

SPECIAL PROGRAMS MUSIC SOURCING

Pops, Commissioning & Arranging

Kim Ransley, Managing Director, Origin Theatrical

Linda Papa, Orchestra Librarian, West Australian Symphony Orchestra

2026 MOLA Pre-Conference Workshop, Friday June 19, Sydney Masonic Centre

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SPECIAL PROGRAM REPERTOIRE

Musical Theatre songs

- Few musical theatre songs are available for purchase, most are rental-only
- Often instrumentation requires auxiliary instruments such as extra synth, guitar, bass guitar, kit
- Off the shelf key options may be limited

Film & TV music (themes and songs)

- Extensive school/community, and some professional, orchestra arrangements available for purchase
- Film music rentals often more expensive than classical rentals

Pop Songs

- Some community/school level arrangements available for purchase on SheetmusicPlus
- Some rentals available, typically instrumentation requires auxiliary instruments such as saxophone, guitar, bass guitar, kit
- Often only option is to seek an arrangement licence and commission an arranger

Video Games Music

- Many works not published
- Some community/school level arrangements available for purchase on SheetmusicPlus
- Some rental options
- Conductor-curated packages on trend

PURCHASE OPTIONS & SOURCES

-  **Luck's Music Library**
US-based retailer with international shipping. Specialises in Orchestra music. Useful Professional Orchestra Pops listings.
<https://www.lucksmusic.com/Content.aspx?c=88>
-  **Hal Leonard**
Major US-based publisher and retailer of orchestral sets with international shipping. Includes John Williams Signature collection
<https://www.halleonard.com/>
-  **Sheet Music Plus**
Wide online catalogue covering all genres. Digital downloads and physical copies. Useful for single song purchases.
<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/> Includes Daryl McKenzie [pop arrangements](#)
-  **Sheet Music Direct**
Wide online catalogue covering all genres. Digital downloads. Useful for single song purchases. Membership enables perusal of scores and parts
<https://www.sheetmusicdirect.com/>
-  **Clear Music Australia**
Australian (Sydney) based retailer. Useful for ordering published orchestral sets if wishing to avoid international transactions.

KEY RENTAL SOURCES - musical theatre & film

AU/NZ

Zinfonia

First port of call for rental sources of classical, music theatre and film music

<https://www.zinfonia.com/>

AU/NZ

Origin Theatrical

Australia and New Zealand's leading theatrical licensing and rental agency. Represents Concord, R&H, Really Useful Group and many more. <https://origintheatrical.com.au/>

AU/NZ

Music Theatre International (MTI)

Major international licensor for musicals. Handles Broadway and West End titles. Materials shipped or accessed digitally.

<https://www.mtishows.com.au/concert-selections>

INTL

JoAnn Kane Music Service

Extensive film themes and songs available for rental.

<https://joannkanemusic.com/pages/rentals>

INTL

West End International

Extensive music theatre, film and pop orchestral arrangements. Catalogue available on request (Some usage requires referrals back to publishers) – **Summer 2026** [catalogue attached](#)

<https://westendinternational.com/music-hire-library>

INTL

Mepro

Another option for film music arrangements (Some usage requires referrals back to publishers)

<https://mepro-music.com/filmmusic-library/>

KEY RENTAL SOURCES - pop & games music

AU/NZ

Origin Theatrical

Australia and New Zealand's leading theatrical licensing and rental agency. Represents Concord, R&H, Really Useful Group and many more. <https://origintheatrical.com.au/>

AU/NZ

Orchestra Victoria

Some commissioned indie game arrangements and film music available for hire from Orchestra Victoria. Contact ovlibrary@orchestravictoria.com.au for further information or see the OV website for past programs. <https://www.orchestravictoria.com.au/>

INTL

Colonial Road Music Publishing

US-based popular music arrangements by Victor A. Vanacore. <https://colonialroadmusic.com/>

INTL

London Philharmonic Orchestra

A number of game music available for rental. Contact: Alison.Jones@lpo.org.uk View [list of works](#)

INTL

Austin Wintory

Video Games composer <https://www.austinwintory.com/concert-pieces>

INT

Conductor-curated packages

EG: **Stefan Geiger** (conductor) tours a variety of games concerts [\[program examples\]](#). **Games Concerts** produce concert series of symphonic music of video games that tour the world <https://www.gameconcerts.com/en/concerts/symphonic-fantasies/>

