

PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETY (PRS) FOR THE INFORMATION OF HIRERS

Before any performance of copyright musical works can be given in public, those responsible for the event are required to obtain the permission of the owner of the copyright of the works concerned.

Obviously, if each music user were to have to seek out separate permission for each individual work to be performed, the administrative burden would be extremely onerous. Through the PRS it is possible to obtain permission to use virtually any copyright works (the exceptions are in certain specialized areas such as 'grand rights') by applying for a licence and paying the appropriate royalties. As Helmsley Arts Centre has a licence the administration is further simplified. The hirer does not need to apply personally to PRS; the licensing arrangements will be taken care of by the Helmsley Arts Centre. However Helmsley Arts Centre needs to provide certain information to PRS in order that the appropriate fee can be assessed.

In most cases, the information required by PRS will be restricted to the frequency and general description of events that have taken place. The main exceptions to this are that:

(1) When events such as popular music concerts, classical concerts or variety shows occur, it is necessary for the box office receipts (net of VAT) to be declared, as the royalty is usually a percentage of such figures. And in the case of classical concerts, for the admission figures to be declared.

(2) For **all** live music events PRS requires a programme return form to be completed. This comprises a list of the individual works used during particular performances.

Please co-operate with Helmsley Arts Centre over the provision of this information which they are contracted to supply to PRS. Failure to do so can result in performances being unauthorized and copyrights being infringed. In such cases PRS will take action as necessary to protect its members' rights.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the PRS Concert Sales Centre on 0845 300 60 33.