

Theatre Producers, Promoters and Venues have to secure the rights for use of any music from the licensing authority, estate or music publisher. Please note this document is for guidance only and does not constitute legal advice.

### MUSIC PUBLISHERS

A Music Publishers (or publishing company) in the theatre industry, is responsible for ensuring the songwriters and composers receive payment when their compositions are used commercially. In some cases the Estate of a deceased songwriter, may retain control of music licensing rights of the musician's compositions. You will need to research who controls the rights to a particular song or series of compositions to ensure you have permission for use of the music.

eg: *Universal Music Publishing represent Thin Lizzy's catalogue and Phil Lynott's solo albums* <http://www.umusicpub.co.uk/en-GB/Artists/T/Thin-Lizzy.aspx>

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**PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETY FOR MUSIC (PRS) & PHONOGRAPHIC PERFORMANCE LTD (PPL)** are separate organisations who license different sets of rights in the use of music. You may need a licence from both organisations.

#### **Do I need a licence from both PPL and PRS for Music?**

PPL and PRS for Music are two separate independent companies and in most instances a licence is required from both organisations for you to legally play recorded music in public. While both organisations licence the use of music and collect royalties for the music industry, each represents different rights holders and have separate licences, terms and conditions.

**PRS for Music** collects and distributes money for the use of the musical composition and lyrics on behalf of authors, songwriters, composers and publishers.

**PPL** collects and distributes money for the use of recorded music on behalf of record companies and performers.

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### ABOUT PRS FOR MUSIC

<https://www.prsformusic.com/Pages/default.aspx>

PRS for Music is a society of songwriters, composers and music publishers. PRS license the use of our members' musical compositions and lyrics when they are played in public, broadcast on radio or TV, used on the internet or copied onto physical products such as CDs or DVDs.

- Wherever you want to stage a live event, you will need to obtain the correct licence. **Plays programme form:**

<https://www.prsformusic.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PPS%20Tariffs/Programme%20Form%20Plays.pdf>

Whether you are part of production management, theatre management, as a theatre organiser you must ensure you have the correct licences in place to stage your events. A *PRS for Music* licence can give you the legal permission you need to play the songs you want.

#### How can PRS for Music help me play music in a theatre?

- Submitting programme and set list details guarantees an accurate assessment of your fees. You will only be charged for the music we control or that of our affiliated societies
- You can take advantage of the variable price mechanism based on a percentage of the copyright music as a proportion of the programme at classical music events. The rate must be applied for annually at the renewal of the licence
- You will have a hotline direct to music licensing specialists.

#### How are PRS for Music charges assessed?

PRS use over 40 tariffs to ensure suitable charges are applied. The tariffs which may relate to your live venue/concert are:

It is most likely that venues you perform the show at will have PRS permissions already arranged, however you will need to submit a PRS form at the end of the run for their reporting, the venue management is likely to then contra charge you for the PRS fees out of the net box office income.

- **Theatrical Presentation tariff (tariff T)**  
<https://www.prsformusic.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/PPS%20Tariffs/t-tariff.pdf>

#### What is the process for a theatre performance?

The theatre manager and producers are responsible for informing PRS for Music of the full details of the work(s) that are to be performed, including, the type of performance, duration, name, dates and venue.

PRS for Music will notify the licensee or applicants which of the works are to be covered by a music licence alongside the royalty rate applicable.

Programme and set list forms can be submitted electronically (or posted), for all live performances of music under the relevant PRS for Music public performance tariff.

#### How can I use Interpolated music in my performance?

30 days is needed to ensure clearance has been granted in time for the performance. Any performance of interpolated music\* could

constitute a copyright infringement and may result in the copyright owner taking legal action.

**\*Interpolated music** is defined as music not specially written for a particular theatrical production but is performed by a character(s) to be heard by another character(s) in that production.

### Are there any circumstances where I may not need a licence?

- If the theatre venue already has a PRS for Music licence, the production organiser does not need to apply personally. However, they may need to provide information to the venue so the appropriate fee can be assessed.
- We do not control [dramatico-musical works](#). Permission must be sought direct from the publisher or other copyright owner.
- PRS for Music does not seek to charge for music used at a recognised Service of Divine Worship in consecrated places of worship.
- PRS for Music has a number of [discretionary charging policies](#) which define circumstances in which we choose not to make a charge for our licence.

**\*PRS** for Music licences cover the majority of music originating from the UK and all over the world. However, if you play music outside of PRS for Music's control, you may need an additional licence from the relevant copyright owner(s). You will also require a TV licence if you are using a TV in your premises. In the unlikely event that all the music you play is out of copyright or is not controlled by PRS for Music, you do not need a PRS for Music licence. In some cases you may also require a licence from PPL. PPL collects and distributes royalties on behalf of record companies and performers. Further info at [ppluk.com](http://ppluk.com). All music licences are required under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It stipulates you must gain the permission of the copyright owner if you play music in public (anywhere outside the home environment).

### How do I get a licence?

PRS provide bespoke licences tailored to your needs.

Call 0800 068 4828 (if you run a business) or 0845 300 6033 (if you run live events or venues) to speak to the team. Lines are open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

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### ABOUT PPL

<http://www.ppluk.com/>

PPL licenses the use of recorded music where played in public, broadcast on radio or TV, or used on the internet, on behalf of record companies and performers.