

SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT INFRINGING COPYRIGHT?

We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure we are compliant with copyright requirements, and we are content that the operation of our groups poses minimal risk of infringements.

BACKGROUND

Copyright law covers the copying of text, music, images and the performance of music, internet sourced material, films and recordings.

Each year, we buy a Copyright Licensing Agency (CPA) licence which provides a blanket permission, protecting us from the risk of legal action for copyright infringement, where we copy and share content from books, journals, magazines or websites. The CPA licence does not cover music, images or films.

The CLA licence covers copying and re-use of extracts from digital and print books, magazines, journals and websites for educational and teaching purposes. It does not cover printed sheet music. Our agreement with the CLA is that the cover they provide is in line with what they provide to a formal educational establishment. There is specific information on this here: <https://assets.cla.co.uk/media/2023/05/education-licence-user-guidelines.pdf>.

There is no blanket licence we can buy to cover us for the copying of sheet music or for film performances. We should approach each publisher to see their permission to use their material.

For a live or recorded performance of music, live or recorded, the venue is liable to make sure the premises have licence. For example, the venue for the Tea with Jazz group has a music licence.

In terms of u3a music performances, the Trust subscribes to the PPL PRS licence (so this is provided free and automatically to all u3as) which gives us permission to play and perform music if the copyright holder is signed up to the scheme (and they state that virtually all are).

In the past, at least one group has shown YouTube videos they have posted and those of others. The copyright position on this is complex. In general, copyright is owned by whoever posts the video and YouTube has some provisions to ensure copyright is not breached by those posting. If we wish to show such material, we should approach the publisher to seek permission to use their material. Where someone has successfully posted a mash up to YouTube of others material, the copyright position is unclear.