



CompleteMusicUpdate.com

CMU GUIDE: **MUSIC COPYRIGHT** **EXPLAINED**

WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

Copyright is a legal concept which provides creators with certain controls over the outputs of their creativity – which can then be exploited for profit.

**#01: there are two
sets of music rights**

THE CORE MUSIC RIGHTS

RHYTHM

LYRICS

MELODY

SONGS



THE SONG RIGHTS
aka the publishing rights

PERFORMANCE

PRODUCTION

MASTERING

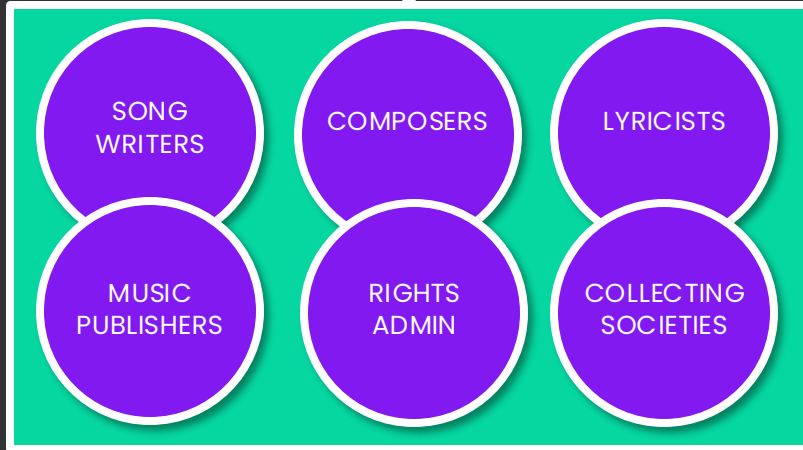
RECORDINGS

THE RECORDING RIGHTS
aka the master rights



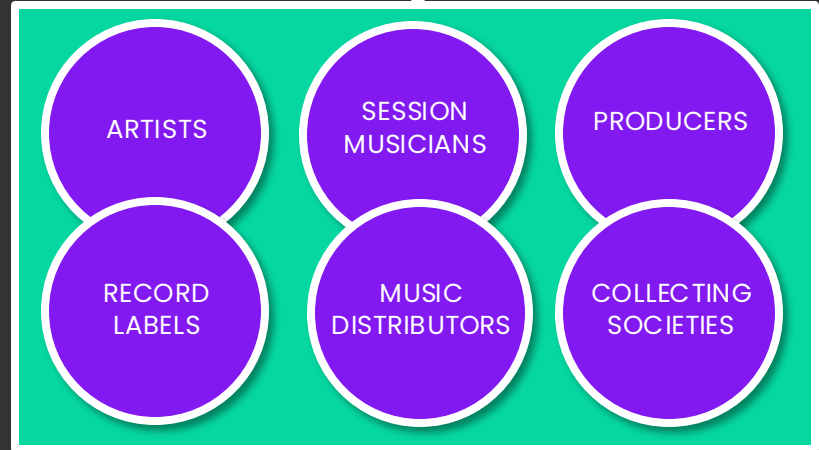
THE MUSIC RIGHTS INDUSTRIES

SONGS



MUSIC PUBLISHING SECTOR

RECORDINGS



RECORD INDUSTRY

**#02: copyright allows
music-makers to control
what happens to their music**

COPYRIGHT CONTROLS

REPRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION

RENTAL

ADAPTATION

PERFORMANCE

COMMUNICATION

COPYRIGHT CONTROLS

REPRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION

RENTAL

ADAPTATION

PERFORMANCE

COMMUNICATION

MAKING AVAILABLE

COPYRIGHT CONTROLS

MECHANICAL RIGHTS

REPRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION

RENTAL

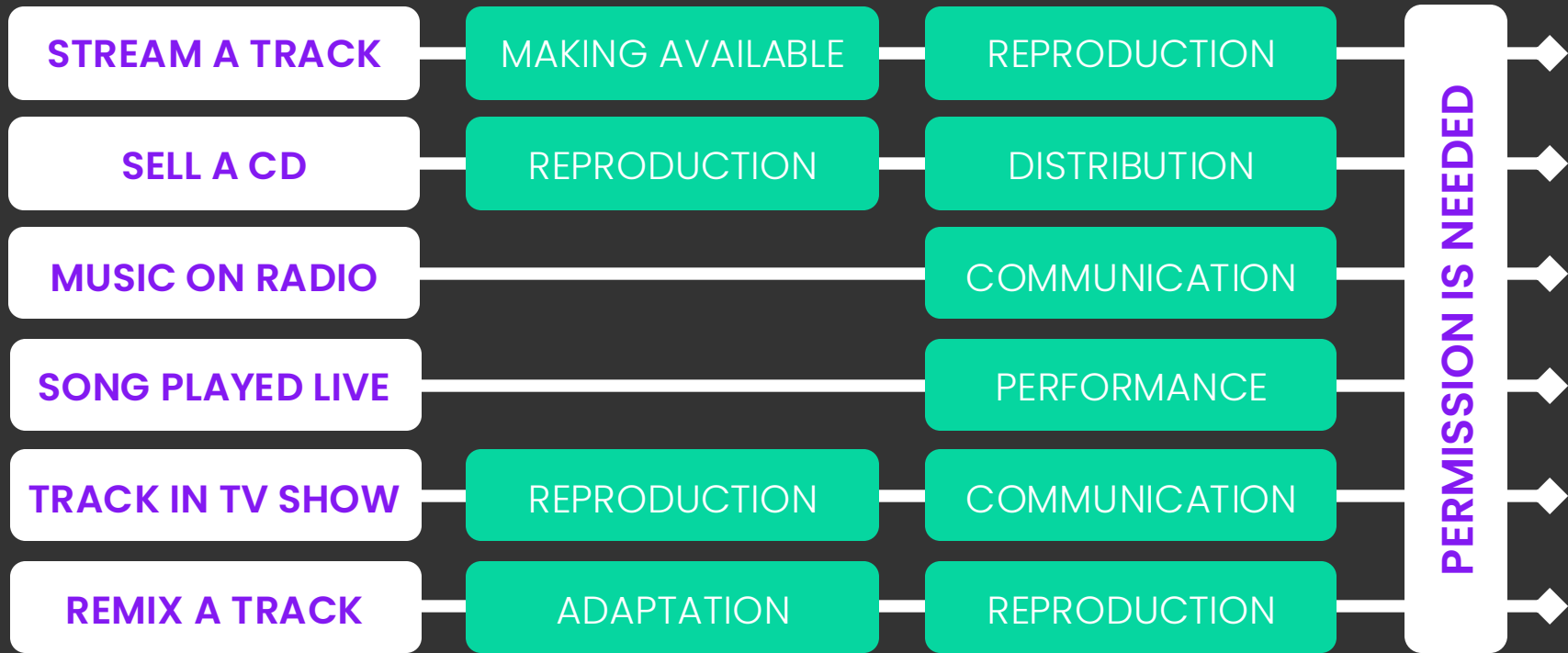
ADAPTATION

PERFORMANCE

COMMUNICATION

PERFORMING RIGHTS OR NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS*

EXPLOITING COPYRIGHT CONTROLS



MUSIC LICENSING



If a third party exploits the music

Permission is needed

That's music licensing

But who issues the licence?

**#03: music-makers work
with business partners to
manage their music rights**

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BUSINESS PARTNERS

SONGS



COLLECTING SOCIETY
aka CMO / PRO / MLC

MUSIC PUBLISHER

RIGHTS ADMINISTRATOR

MUSIC PUBLISHING SECTOR
