

# COSPLAY SKIT AUDIO

Considering  
Copyrighted Sources



 **BIGIMOTIK**

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# Copyright Terms

Disclaimer: I am not a legal expert. This does not constitute as legal advice. Always do your own research and seek legal counsel if necessary.

The Oxford Language Dictionary defines **Copyright** as:

*the exclusive legal right, given to an originator or an assignee to print, publish, perform, film, or record literary, artistic, or musical material, and to authorize others to do the same*

Copyright on works can expire. Those assets are in the **public domain**.

Copyrighted material can often be **licensed** for specific uses such as public performance, videos, or streaming.

A copyright owner may choose to make their work **royalty free**, which means others can licensed or use their work without paying.

Sometimes, the copyright owner may require **attribution** or credit - often in lieu of a royalty or license fee.

**Fair use** is the ability to use copyrighted material in small quantities, if it meets specific criteria such as for criticism, reporting, or academia. Parodies can be fair use.

# What to look out for

A vast majority of video, image, or music content you encounter has a copyright owned by *someone*.

If you use a copyrighted material, the owner can issue a copyright strike, take-down request, or a cease-and-desist order.

But! There are ways to use copyrighted material properly:

- If you purchase a license, check the terms to make sure your use case applies including live performance, streaming, video recordings etc.
- If the copyright owner gives you permission to use their media royalty-free, confirm whether they require you to attribute them.
- If you are making a parody, such as a song parody, be aware that any instrumental/karaoke tracks may be copyrighted AND just because you're doing a parody doesn't necessarily mean it would qualify under fair use
- If you use material in the public domain - be careful! Recent copies of public domain content may themselves be copyrighted:

Piece of music by Mozart is in the public domain.

A 2004 recording of a piece of music by Mozart is NOT in the public domain.

Sheet music of a piece of music by Mozart MAY be in the public domain depending on when it was last published.

# Ask Your Coordinator!

## Contest Examples I've Encountered

- Rules stated no copyrighted material, but in practice the contest accepted royalty free without attribution.
- Copyrighted material was allowed provided it was appropriately licensed either by the convention or the contestant.
- Contest did not specify whether copyrighted material was allowed, but the con was not intending to stream the contest or make recordings public.

Copyright is tricky.

Coordinators and cons need to get licenses to play copyright content for live performance, streaming, or video recordings - which can be cost prohibitive.

If they don't permit copyright material, they're accountable for checking all the media to make sure it complies.

Be kind to your coordinator. The decision around copyrighted material might not be up to them!