

# LA MAMA APRA INFORMATION PACK



La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama is financially assisted by Creative Victoria (Creative Enterprises Program), and the City of Melbourne (Arts and Creative Partnership Program).

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community. Thank you!

La Mama HQ 205 Faraday Street Carlton VIC 3053

La Mama Courthouse 349 Drummond Street Carlton VIC 3053

Office Hours: Weekdays 11am - 4pm

Box Office opens 4pm on performance nights, 12pm for Playreadings and 2pm Sundays

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Ticketing: [ticketing@lamama.com.au](mailto:ticketing@lamama.com.au)

Website [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)



## Permission To Use Music In Your Production

When presenting a show, whether live or as part of our 'on demand' or 'live stream' offerings, you must have permission to play the music you choose. (Note that this does not apply to pre- and post- show 'house' music, which is covered by La Mama's licencing agreement.)

It will be the responsibility of each production to gain the appropriate permissions for each piece of music used before opening the show. La Mama may, at any time, request proof of permission.

Licencing and permission comes in several forms.

### Original Music

By far, the preferred option would be to use original music, composed or created specifically for your show. In this way, you know you have the permission of the creator and you can pay them up front for the work or as part of a profit-share arrangement. This option avoids lengthy licencing discussions with APRA.

### Royalty Free Music

As a second option, you could use royalty free music. Depending on the piece/s you choose, you may have to pay a small fee, but again, this avoids having to go through APRA. You may also still require a licence but this will depend on the piece you choose. Always read the licencing information and credit the artist.

You could try [HERE](#) or [HERE](#) for further information and resources.

### Out-of-copyright

In 2023, any music published before 1927 is considered out-of-copyright or in the 'public domain'. You would still apply to APRA, because the licence may depend on the version or recording, but they will likely reply with an exemption to say you can use it without a licence. Examples would be classical music, hymns or traditional songs.

## APRA/AMCOS

The final and least desirable option (simply for the length of time it takes and the complexity) is to use commercially licenced songs (i.e. something that has been on the radio or Spotify in the last hundred years)

When applying to APRA there are four possible results:

- 1 APRA/AMCOS will charge a flat fee (usually \$99) for however many pieces of music you have applied for, as long as they have the rights to the music.
- 2 APRA/AMCOS own a portion of the song or songs you wish to use and will charge their fee and also require you to contact the other publisher/s involved directly. These publishers will then also charge you a fee (which varies between publishers)
- 3 APRA/AMCOS do not have the rights to the piece you've chosen. From here, you either choose a new piece of music and go through the process again or you go directly to the publisher (for whom APRA/AMCOS will usually give you the details)
- 4 APRA/AMCOS will let you know that the piece of music is not licensable, in which case you cannot use it and must choose another piece of music.

When choosing to go down the APRA/AMCOS route, there are certain publishers that are more likely to give permission for their music to be used. You can use the APRA/AMCOS search feature to check the publisher of each work before applying.

Use the [Song Catalogue Search](#) to find the publisher of a piece of music.

The publishers most likely to offer permission through APRA are:

- Sony
- PRS
- Warner Chappell
- Kobalt
- EMI
- BMG

Please note that this is not a hard and fast rule. Publishers may have certain songs or artists that they do not give permission for. A more comprehensive guide can be found [here](#). Note though, APRA adjusts this list occasionally.

This is a list of publishers who will always require you to contact them directly to use their music:

- Bluewater Music Australia
- Downtown Music Anz
- Fable Music
- Hal Leonard
- Hillsong Music Publishing Australia
- Hillsong International
- Origin Theatrical
- Universal Music Publishing

And this is a list of artists that are 'restricted'. Permission will not be given to use songs by these artists:

- David Lee Roth
- Greenday
- Guns N Roses
- James Brown
- Jerry Herman
- John Williams
- Korn
- Led Zeppelin
- Lin-Manuel Miranda
- Madonna
- Rodney Temperton
- Rob Zombie
- Sex Pistols
- Talking Heads
- The Eagles
- Van Halen
- Van Morrison
- Wicked the Musical – All Songs

## Online offerings

When you want to stream or offer your show online, the process becomes even more complex as APRA/AMCOS does not give permission for online offerings (even if they have given permission for a piece in a theatrical context). In this case, you must go directly to the publisher of each piece of music used, gain permission (if available) and pay a separate fee for each application/publisher/piece. Again, the responsibility for gaining the required permission lies with the production and La Mama will ask to see proof of this permission before making your work available online.

As you can see, licencing music is complex and time consuming, which is why the first three options listed above are far more desirable.