

# Performances

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## Overview

Performance of copyright material is an exclusive right of the copyright owner and generally permission is required to perform a work. A performance may be:

- Performing a play
- Reading from a literary work
- Playing recorded music
- Showing all or part of a film.

There are a number of provisions in the Copyright Act that permit staff and students to perform copyright material without needing to ask for permission. These include:

- Performance of non-musical works in class for educational purposes: you can show a film, read from a literary work or perform a play in class for educational purposes.
- Performance of musical works in class for educational purposes: you can perform or play a musical work or sound recording in class for educational purposes. This is covered by s 28 of the Copyright Act and also the Music Licence.
- Performance of musical works and sound recordings for non-educational purposes: the Music Licence allows musical works and sound recordings from the Music Societies' repertoires to be performed for limited non-educational purposes at University events. For more information see [the music licence](#).
- TV and radio broadcasts can be copied and played for educational purposes under the Statutory Licence (Part VA). The audience must be restricted to University staff and students.

## Public performances

If you intend to give a public performance for the general public, and it is not covered by the [music licence](#), you will need to seek permission from the copyright owner. Permission is required even whether or not you are charging an entry fee or are operating on a not-for-profit basis. Licenses

may be required and can be obtained from the various collecting societies such as [CAL](#), [APRA](#) or [Screenrights](#), usually at a fee. This can take some time, so communicating with these bodies as early as possible is advisable.

## Adaptations

You will need permission from copyright owners if you intend to rearrange, adapt or translate a script, music, lyrics, novel or story. This includes additions to the works and will apply regardless of whether or not the performance is for educational purposes or for the general public.

See [adapting copyright material](#).

## Performer's copyrights

Performers have further rights apart from those of authors, composers etc. and consent must be obtained to:

- Record or broadcast a live performance
- Deal commercially with an unauthorised recording of a live performance
- Use an authorised sound recording on a soundtrack.

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