

***-A Basic Note on Music & Song Clips- Getting Permissions to use Music / Songs--* (This is required on all competition entries)**

Using musical backgrounds to spice up a film or video is among the most fun creative tasks awaiting any filmmaker. But unless the piece of music is original, or falls into the public domain any other use requires getting the copyright holder's permission. Even so, with common sense, and a little attention to detail, learning to use music properly in a video shouldn't be an overwhelming task.

Contact the songwriter or the owner of the song's publishing rights. Most songwriters and recording artists belong to one of three music publishing organizations, ASCAP, BMI or SESAC. You can find the songwriter's contact information on the website of one of these organizations. If you are unable to do so, you can find the artist's management or legal representative from the artist's record label to request fair use permission for the song.

Lastly, this process has always been a part of the process needed for all music videos and music in background. A clip of 30 seconds or less or public domain music (published before 1922) does not require this permission. Part of the experience here is for you to research the permissions process and be able to comply with and proceed through the simple process of obtaining these permissions. Thanks!