

Copyright and Licensing – PPCA

As part of our **Copyright & Licensing for Singing Teachers** series, today we look at the third of the four licensing bodies a singing teacher may need to be aware of: the **Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA)**.

Note:

- PPCA is a national, non-government, non-profit organisation.
- PPCA currently license over 35,000 venues Australia-wide.

Who do they represent?

The PPCA represent record labels (licensors) and Australian recording artists.

Who needs a PPCA license?

Anyone who is using recorded music or music videos to enhance their business or is playing recorded music in public.

The Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA) grants licenses for the broadcast, communication or public playing of recorded music (eg. CD's, tapes, records) or music videos.

All PPCA licenses are non-exclusive which means that you can approach each copyright owner individually for a license to broadcast, communicate or play the recordings owned by your company in public. However, no record company can offer you a 'blanket license' like the PPCA. A blanket license covers your company for most recordings which have been commercially released in Australia.

As a singing teacher what license(s) do I need from PPCA?

If you are playing recordings or music videos in public, or playing music to phone customers when they are put on hold, then you will need to apply for a business PPCA license.

If you need a PPCA license then you will probably need a license from the Australasian Performing Rights Association (APRA) as well because there are at least two copyrights in most recordings and music videos:

1. The copyright in the song (lyrics, composition, etc.)
- these licenses are available from the APRA.
2. The copyright in the recording of music and/or music videos of a particular recorded performance.
- a blanket license is available from the PPCA or individual licenses from the copyright holders are available.

All of the PPCA public performance licenses offer access to a 'Board of Review' mechanism. This allows licensees to seek independent review of the terms and conditions (including fees) which are applicable to PPCA's licenses.

In some circumstances, you may be able to rely on statutory licenses of the Copyright Act to broadcast or play recordings of music in public without a license. This is possible, provided you pay for that use of the sound recordings.

It is also possible to approach the Copyright Tribunal to determine the fees payable for the public playing or broadcasting of recorded music.

What about the cost?

When the PPCA grant licenses they then distribute the license fees collected to the copyright holders (licensors) and Australian recording artists which are registered with them, under their Distribution Policy.