

## © Reprinting or Recording Music or Text under Copyright ©

Most of us know that it is not only illegal but also unjust to reprint music or text that is under copyright without obtaining permission. Thankfully, the days of choirs or ensembles purchasing one octavo and making multiple illegal copies are mostly over. But as printing methods and digital recording become more accessible, we are often tempted to cut corners—especially when we are in a hurry. Fortunately, most of the music publishers have made it more and more convenient to get the proper permissions through the internet.

### **License for Congregational Use:**

Many of the publishers have begun to work together so that we can come closer to “one stop shopping.” Most offer various licenses covering songbooks as well as annual, seasonal, and one-time uses. The production of transparencies for overhead projection also requires a license.

[www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net) – covers a fairly large group of publishers including GIA, Liturgical Press, Hope, Oxford University Press, and many others

[www.licensingonline.org](http://www.licensingonline.org) – also a large group including OCP, Hope, Oxford and many others—includes some overlapping with *onelicense*.

[www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) – a large variety of Christian Contemporary songs including some of the titles in *Spirit and Song*

[http://www.wlp.jspaluch.com/reprint\\_permissions.htm](http://www.wlp.jspaluch.com/reprint_permissions.htm) - World Library retains its own process.

### **License for Choral and/or Instrumental Use:**

If a song is not available as a separate octavo but only in a collection, most publishers will consider granting reprint permission for a fee, but each case is handled separately.

### **License for Audio or Video Recordings of Concerts or Similar Events**

A mechanical license must be obtained directly from the publisher. The fee, set by the U.S. Congress, is \$.091 per song per copy for audio or \$.15 for video, usually with a \$25 minimum.

### **License for Making Audio Recordings for Rehearsal Purposes**

Permission is still required from the publisher, but often the fee is minimal. For example, an inquiry about the possibility of a music director making recordings of responsorial psalm settings by Michel Guimont for distribution to the parish cantors received the following response from GIA: “Unless there would be an exceptionally large number of copies made for this purpose, we would offer a one-year \$25 license. It would cover all GIA titles recorded for rehearsal/practice during that time, and it would also apply to rehearsal mp3s posted on church website.”

### **When in doubt, ask!**

Publishers want to see their music used, and most of them are more than willing to work with musicians and parishes to enable this to happen in a variety of formats. However, they also have to “pay the bills,” and their composers are entitled to royalties for their work. Try to plan your reprinting or recording well ahead of time. If you have general questions about this topic, please contact the Office of Worship. But it is best to bring specific questions directly to the publisher—usually just a phone call or a mouse click away.