

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHOIRS

Tel: 0870 760 7356

Reg. Charity 1014630

[www.ukchoirsassoc.co.uk](http://www.ukchoirsassoc.co.uk)

ADVICE SHEET NUMBER 803

DATE OF LAST UPDATE: 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2006

## LICENSING ACT 2003

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) enacted the Licensing Act 2003. It replaces a number of previous acts covering the licensing of people and premises to provide alcoholic drinks and/or licensed entertainment.

As far as choirs are concerned the performance of live music **is** a licensable activity.

In essence this means that choirs must ensure a license is held to cover any performance other than those in a place of worship. Licences are needed for church halls and village halls, but no fee is payable.

**Premises Licences** should be held by the owner/manager of any venue serving alcohol. If they wish to allow live entertainment the licence must stipulate this. Choirs running their own premises should ensure they have a Premises Licence which allows the performance of live music. Choirs booking premises belonging to a third party, or booked to sing by a third party, must establish that the appropriate licence is held for the premises where the performance will take place. The responsibility for obtaining such a licence lies with the owner of the premises.

**Personal Licences** are issued to individuals who are involved frequently in the supply of alcohol and/or licensable entertainment, usually in occasional or outdoor venues.

**TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES (TEN)**, blanks of which can be obtained from local authority licensing departments, need to be issued **by** performers **to** the licensing authority when the venue is not covered by a suitable Premises Licence or Personal Licence.

A fee of £21 is payable for a TEN.

A TEN is only valid for a maximum of 499 people at an event, including all performers.

A TEN is valid for 48 hours, there must be at least 24 hours before another TEN can be used, and a maximum of five TENs may be issued in any calendar year by the same person.

If you perform often at premises owned by your local authority, you are advised to approach them with a view to THEIR obtaining a Premises Licence for the venue from their own Licensing Officer. This should avoid the need to use TENs.

For any further advice please contact the NAC Music & Festivals Officer who will be pleased to assist.