

“The United States Copyright Office is undertaking a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing methods of licensing music.”

Dear Copyright Office,

The only type of music licensing that seems to work fairly effectively is mechanical licenses as administered by the Harry Fox Agency.

LACK OF RESPONSE is our largest problem for any other use of music.

So many requests to copyright holders (often publishers who act as administrators) go unanswered. We spend considerable time submitting requests, tracking those requests, and then following up at appropriate intervals (every three months or so) to see if we can get a response. It has never ceased to amaze us that copyright owners do not seem interested in possibly earning royalty income. We don't even mind if the answer is "no," we just need an answer so we know how to proceed. An unanswered request for a print, synchronization, or digital license can leave us in limbo for months and years.

We surmise that they ignore us because we are not a multi-billion dollar industry. We assume copyright holders and administrators do not/cannot hire enough people to answer all of the requests, big and small. So, with limited resources on their end, only the big requests are handled, and everyone else is left dangling. Possibly rights holders would prefer a more effective model for licensing, to help them earn all of their potential licensing income? I know we would appreciate improvements in licensing methods to save time, and therefore money, and so we could proceed with creative, inspiring, and educational projects with confidence.

Respectfully submitted,  
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