WORKSHOP CAMERA CLUB INC.

Promoting Photography as an Art Form

Guide to Using Music in Audio-Visual Presentations

This guide should be read in conjunction with the Club's Policy Document on Music Copyright, which explains the rationale for taking this issue seriously.

What is Copyright?

Copyright is an author's intellectual property in written and performed works including music. It gives authors and performers the right to receive payments for the use of their works.

What is Copyright Free Music?

Copyright free music is music which has been in existence for more than seventy years. Although this definition includes actual recordings, the quality of seventy year old recordings leaves a lot to be desired in modern terms. Also seventy year old recordings are likely to be in the form of vinyl records which are not easy to work with for AV presentations. Sheet music more than seventy years old is also copyright free, so if you can sing and/or play an instrument there's nothing to stop you making a recording and using it in your AVs!

Note that a modern recording of a copyright free musical score (by an individual, band or orchestra) is NOT copyright free. There is a new copyright invested in the performance. That's why you can't make free use of a CD even if it's a recording of a Beethoven symphony!

There is a way to use copyright free sheet music, however, and that is to transcribe the score into a music generating program. It's even possible to obtain software that will scan sheet music directly into a music generating program. This approach doesn't require any musical knowhow, but it does require an investment in software and a scanner. There is plenty of copyright free sheet music available for you to scan.

What is Royalty Free Music?

Royalty free music is music for which the author and performer(s) and all persons involved in the production chain have waived their right to collect a payment. Such a waiver is most often subject to a license agreement which states the conditions under which an end user may use a piece of music. The conditions vary widely so you do need to know the conditions if you use royalty free music.

Practicalities

This section points you to the resources which you can use to collect and use music for your AV presentations within the law.

Compose your own

There is software available that helps you compose your own music – even if you have no formal musical training:

Transcribe Copyright free sheet music

This requires a scanner, music recognition software, and music creation software (midi sequencer software). In practice the music recognition stage may be imperfect and may require musical knowledge to correct. Once the score has been recognised and placed in a midi sequencer (the music playing software), you can play with it to your heart's content and end up with a performance the original author could only have dreamt about.

Find and download Royalty Free music and use it according to license.

Often the only requirement is to acknowledge the author. This is the cheapest and easiest means of adding a sound track to your AVs. There is a movement called the "Creative Common License" (actually a set of licenses) that is making this approach very attractive for uses like AV soundtracks.

Locate the copyright holder(s) and ask permission.

This is a practical proposition for up and coming musicians who are often only too pleased to have the music used in exchange for a credit. It is not practicable for your favourite CDs by established performers

Sources

This section provides you with some on-line resources that you can look at to decide on which way you want to go.

Type	Web address
Compose your own	http://www.band-in-a-box.com/ Band in a Box is music generation program that non musicians can use successfully. If you have some musical knowledge then so much the better. It's biased towards jazz compositions but not exclusively so. Cost is $US88
	http://www.sonymediasoftware.com/products/studiofamily.asp Acid Music studio is a music creation package that can be used by the non musician, but does require quite a bit of time to make an original composition. Cost $US70
	http://www.sonymediasoftware.com/products/showproduct.asp?PID=1013 Cinescore lets the non musician create complete soundtracks for videos and AV presentation. Cost is $US175
Copyright free sheet music	http://www.freesheetmusic.net/ http://www.music-scores.com/
Music scanning software	http://www.musitek.com/ This software scans sheet music and converts it to midi so that you can play it back with a midi player. Cost from $US99
Midi sequencers	http://www.cakewalk.com/products/HomeStudio/default.asp Sonar Home studio is for the DIY music maker. It will (among many other things) take midi files and play them back through a wide range of instruments. Cost: $US139
	http://www.hitsquad.com/smm/win95/MIDI_SEQUENCERS/ Check here to find FREE midi sequencers.
Other	http://www.midi2wav.com/

music software	This program converts midi files to wav or mp3. Wav (or mp3) is what you need to include in the audio track of your AV program. Cost $US25
Royalty Free music sources	http://incompetech.com/m/c/royalty-free/ This site is typical of musicians publishing some of their work royalty free under one of the Creative Commons Licenses. It's important that if you use music of this kind that you comply with the license: ie give attribution etc in your AV.