

Copyright Questions

Copyright is a very important issue when it comes to planning your show. You, as the director are responsible for securing any needed copyright licenses to perform the music you choose.

TECA has a blanket license through certain licensing agencies that covers us playing music at contests, but that DOES NOT cover any reproduction or distribution rights.

What does “reproduction or distribution rights” mean?

Reproduction is any time anyone records your show and includes audio. Regardless of whether it is recorded with a camera, a phone, or any other device that reproduces the audio track.

Distribution is any time anyone posts a show online (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Periscope, etc.) or puts the recording of the show on any kind of digital media (flash drive, DVD, etc.)

What can I do as the director?

1. Educate your parents. Let them know that anyone who posts shows online can be prosecuted. It doesn't matter that it's a video of their son or daughter, the recording of the music is what's in violation.
2. Make sure that you have secured the rights needed. That can include the right to perform a work in its entirety, the right to arrange a work, and/or mechanical reproduction rights – the right to record your program and post video.

Where can I obtain the rights?

1. There are several companies that will help you secure the rights you need – Tresona, CopyCat, and many others are out there. A simple Google search will get you started.

For more information, here is an excellent web article published by Stanford University.

<http://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/introduction/getting-permission/>