

Music Clearances: Special Considerations

From time to time, productions will encounter unique situations with respect to music. To assist with the music clearance process, some key points are flagged here:

- **Spoken song lyrics:**
 - Spoken lyrics may require clearance from the music publisher or other applicable rights holder.
- **Public Domain Status:**
 - If relying on the public domain status of a song for use in the production, please note that some songs that are thought to be in the public domain are not actually in the public domain, or are not in the public domain worldwide. And while a composition may be in the public domain, protected arrangements and recordings are not.
- **Recording artists appearing on-camera:**
 - Additional waivers, approvals, fees, and clearances may be required from a record company for a signed recording artist appearing and singing on camera. This varies for each artist and is case-specific. Additional time will be needed to negotiate a record company waiver and the waiver must be obtained before the artist renders services. Please let your Production Counsel and/or music counsel know if you plan on using any recording artists on camera.
- **Minors:**
 - Engagement of minors to write, record or perform music may require special handling and additional forms/approvals are required. Please let your Production Counsel and/or music counsel know if you plan on engaging any minors.
- **Conflicts of Interest:**
 - A composer's or music supervisor's primary interest must always be to serve the best interests of the production both creatively and commercially. With that said, they should not recommend, place or cause the placement of any pre-existing music that they have any financial or other interest in or own or control in any way (e.g., from their own music library or any material from which they receive any financial or other benefit) without disclosing and discussing such music with YouTube Production and YouTube Legal first and getting approval in advance from both.
- **Music Cue Sheets:**
 - Complete and accurate cue sheets are required for each production. These are fairly standard, please use this [template](#) that includes all of the information YTO requires.