

# Copyright: arranging and samples

***An arrangement is a re-shaping of a melody or complete work that adds, alters or removes musical aspects such as harmony, rhythm or instrumentation. Before making an arrangement of a piece of music, you should check its copyright status and if required, seek permission from the copyright owner.***

## When do I need a licence when arranging music?

You will need to obtain permissions if you wish to use a pre-existing piece of music for the following reasons:

- Changing the instrumentation
- Making an arrangement of the work, altering it in any way
- Using the arrangement in a performance, even if it is for a free performance
- Recording the arrangement for commercial or non-commercial product release (eg. on a CD, as an mp3, on a vinyl record)
- Printing the arrangement for commercial sale (either physically or digitally)

You will not require a licence if the arrangement is purely for private study, but when using arrangements as a teaching tool you should always check the copyright status ahead of arranging the piece.

## Use of samples

If you wish to use a sample of an existing piece of music, the copyright must be cleared with the original copyright owner, no matter how small the sample.

## How to contact a copyright owner

Organisations such as the PRS for Music or the MPA will generally help you

- (a) Find out who controls the copyright in a work and
- (b) Obtain contact details for the copyright owners

[http://www.prsformusic.com/aboutus/contact\\_us/Pages/GeneralEnquiries.aspx](http://www.prsformusic.com/aboutus/contact_us/Pages/GeneralEnquiries.aspx)

<http://www.mpaonline.org.uk/contact>

## Useful resources

- The Copyright Licensing Agency ([www.cla.co.uk](http://www.cla.co.uk))
- The PRS for Music ([www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com))
- The PPL ([www.ppluk.com](http://www.ppluk.com))
- The Educational Recording Agency ([www.era.org.uk](http://www.era.org.uk))