

COPYRIGHT ESSENTIALS

When is it OK to copy music?

- ✓ If the copyright notice gives explicit permission to copy for home, incidental, or church use.
- ✓ If you have written permission in advance from the publisher to copy.
- ✗ It's not OK to copy for emergency situations.
- ✗ It's not OK to copy music that is permanently out of print. (You must still contact the publisher and ask permission to copy. Usually you still pay the publisher for the copies you make after they grant permission.)
- ✗ It's not OK to copy a second copy for each paid original when using the shared music model described in the footnote below.²
- ✗ It is a copyright violation to RECORD music without paying for each copy of the recording. This includes making CDs or mp3s for practice, whether individual parts or the whole piece. It also includes making recordings that you distribute for free. Just because you aren't making money from the recording doesn't mean the composer shouldn't make money from the work. THE HARRY FOX AGENCY (www.harryfox.com) provides licensing for most music recordings you want to make. Contact the music publisher directly to ask who handles their licensing rights if you don't find your music listed through Harry Fox.
- ⚠ What do I do with all the illegal photocopies of music we already have in the library? Throw them away. You or the Church can still be charged with copyright infringement.

² Copyright law requires a minimum of one copy for the director, one for the accompanist, and one for every two singers. People sing best when they have their own music, so I suggest buying one per person. If you're in a branch, consider 15-20 copies. If you're in a ward, 30 is a good number. It is NOT okay to buy one copy for every other singer then make photocopies so the remaining singers have one. Each person holding music must have a legally purchased copy. You only need to buy two copies (director and accompanist) when teaching a song by rote.