

# Basics of Copyright Law and the Church



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CHRISTIAN COPYRIGHT SOLUTIONS

# ▶ Agenda

▶ **What is Copyright?**

▶ **Religious Service Exemption**

▶ **Common Activities in Churches**

# ▶ What is Copyright?

- Exclusive right given to creators of original music
  - Reproduction
  - Display
  - Performance
  - Distribution
  - Derivations
- Exists to “promote the progress of the useful arts”

# ▶ How Does Copyright Affect the Church?

▶ Churches are increasingly using copyrighted material

▶ Churches are not exempt

## ▶ The Religious Service Exemption

*“the following are not infringements of copyright:*

*...performance of a nondramatic literary or musical work or of a dramatico-musical work of a religious nature, or display of a work, in the course of services at a place of worship or other religious assembly”*

**Performance of a musical work in services is permitted**

**Displaying a work (lyrics) in services is permitted**

## ▶ Myths About the RSE

- All music played at church functions is exempt
- Performing or playing secular music requires separate licensing
- Streaming music from services is exempt
- Broadcasting services on TV or Radio is exempt
- Posting services to YouTube and Facebook is exempt

# ▶ Blanket Licenses vs Individual Licenses

- Blanket licenses allow churches to use a catalog of copyrighted works for one fee
- Individual licensing requires contacting the owner for each work

# ▶ **Reproduction**

- Making physical and digital copies of lyrics
- Printing songs, hymns and lyrics in bulletins, programs, liturgies and song sheets
- Recording worship services
- Creating custom arrangements
- Translating songs into other languages

▶ **Church Copyright License**



## ► Performance Definition

*“in a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered”*

# ▶ Performance

▶ **ASCAP**

▶ **BMI**

▶ **SESAC**



# ► Performance

- Cafés and bookstores
- Concerts
- On-hold music
- Retreats
- Picnics and barbecues
- Graduations and award ceremonies
- Dance and exercises classes
- Sporting events
- Fundraisers
- Conferences and seminars
- Vacation Bible School and camps
- Movie nights



