

WHAT IS IT?

The music business is first and foremost a business like any other. Whilst it is fair to say you do need talent, that is not all you need. In order to succeed it is important for you to understand the nature of the rights that you are creating and how those rights can then be exploited in order to make money.

The types of copyright most relevant to you as a musician, songwriter or producer are

1. literary works (i.e. the lyrics of a song)
2. musical works (i.e. the music itself)
3. sound recordings (i.e. the Master)

WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS?

Copyright is an essential aspect of the music industry. If you write an original piece of music, then you have created a copyright work, which belongs to you and can be bought and sold.

If you know more about copyright, it will help you as a writer, producer or performer to understand the value of what it is you are creating and you can make money from your music.

Cautionary Note!

It is likely that you will not be able to understand everything in this chapter, certainly in the first reading.

Don't worry! Even seasoned industry professionals have difficulty with copyright and contracts. This is one of the reasons why musicians, managers, record companies and publishers all use lawyers and other professional business advisers.

Do not rely solely on information provided in this workbook! It is always advisable to seek independent professional legal advice when entering into any legal agreements.