ORIGIN THEATRICAL

Australia's Leading Theatrical Licensing Agency

- Founded in 2004 by Philip Walker and Philip Mortlock, ORiGiN Theatrical is part of ORiGiN Entertainment Group, an Australian independent entertainment company.
- Represents musicals, operas and plays alongside classical music publishers, LW Entertainment (Andrew Lloyd Webber) Wise Music, Boosey & Hawkes, Faber Music and Schott Music.
- Serves schools, community theatres, professional companies, symphony orchestras, ballet and festivals across Australia and New Zealand and South-East Asia.
- Manages both licensing rights and rental of performance materials.
- <https://origintheatrical.com.au/shop/classical>

ORIGIN THEATRICAL: SEARCHING FOR MUSIC THEATRE

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Theatrical

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More Classical News

Music by

Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by

Catalogue

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CAROUSEL - A DANCE

Music By: [Richard Rodgers](#)

Lyrics By:

Key:

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IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING (THEATRE VERSION)

Music By: [Richard Rodgers](#)

Lyrics By: [Oscar Hammerstein II](#)

Key: G Major to Eb Major to Bb Major

View Details

RICHARD RODGERS: A SYMPHONIC PORTRAIT FOR CONCERT BAND

Music By: [Richard Rodgers](#)

Lyrics By:

Key:

View Details

WHERE OR WHEN (CONCERT BAND VERSION)

Music By: [Richard Rodgers](#)

Lyrics By: [Lorenz Hart](#)

Key: Eb Major

View Details

Tip: Search R&H and ALW songs via our website. Musical Theatre concerts can only contain up to three songs from any one musical under an APRA Concert Licence. eg. Three songs from The Sound of Music, and three songs from The Phantom of the Opera.

ORIGIN THEATRICAL: FILM, POP & GAME MUSIC

ORIGIN
Theatrical

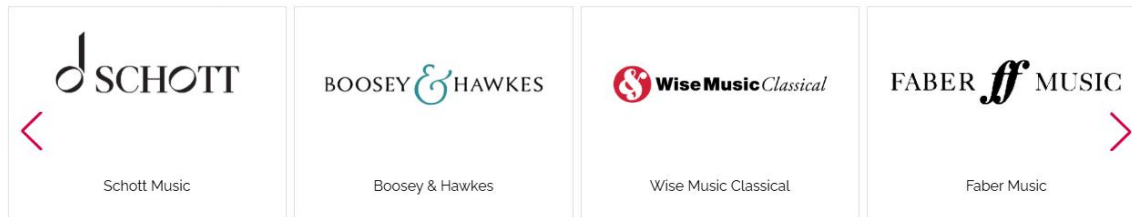
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[Application Form](#)

Classical Library



Classical News



Tip: Click Classical News tiles to search for songs and music suggestions from different genres to help choose your repertoire. Or you can click on each individual publisher websites to search. Apply via Zinfonia or click on Application Form above to take you to the form you require for Choral, Dance, Opera or rental forms.

ARRANGEMENT LICENCES

Sources, Processes & Contracts

A decorative L-shaped line in a light orange color, consisting of a vertical segment on the right and a horizontal segment at the bottom, located in the lower right area of the slide.

WHY YOU NEED AN ARRANGEMENT LICENCE

Any arrangement, adaptation or transcription of a copyrighted work requires written permission from the copyright owner — regardless of whether the performance is public, private, paid or free.

What Requires a Licence

- Printing any copyrighted music
- Transcribing any copyrighted music
- Adapting copyrighted music for a different ensemble
- Creating a medley from copyrighted works
- Simplifying or re-orchestrating existing copyrighted music

What Does NOT Require a Licence

- Works in the public domain (typically 70+ years after composer's death in Australia)
- Own original compositions
- Works with open/Creative Commons licences
- Performing a published arrangement as written

FINDING THE COPYRIGHT OWNER

1

Check the Published Score

The copyright page of any printed edition lists the publisher and copyright holder. This is your starting point.

2

Search APRA AMCOS

Use the APRA AMCOS online catalogue to identify the publisher or administrator for works in the Australian territory.

<https://www.apraamcos.com.au/music-licences/select-a-licence/find-a-copyright-owner>

3

Search APRA AMCOS Publisher list

The Publisher list provides email contacts for print (arrangement) and sync options.

