



Music Licenses

It is the responsibility of any radio licensee who plays published music on their airwaves, either through their own programming, or via a network service like Relevant Radio® or Lighthouse Catholic Media, to see that they have authorization to do so. This includes “incidental play”, such bumper music, or a brief piece of music used as background in a recording. During a recent Catholic Radio Association conference, an expert attorney who represents Catholic media indicated that just by broadcasting your own local Mass, you might be in violation of copyright restrictions, as some of the more common liturgical music can be copy written.

Obtaining licensing rights from the following three agencies are the best and most efficient way to continue broadcasting most content with confidence: BMI/ASCAP/SESAC. Below is the most recent contacts at all 3 agencies. We hope that is helpful.

1. BMI – www.bmi.com/licensing/entry/radio or call 1-800-206-7671
2. ASCAP – www.ascap.com/licensing/types/radio.aspx or call 1-800-992-7227
3. SESAC – www.seasac.com/licensing/broadcast.aspx or call 1-615-320-0055

If/when you investigate licensing and costs from these agencies, we strongly recommend you are explicit in identifying your station as:

- Non-commercial frequency
- Non-profit ownership
- Your format is spoken word/religious
- Any music played is incidental and you do not broadcast full performance of any music.

By doing so, you will incur the lowest rate cost.

Given the size of your radio market, and the fact you are on a non-commercial frequency, we suspect the costs for an annual license should be reasonable. As Relevant Radio plays incidental or background music only. (*no feature music is played*). When filling out a report, simply indicate that no feature music was played during your reporting period.