

Can I record a karaoke track and release it?

Do I need a license?

Yes, if you plan to record a karaoke track and release it, you may need to obtain the necessary licenses to ensure you have the legal right to use the musical composition and any accompanying lyrics. Here are the key licenses you might need: **Updated Feb 2024**

1. **Mechanical License:**

- A mechanical license grants you the right to reproduce and distribute a copyrighted musical composition. This is typically required when you plan to record and release a cover version of a song. Mechanical licenses are usually obtained from the copyright holder or a music licensing agency.

2. **Synchronization License:**

- If you intend to use the karaoke track with any visual elements, such as in a music video, you may need a synchronization license. This license grants permission to synchronize the music with visuals.

3. **Public Performance License:**

- If you plan to perform the karaoke track in public, such as in a live performance or through platforms that allow public access, you may need a public performance license. This is usually obtained from a performance rights organization (PRO) like ASCAP, BMI, or SESAC.

4. **Master Use License:**

- If you are using an existing recording of the song for your karaoke track, you may need a master use license. This license grants permission to use a specific sound recording owned by the rights holder.

It's important to note that the specific licenses required can vary based on the song and its copyright status. Some songs may be covered by compulsory licensing laws, while others may require direct negotiation with the copyright holder. Additionally, using a karaoke version of a song may involve separate licensing for the underlying musical composition and the sound recording.

To ensure compliance with copyright laws and regulations, it's advisable to consult with a music licensing professional or legal expert who can guide you through the process and help you obtain the necessary licenses for your specific project.

Tony Ray Jones

Studio Owner-Producer-Musician-BMI-Songwriter

Backwoods Recording Studio

"Dream- Create - Record"

www.backwoodsrecordingstudio.com