As musicians and educators, it is so important that we support others in the arts by respecting their work, and that we teach our students to do so. Copyright allows the artist the right to control their creation—their intellectual property—and to benefit from its use. This certainly encourages creators and inventors to develop new ideas, publications, and products—a benefit to the public.

Sometimes the “rules” can be difficult to understand. It can be challenging to sort out rumors from the facts. Part of it stems from the fact that copyright law can have gray areas much like tax law. Another part of it can be that the legal language appears daunting.

This flyer and an Alfred Music publication, Copyright Handbook for Music Educators and Directors, help bridge the gap between fact and rumor as well as, where possible, offer guidelines to the “rules.” Neither intends to provide legal advice. They are simply resources for you to acquire more information concerning U.S. copyright law. The brief format of both will allow you to learn more about copyright in a fairly short amount of time.

If you are ever uncertain, consult an attorney who specializes in intellectual property.

Copyright has had a profound and positive impact on culture in the United States. We hope you will join us in this effort!*

Please visit the following websites to learn more:
mpa.org | copyright.gov | copyrighthandbookonline.com

*This information is a service of Alfred Music

Copyright infringement can result in both civil and criminal action. The information on this flyer is not intended as legal advice.