Search Instructions – Section I

BMI/ASCAP/SESAC Music Licensing Coverage

Due Date: To Accompany Talent Music Reservation Form

How to search BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.)

- go to http://www.bmi.com/search
- enter music selection in "BMI Repertoire" search box

How to search ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)

- go to www.ASCAP.com
- click on "ACE Repertory" to search

How to search SESAC (Performing Rights Organization)

- go to www.SESAC.com
- click on "Repertory" from top menu
- click on "continue on Search Repertory"

It is usually best to begin your search by title. Once the title comes up then match the writer(s). Be sure the title and the writer(s) match the song you plan to use.

How much does it cost to use a song?

- Licensing fees depend on many things—including, but not limited to the fame of the song, the popularity of the performer, the way the song is used in production and the production media format. Permission and the setting of fees are discretionary with the publisher and can only be obtained by MAO's production company. **MAO has an agreement to use only music covered by the above licensors, and the appropriate printout must be received with the submission of the Talent Music Reservation Form.**
- Even if you know the writer, performer or their management, they do not always control their own music and their approval may be invalid.

The music I want to use in my talent act is so old I think it's in the public domain (also called PD).

- Do not assume that your music selection is classified Public Domain (PD) because it was published in 1922 or earlier. Whether a song is PD depends on MANY things—laws vary depending on WHEN the piece was created, as well as WHERE your talent act will be exhibited.
- Sometimes PD pieces are newly arranged and we also need to clear the publishing rights for any new arrangements.