

Copyright and Performing Rights (PRS)

1. Introduction

Copyright is the exclusive and assignable legal right over work, given to the originator of that work for a fixed number of years.

Performing Rights are the rights to perform music in public. They are part of Copyright law.

2. Performing Rights

National u3a has insurance which covers all members for playing music and performing in public. (but see * below)

(Yorks & Humberside Trustee, Sept 2023).

3. Copyright

National u3a also provide a licence which covers the copying of limited numbers of articles, book/magazine extracts etc **for use within Sheffield u3a**. If these copies are used on a website or used in any other setting open to the public there is likely to be an infringement of copyright. Please note that our licence does **not** cover:

Workbooks, workcards, assignment sheets, test/assessment papers

Maps & Charts

Newspapers

Printed Music

Work that has been expressly excluded by the rightsholder.

Films – National u3a provides an Umbrella Film Licence from the film licensing company MPLC. This means that all local u3as are licensed to show any film covered by MPLC. This company covers a large number of films but not every film.

Use of images is a particularly dangerous area. There are companies who trawl the internet looking for unauthorised use of images and two u3as have found themselves in trouble over this. No images should be used on our website, Facebook page or in promotional material unless we are 100% sure that they are free of copyright. unsplash.com is a recommended site for free images (Third Age Trust advice Sept 23).

*Music groups should be aware that if they copy music even for private use within their group they are likely to be infringing copyright unless the music has been obtained from a free music site. Under the principle of "Fair Use" educators may photocopy sheet music for teaching purposes and even for performance but strictly within a classroom context. Neither teachers nor students may legally take or use the copies outside the classroom context. A regular choral or music group does not constitute a classroom context. (oxfordsingingleasons.co.uk resources)

Note from MC - Pixabay also good for images.