



Why Your Church Needs WORSHIPcast



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Why Your Church Needs the WORSHIPcast Streaming License

Overview

Copyright coverage in the church setting can be confusing at times. To simplify things, this guide focuses on just one type of copyright coverage, **music performance licensing**. Then, more specifically, the CCS [**WORSHIPcast Streaming License**](#), a blanket license that covers **online** performances.

Performance Rights Basics

Let's look at a few brief definitions to help lay the groundwork for understanding performance licensing:

Public Performance

Defined as occurring "in a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered." Most church performances fit these criteria.

Performance Rights Organizations (PROs)

The three leading PROs in the United States, ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC manage music performance licenses. Every songwriter and publisher who wants to be paid performance royalties registers with one of the PROs, which together represent millions of songs. PROs collect performance license fees for a wide range of uses, from the Internet, radio, and TV broadcasts to stadiums, coffee shops, bowling alleys, and restaurants.

Religious Service Exemption (RSE)

Religious organizations qualify for an exemption under the [**U.S. Copyright Law \(section 110\[3\]\)**](#). Still, church leaders must understand which performances qualify and which do not. According to the exemption, the following performances are not copyright infringements:

"...performance of a non-dramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatico-musical work of a religious nature or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly shall not constitute infringement of copyright."

Why does my church need the WORSHIPcast License?

Is your church or ministry streaming worship services or other events on your church website? Here are a few reasons you may need a streaming license.

Reason #1

Churches are not exempt from music licensing.

Many church leaders believe the RSE applies to all use of copyrighted music, regardless of the context. However, the RSE only applies to music performed in the actual religious services. Outside of religious services, though, the exemption does not apply. A church has the same requirements as any business, restaurant, or stadium. This means for social events, outdoor concerts, fundraisers, children's music, Vacation Bible School, etc. you must have the proper licensing in place.

Reason #2

The Religious Service Exemption does NOT allow you to broadcast or stream your church's performances.

While the RSE allows churches to play and perform copyrighted music, the exemption only covers copyrighted works used in the context of a live, on-site service. The exemption does not extend to re-transmission or playback of the service via the internet, TV, radio, or any other medium.

Reason #3

The WORSHIPcast Streaming License allows you to stream performances of millions of Christian and secular songs to your church owned website or URL.

The WORSHIPcast License allows you to stream your performances of copyrighted music live or on-demand. Streaming isn't limited to worship services and the following activities are covered:

- Individual recordings of your worship team's performances
- Outdoor activities
- Concerts
- Youth group meetings
- Special events
- And more!

All genres are covered, from Contemporary Christian and Gospel to Rock, Country, Holiday, Patriotic, Pop, Children's music and much more. If your church owns song copyrights and is affiliated with a PRO, you may receive royalty revenue when you have the WORSHIPcast Streaming License and report your song activity.

The WORSHIPcast License does not allow the streaming or re-transmitting of sound recordings, master tracks, or performance tracks within your streaming service nor does it specifically provide coverage on social media. If posting on social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, etc., you must follow the individual platform's terms and conditions.

Reason #4

The WORSHIPcast Streaming License is easy and inexpensive to obtain.

Many church leaders are surprised to find out how easy it is to obtain a streaming license and that reporting is a simple straightforward process. CCS covers millions of Christian and secular songs across the catalogs of [ASCAP](#), [BMI](#), and [SESAC](#).

Reason #5

It's the right thing to do.

When you purchase a church music license, like CCS's WORSHIPcast, it's a tremendous opportunity to support songwriters, who in turn will bless your church with new worship songs. CCS pays fees directly to the PROs, and then pay their affiliated writers and publishers.

Learn more about our licensing!

CCS provides blanket licenses that meet most church performance copyright needs. For more details or information about products and services that we offer contact:

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