



Fact Sheet



**CCLI**®

Exclusive Rights of a  
Songwriter: **The Big 6**



## Fact Sheet

# Exclusive Rights of a Songwriter: **The Big 6**

In “Copyright: The Core Issue,” we talked about the concept of “Intellectual Property.” Since CCLI deals primarily with songwriters and song publishers, let’s just focus on songs for now.

The U.S. Copyright Law gives songwriters and song owners 6 exclusive rights over their songs. Here they are:



### **REPRODUCTION.**

The right to reproduce lyrics, chord charts, notated sheet music, audio and video recordings of songs.



### **DISPLAY.**

The display of song lyrics or sheet music.



### **DERIVATE WORKS.**

The right to create alternate versions, based on the original work.



### **PERFORMANCE.**

The right to perform a song. (Yes, performance is actually an exclusive right of a song owner!)



### **DISTRIBUTION.**

The right to distribute lyrics, sheet music in any form, or recordings of a song.



### **DIGITAL SOUND RECORDINGS.**

All the other exclusive rights cover audio and video recordings of songs, but this exclusive right pertains specifically to digital recordings, used on the internet and in streaming services.

There are a number of limitations and exemptions to these 6 exclusive rights. And for worship within a church service, please refer to our 2-Minute Rundown on “The Religious Service Exemption.”