

NEGOTIATIONS WITH APRA ABOUT MUSIC SCORES – a great opportunity!

Please read the following carefully and respond to the survey, unless you have done so already. So far we have received responses from only 25% of NZCF choirs, and **if we don't have enough data for APRA THEY WILL NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES WHICH WILL BENEFIT US IN THE LONGTERM. So act now!**

All of us involved in performing music know how expensive it can be to purchase scores or difficult it can be to hire or borrow original copies. The following survey is an important step in what we hope will be a future arrangement that will benefit performers as well as composers and publishers.

A Proposal

Photocopying of copyright music is illegal, yet there are many who don't understand the rules. Even if you have bought an original copy, the copyright rules mean you can't copy it even for your own use. This presents some practical problems for NZCF member and other choirs. However, the bigger issue is the cost of music for what are essentially amateur groups.

Some of the issues that confront choirs who perform music in public are:

- **the high cost** of buying each chorister an original copy of music that cannot be hired or borrowed from elsewhere;
- **the difficulty of managing** multiple books on stage, especially if the programme has a wide variety of pieces and only one or two can be taken from each book;
- **enlarging** music for those whose eyesight isn't perfect;
- **providing more user-friendly scores** for conductors and accompanists.

APRA represents the composers' and publishers' interests and all of us involved in choral music want to comply with APRA's requirements. Recognising the special challenges that confront an essentially amateur sector, the NZCF would like to reach an agreement with APRA that could see advantages for NZCF members and possibly even more music sold for the benefit of APRA's members. Importantly for APRA, everyone will be more conscious of the rules.

The NZCF wants to find out from our member choirs what is the current status with respect to the use of original music and photocopies. Some choirs may be hesitant to pass on such information, but we assure you that **no names or details will be provided to anyone, including APRA**, or ever passed on to a third party. It is important though that we find out what is actually happening.

We want to know something about your choir's repertoire in 2008 and how you provided the scores. Please ask the choir librarian to look over your concert programmes for the 2008 calendar year. We want to know how many separate pieces your choir performed in total, how many of those were your choir's own original scores, how many were borrowed from elsewhere and how many were photocopies. Some music will be out of copyright and other scores may have been downloaded legitimately from the web (such as from the Choral Public Domain Library - www.cpd.org). Again, we would like those noted.

Please complete the **survey form** (reverse side of this letter) and mail it to the NZCF by **9 November 2009**. Alternatively, you can go online, download a form from the RESOURCES page and email it back to us.

Best wishes,

Grant Hutchinson (Chief Executive)

NZCF Survey about Music Scores

The more complete the information we can supply to APRA, the stronger can be our case. Please answer the questions as fully as you can. No choir's individual information will be provided to APRA, or passed on to a third party. You may omit items 1. to 3. below if that makes you feel more comfortable!

Post the form to: NZCF/APRA Survey, 2 Millcroft Place, Queenspark, Christchurch, 8083.

Email to: grant.hutchinson@nzcf.org.nz

Website: www.nzcf.org.nz

Due date: 9 October 2009

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| 1. Name of Choir (optional) | | |
| 2. Contact person (optional – if we have questions to clarify answers) | | |
| 3. Contact person's email address (optional) | | |
| 4. Type of choir (city, chamber, community, school, church, other – please specify) | | |
| 5. Number in choir (usual for 2008) | | |
| 6. Number of performances in 2008 | | |
| 7. Number of pieces, which are still in copyright, supplied as original copies to the choir in 2008 | _____ Own copies | _____ Hired/borrowed |
| 8. For original pieces owned, hired or borrowed, were copies made for performance folders? | Yes / No (please circle one) | If "yes", reason: |
| 9. Number of pieces used which are out of copyright | _____ | Source: |
| 10. Number of pieces supplied as photocopies to the choir in 2008 | _____ Copyright materials | _____ Non-copyright materials |
| 11. Amount spent on music in 2008 | \$ _____ | |
| 12. Would you support having a licence to legally photocopy music if, say, 5 copies were permissible per original copy? | | |
| 13. Comments/suggestions – would you, for example, support a higher annual APRA charge if NZCF members had a concession of the kind mentioned in 12? | | |