**November 2022  – Issue 14 - THE LATEST NEWS IN COPYRIGHT FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS AND TAFE**

**End-of-Year School Events - 2022**

Welcome to the final National Copyright Unit (NCU) newsletter for 2022.

Term 4 is in full swing, and many schools will want to end the year on a high note, celebrating their successes and farewelling their school leavers.

This means end-of-year events such as presentation evenings, graduation ceremonies and Christmas concerts. This newsletter updates schools on the ways they can use music in their end-of-year events.

In 2022, schools have largely returned to a ‘new normal’ of hybrid teaching, with many school events both live streamed and held in person.

Schools can rely on the [Schools Music Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-music-licence/) to play and perform music at end-of-year school events, record end-of-year school events and share recordings of end-of-year school events with the school community. Schools can also use music in end-of-year videos and presentations.

Following are some of the ways that schools can use music:

**Recording school events**

Schools can make a recording (including an audio or video recording) of a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) where [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) are performed (eg a live performance by a school rock band or orchestra), or where recorded music is played (eg a popular song is played at a presentation night or graduation evening, or as a backing track to a student dance performance).

Remember the labelling requirements for recordings, which are set out in the [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

**Sharing recordings of school events**

There are lots of different ways a school can share recordings of their school events with students, parents and guardians (the school community). For example, schools can:

* upload the recording to the school website
* upload the recording to a password protected school server, school intranet or [digital teaching environment (DTE)](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/) and make this available to the school community (eg if a parent couldn’t attend a graduation ceremony, the school could send them a link to the recording on the school’s password protected intranet and they could download a copy for their private use).

For a full list of ways schools can share recordings of their school events, see the [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

**Live streaming from, or uploading recordings to, social media**

Schools can live stream their school event via the school website, the school’s official social media platforms (eg Facebook Live, YouTube), school App or a video conferencing platform (eg Zoom). For example, schools may live stream their Year 12 awards night via their official Facebook page for parents to view at home.

Schools can also upload their recordings of school events, where musical works and/or recorded music were playing in the background, to their official social media pages (Facebook and YouTube), for parents to view at home.

When live streaming or sharing recordings of school events via social media, schools are relying on the licences APRA AMCOS and record labels have with these social media platforms to [communicate](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/communicate/) them (ie make available) on the platform.

**What should we do if the recording/livestream of our school event has been blocked on social media?**

Where a musical work or a sound recording is being performed or played at a school event, the post may still be blocked or muted by social media platforms.

If this happens, [contact the NCU](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/) or consider uploading to, or live streaming from, the school website rather than a social media platform.

**Using recorded music in end-of-year videos and presentations**

Schools can incorporate recorded music (eg a track downloaded from Spotify), or a recording of a school performance (eg a school jazz ensemble performing a piece of music) into another, unrelated work, such as an end-of-year video montage.

Schools can do this provided they are using the recording for a [school purpose](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-purpose/), which is a purpose the school undertakes as part of its usual activities, provided it is non-commercial. An example would be school events (such as school Christmas concerts, graduation ceremonies and awards nights), engaging with members of the school community or promoting students’ work.

The school can play these new recordings at school events, such as graduation ceremonies, or share them with the school community by uploading to a school website, password protected intranet or password protected DTE. For more ways to share, see the [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

Please note, the school **cannot** upload these recordings, if they contain commercially available a sound recording, to social media.

**Student consents**

Most schools obtain student consent forms at the time of enrolment, but make sure these cover your intended uses of recordings of student performances, particularly where these are shared on social media.

**FAQs

1.    We have added the song ‘This is Me’ from The Greatest Showman to a video montage of all the highlights of our school leavers final semester. Can we share this with our school community?**

Yes, you can upload this to the school website, intranet or password protected DTE, an educational app, or email/message this to members of the school community.

However, you **cannot** upload this recording to social media.

**2.    Are we able to live stream a Christmas concert (where our school band is performing with a Christmas themed pop song as a backing track) to our school’s YouTube page?**

Yes. Note that where a musical work or sound recording is played, this may be taken down or muted by the social media site. If this happens, contact the [NCU](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/) for assistance.

**3.    Can we upload a recording of our school band and strings ensemble performing a piece of music at our school graduation ceremony, to our school’s password protected intranet, and email a link to parents?**

Yes, you are permitted to upload a recording of the school band and strings ensemble performing a musical work at a school event (ie your school’s graduation ceremony) to your school’s password protected intranet, and send a link to parents and members of the school community. They can download a copy for their private use. Alternatively, you could upload the recording to your school website.

**Additional information**

The purpose of this update is to provide a summary and general overview of selected copyright issues. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it constitute legal advice. If you need to know how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from the [NCU](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/). For information about our [National Copyright Webinar Series](https://smartcopying.edu.au/national-copyright-seminar-series/) and [Copyright for Educators (C4E) course](https://smartcopying.edu.au/copyright-4-educators-course/), please visit the [Smartcopying website](https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/).