<https://www.apraamcos.com.au/music-licences/select-a-licence/find-a-copyright-owner/publisher-contact-list>

4

Contact the Print Publisher

Major publishers include Hal Leonard, Alfred Music (represented by AMEB), Boosey & Hawkes, Faber Music, Schott and Universal Edition. They can direct you to the rights holder.

CONTACTING THE PUBLISHER OR AGENT

What to Include in Your Request

- Full title and composer/songwriter of the original work
- Your name, organisation and contact details
- Purpose of the arrangement (concert, competition, recording, educational use)
- Intended instrumentation or voicing of the arrangement
- Number of intended performances
- Whether you intend to print, distribute or sell copies
- Proposed timeline (when you need the licence by)

Allow at least 4–8 weeks for processing. Always apply before starting work on the arrangement.

TYPICAL LICENSING CONTRACT

Scope of Use

Defines exactly what you may do with the arrangement — perform, record, print, distribute, or some combination.

Territory

Geographic limits on where the arrangement may be performed (e.g. Australia only, worldwide).

Duration

Time period the licence covers. May be for specified performance dates, fixed term (1–5 years) or perpetual.

Fees & Royalties

One-off licence fee, per-performance royalty, or percentage of ticket sales. Varies by publisher and use.

Credit Requirements

How the original composer/publisher must be credited in programmes, scores and marketing materials.

Restrictions

Prohibitions on altering the arrangement further, sub-licensing, or using it beyond the agreed scope.

KEY CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS

Important: A licence to arrange is separate from a licence to perform. You may need both or more.

EG: A performance licence is typically handled by the licensing agent (e.g. Origin Theatrical, MTI), while the arrangement licence comes from the print music publisher.

A **Synchronisation** licence may be required for using copyright music with video/film. Licences handled direct with the publisher. <https://www.apraamcos.com.au/music-licences/select-a-licence/synchronisation>

A **Dramatic Context** licence may be required when using music of copyright music in a theatrical performance – eg, in plays, ballets and shows with storylines. Some licences can be handled by APRA-AMCOS, others direct with the publisher. <https://www.apraamcos.com.au/music-licences/select-a-licence/theatrical>

Before Signing, Verify:

- The licence covers all intended uses (performance, recording, printing)
- Territory and duration match your production timeline
- You understand the royalty structure and any payment schedule
- Credit obligations are clear and achievable
- The licence specifies whether the arranger retains any rights to the arrangement

COMMISSIONING ARRANGERS & COMPOSERS

Expectations & Requirements

Clear Brief

Provide instrumentation, duration, style and any specific requirements upfront.

Timeline & Milestones

Agree on delivery dates for drafts, revisions and final score. Allow time for part extraction and proofreading.

Fee Structure

Commissioning fees vary. Agree whether payment is flat fee, per minute of music, or milestone-based.

Ownership & Rights

Clarify who owns the arrangement. If it is an arrangement of a copyrighted work, the licence terms govern this. Copyright owners or their agents typically request the PDF and sometimes also the music software file used to create the arrangement – include this in the commissioning contract.

LICENCE OBLIGATIONS & FORMATTING STANDARDS

Arranger's Licence Obligations

- Comply strictly with the scope of the licence agreement
- Include all required copyright notices and credits on every copy
- Do not alter the work beyond what is permitted
- Produce only the agreed number of copies
- Do not sub-license or share the arrangement without permission
- Reapply for an arrangement licence if performing the arrangement again after the expiry date

Typesetting & Formatting

- Score staff size: 5.8–7.5 mm (depending on instrumentation and density)
- Parts staff size: 7.0–8.0 mm for legibility at music stand distance
- A4 or B4 portrait for scores and parts
- Margins: 10 mm top/bottom, 12 mm left/right minimum
- Page turns: plan rests or repeated material at turn points
- Rehearsal marks and bar numbers clearly positioned
- Professional engraving software (Sibelius, Dorico, MuseScore)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Always secure the correct licence before arranging, performing or distributing copyrighted music
- Use APRA AMCOS, publisher websites and printed scores to trace copyright ownership
- When commissioning arrangers, define scope, timeline, fees and licence obligations clearly
- Professional formatting (staff sizes, page turns, margins) ensures your materials are performance-ready

Questions? Let's discuss.