

## What is "Public Domain"?

- Public Domain is any intellectual property (creative works of music, lyrics, books, poetry, or art) which legally has no owner.
- Public Domain applies where copyright protection has expired or the creator has formally given his work to the public.
- Any song or musical work published before 1923 is in the Public Domain in the USA and does not fall under copyright laws.
- Any song or musical work published after 1923 is NOT in the Public Domain and falls under copyright laws in the USA.

## What Is Allowed and What Is Not?

### Allowed:

Music sung or played from purchased sheet music.

Music published before 1923 that is designated as Public Domain.

Music not in Public Domain if you get written permission from the composer/writer or purchase appropriate licenses for using the copyrighted

material.

A parody: Your own words put to the tune of a Public Domain tune, to make a silly song.

### Not Allowed:

Copies of purchased sheet music

Music published after 1923 that is not designated as Public Domain by the composer.

Any published music used without the written consent of the composer.

Purchased, recorded music from

CD's or mp3s. These are under copyright laws meant for personal use and not public use. A chapter meeting is considered a public setting. (A license would be required to use them in a meeting.)

**WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T USE IT!**