# ▶ Streaming

▶ **Live Stream**

▶ **On Demand**

▶ **Covers same 28 million songs as PERFORMmusic License**



# ▶ Streaming

▶ Live Stream

▶ On Demand

▶ Post to Third-Party Platforms

▶ Podcasts

▶ Church Streaming License



# ▶ Streaming Sound Recordings

▶ Master Recordings

▶ Multi Tracks or Stems

▶ Accompaniment Tracks

▶ Streaming Plus License

# ▶ Streaming - Factors to Consider

▶ **Where Are You Streaming?**

▶ **What Types of Events?**

▶ **What Music or Catalogs of Music?**

▶ **Are You Including Master Recordings?**



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Home

Popular Songs

CCLI Top 100®

Liturg

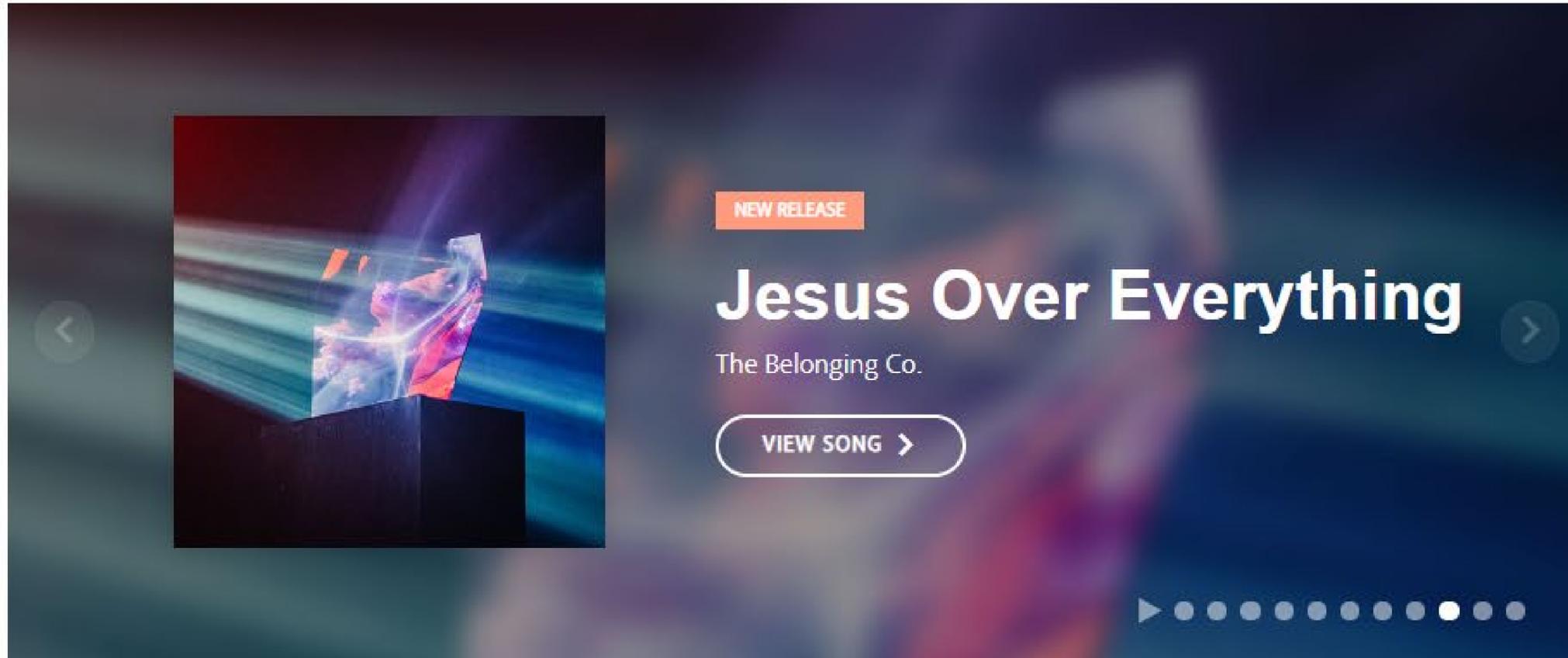
Public Domain Songs

Themes

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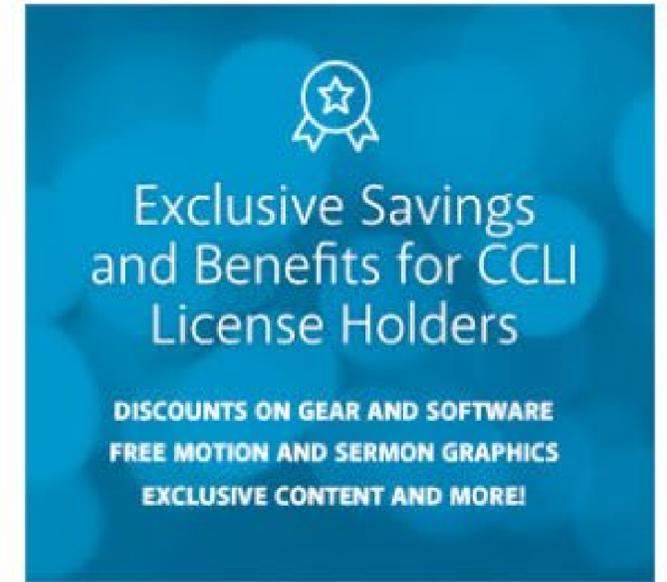


**NEW RELEASE**

# Jesus Over Everything

The Belonging Co.

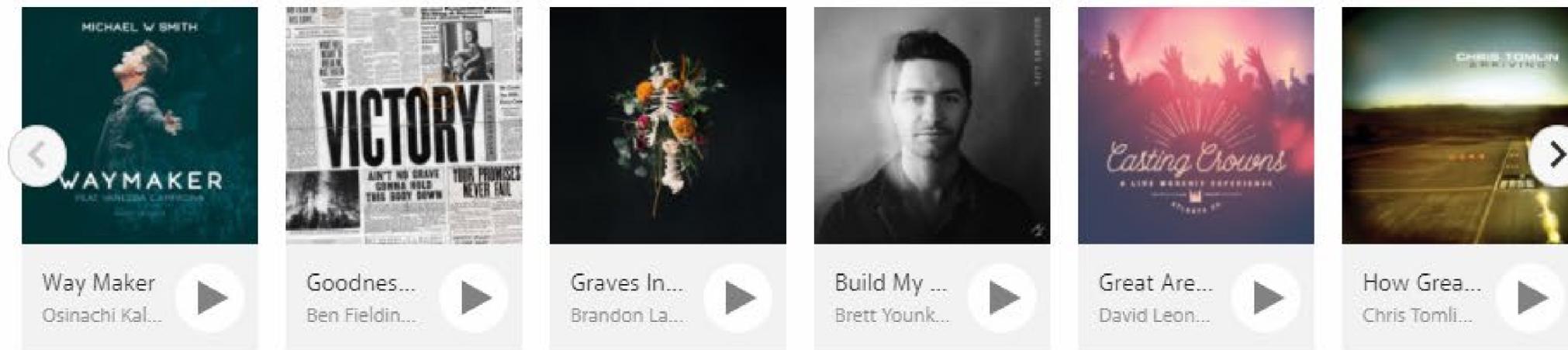
[VIEW SONG >](#)



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DISCOUNTS ON GEAR AND SOFTWARE  
FREE MOTION AND SERMON GRAPHICS  
EXCLUSIVE CONTENT AND MORE!

