

NCB offices in the Nordic and Baltic countries

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Nordisk Copyright Bureau

NCB – clearing music recording rights

WHO OWNS THE RIGHTS IN MUSIC AND LYRICS?

Copyright law assigns the copyright in a piece of new music to the person who writes it.

The rights in music and lyrics are thus owned by the **AUTHOR** = composer and lyricist (the one who writes the words). He alone can decide if and how his music can be used – and by whom. Consequently, his permission is required whenever someone else wants to record the music onto e.g. a CD.

Music that falls within the scope of existing copyright law is called **PROTECTED MUSIC OF COPYRIGHT MUSIC**.

WHO ELSE CAN OWN RIGHTS IN MUSIC?

The author may choose to assign or sell part of

his recording rights to others – in most cases it will be to a music publisher.

The rights may also be inherited by the author's heirs as these rights enjoy copyright protection until 70 years after the author's death.

The authors and those who have acquired or inherited the rights are jointly referred to as **RIGHTS OWNERS**.

NCB ACTS AS A SERVICE INTERMEDIARY

The licence granted by the rights owners for the use of their music e.g. on a CD or in film and video productions – as well as payment by the users for the recording and the making of copies – is administered by NCB.

This licensing service makes things easier for those who write music – as well as for those who want to use the music.



Did you know...

– that NCB is the oldest music copyright society in the Nordic/Baltic countries

Nordisk Copyright Bureau

To cover administration costs NCB deducts a commission before distributing royalties to the rights owners. If there are no royalties due to a rights owner, no commission is charged.

WHO OWNS NCB?

NCB is a non-profit society owned by the Nordic authors' rights societies – KODA (Denmark), STEF (Iceland), STIM (Sweden), TEOSTO (Finland) and TONO (Norway).

NCB has cooperation agreements with the Baltic societies: AKKA/LAA (Latvia), EAÜ (Estonia) og LATGA-A (Lithuania). These societies are at present non-voting member of NCB's board, but negotiations for full membership are ongoing.

DIVISION OF WORK

The national authors' rights societies administer the rights in connection with music being played or performed in public – the so-called PERFORMING RIGHTS.

In order to ensure a more cost-effective and swift administration the national societies in the Nordic and Baltic countries have »re-assigned« the administration of recording rights to NCB – the so-called MECHANICAL RIGHTS.

The rights involved in online distribution of music – such as streaming/downloads from the Internet and downloads of mobile phone ring tones via SMS – are jointly administered by NCB and the national societies.

NCB's STRUCTURE

NCB's head office is in Copenhagen (Denmark) and there is a network of branch offices in all Nordic and Baltic capitals.

Ther various local branch offices handle mainly local producers and deal with queries and complaints from local rights owners.

NCB's head office deals with Nordic and Baltic producers who have standing agreements (so-called standard contracts), queries and complanits from Danish rights owners and the processing of royalties received from NCB societies outside the Nordic/Baltic area. However, for practical reasons the actual division of work may vary from one country to another.

Registration of membership and works documentation are handled by the national rights societies..

NCB's General Assembly is composed of delegates from the Nordic and Baltic authors'

rights societies. The General Assembly elects NCB's Board of Directors which is composed of authors, music publishers and the managing directors of the five Nordic societies.

ANTI-PIRACY ACTIVITIES

On behalf of rights owners NCB uses continuously resources to put a stop to the activities of companies and individuals who produce, distribute and trade in illegal CD's and other music products.

NCB has an extensive and aim-directed collaboration in this field with national authorities and the music industry in order to combat music piracy. Our energy is primarily focused on NCB's administration areas, but we also take an active part on an international level in cooperation with other music rights societies.

glossary of terms

AUTHOR

The person who has written/created a new piece of music and/or new lyrics (words).

COPYRIGHT MUSIC or PROTECTED MUSIC

Music protected according to existing copyright law – the current duration of copyright is life of the author plus 70 years.

MECHANICAL RIGHTS

The rights involved in the recording, the making of copies and the subsequent distribution of music – on media such a CD, films, video, DVD (and other audio and audio-visual media) as well as online distribution of music. In the Nordic and Baltic countries NCB administers these right on behalf of the rights owners.

PERFORMING RIGHTS

The rights to publicly perform or communicate music – it may be in the form of concerts, play back in discos, radio/TV broadcasting etc. The relevant organisations administering these rights in the Nordic and Baltic countries are mentioned under the heading of "Who owns NCB?"

RIGHTS OWNERS

The authors (original creators) and those who have acquired (typically music publishers) or inherited the rights.