



**SILVER
SWANS**

Silver Swans: On Screen

Shining a spotlight on our Silver Swans Licensees and
dancers

Information Pack

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

GENERAL

Content

There are no limitations on what can be shared, the duration should be between 2-3 minutes. You may choose to film class work, perform a variation or group dance choreography in any dance style.

Performers

All performers should be age 55+ and regularly attending Silver Swans classes. There is no limit on the number of performers that appear in the recording.

Music

You can use live or recorded music. Please reference the Music Guidance provide in this pack. If your music contains lyrics, these must not include any offensive material (i.e. sexist, racist or in other ways defamatory).

FILMING GUIDELINES

- Ideally videos should be recorded from the front and in one take from start to finish, without any editing. If you elect to use multiple cameras and editing you must bear in mind that the video is clear and easy to view.
- Videos should be recorded in a studio ideally, or in a large space such as church hall or sports hall.
- Videos should not exceed more than 3 minutes in duration.
- There should be little or no background noise in your recording, and no-one else apart from the dancers should appear in your video. Background noise may include external sounds in the venue or space you are using, such as building works and other interruptions.
- There should be no unnecessary objects in the background of the space e.g. bags, props etc. unless required for the performance.
- You do not need to record using professional equipment, however, it is important that the technical quality of the recording is clear, we suggest that you:
 - Shoot in HD if possible
 - Shoot landscape (wide), not portrait (tall)
 - Make sure there is sufficient lighting
 - Keep light sources in front of the subject (i.e. no shooting with a bright window in the background which will make the subject dark)
 - Use 1920 x 1080 aspect ratio if possible

- Please ensure the sound source is close to the microphone on your recording device. We suggest you do a sound check to ensure there is no feedback and that the sound is not distorted.
- Please ensure you playback your filmed group dance and check the video file before submitting.
- Please submit your footage as an MP4 file.
- Please note that the final edit of videos will be at the discretion of the RAD.

MUSIC GUIDELINES

Understanding Copyright (in the UK)

Musical compositions (including arrangements) generally fall into the public domain 70 years after the death of the last author, or 70 years after the end of the calendar year of publication if the author is unknown in the UK. Sound recordings are also protected for 70 years from the end of the calendar year of release.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

Musical Compositions

Copyright in a musical composition, including the music and lyrics, lasts for the life of the author plus 70 years. If there are multiple authors, copyright lasts until 70 years after the death of the last surviving author. If the author is unknown, copyright lasts for 70 years from the end of the calendar year of publication.

Sound Recordings

Copyright in sound recordings is generally 70 years from the end of the calendar year of release. For sound recordings made before 1963, the copyright was 50 years, but this was extended non-retroactively to 70 years in 2013.

Example: A musical composition by an author who died in 1954 would enter the public domain on January 1, 2025 (70 years after the author's death).

Recording vs. Composition

It's important to remember that a song's composition (music and lyrics) and a specific recording of that song may have different copyright terms. You might be able to freely use the musical composition but not the specific recording.

Arrangement / Adaptation

If a person arranged Mozart's work, that arrangement can be copyright-protected. If you use an arrangement by someone who died less than 70 years ago, or the arrangement was made after 1955 and the arranger is still alive or died less than 70 years ago — you need a license.

Performance (the musicians /orchestra)

A performance, e.g. by an orchestra playing Mozart, is a separate right under UK law, even though Mozart's work is itself out of copyright - for instance, his Symphony No. 40, recorded in 1788. UK copyright law gives performers 50 years of protection from the end of the year of the performance (extended to 70 years if it's also published or released within that time).

Understanding Copyright-Free and Public Domain Music (more globally)

Copyright-free

This music is in the **public domain**, meaning it's not protected by copyright laws. It's either never been copyrighted, the copyright has expired, or the creator deliberately placed it in the public domain. You can use the score of the music freely for any purpose without needing a license or permission.

Public Domain Music

This is music whose copyright has expired, been forfeited, or is inapplicable. It can be freely used, arranged, and performed without permission or payment.

Royalty-free

This music is still copyrighted, meaning the original creator retains ownership. However, you can acquire a license to use it without paying royalties for each use. A royalty is a payment made to the copyright holder whenever their work is used, and royalty-free music avoids this recurring payment. You typically pay a one-time fee for the license, and then you're free to use the music as many times as the license allows.

Creative Commons [CC] and Free Licenses

Music released by the creator under a license that allows free use, often with conditions (e.g. attribution, non-commercial use).

Common Criteria for Public Domain Music

When using someone else's recording of classical music always check the track rights (these are called the master rights) that relate to the actual recorded performance, owned by record labels or independent artists. Even though the music recorded is out of copyright, a distributed track could be owned by a record label, and it would need to be licenced from the artist/label - this is what PRS mostly covers in the UK.

- **Music recordings**
While sheet music may be in the public domain, a specific recording might still be copyrighted. Look for recordings also labelled as public domain or CC0 (no rights reserved).
- **Check both composition and recording**
Always verify that both are cleared for use (see previous page for further information).

Searching works on PRS for Music

<https://www.prsformusic.com/works/searching-works>

Once logged in, you can search for any musical work by title, writer, publisher, tune code, or even CAE/IPI membership number. The results detail all interested parties—the writers, publishers.

How to use it:

1. Create or log in to your PRS online account.
2. Navigate to **Works → Searching works** via the top menu.
3. Enter your search terms (e.g., song title or writer name).
4. View the work's details to identify the rights-holders and their respective publishing companies.

This tool lets you pinpoint **exactly who to contact** for licensing permissions, simplifying sync, sampling, or cover requests.

Recommended Resources / Music Libraries

- IMSLP (International Music Score Library Project) <https://imslp.org>
- Musopen <https://musopen.org> offers free sheet music, recordings, and educational materials.
- Library of Congress Jukebox <https://www.loc.gov/jukebox/> allows access to historical American recordings in the public domain.
- Epidemic Sound <https://www.epidemicsound.com> (subscription site £9.99 per month)
- Premium Beat <https://www.premiumbeat.com/> (by Shutterstock, royalty free music – one fee)
- ccMixer – <http://ccmixter.org>
- Bensound – <https://www.bensound.com> (offers free and paid tracks; check licensing)
- Free Music Archive (FMA) <https://freemusicarchive.org> is a library of music under Creative Commons licenses. Check usage terms.

Tips for Verifying Usage Rights

- Always read the license terms of the music track.
- Look for tags like Royalty Free, CC0, Public Domain, or Creative Commons with performance rights.
- Keep records of the licenses or permission statements for audit purposes.
- Verify that the music is in the public domain in all relevant countries.

Using RAD Syllabus music (including Discovering Repertoire)

Music not subject to copyright, such as that featured in Silver Swans and Discovering Repertoire, is available for purchase as a CD or music download, from the [RAD Shop](#). Please note that the use of any music in public settings — such as performances and social media — may have different licensing implications. For further detailed information, Licensees are encouraged to refer to the additional guidance available in the [membership area](#) of the RAD website.

Additional Licensing Options

- Purchase royalty-free music if you want modern styles without risk.
- Use music composed by students or local artists who agree to waive performance rights.
- Consider commissioning custom music from a composer under a free license.

Using royalty-free music is the best way to ensure legal compliance. We hope with the tools and resources provided here that you can confidently select music that enhances your Swans experience and that will allow us to share your video as part of the Celebration.