

## Copyrights and Church Resources

### CCLI - Church Copyright License Summary

Welcome to the Church Copyright License program ("Program"). This summary gives an overview of the rights and benefits provided by the Program. Your understanding and adherence to the Program's Master Terms of Agreement (the "Agreement") is necessary and important. The full Agreement can be found [HERE](#). Capitalized terms that are not defined in this summary have the meaning given in the Agreement. By participating in the Program you agree to:

- Comply with the terms of the Agreement.
- Keep your Agreement in good standing by paying the annual fee when it is due.
- Honor the terms and conditions of this Program as outlined in the following **Permitted Activities** and **Activities Not Permitted** sections of this summary.
- Report all Song copy activity when required.
- Validate each participating Musical Composition ("Song") before reproducing it (see how in the **Song Validation** section).
- Participate in and use the Program in a lawful and ethical manner.
- Destroy all Copies of Songs made under the Program if your Agreement expires.
- When reproducing a Song, include the song title, writer credit(s) and copyright notice in substantially the following form:

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe

© 2018 Good Music Co.

Used by Permission. CCLI License #12345

#### **Permitted Activities**

An active Agreement allows you to reproduce songs or make copies of song words and sheet music, or store songs on a computer for the purposes of digital projection to assist with congregational singing, in the following manner. You may:

- Copy Songs from hymnals, websites, chorus books and similar types of publications.
- Electronically store, retrieve and utilize Song files in computers, presentation software and similar resources to enable the visual projection of Songs.

- Print Songs in bulletins, liturgies, programs, service sheets and handouts, songbooks compiled by your church, transparency film sheets, and similar tangible forms where such Copies may be reused.
- Audio or video record church services, including worship songs played live for limited distribution, provided that:
  - Accompaniment tracks and artist or record label recordings of Songs may not be reproduced, and permission must be obtained directly from the producer;
  - The quantity made and distributed may not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the Church Size identified under your Agreement; and
  - For each copy duplicated onto physical media such as a CD, DVD or USB drive, you may make a nominal charge up to the cost of production.
- Subject to the terms of the Agreement and provided that you ensure that all rights in Copies made under this provision are reserved by the copyright owner, and **only where a published version is unavailable you may:**
  - Make customized vocal and/or instrumental arrangements of Songs; or
  - Translate Song lyrics into another language.

All rights not specified in the Agreement are reserved to the copyright owner.

Streaming authorized Songs played or performed in your Church Services requires participation in the CCLI Streaming License® program or direct permission from the copyright owners.

### **Activities Not Permitted**

The Agreement has certain important and necessary limitations and you may not take an action that is not authorized under the Agreement, including:

- Charging a fee or receiving any form of compensation for any of the Permitted Activities or other activities authorized under the Agreement, except where specifically stated.
- Assigning or transferring any rights under your Agreement to any other Church or group.

- Distributing Copies of Songs for use outside of Church Services or renting or selling Copies of Songs for direct or indirect remuneration other than as expressly permitted under the Agreement.
- Copying or duplicating choral sheet music, cantatas, musicals, handbell music, keyboard music or arrangements, vocal solos, instrumental works or music education publications in any form.
- Altering or changing the lyrics, melody or fundamental character of any Song.
- The Program only grants rights to make copies of Songs and does not include any public performance rights for any Songs.

## **Song Validation**

CCLI's SongSelect validation process makes it easy to confirm if a Song is authorized under the Program.

Simply visit [SongSelect](#) and enter the song title in the search box. If your initial search results don't include the song you are looking for, check the box next to "Expand search to show all songs" for more results. Find a match and you're good to go. If you don't find a match, it's likely the song is not covered by the Program.

To confirm if a publisher catalog is authorized under the Program, search the *Copyright License – Covered Catalogs* list at <https://ccli.com/copyright-owners-lists>.

When in doubt, [CCLI's Customer Service](#) is ready to help.

## **RESOURCES & FURTHER READING**

### **BOOKS**

#### **Richard R. Hammar, *Essential Guide to Copyright Law for Churches***

A comprehensive guide to copyright law specifically for congregations, including reproduction, performance, digital media, and church exemptions.

[Church Law & Tax — Essential Guide to Copyright Law for Churches](#)

#### **Stephen Robert Cass, *Worship Songs and the Law: How Churches Stay Legal and How Songwriters Get Paid***

Especially useful for worship leaders and musicians; connects church licensing with songwriters, publishers, royalties, and congregational song.

[Worship Songs and the Law — Author's Book Page](#)

[Worship Songs and the Law — Bookshop.org](#)

## **COPYRIGHT & LICENSING RESOURCES**

## **U.S. Copyright Office — Copyright Law, Title 17**

The primary source for U.S. copyright law. Section 110 includes the religious-services exemption discussed in the workshop.

[U.S. Copyright Office — Title 17](#)

## **CCLI — Church Copyright License**

Current guidance for projecting and printing song lyrics and other reproduction activities that support congregational singing.

[CCLI Church Copyright License Summary](#)

## **CCLI — Streaming & Streaming Plus Licenses**

Important for churches livestreaming or uploading worship. The standard Streaming License covers authorized songs performed by church musicians; Streaming Plus extends coverage to authorized artist recordings, backing tracks, and multitracks.

[CCLI Streaming Licenses](#)

## **CCLI — Rehearsal License**

For legally sharing commercial song recordings with worship musicians for rehearsal.

[CCLI Rehearsal License](#)

## **CCLI — Showing Videos in Church**

Helpful guidance for YouTube videos, lyric videos, movie clips, and other video content used in worship.

[CCLI — Showing Videos in Church](#)

## **CCLI/CVLI — Church Video License**

Information about permissions for showing covered movies and movie scenes in church ministries.

[Church Video License](#)

## **CHECK THE LICENSE • CHECK THE SONG • CHECK THE USE**

*Copyright laws and license terms can change. Always verify current terms with the licensing organization or copyright owner. This workshop provides educational information and is not legal advice.*

## **ONE LICENSE — Congregational Music Licensing**

**ONE LICENSE** provides copyright permissions for congregational music from more than 300 member publishers. Its licenses can cover printing or projecting approved texts and tunes for congregational use, as well as streaming/podcasting when the appropriate license is held.

## [ONE LICENSE — Official Website](#)

### **Annual Reprint / Projection License**

Covers approved music from participating publishers for congregational use in:

- Worship bulletins and worship aids
- Song sheets
- Projected lyrics
- Projected melody lines
- Electronic worship materials

Importantly, the standard reprint license **does not cover copying choir, cantor, accompaniment, full-score, or instrumental parts.**

### **Podcast / Streaming License**

Provides permissions for covered music in livestreamed or prerecorded worship services. Churches should verify that the **specific title and publisher participate in the streaming license**, since streaming coverage is not identical to reprint coverage.

### **Recorded Audio License**

ONE LICENSE now also offers a Recorded Audio License covering certain uses of master recordings and self-produced recordings, including embedding them in streams when paired with the appropriate Podcast/Streaming License.

## [ONE LICENSE — License Options & Current Information](#)

**CCLI and ONE LICENSE are not interchangeable.**

**CHECK THE LICENSE.**

**CHECK THE SONG.**

**CHECK THE USE.**

ONE LICENSE also requires **reporting** of covered music use, which is important because that reporting helps royalties reach composers, authors, and publishers.