



A guide for businesses and venues in Cyprus playing music

PRS
for MUSIC

Why do businesses and venues need to be licensed to play music?

The Cyprus Copyright Act of 1976 states you need to get permission from the copyright holder to 'perform' music in public. 'Performing' music includes playing CDs, MP3s or radio, TV, internet or live music to customers and staff in a business environment.

Music licences are a simple way to get the permission you need from the copyright owners of the music you use.

Who needs a music licence?

Examples of businesses requiring a licence include (but are not limited to):

- Restaurants/cafes
- Bars/nightclubs
- Hotels and guesthouses
- Live music venues
- Music festivals and events featuring music
- Hair and beauty salons
- Cinemas
- Shops and stores
- Offices and factories

Visit our website for more information on the types of businesses that require a *PRS for Music* licence. Please get in contact if you are unsure as to whether or not your business requires a music licence (details overleaf).

Who issues music licences?

PRS for Music is the trading name of the Performing Right Society Limited. We are a UK-based membership organisation operating in Cyprus and other territories across the



world. Our role is to ensure music creators are rightfully paid when others 'use' (that is to say, play or perform) their musical compositions, including lyrics. We also have agreements with similar societies to ourselves around the world to represent their members' music in Cyprus and the UK.

What music is covered by a *PRS for Music* licence?

The vast majority of songs you hear in public are covered by our music licence. Examples include:

- recorded music and live music (e.g. night clubs and concerts)
- music played on CD and MP3 players, radios, televisions (even background music on TV programmes), and through computer speakers
- music played to telephone callers while 'on hold'.

However, if you play music outside of *PRS for Music's* control, you may need an additional licence from the relevant copyright owner(s). You do not need a licence from *PRS for Music* in the unlikely event that all the music you play is out of copyright or is not managed by *PRS for Music*.

How is the cost of a *PRS for Music* licence calculated?

We have a number of public performance tariffs to reflect the different ways businesses use music. For example, an office in which background music is played to five employees

'uses' less music - and so pays less - than a bar that hosts live music for thousands of guests each year.

With regards to live music venues, festivals and outdoor events, *PRS for Music* tariffs relate to different types of venues and performances, therefore you will be charged using the relevant tariff, e.g. music used in rock gigs for a ticketed event are charged at the standard rate of six percent of box office receipts. Non-ticketed events are charged upon a percentage of artist fees, a capacity rate or under our General Tariff (available on our website).

For live music performances; it is a condition of the music licence that, when requested, the licensee supplies details of all musical works to be publicly performed. We also require you to provide printed programmes or set lists for live performances.

What about theatrical presentations?

PRS for Music does not control dramatico-musical works (live opera, operettas, pantomimes and revues, theatrical productions, son et lumiere productions and staged ballets) as they consist of words and music written expressly for them, for which prior permission must be sought direct from the publisher or other copyright owners.

The full extent and limits of the licence are set out in the Statement of Rights Administered, a copy of which is available from *PRS for Music* on request.

What does *PRS for Music* do with the licence fee?

When someone creates a song or piece of music, they own the copyright. When they join *PRS for Music*, these rights are assigned to us. The fees generated by music licences ensure that the music creators - many of whom are small businesses themselves - are paid for the use of their works. We distribute nearly 90 percent of the fees we receive from licences back to our members in the form of royalties. This means they can make a livelihood from their music and keep making the music we all love. We only deduct our administration cost.

What happens if an organisation isn't properly licensed?

We do as much as we can to assist everyone in becoming legally compliant when playing music in public. However, we do hold records of which businesses and organisations are unlicensed. If a music user does not obtain a licence, we can take legal action for copyright infringement and the user could then be liable for costs and damages. Before this, of course, we take all reasonable steps to communicate the need for a music licence.

We're here to help.

We've tried to answer the most common questions here. But you'll find more information on our website.

Visit prsformusic.com/cyprus

**or to buy a licence call:
+357 22 89 89 19**

**Lines are open Monday to Friday,
8.30am-6pm**

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