

MUSIC IN A DRAMATIC CONTEXT FOR SCHOOLS



APRA
AMCOS

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If you are staging a school musical, theatrical production, or using music at a school concert, it is important to determine if it is a Grand Right Work or a work performed in a Dramatic Context.

GRAND RIGHT WORKS

Grand Right Works are productions where the **music and lyrics are written expressly for the production**. APRA AMCOS does not have public performance rights for Grand Right productions.

Grand Rights include shows such as operas, operettas, oratorios, musical plays, revues and pantomimes for which the music has been specifically written. Stage musicals such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*, *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* for example, are not covered under the Schools Performance Licence and need to be **licensed by the relevant publisher or agent**. Cinematic musicals such as *The Lion King*, *The Wizard Of Oz* and *Mary Poppins* are also Grand Right Works when **adapted for the stage**, and narrative concept albums such as The Who's *Tommy*, Pink Floyd's *The Wall* and *Jeff Wayne's Musical Version of the War of the Worlds*, are also Grand Right Works **when performed in their entirety on stage**.

Please also note that APRA AMCOS does not control the rights to elements of a Grand Right Work such as costumes and staging – these rights are controlled by the publisher or agent.

DRAMATIC CONTEXT

Dramatic Context means the performance of musical works:

- in conjunction with a presentation on the live stage that has: (i) a **storyline**; and (ii) one or more **narrators or characters**; or
- as a **Ballet**

Ballet means a choreographic work having a story, plot or abstract idea devised or used for the purpose of interpretation by dancing and/or miming. Ballet does not include country or folk dancing, tap dancing or precision dancing sequences.

Changes have recently been made to the definition of Dramatic Context, so it is important to be aware of this new definition. The change is intended to make the definition simpler and easier to apply in practice, and is more in line with overseas theatrical markets.

What does this mean for schools?

For primary schools, **all performances in a Dramatic Context are covered** by the Schools APRA Performance licence. For secondary schools, if admission fees are being charged **AND** the production is being advertised outside of the school community, you are likely to need a separate licence from APRA AMCOS, and you should **contact APRA AMCOS to discuss**. If the performance will fall outside of the APRA Public Performance Licence, we can explain further licensing options.

SOME EXAMPLES OF MUSIC USED IN A DRAMATIC CONTEXT

Example 1

A group of students is playing songs of a band they admire, including dressing in the style of the original band members and introducing the songs with ad-lib in between those songs. This would **NOT** be Dramatic Context. However, if a storyline and narrator/character were added, the show would be classified as Dramatic Context.

Example 2

Mr. Wylde is a secondary school Drama Teacher and writes a stage musical using well known pop songs for the music. This **WOULD** be Dramatic Context.

Mr. Wylde plans to stage the musical as a free event, so this would be covered under the school's APRA Public Performance licence. If Mr. Wylde decides that the event will be ticketed and places advertisements in the local newspaper, and on a freeway billboard, the school must contact APRA AMCOS to discuss.

APRA AMCOS (the Australasian Performing Right Association and the Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society) is a rights management organisation which licenses performing, communication and reproduction rights in music on behalf of more than 90,000 members and 142,000 licensees with 170 affiliated organisations worldwide.