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# CSS MUSIC

## Frequently Asked Questions

Here is a compilation of questions often asked about Royalty Free Music. If we've left out your question or if you need further clarification, call us toll-free at **1-800 HOT MUSIC**, or email us at [info@cssmusic.com](mailto:info@cssmusic.com). We're happy to help.

**Q: What is Royalty Free Music?**

A: Instead of a needle drop fee or laser drop fee (royalty per use) the CSS royalty free license grants you what might be called a "lifetime blanket". Essentially a lifetime blanket bundles all the possible needle drops, production blankets and annual blankets into one 99 year term with one upfront fee to cover a wide array of licensed uses as opposed to separate fees for each application. Broadly speaking, the CSS royalty free license covers licensees for their applications in audio, AV, video, film, television, radio, multimedia, web sites, podcasts, advertising on hold, commercials, and tradeshows. If you're not sure yours is a use permitted under the CSS Standard License, please call 800-468-6874 or e-mail [info@cssmusic.com](mailto:info@cssmusic.com) for clarification

**Q: Does "copyright free" mean the same as "royalty free"?**

A: No, the term "copyright free" is a misnomer. Even if a piece of music is in the public domain, the sound recording is probably under copyright. Other so called "license-free" approaches can be misleading as well. While they avoid the "work" of signing a license agreement, they also avoid spelling out the rights you think you are buying.

**Q: Is Buy-Out Music "royalty free"?**

A: Yes, in the sense that you pay all of your costs for bundled licensed uses up front (cost of media or download fee + a 99 year license to use the music. Perhaps a better term would be "royalty up front".

**Q: Is there reporting required under the CSS Standard License Agreement?**

Creative Support Services.  
All Rights Reserved. ©2001  
Designed by Brian Fuller  
[tech@dawnmusic.com](mailto:tech@dawnmusic.com)



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**A:** Generally, unlike needle drop, production blanket and annual blanket licensing, there is no need to report your use of CSS Music unless your particular application is one of the excluded uses (e.g. full length theatrical motion pictures). If your project will be broadcast, however, you must submit a copy of the cue sheet. The CSS Standard License Agreement is viewable at [www.cssmusic.com](http://www.cssmusic.com).

**Q: What is a Cue Sheet?**

**A:** A Cue Sheet is a chronological listing of all music used in a project. Please visit [www.cssmusic.com](http://www.cssmusic.com) to view a cue sheet tutorial and access a downloadable cue sheet pdf.

**Q: What rights am I getting when I purchase royalty free music?**

**A:** Basically with all music licensing (whether needle drop, production blanket, annual blanket or lifetime blanket), there are 3 rights you need: Mechanical, Synchronization and Public Performance. The mechanical right (aka "Master Use Right") lets you re-record the music from a purchased CD, download, etc. and edit and process it. The synchronization right lets you put the music into time relationship with a picture. Finally you need the Public Performance Right. Your CSS Standard License provides you with all three necessary rights. Please visit [www.cssmusic.com](http://www.cssmusic.com) to view the CSS Standard License Agreement.

**Q: Once I Buy My CSS Music, how many times can I use it?**

**A:** Unlike a needle drop, you can use a tune under the CSS Standard License (except excluded uses) as many times as you like, in as many productions as you like for the complete term of the license.

**Q: What if my project will be broadcast. Is there any problem?**

**A:** No problem at all. Broadcasting is permitted under the CSS Standard License with no additional charge (if you are a broadcaster, you would be covered under your arrangement with Broadcast Music Inc.). However, certain types of broadcast content (made for TV movies, network television prime time programming and national television commercials on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) require an additional Master Use and Sync License. If your project is a program for broadcast television (a reality show or documentary for example), a copy of the episode cue sheet must be sent to CSS Music (please see the Cue Sheet Tutorial on the [cssmusic.com](http://www.cssmusic.com) homepage).

**Q: If I am using CSS Music in a mass produced and marketed product, how many units may I replicate under the Standard License?**

**A:** The CSS Standard License permits duplication up to 50,000 units.

Additional 50,000's are available for licensure. As of 7/2007, the rate per composition for additional 50,000's is \$50 (with a \$150 min.) Volume pricing is available, please call 800-468-6874 for details.

**Q: Can I charge my clients a fee for the Music?**

A: You can charge your clients for the music you include in their projects when you also add other audio and/or visual elements. Your investment in a royalty free library from CSS can provide you with significant added revenue. In fact, it's very possible that you'll pay for your library purchase with your very first production.

**Q: What if my friend at another facility asks if he can use the music?**

A: Tell your friend that your license doesn't cover this use. You may not lend, share or distribute the music (or sound effects). Your license is granted to one individual organization or site.

**Q: I noticed that there are Lo-Fi versions of CSS Music selections available. Can I use these to make a demo for my client's approval?**

A: Lo-Fi versions of CSS Music are available for approval purposes only. No other use is permitted

**Q: Can I use CSS Music on a web site?**

A: Yes but only when you utilize a streaming format that prevents the music from being used by unauthorized parties and when the music is combined with other audio and/or visual elements added by you, the License, and where the music is not a featured part of any web presentation but rather an incidental or background element.

**Q: Can I use CSS Music for Advertising or Message on Hold?**

A: Yes. This use is specifically provided for in paragraph 2(a) for the CSS Standard License. So called "Music on Hold" is permitted only at the site licensed. Additional "Music on Hold" sites are licensed separately.

**Q: Can I use CSS Royalty Free Music for a trade show?**

A: Yes, indeed, even if you are producing an AV/Video project for a client who will actually be the exhibitor. It is a good idea to always supply your client with a copy of your CSS license along with your invoice. Some shows do require exhibitors to prove their right to use music.

**Q: Are theatrical motion pictures covered by the CSS Standard**

**License?**

A: No, but this use is available with an additional license. Other exclusions to the CSS Music Standard License include Made For Television Motion Pictures, full length (60 minutes or longer) direct to video motion pictures, network television prime time programming (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX) and national television commercials. These excluded uses are also available with an additional license.

**Q: Can I add lyrics to CSS Music I purchase?**

A: No, this is not a permitted use.

**Q Can I import CSS Music into a digital sampler and or music creation software package in order to create new musical compositions?**

A: No, this is not a permitted use.

**Q: What if the CSS License changes?**

A: While CSS does reserve the right to change the terms of its license agreement without notice, changes over the years have been few. What's important to remember is that when you fully execute your CSS agreement, its provisions and the rights you've purchased remain in effect for the full length of its term.

**Q: What if I don't like the music I ordered? Can I return it?**

A: Naturally, we hope you'll take advantage of Tele-trax (either online or touch-tone phone) to assure yourself prior to ordering, but yes, we want you to be satisfied with your purchase. Music may be returned within 15 days of receipt by following this procedure:  
1) Please call us at (323) 666-7968 and let us know you wish to return item(s). We won't try to talk you out of it, we just like to know what items are being returned and to remind you of the remaining return requirements listed in #'s 2 and 3 below.  
2) Prepare a brief, signed statement on your letterhead indicating that you neither copied or used the material.  
3) Return the statement and both copies of the CSS License along with the product you are returning. Your credit card will be credited the same day we receive your return with all necessary elements.