

SOUND ADVICE



EACH ISSUE JMC ACADEMY WEIGHS IN WITH SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR PLAYERS AND MUSIC PROFESSIONALS LOOKING TO TAKE THEIR CRAFT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

BASIC MUSIC COPYRIGHT

The excitement that comes with writing and recording songs can sometimes quickly diminish when it comes to dealing with how copyright works within a piece of recorded music. What becomes even more confusing is when there are multiple people involved in the writing and recording process. There are four types of copyright within a recorded song. Let's look at how this works:

COPYRIGHT IN THE MUSIC

If your band has collectively worked on writing the music including melodies and chords, then all members of the group would own this element of copyright equally. If a particular member of the band brings a musical idea consisting of chords and melodies to the group for approval, and then collectively it is worked on and improved, that particular member would be the copyright owner in the music.

COPYRIGHT IN THE LYRICS

Similar with this, if one member in the band was the designated songwriter, and their responsibility was to write the lyrical content, melody and phrasing, then they would be the sole owner of this element of copyright. If you are a solo musician or producer, and you request a singer to write lyrics for your own work, then it would be a joint ownership of the project.

COPYRIGHT IN THE SOUND RECORDING

When the artist or band pays for the entire recording project themselves, then they are the owner of the master rights. If a record label offers to pay for the recording of the album, then they would own this element of the copyright. It is also not uncommon for a recording studio to waive the fee or payment of the album recording in order to be the copyright owner to the sound recording.

COPYRIGHT IN THE PERFORMANCE

This would take place when an artist or group publicly perform their own music, or the actual song is publicly aired or broadcasted. The owner of the music and lyrics, as well as the owner of the sound recording, would all be entitled to royalty payments.

So if you were ever curious to find out how artists actually generate an income from their music, hopefully this will give you more of an insight... confused yet? 🤖

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Our driver.



lying to us. I'm not sure what the bill was for our meal, but from the look of things, we all guessed that it had to be over \$2,000.

There was a lot of confusion about why the promoter lied to us about how long the drive would take. We eventually discovered that he had done the same thing in the past with other bands to save money. If we knew ahead of time what the drive was going to be like, we would have requested flights or a train for comfort as well as safety purposes, which would have cost the promoter more money than renting a van. In the long run, I am pleased with the way things worked out. Even bad experiences can be good to look back upon. I'm grateful for the experience, but I would never want to go through it again. We all learned that sometimes the most important questions are the ones that you never think to ask. 🤖

As if the swerving and my hangover wasn't enough, our driver, who did not speak a word of English, insisted on passing slower cars on the highway we sped head-on into oncoming traffic, then aggressively swerving back into our lane less than 100 feet before impact. A few of us tried repeatedly to politely ask the driver to take a less aggressive approach to passing with no avail. Everybody in the van eventually became so nervous that nobody wanted to speak. At one point I looked back at everyone to find some people sweating from fear and thinking the same thing as me, "Let's just get there and get this over with." Finally, after 14 hours, we arrived in St. Petersburg. The promoter had been following us in his car the whole way. Our tour manager kept cool throughout the duration of the drive. But as soon as we arrived at our hotel his patience ran out. I'm not exactly sure what was said, but at this point I didn't care, I was just happy to be home. The promoter had put the fear of God into the promoter so badly that he agreed to take us out to a restaurant of our choice for