



Copyright Compliance & Information

FAME and the **Show Choir National Championship Series** is committed to full compliance with the copyright laws of the United States. Since our inception we have had a statement in the contract requiring that every show choir is responsible for securing licensing for music they perform. Copyright compliance is the responsibility of everyone in the creative process including show choir directors and assistants, arrangers, event producers and anyone who records, duplicates or distributes content protected by copyright.

Licensing is required by our nation's copyright laws including: arrangements of copyrighted music, use of copyrighted visual images and other materials, use of copyrighted audio or spoken text, and display of copyrighted words and images.

Please understand that FAME is not in the position to offer any legal advice regarding music licensing, nor are we affiliated with any publisher or licensing agency. We are strictly providing this information to assist and help educate everyone on the licensing issues facing all of us, so moving forward we can all be compliant. The following information is provided to that end.

Will I Be Required to Obtain Copyright Permission For My Competition Set? YES.

FAME will require proof of licensing prior to your performance. You are required by law to obtain permission to arrange or adapt copyrighted material prior to creating any arrangement. You should submit your permission requests at least 2 months prior to the date you plan to start arranging. We encourage you to submit requests for permissions to arrange as early as possible and prior to committing to your show concept and content.

SCNCS Participant Requirements Pertaining to Copyright

The following documentation must be submitted in order for FAME and the SCNCS to fulfill its legal and administrative obligations. Choirs will not be permitted to compete until they have provided the following:

1. FAME Events Copyright License Certification
2. Copy of license certificate for each custom arrangement to be performed

What Constitutes A Custom Arrangement and the Need For A License?

The following list is a sample of what may constitute a custom arrangement license. Please refer to a reputable licensing company for further clarification:

1. Creation of a completely new arrangement of a copyrighted song.
2. Adapting or altering a printed choral arrangement.
3. Arrangements made into a medley from printed choral arrangements.
4. Re-voicing a printed choral arrangement.
5. Purchased arrangements played with added parts (for example, adding instrument parts to the combo arrangement).

6. Changing lyrics from the printed arrangement.

Permission to arrange is not required if you are using a completely original composition or a purchased arrangement as written.

How Do I Obtain Permission to Arrange or Adapt Music for My show?

Permission to arrange or adapt copyrighted music must be obtained from the copyright owner or print representative prior to starting your arrangement. You should submit your permission requests as soon as you have a tentative repertoire to ensure adequate time for processing, payment, and return of formal permission.

Following are a few ways to obtain licensing for your custom arrangements:

1. Contact a Print Representative Online.

Your request will be processed most promptly when your request is submitted to the print publisher whose catalog includes your song(s). If known, submit your request to the proper print publisher. If the proper print publisher is not known, you may use a "category request" and submit your song(s) from your show to one of the print publishers listed below for processing. Most print publishers include a list of administered catalogs on their licensing website and will send referral information for songs not included in their catalog.

For Most Popular Repertoire, submit to:

- a. Hal Leonard Corporation (halleonard.com/permissions), which will direct you to Tresona® and its service.
- b. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. (alfred.com/Licensing.aspx)

These print publishers represent a large amount of repertoire most often utilized by show choirs. You may need to contact additional companies for songs not licensed by these publishers.

2. Tresona® Licensing Exchange (tresonamusic.com).

Tresona operates an automated online service for licensing. Its library includes most works owned or managed by major studios or publishing companies.

3. CopyCat Music Licensing (copycat-music.com).

CopyCat represents licensees in applications for arranging and synchronization licenses. It charges a modest fee for its services.