focused on the song rights

RECORDINGS

COLLECTING SOCIETY
aka CMO / PRO / MLC



RECORD LABEL

MUSIC DISTRIBUTOR

THE RECORD INDUSTRY
focused on the recording rights

BUSINESS PARTNERS



Business partners manage the rights

And might provide other services

Taking a cut of the money in return

May also take ownership of the rights

#04: copyright is automatic
– collaborators need
to agree ownership

COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP

Copyright is automatic – so who are the default owners?

SONGS

whoever creates, composes
and/or writes the song

“AUTHOR”

RECORDINGS

whoever organises for the
sound recording to be made

“PRODUCER”

COPYRIGHT CAN BE CO-OWNED



AGREEING + LOGGING COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP

Document what you agree with a contract, or one-page split sheet, or exchange of emails, or use an app that can record what you agree.

Log what you agree with the music industry's main databases run by the collecting societies – so PRS for songs and PPL for recordings.

ROYALTY RIGHTS



You can have a single copyright owner

Who agrees to share revenue with others

Those people then have a 'royalty right'

This is more common with recordings

**#05: performers have rights
even if they don't own
the copyright in a recording**

PERFORMER APPROVALS

FIXATION

REPRODUCTION

DISTRIBUTION

RENTAL

LIVE BROADCAST

MAKING AVAILABLE

PERFORMER ER

Performers have a statutory right to payment when the performance or communication controls of the sound recording are exploited – ‘performer equitable remuneration’.

PERFORMANCE

COMMUNICATION

PERFORMING RIGHTS OR NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

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