

# Finance Committee Report for October 15, 2017

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There was not a meeting of the Finance Committee since last month.

Below is information about music licensing for the Board to be aware. Information obtained from GALA and Tresona

- Purchase of Music gives individual the right to privately as individuals or as group enjoy the use of the music. A copy must be purchased for each member. The chorus may not “share” music with other groups. The music may not be photocopied to create additional copies for members.
- Performance rights are separate from music purchase.
  - ASCAP, BMI and SESAC are the performance rights organizations that collect money to pay the publishers and rights holders for the privilege or license to perform their musical compositions in public.
  - As a small organization our Fees have always fallen beneath the minimum annual fee, roughly \$250 per organization for BMI, ASCAP. SESAC minimum is \$77.50
  - We are current with BMI
  - Application is in process with ASCAP
  - It doesn't appear that we have performed any SESAC songs this year or in the past. Steve is doing further investigation with this.
- GRAND RIGHTS – This refers to permissions needed to perform an opera, play or musical. Grand rights may be necessary for any part of a musical productions. Generally exempt for traditional choirs performing without choreography or costuming, if performance rights are covered by ASCP, BMI or SESAC.
  - MTI and Imagem are the two largest grantors of grand rights.
- Custom arranging licenses - Required to custom arrange music.
  - Tresona handles the largest volume of publishers.
- Synch licensing – Whenever one is going to synchronizing music with a moving image (performance video, a music video, a slide video or movie) and one is going to make duplications of the resultant video or movie, one must acquire a synchronization license from the publisher or rights holder of the music compositions used to make those duplications.
  - It appears that we can record our concerts. However we cannot duplicate the recording without synch licensing rights.
  - The purpose of the duplications doesn't matter.
  - Duplication is defined as any tangible copy. (file in email, youtube or facebook upload, or physical copies)
  - Making copies for members or other choruses would definitely require licensing rights.
  - You tube upload may be covered as you tube covers licensing costs. However this was not researched again and is based on the last research done by the board over a year ago.
  - Posting video directly to our website would definitely require licensing rights.
  - Tresona covers some songs, others would need directly contact publisher or rights holder
  - Three songs from our winter concert are covered by Tresona. \$105 is the starting price per song.
- Mechanical licensing – This is the licensing required for sound recordings.
  - Inexpensive – about \$.10 per duplicated recording
  - For the most part compulsory to grant. If a piece has been previously recorded, the rights holder must grant mechanical license to anyone requesting. Exception is anything that has GRAND RIGHTS.
  - The Harry Fox Agency and its interface, Songfile, handles all major publishers. Tresona will directly deal with HFA for any publishers it covers.

With regards to the questions raised at the last board meeting:

1. Sharing a copy of the recording of the winter concert from last year.

We do not have the rights to share any part of that recording, except any songs which might be out of copyright. We would need a synch license for each song that we share. Not My Father's Son is covered by Tresona. The base fee is \$105 and approval is needed.

2. DVD/video file copies for members

The purpose of the copies doesn't matter. We will need to obtain synch licenses for all songs on the recording. They start at \$105, per song on Tresona. The other publishers would need to be contacted directly to obtain rights, which they are not required to grant.

3. Audio Recordings

Mechanical rights for making audio recordings are reasonable easy to obtain and reasonably inexpensive. Most songs are around \$0.10 per recording. The only songs, which might need specific permission from rights holders might be those associated with a musical theater or opera production. (e.g Not My Father's Son would need permission from the right's holder)

Respectfully submitted to the board by Steven Creps, HGMC Treasurer, on October 15, 2017.