

COPYRIGHT AND MUSIC POLICIES

(Updated April 2020 – NZMC Executive Committee)



Introduction

In 2018 the NZMC reviewed its obligations under copyright law, having regard to legal advice, and adopted a number of Policies. These Policies replaces previous Policies.

The Choir is aware of the serious implications of infringing copyright and the potential for infringers to be liable for damages. Apart from the impact on the Choir of any potential penalties, infringement of copyright by the Choir, its Music Team, or its Members could seriously damage the reputation of the Choir. This Choir Policy applies to the Choir, its Music Team, and every individual Member.

Copyright Policies

1. The NZMC purchases enough copies of copyright music to lend copies to all choristers and the Music Team (the Musical Director and accompanists).
2. Each copy of music purchased by the NZMC has on it a stamp identifying the fact that it is the property of the NZMC (and that stamp must not be removed or defaced), and each Chorister is to write (with a 2B or softer pencil) his unique allocated number on every piece of music issued to him.
3. The music issued by the NZMC remains the property of the Choir and will be recalled once the Musical Director no longer requires it in the repertoire, and it must be returned when a chorister leaves the Choir. The music must to be returned in a condition suitable for use by any voice in the Choir if it is to be used in future.
4. Any chorister who finds that he has any music no longer in the repertoire must return the same to the Music Librarian for his Island (noting that in 2018, to ensure that the Choir complied with copyright law, the Choir gathered from all members all music no longer in the repertoire and all copied material that had been used in the past.

Other Policies relating to NZMC Music

- A. Music is issued to individual members of the Music Team and individual Choir Members and they must each comply with the following conditions:
 - (a) Identifying marks (see Policy 2 above) must not be removed from Choir music,
 - (b) Choir music should be kept in a suitable binder (hole-punching music to put it into a ring binder is permissible),
 - (c) Choir music may be annotated using a 2B or softer pencil, and prior to return to the Choir all such annotations shall be removed,
 - (d) Choir music shall not be annotated or marked with pens, highlighters and anything similar, and

- (e) **NO** Choir music is to be copied in any way, except for music that is demonstrably “out of copyright,” and the Choir accepts no responsibility if anyone fails to comply with this policy (i.e. offenders will bear sole responsibility for any infringement of copyright),
- B.** Each chorister is responsible for bringing to each rehearsal all music needed as there will be no spare copies available to hand out.
- C.** Where any music is returned to the Choir and it is found that Policy B(a), (b), (c), (d) and/or (e) has not been complied with, the person to whom that music was issued shall meet the cost of obtaining replacement music.
- D.** In the event of non-compliance with any of the above Policies (1-4 and A-C) disciplinary action may be taken.
- E.** The Choir will fulfil its obligations to the Australasian Performing Rights Association under its annual licence to perform copyright music in public.

Above policy adopted: 22 April 2020.

To be reviewed: April 2021.