

AN INTRODUCTION TO MCPS IN SCOTLAND

The MCPS logo is a circular emblem with a dark blue background and a lighter blue border. The letters 'mcps' are written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font across the center of the circle.

It may come as a surprise, but people like their creativity to be rewarded and we're here to make sure that happens.

Read on to find out why anyone who makes or uses music needs to know about MCPS.

What is MCPS? - (Mechanical-Copyright Protection Society Ltd)

MCPS is owned by the Music Publisher's Association (MPA). We currently have over 17,000 members, including over 12,900 writer/ composers and 4,800 publishers. Together with PRS, we have a database of some 2.5 million of our members' copyright works, and also our own database which includes details of 200,000 composers, writers, performers and record companies, almost 2 million recordings, 4,000 products and 23,000 labels.

What does MCPS do?

Acting on behalf of our members, MCPS negotiates agreements with those who wish to record music, ensuring that the copyright owners are paid royalties for the use of their compositions. These are known as 'mechanical royalties' (or 'mechanicals' for short) and they are a bona fide income and often a livelihood for composers and writers. MCPS does not exist to make a profit from this exchange. Any operating profit realised is either distributed to our members or used to improve our systems to provide a better service.

Why do I need a licence?

As soon as an original piece of music is written or recorded, copyright protection begins. Among other things, this means that the writer (or their publisher if they have one) has the right to determine who can make recordings of their work, and under what terms. The following acts therefore require prior permission from the copyright owner:

- To copy the work
- To issue copies of the work to the public
- To perform, show, or play the work in public
- To broadcast the work or include it in a cable programme service
- To make an adaptation of the work or do any of the above in relation to an adaptation.

Through the issuing of different licences, we simultaneously approve the required use of musical works and claim mechanical royalties for our member. Users of works originate from all areas of media related industries:

- Record companies
- Video companies
- Production Companies
- Advertising Companies
- Broadcasters
- Novelty Gift Companies



MCPS in Scotland

Born and raised in Glasgow, Duncan McCrone took up a post with MCPS in Scotland in 1989. Since then, he has travelled all over Scotland meeting record companies, pressing plants, studios, TV producers, and other music users, as well as MCPS member publishers and composers. Due to increased activities in the scene, MCPS opened a Scottish office in 1996 in Glasgow City Centre. The office also houses the Scottish HQ of the Musicians' Union and is fast becoming a music business 'centre of excellence', acting like a one-stop shop for the main industry organisations. As a result, Duncan is in regular contact with people from Shetland to the Borders and has become very well known in the industry.

Services offered

MCPS Scotland is the single point of contact for all the different services and information that several departments at our headquarters in London provide:

- Audio Product Licensing
- Media Licensing
- General Misc. Licensing
- Membership & Member Services
- Registration of Works
- Licence/ Invoice/ General Accounts queries

The office can supply all the official MCPS guides and application forms for the above, as well as offering valuable advice on all mechanical licensing matters and the workings of the Scottish industry in general.

Face to Face

MCPS Scotland, in conjunction with the PRS and the MU, also organise membership surgeries that periodically take place in Edinburgh, Glasgow and various other locations across Scotland. These occasions are an opportunity to pose questions to representatives from these three organisations and learn first hand about the ways in which they can help you and your business activities. Please feel free to phone the office (contact details overleaf) to find out when they will next be in your area.

Duncan is always present at key Scottish Industry events, but is also available to give talks and seminars for trade associations/ music groups. He is happy to meet new emerging companies to offer advice and to help them negotiate the mine-field that is mechanical copyright.

Useful Contacts

Producers Alliance for Cinema & Television (PACT)

Scottish Office (Contact: Sarah Jane Kerr)
249 West George Street, Glasgow G2 4Q
Tel: 0141 302 1720 Fax: 0141 302 1721
Email: sarahjane@pactscot.co.uk
Web: www.pactscot.co.uk

Represents independent television, feature film, animation and new media production companies. Provides a range of production related services to members, as well as lobbying on their behalf.

Musicians' Union (MU) (Contact: Ian Smith)

11 Sandyford Place Glasgow G3 7NB
Tel: 0141 248 3723 Fax: 0141 204 3510
Email: info@musiciansunion.org.uk
Web: www.musiciansunion.co.uk

Seeks to improve the status and remuneration of its members by protecting both contractual and statutory rights. Establishes pay agreements covering every type of employment for musicians, and also make representations to Parliament on a wide range of issues.

Highland and Islands Labels (HAIL)

(Contact: Shaun Arnold)
Goevents, Hi-Arts, Ballantyne House, Academy Street,
Inverness, IV1 1LU
Tel: 07974 245348
Email: shaunhail@hotmail.com
Web: www.hailmusic.com

This organisation is committed to the development of the music industry in the Highlands and the Islands. It provides support, help and advice to those involved in the music scene.

NEMIS (New Music In Scotland)

(Contact: Alec Downie)
2nd Floor, 93 Candleriggs, Glasgow, G1 1NP
Tel: 0141 552 9224 Fax: 0141 552 0558
Email: info@nemis.org
Web: www.nemis.org

The purpose of NEMIS is to assist its members in the Scottish contemporary music business in building a creative, vibrant and sustainable music industry in Scotland

Performing Right Society (PRS Scotland)

3 Drumsheugh Gardens,, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH3 7QJ
Licences: Tel: 0131 226 7792 Contact Charles Smith or
Tel: 0131 226 7277/Gwen Reid
Membership: Tel: 0845 3039300 Contact Stuart Fleming
Web: www.prs.co.uk

Collects & distributes worldwide performance royalties on behalf of composer and music publisher members. Licences venues, TV & Radio broadcasters.

The Scottish Music Centre

1 Bowmont Gardens, Glasgow, G12 9LR
Tel: 0141 334 6393 Fax: 0141 337 1161
Email: info@scottishmusiccentre.com
Web: www.scottishmusiccentre.com

SMIC aims to be the vehicle for promoting global interest in all forms of music created in Scotland, resulting in industry and public awareness of Scottish talent.

The Scottish Arts Council (SAC)

12 Manor Place, Edinburgh EH3 7DD
Tel: 0131 226 6051 Helpline: 0131 240 2443
Fax: 0131 225 9833 Web: www.sac.org.uk

Documenting, promoting and encouraging Scottish Arts, SAC is the principal channel for Government funding of the contemporary arts in Scotland. It provides a valuable information service to the arts community.



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