

PENNINE MUSIC PUBLISHING FACT FILE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your interest in Pennine Music Publishing (or PMP for short). PMP are proud to be the only professional 'brass band only' sheet music publisher in the UK. We put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring maximum publicity for every piece of music we publish, from online advertising and mailing lists to trade stands at contests across the UK. This short fact file is designed to answer some of the more frequently asked questions associated with getting your music published with us. It also addresses some of the major issues concerning copyrights and royalties.

COPYRIGHT

In the UK, copyright exists on any piece of music whose composer has not been deceased for over 70 years. Music, whose composer has been deceased for over 70 years, is considered to be in the public domain and thus, copyright free. There are some exceptions to this rule, however these are rare.

CAN I ARRANGE A COPYRIGHTED WORK FOR BAND? (FILM SCORE/POP SONG)

Yes, however, you must seek permission from the current copyright holder of the work BEFORE you start to make the arrangement. This can be a minefield and you may not know where to start. Pennine Music offers a licensing service (Pennine Music Licensing) where we do all the legal paperwork for you. For more information, visit <http://www.penninemusic.com/license.php>

CAN I ARRANGE A PIECE OF MUSIC THAT'S OUT OF COPYRIGHT?

Yes, and the arrangement you make will legally be yours. You will own the copyright on any 'public domain' music arrangements you make.

ONCE I'VE ARRANGED THE WORK, HOW DO TO GET IT PUBLISHED?

First, we need to see the arrangement. You can send this to us via email or post. Formats accepted are Sibelius files, PDF files or hand written full scores. Please note that we are not able to return hand written scores, so please do not send originals. The arrangement will then be assessed by the PMP team.

HOW LONG BEFORE I HEAR IF MY SUBMISSION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Please be aware that we get several submissions a day and so this process usually can take up to 6 weeks. However, this does vary. For example, in July, August & September, our efforts are concentrated on assessing Christmas music. Other submissions are kept in file until they can be reviewed. If your submission is an arrangement of a copyrighted work, we shall also need to contact the copyright holders to see if they would allow publication of your arrangement. This is a long process and has been known to take anywhere between 3-12 months in some cases

HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY CHANCES OF THE ARRANGEMENT BEING ACCEPTED?

We tend to publish arrangements of works that have don't already have several versions available. We take into account the cost of preparing the scores and publication licences. If these outweigh the potential returns, then unfortunately, we usually have to decline publication.

IF MY SUBMISSION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION, HOW LONG BEFORE I SEE IT IN PRINT?

This can vary depending on the nature of the score. For example, Christmas scores are published in October, whereas classical music scores we tend to publish prior to the proms season. No releases (other than Christmas music) are made between October and December. We also have to prepare the scores for publication. The format and size of the score you submit can affect the time it takes to get it published. All our music is published using the latest Sibelius software, and so music submitted to us in this format can usually be published faster than hand written scores & PDF files.

ENGRAVING

Engraving is the process of taking the score you submit and preparing it for publication. You can help speed up this process by ensuring that the scores you send are as neat as possible. For example, simple things like ensuring the dynamic markings line up vertically down a score and don't overlap with notes or other text etc. Removing errors like this in a score can hold up the publication process, particularly on larger scores.

WILL I GET ROYALTIES?

Yes, you will get a percentage of every sale we make. The rate of commission varies depending upon the score. This is discussed in further detail later on.

CAN I SUBMIT AN ORIGINAL WORK TO YOU? (A COMPOSITION)

Yes. However, we like to make clear from the onset that we publish very few original works. This is for several reasons. Unfortunately, from our experience, brass bands are not usually looking for original music by 'unknown' composers when they visit us. Therefore, the cost involved of preparing the score and publishing the work etc. usually far exceeds the returns we make. This is unfortunate and not a decision we take lightly, however sadly, we are a business and have to take these things into consideration. There are some exceptions however. We do publish original test-pieces that have been selected for contest use. Otherwise, we suggest you try to get your compositions played by as many bands as possible by making the works available for free. This is how a lot of arrangers and composers get their name out.

IF YOU PUBLISH MY COMPOSITION, WHO OWNS THE COPYRIGHT, ME OR PMP?

Initially, you own the copyright on your composition. If we wish to publish your composition, we can either publish the work with a licence from you that just allows us to print, sell & distribute the work. This way, your work is in print and you are retaining the copyright. Alternatively, you can assign the copyright over to us and PMP will then own your work.

IF YOU PUBLISH MY ARRANGEMENT, WHO OWNS THE COPYRIGHT, ME OR PMP?

If the arrangement is of a work that's in the public domain, then the situation is exactly the same as with an original composition (see above). If the arrangement is of a copyrighted work, then it is the initial copyright holders who own the copyright and not you or PMP. We have to purchase a licence from the copyright holder to enable us to sell your arrangement.

HOW MUCH WILL I GET PAID IN ROYALTIES?

Royalties are paid out after every quarter (in January, April, July & October). You will be emailed a list of your pieces and how many we have sold. The royalties paid are a percentage of the sale price. The percentage varies on each type of work & whether PMP owns the copyright or not...

ARRANGEMENTS

Of a copyrighted work - 16%

Of a public domain work - 16%

Of a public domain work with the copyright assigned to PMP - 18%

COMPOSITIONS

With the composer (you) retaining the copyright - 18%

With the copyright assigned to PMP - 20%

**please note, there is a 1% decrease in all royalties for scores submitted to us in PDF and hand written format.*

HOW DO I GET PAID?

You can either be paid directly via bank transfer (BACS) or, with a cheque.

I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything else you wish to know. All our contact details are below.

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