyrighted musical compositions. On behalf of all of its members, ASCAP licenses the right to perform publicly all of the copyrighted musical works in the ASCAP repertory. ASCAP collects license fees, and distributes royalties to its members and foreign affiliates after deducting its operating costs, which are the lowest in the world for any performing rights society.

Q. Who does ASCAP license?
A. ASCAP licenses tens of thousands of music users such as public and commercial radio and television broadcasters, cable program services, Internet sites and services, symphony orchestras, concert and recital promoters, hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, colleges, universities, conservatives and others who desire to lawfully perform the copyrighted musical compositions in the ASCAP repertory.

Although ASCAP licenses on a non-exclusive basis for its members, the ASCAP license enables you to perform all works of all ASCAP members (and members of affiliated foreign societies) without complex record-keeping or administrative burden. The ASCAP license provides an easy, economical means to gain access to the vast ASCAP repertory.

Q. What kind of music does an ASCAP license allow us to play?
A. ASCAP represents every kind of music. ASCAP's repertory includes pop, rock, alternative, country, R&B, rap, hip-hop, Latin, film music, television music, folk, roots, blues, jazz, reggae, gospel, contemporary Christian, new age, theatre, cabaret, dance, electronic, symphonic, chamber, choral, band, concert, educational and children's music—the entire musical spectrum. ASCAP is home to the greatest names in American music, past and present, as well as thousands of writers in the earlier stages of their careers.

The ASCAP membership list reads like a who's who of the wide spectrum of American music, including Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Garth Brooks, John Cage, Aaron Copland, John Corigliano, David Del Tredici, Destiny's Child, the Dixie Chicks, Duke Ellington, George and Ira Gershwin, Phillip Glass, Libby Larsen, Madonna, Henry Mancini, Wynton Marsalis, Dave Matthews, Tito Puente, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Michael W. Smith, Stephen Sondheim, Bruce Springsteen, Igor Stravinsky, Virgil Thomson and Stevie Wonder, just to name a few. An ASCAP license also covers the works of tens of thousands of foreign writers and publishers - members of over 90 affiliated foreign performing rights societies.


Information about specific works and ASCAP writer and publisher members can be obtained in a variety of ways. Separate databases of works in the ASCAP repertory that have been registered with ASCAP since January 1, 1991, or identified in ASCAP's surveys of performed works since January 1, 1978, are available online at the ASCAP website, www.ascap.com (click on "ACE Title Search," read the disclaimer, and then follow the links to the database). The ACE Database can also be used to determine whether a particular songwriter or composer is a member of ASCAP. The same data contained in the ACE Database is also available on CD-ROM and can be purchased at a cost of $5.00 by written request to ASCAP, One Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023, attn: Director of Repertory. More comprehensive records of the titles, dates of U.S. Copyright registration (if any), writers and current publishers or
Please contact AACT at the following address for more information:

American Association of Community Theatre
1300 Gendy Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817-732-3177
info@aact.org, www.aact.org

If you have questions concerning the ASCAP license agreement or your responsibilities under the United States Copyright Law for performance of music at your concerts, please feel free to contact us at:

ASCAP - General Licensing
One Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023
1-800-652-7227, #1
s&clicensing@ascap.com, www.ascap.com