

7 June 2006

Memo to all MTNZ Society and School Members

### **Copyright Law**

There appears to be a considerable amount of confusion amongst the society and education members regarding dramatic context and what can and can't be used in a revue or compilation type show. A number of societies and schools appear to think they are covered by the APRA licence and use costume, choreography, set and props in a revue or compilation show. This is breaking the copyright law. We obtained clarification on dramatic context from the grand right holders and APRA and the ruling is as follows:

If you wish to perform individual songs from grand right works (ie Les Mis, Miss Saigon, Superstar, Hello Dolly) as part of a "concert evening" you must follow these guidelines:

- No more than three songs may be used from any one show
- Your "concert evening" must be the work of more than one composer
- You may not recreate your own story or write your own dialogue
- You may not use dialogue, choreography or costuming from the original show; your revue must truly be a concert with no other dramatic intent
- The venue must have a licence from APRA (small rights)
- Sheet music must be purchased from a third party retailer
- Sheet music may not be photocopied.
- Please also be aware that an APRA concert agreement does not give you permission to orchestrate or arrange a song for ensemble or choir. If you wish to orchestrate a song you must apply directly to the publisher of the song. In the instance of Leonard Bernstein works this permission will not be granted. The majority of the standard orchestrations are available for hire from the copyright holders. eg. HLA, Origin, Allans etc. In addition, many of the Broadway choral medleys that are available for sale from your local music retailer also have authorised backing tracks.

If you wish to include ANY of the dramatic elements listed above, you MUST seek permission from the appropriate grand right holder, whether it be Hal Leonard, Origin, Dominie, Tams Witmark or any other agency.

There will be discussion on this at the various zone meetings and if you are still confused, please contact Rita Luck at APRA or the grand right holders direct.

Kind regards

John Antony  
President

CC: Hal Leonard Australia Pty Limited, Origin Theatrical, APRA, Dominie Drama, Play Bureau NZ, Playmarket NZ, David Spicer