



Leanne Hoad
Singing Studio

Singing Lessons

Bring Out Your Voice!

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Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS)

AMCOS on behalf of music publishers grants licences for the reproduction (copying) of musical works (usually songs or instrumental tracks). This includes the burning of CD's and making your own backing tracks from an original recording. It also includes the copying of print music.

Note:

- AMCOS manages the reproduction copyright rights of its members
- APRA manages the performing copyright rights of its members.

Who do they represent?

The Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS) represents virtually all music publishers in Australia and New Zealand and the vast majority of the world's composers, writers and music publishers.

Who needs an AMCOS licence?

Generally anyone who reproduces music by any form of copying.

For example, at our Studio in the past we have burnt CD's to produce compilations of tracks to simplify the management of songs at our rehearsals and larger concerts. These compilations were also often used in lessons.

We currently record lessons on CD for students to practice to between lessons. We have a licence to do this for *lessons purposes* only. Simultaneously, we don't record music for students to use for performing. They purchase this music for themselves.

As a singing teacher what licence(s) do I need from AMCOS?

In 2003, when I first researched this, there were two broad categories of AMCOS distribution:

- Pay per use (fee per song)
- Blanket Licences (annual fee for all copying)

The majority of songs ("works") are licenced on a pay-per-use basis so the payment is for the work actually reproduced and this money will eventually find its way back to the original composer/author.

NOTE: AMCOS can only licence the Musical Work (or composition) aspect of a reproduction. If you are making a reproduction of a commercially released sound recording (i.e. you are not recording your own version of the song yourself) you will have to licence that sound recording reproduction through ARIA as well. See our ARIA article.

What about the copying of print music?

For several years, AMCOS has offered an advisory service about music copyright and print music issues. (Refer AMCOS contact details below)

In conjunction with AMCOS Publishers, AMCOS has prepared A Practical Copyright Guide to the Use of Print Music in Australia which explains AMCOS Publishers' views in relation to the most frequently asked questions from print music users.

Our Studio has found this guide extremely useful and it has answered all our questions on this subject to date.

In Part C, the Guide includes licences from AMCOS Publishers to print music users allowing them to copy print music in limited circumstances such as key changes for performance purposes, difficult page turns and copying music to supply to an exam body or music examiner prior to or during an exam.

Note: the licences mentioned above require that an original copy of the music has already been purchased. Please refer to A Practical Copyright Guide to the Use of Print Music in Australia ([click link to download a PDF copy](#)) or AMCOS for full details.

A free copy of the guide can also be obtained by contacting AMCOS ph. (02) 9935 7700.

Obviously, the needs of singing teachers and studios vary greatly and the licence we hold may not apply to you.

We recommend that you contact AMCOS to establish exactly what licence (if any) you may require.