

Copyright Guidelines

Different people involved in creating a piece of music may own copyright in it - the composer, arranger (if it's an arrangement), lyricist (if it has lyrics), and editor (if it's e.g. an edition of a classical work). So a piece may have more than one copyright owner.

Each of these people typically owns copyright in the aspect of the music they worked on until 70 years after their death. Thereafter it is 'out of copyright'.

You must ensure that, for all scores you submit:

- you are the (sole) composer, or else the composer died more than 70 years ago; and
- if it's an arrangement, you wrote the original tune/piece arranged, or the arranger died more than 70 years ago; and
- if it has lyrics, you wrote the lyrics, or the lyricist died more than 70 years ago, or you have permission to use the lyrics from their copyright holder.

For example, you would be the sole copyright owner in the following scores:

- an original piano piece or song entirely written by you (including the tune and song lyrics)
- an arrangement by you of a piece by Mozart, or of a folk-tune
- a song with words by Shakespeare, tune by Mozart and accompaniment by you.

However, you **must not** submit scores such as the following:

- a Beatles song which you have arranged for wind band (as the tune is someone else's copyright)
- an original song by you with words by T.S. Eliot used without permission (as the lyrics are someone else's copyright)
- a piece by Mozart which you have copied out (we accept arrangements of out-of-copyright music but not verbatim transcriptions)
- *Scarborough Fair* by Simon & Garfunkel, transcribed by you for strings (the tune and lyrics are traditional and out of copyright, but Simon & Garfunkel's arrangement of the tune is copyright).

N.B. This is provided for general information only and not as legal advice. Copyright laws vary from country to country. If in doubt, seek professional legal advice.