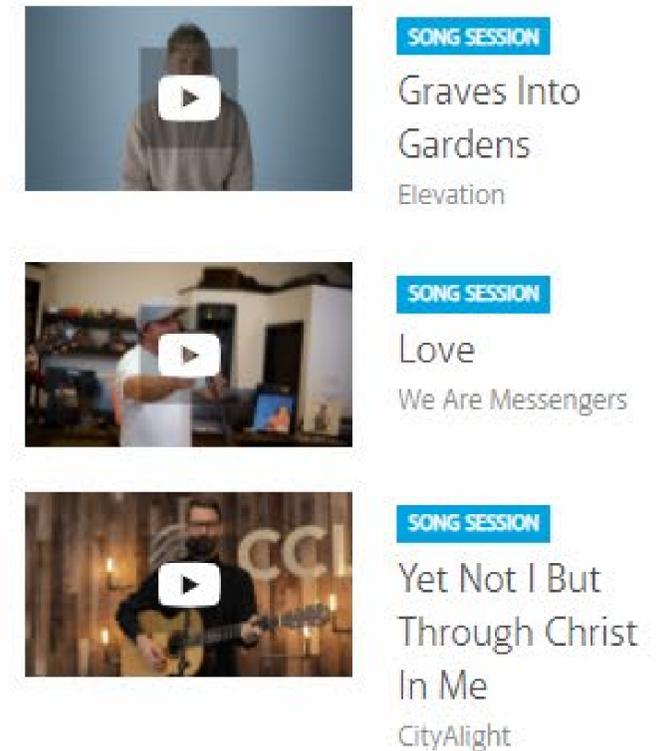
## Popular Songs



- Way Maker - Michael W. Smith
- Goodness - Ben Fieldin
- Graves Into Gardens - Brandon La...
- Build My ... - Brett Younk...
- Great Are... - David Leon...
- How Grea... - Chris Tomli...

[MORE POPULAR SONGS >](#)

## CCLI on YouTube



- SONG SESSION**  
Graves Into Gardens  
Elevation
- SONG SESSION**  
Love  
We Are Messengers
- SONG SESSION**  
Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me  
CityAlight

## CCLI Top Songs®

# ► Sheet Music

## Way Maker

### Verse 1

You are here moving in our midst  
 I worship You I worship You  
 You are here working in this place  
 I worship You I worship You

### Chorus

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper  
 Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

### Verse 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart  
 I worship You I worship You  
 You are here healing ev'ry heart  
 I worship You I worship You

### Verse 3

You are here turning lives a - round  
 I worship You I worship You  
 You are here mending ev'ry heart  
 I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

### Tag

That is who You are  
 That is who You are

## Way Maker

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu  
 (based on the recording by Leeland)  
 Key - E | Tempo - 68 | Time - 4/4

### VERSE 1

**FA** **DO**  
 You are here moving in our midst  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You I worship You  
**FA** **DO**  
 You are here working in this place  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You I worship You

### CHORUS

**FA** **DO**  
 (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

### VERSE 2

**SO** **FA** **DO**  
 You are here touching ev'ry heart  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You I worship You  
**FA** **DO**  
 You are here healing ev'ry heart  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You I worship You

### VERSE 3

**FA** **DO**  
 You are here turning lives a - round  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You I worship You  
**FA** **DO**  
 You are here mending ev'ry heart  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>** **LAm**  
 I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

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### TAG 1A

**FA**  
 That is who You are  
**SO**  
 That is who You are

### BRIDGE

**FA**  
 Even when I don't  
**DO**  
 Even when I don't  
**SO<sup>SUS</sup>**  
 You never stop  
**LAm**  
 You never stop

### INSTRUMENTAL

||: **FA**<sup>2</sup> | **DO** | **SO**

### TAG 1B

**FA**<sup>2</sup>  
 That is who You are  
**SO**(4)  
 That is who You are  
**LAm**<sup>7</sup>  
 That is who You are

## Way Maker

(based on the recording by Leeland)

♩=68

**VERSE 1**  
 A E

1. You are here, mov-ing in our mi

3 **B<sup>SUS</sup>** **C#m**

I wor - ship You, You are here,

6 **E** **B<sup>SUS</sup>**

place; I wor - ship You, I wor - ship Y

9 **C#m** **A** **E**

**CHORUS**

You are Way Mak-er, Mir - a - cle Work-er, Pron

12 **B<sup>SUS</sup>** **C#m**

my God, that is who You are. You are

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## Way Maker

(based on the recording by Leeland)

Words and Music by  
 Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

♩=68

**VERSE 1**  
 A E

1. You are here, mov-ing in our midst; I wor - ship You,

3 **B<sup>SUS</sup>** **C#m** **A**

I wor - ship You. You are here, work-ing in this

6 **E** **B<sup>SUS</sup>** **C#m**

place; I wor - ship You, I wor - ship You. I. You are here,

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## ▶ Next Steps

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- PERFORMmusic Facilities License

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A person is seen from behind, playing a keyboard on a stage. The scene is dimly lit with green and blue stage lights. The word "Questions?" is written in large white letters across the center of the image. To the left of the text are two vertical gold bars of varying lengths.

Questions?