

# Guide to Copyright

## Alert - You must clear two copyrights on music!

### Clearing Modern Music – *Two Copyrights to Clear!*

Unlike photos and graphics, when a piece of music is produced, two copyrights are automatically created. Copyright law protects both of these:



*All modern musical compositions automatically generate two copyrights.*

**1. Musical Work (songwriter)** – This is made up of the notes and lyrics. In simple terms, it's the songwriter's copyright.

**2. Sound Recording (performer)** – This is the artist's interpretation of the song. This is the performer's copyright.

**Digital Wish Tip:** Watch out for remakes! Some artists will list their songs as "public domain". But if it's a remake of a popular song, chances are you'll also need to clear the copyright with the modern-day songwriter!

### Clearing Classical Music – **One Copyright to Clear (typically)**

The same 2 copyrights apply to classical music. If the songwriter has been dead for more than seventy years, then the songwriter's copyrights will be in the public domain, and you are therefore free to use their compositions in your podcast. However, if a living musician performed the song, be sure to get permission from the modern-day performer to use their work.



*When using a classical song that has entered the public domain, don't forget to clear the performer's copyright!*