

COPYRIGHT LAWS REGARDING MUSIC

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iMovie, iPhoto, and Windows Movie Maker make it easy to add background music to projects such as slideshows and videos. However, you need to understand the copyright laws and legalities regarding the addition of background music in an E-Clip project before adding this feature.

Though you can easily purchase, download, and use iTunes in your photo slideshows and videos, using music with a copyright without permission is illegal. You may be asking, "What about fair use policies?"

Fair use is a term that implies that there are times when portions of copywritten material can be used for non-commercial purposes, but there is always risk involved. Fair use is determined by our legal system, after accusations of copyright infringement have occurred, and recently fair use seems to be an area that is becoming more and more gray.

If you want to use background music in projects, one idea is to start a royalty-free library at your school. This library would contain royalty-free music available for teachers and students to use for projects. The rights to use background music are purchased once by the school, at a reasonable price. This provides legal, usable music, and possibly more important, the opportunity to model and teach students ethics regarding copyright and technology (see option 2).

Another idea is to record public domain or original music performed by your school and use that in your projects. This gives you background music for projects and highlights your school music program!

HOW TO USE MUSIC LEGALLY

1. **If money is no object**--Purchase licenses to use the music you have not created. You will need both a Synchronization License and a Master Use License. This can be very pricey. Here is a link explaining the process:

How to Use Music Legally in Your Work
uniquetracks.com/articles/How-To-Use-Music-Legally.html
2. **If you want to provide great music for your school, encouraging creativity in teachers and students inexpensively**-- A relatively inexpensive way to use music legally that you have not created is to purchase royalty free music. The link below explains this process. Many school libraries have invested in purchasing royalty-free music for their teachers and students to use. It has no expiration date and encourages creativity and teachable moments. I have found many recordings for under \$30.00. There are many companies online selling royalty free music. I like uniquetracks.com, but you find others by doing a quick search.

Royalty Free Music Explained: Music Licensing Tips
uniquetracks.com/articles/RoyaltyFreeMusic-Explained.html
3. **If you want free music with no cost and no legal worries**--There are three ways you can use music without purchasing anything or worrying about copyright laws. Unfortunately, available music is limited.
 - a. **Public Domain Music.** Public domain music is music that was created before 1923 and free to the public because the copyright has expired or been nullified. Many hymns fall in this category. But user beware. You still cannot use recent recordings of these pieces, since the recording is copyrighted. See more below:

The Public Domain: A Guide for Media Producers
uniquetracks.com/articles/The-Public-Domain.html
 - b. Original music you have created and recorded.
 - c. Truly "free" music in the form of background music loops

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Truly free music is harder to find, but here are two links to free background music loops that teachers can download and use free--without purchase or license.

- uniquetracks.com/Free-Music-Loops.html
- stockaudio.net/music/free

You must, however, still give credit to the site you downloaded the music from. For example: Music courtesy of uniquetracks.com/Free-Music-Loops.html or Music supplied by stockaudio.net/music/free

You may find more **truly** free options for synchronizing background music by doing a google advanced search and setting the usage rights to "Free to use, share, or modify even commercially."

Remember to give credit to (reference) any music you use, whether it is free loops, public domain, royalty free, etc.

For more information on copyright laws, check out the links below:

- Understanding Copyright: Information Literacy Guide
instr.iastate.libguides.com/copyright
- 7 Tips for Using Copyrighted Music in Professional Videos & Slideshows
reelseo.com/copyrighted-music-in-video/
- Quick Reference Guide to Royalty Free & Creative Commons Music by Susan Brown
ncups.org/articles/quick-reference-guide-to-royalty-free-creative-commons-music/
- Royalty Free Music Articles by Creative Director John Bickerton
uniquetracks.com/articles/Royalty-Free-Music-Articles.html

Great Unique Tracks articles include:

- How to use music legally in your work
uniquetracks.com/articles/How-To-Use-Music-Legally.html
- Why I dislike the term "Royalty Free Music"
uniquetracks.com/articles/Royalty-Free-Music.html
- Stock Music Licensing Explained
uniquetracks.com/articles/Stock-Music-Licensing-Explained.html
- Royalty Free Music Explained: Music Licensing Tips
uniquetracks.com/articles/RoyaltyFreeMusic-Explained.html
- The Public Domain: A Guide for Media Producers
uniquetracks.com/articles/The-Public-Domain.html