

## MUSIC LICENSING for your CHOREOGRAPHY

To use recorded music for your dance, you should acquire TWO different licenses: the **Dramatic or Grand Rights License**, and a **Master Use License**.

1. **Grand Rights** are given on an individual basis by the PUBLISHER or COMPOSER of the piece. This does NOT involve the recording or record company, but concerns ONLY the composition itself. If you personally know, or can reasonably contact the COMPOSER of the piece (who is not always the performer), s/he can give you the Grand Rights.

Otherwise, you need to contact the *publishing company*. To find the publisher of your piece, you can usually look at the liner notes or track information. You can also search online, such as

<https://www.ascap.com/home/ace-title-search/index.aspx>

<http://repertoire.bmi.com/startpage.aspx>

<http://licensees.sesac.com/Repertory/RepertorySearch.aspx>

If you follow the links above, click 'performers' or 'artist' and type in the artist name; you should find your track on one of these sites. Clicking on the track should reveal the publisher and their contact information. **This is who you contact for Grand Rights.**

FYI: In general, as soon as you add Dance or other visual or performative element to a piece of music, you need Dramatic or Grand Rights. If you have this piece performed by LIVE musicians to your dance, then the Grand Rights should be all you need. HOWEVER, if you're using a recording of the composition, you will need an additional permission (see below).

2. If you use a recording, then you also need a **Master Use License** for using that *particular recorded version* of a composition. This is usually licensed by the record company that released the CD but it may be given by whoever owns the rights to the *master* recording; in the case of independent artists and self-released music, the artists often retain the ownership of the master recording and can grant that license. It's likely your master rights belong to one of the three main record companies that together own around 75% of the world's recorded music (!) Sony, Universal and Warner [if your recording is not on these labels, it's likely *that* label is *owned* by one of the three above]

**SONY:** <http://hub.sonymusic.com/licensing/contact/>

The link above has a Master Use Request Form (do NOT use the non-profit or student film master use request form: it is for AUDIO-VISUAL works).

**Universal Music Group** phone number, copyright and license div.: 310/865-0770

**WARNER:** <http://www.wmgmusiclicensing.com/WMGML/GratisRequest.aspx>

The above link is for obtaining a license for free as part of an educational purpose

<http://www.wmgmusiclicensing.com/WMGML/RequestAccountLanding.aspx?t=n>

## How To Request Your Licenses

**You should acquire the GRAND RIGHTS FIRST, as most record companies will grant Master Use rights only AFTER they know you have the publisher's permission.** Be clear and concise about what you are asking for and how you are using the music. For Grand Rights, you are probably going to write an email to the publisher; for Master Use Rights, you will probably be filling out a pre-existing form for the record companies.

In either case, here is important information that you can convey that should help in acquiring the rights:

- Include the fact that you are a university student and this request is part of a student choreography dance concert at California State University Long Beach.
- State that you are requesting Dramatic Rights to use Piece's Title by Composer. **OR** that you are requesting Master Use Rights to use Piece's Title performed by Artist on Record Label (& catalogue number if possible).
- If you are using only a PART of the piece, be clear about how much. If you are using more than one piece, clarify how long your whole piece is relative to the song length.
- Include the **Number** of performances and provide the **Days, Month, Year** of the Performances. State that "We are a non-profit university and all income is used for educational purposes. The performances will be open to the public and that there will be a minimal charge for the event (\$16 Students, \$20 General), which is to partially cover the expense of costumes, staff, lights, etc." If the performance is in the Martha B Knoebel, you can state the theater capacity is 230.
- Be clear that you are requesting the music for live performance only – NO commercial audio/video recordings will be made or distributed.
- Sign your full name and full contact information (email & phone). \*Keep an email trail as proof of your conversation and the terms you agree upon.
- **IIMPORTANT:** if there is a space for "Licensee" (those asking for the license) it should read: **The Trustees of California State University on behalf of California State University, Long Beach**

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