

A black and white photograph of a microphone with a mesh grille, lying diagonally across a sheet of musical notation. The sheet music features various notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as 'dim.', 'p', 'rall.', and 'Tempo I'. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey filter.

2020

# **GIVING CREDIT: COPYRIGHT USAGE FOR LOCAL CHURCHES**

A black and white photograph of a microphone with a silver mesh grille, lying diagonally across a sheet of musical notation. The sheet music features various notes, rests, and staff lines. The title 'MORE ABOUT COPYRIGHT / LICENSING' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

# MORE ABOUT COPYRIGHT / LICENSING

Musicians, movie studio professionals and other creatives use their gifts and graces to bring their creations to life.

As the church, it is imperative to acknowledge this work, support creatives and follow copyright laws of the United States.

As such, local churches need to ensure they are giving proper credit in all their print and online communications and also ensure any music, music lyrics, videos, or motion pictures shown in person, over livestream or recorded are licensed to be shown.

While many ministries and local churches may feel protected under the Religious Service Exemption in American copyright law, this exemption does not apply to a broadcast of a religious service, including online streaming. This means that you need a performance license for both live and recorded audio.

A black and white photograph of a microphone with a silver mesh grille, lying diagonally across a sheet of musical notation. The sheet music features various notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'f' and 'Tempo I'.

# MUSIC/ STREAMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Before livestreaming worship, be sure that you have all the proper copyrights in place. This includes making sure you are allowed to play a particular song, show music lyrics, print out musical scores or stream any worship service. Some Available Streaming Licensing Services:

- Christian Copyright Solutions (CCS)

[www.christiancopyrightsolutions.com](http://www.christiancopyrightsolutions.com)

<https://christiancopyrightsolutions.com/blog/which-streaming-license-is-right-for-your-church/>

[www.christiancopyrightsolutions.com/services/worshipcast](http://www.christiancopyrightsolutions.com/services/worshipcast)

- Christian Copyright Licensing Incorporated (CCLI)

<https://us.ccli.com/what-we-provide/>



# SHOWING MOTION PICTURES

Churches are known for skirting licensing and as such they risk being caught. When you buy or rent a movie, it is for personal use (i.e. at your home for family and friends). When you show a movie outside of your home, it constitutes a public performance. A public performance means you need to obtain a license and abide by the license agreement as you have a legal agreement to uphold.

There are purposes for which organizations can claim fair use which include education, scholarship, and research. However, churches do not usually fall into these categories as churches are not showing movies at their facilities for reasons falling under the fair use parameters.

On the next pages are some companies that will work with you to discuss your needs and get the proper license. By doing so, you are doing the right thing and setting a good example for your faith community that copyrights should be upheld and creatives should be compensated when their products are used.





# SHOWING MOTION PICTURES

- Swank Motion Pictures <https://www.swank.com/>

Ideal for a planned and scheduled single movie event. The advantage of a license like this is you have the flexibility to show and promote your event (i.e. indoor, outdoor, public invitation, and even charging admission). Swank also has ready-made promotional templates such as posters.

- Criterion Pictures [www.criterionpicusa.com/licensing-options-motorcoach-services](http://www.criterionpicusa.com/licensing-options-motorcoach-services)

This licensing company is ideal for showing films produced by 20th Century Fox. They have other productions as well. Similar to Swank, Criterion offers one-time licenses per movie, per show. Custom promotional materials are available.



# SHOWING MOTION PICTURES

- Church Video Licensing (CVL) <https://us.cvli.com/>

This licensing option has been specifically designed for churches offering an annual ‘umbrella’ license that allows you to show movies at church throughout the year. They also have a one-week option. You do need to make sure that CVL covers your desired movie, and there are restrictions about promotion and viewing location. Overall, this license is intended for showing movies on church property to members of the congregation and their guests. As a bonus, CVL offers ScreenVue, which has movie clips to use as teasers or in sermons. CVL is a division of Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC).

- Movie Licensing USA

This licensing group is specifically tailored and priced for public libraries, as well as K-12 schools. Movie Licensing USA is a division of Swank Motion Pictures.

More information at <https://buildfaith.org/movies-at-church/>.

If you have questions, please contact the conference IT department or the conference Communications Office at (804) 521-1100.