

## Music Licensing for Meetings & Events

### Are you playing *their* song?

**Music often is an integral part of conventions and meetings**, whether incorporated during general sessions to support the overarching message or meeting theme, in breakouts as entry music, in PowerPoint and video presentations, at networking events or simply as background. At trade shows, music can be heard in many exhibits booths, sometimes as background music and other times as part of a video presentation. Meeting and convention organizers may not think twice about playing a CD, connecting their iPhone or streaming from sources such as Spotify or Pandora at such an event, but the setting may subject them to liability under copyright law.

Not *every* musical performance requires a license fee. Playing a CD, a digital download or streaming music you purchased in your car or listening to it in the privacy of your home does not require a fee to be paid. ***Yet, using that same source as the in a meeting setting as described above will likely require a license fee.***

All the music you hear was written by someone, arranged by someone and performed by someone. These artists make their money by selling copies of the music and by licensing others to perform or play the music. **Music is like all personal property—when you want to borrow it from someone you must ask permission.** All public performances, even most non-profit ones, must be licensed.

- Why businesses and organizations need to be licensed to play music
- What does my license cover
- What happens if music is used without permission
- Alternatives to music licensing



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