

Using Music in your Videos - A Quick Summary

Introduction

You cannot legally use music in your video without proper copyright. As a Videomaker, you should note that there is a vast range of music which you can use in your videos without obtaining specific permission, often for free. As well as traditional originally created music, there is computer generated music, creative commons music, public domain music and “royalty free” (which does not in most cases mean free) music for every occasion.

Much popular music is subject to stricter copyright restriction. In Australia the Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) collects and distributes licence fees for the public performance and communication of it's members' musical works. The Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS) collects and distributes mechanical royalties for the reproduction of our members' musical works. The Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) controls the right to reproduce a large number of sound recordings of musical works.

ARIA Recordings

In probably the most common case, you might want to use a track from a CD you own as background music for a video solely for domestic viewing. If this a sound recording for which ARIA controls the copyright, you can apply for a licence from AMCOS-ARIA. For example, if you want to record your own wedding with popular music in the background the AMCOS-ARIA Domestic Use Video Licence for a single event currently (as at 17 August 2010) is available to allow you to make up to five copies of your video for \$54.80. The APRA AMCOS Website at <http://www.apra-amcos.com.au> has more details. You may be able to show this video at your video club or at a FAIMM convention, but it is unlikely your club has the right, and FAIMM currently does not have the right, to include your video in a compilation of other members videos.

FAIMM Agreement with APRA-AMCOS

FAIMM has an agreement with APRA-AMCOS whereby AMCOS works in amateur movies made by registered FAIMM members can be screened at FAIMM events. This has been taken to mean you can for example purchase “sheet music”, with or without lyrics, and record the playing of that “sheet music”, synchronise (that’s the legal term when we add music to our movies) that recording into our movies and then screen our “movie” at club/s or FAIMM meetings. Under the terms of our agreement with AMCOS we must acknowledge the composer and lyricist of the ‘sheet music’ we use in our productions, we must also acknowledge therecording “artist” who recorded our “sheet music” As an example, say you, me, we purchase “The Entertainer” sheet music, take it home sit down on your, my, piano (or any instrument) play “The Entertainer” and record it as we play, we then import that recording into our editing program, synchronise it in our movie, on the credits of our “movie” we acknowledge the author (& lyricist if any) of “The Entertainer” like so,

“The Entertainer”
Music by Scott Joplin
Arranged by Jerry Ray
Lyrics by (*if any show name*)
Performed by (*Ron Gregson*)

Members are to also include their FAIMM/AMCOS licence number in the credits of their “movie”. We can then show our “movie” at a club, or interclub meeting (or FAIMM event) The cost of this restricted licence currently is \$9.90 per member per club. If a member club decrees that all members

must take out the licence or that only individual members wishing to take out a licence need to do so, is a matter for the individual clubs. Normally licence fees will be due on the 1st. December each year for use in the following year. FAMM has to collect the fees & pay AMCOS by the 1st.January each year. There is no pro rata payments involved.

Each affiliated club where their members wish to take advantage of the FAMM /AMCOS licence are to collect their members fees & post to the FAMM Secretary. Affiliated clubs are also required to advise a complete list of all their members applying for a FAMM / AMCOS licence. The FAMM Secretary will organise a bulk payment together with a list of members applying for a FAMM/ AMCOS licence. The Music Licence Co-ordinator will then issue a licence number and notify club Secretaries for distribution to individual members.