

The Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization, Inc. is required to secure a general license for music used in its productions and contestants' talent performances from ASCAP and BMI. **We do not have a license through SESAC and therefore music licensed by this group cannot be performed at the Miss Vermont Scholarship Competition.** It is necessary that each contestant search the license right for their planned talent performance and provide the MVSO with documentation that the music that she will use is licensed by ASCAP or BMI.

## Search Instructions for ASCAP/ BMI Coverage

### How to search ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers)

go to [www.ASCAP.com](http://www.ASCAP.com)  
click on "ACE Database"  
click on "Search the Database"

### How to Search BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.)

go to [www.BMI.com](http://www.BMI.com)  
Click on Search, select Repertoire search, select: title, artist, publisher, Songwriter/Composer  
Enter music selection, artist, publisher or songwriter in box below, click "GO"

It is usually best to begin your search by title. Once the title comes up then match the particular artist or writer and you will have the publisher. Remember, songs written by a particular writer are not necessarily all licensed by one of the licensing organizations, so it may be necessary to search both groups to be sure you know where your song is licensed. All Songs written or produced by the same person or organization, if licensed, will all be licensed by the same entity. Licenses follow writers and producers not performers.

### How can I perform or use a song licensed by SESAC?

At this time, the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization, Inc does not support the SESAC license. Therefore, the individual contestant would have to pay the SESAC licensing fee on behalf of MVSO. SESAC is anticipated to be \$225 per event.

### The music I want to use in my production is so old I think it's in the public domain (also called PD):

Do not assume that your music selection is classified Public Domain (PD) because it was published in 1922 or earlier. Whether a song is PD depends on MANY things – laws vary depending on WHEN the piece was created, as well as WHERE your production will be exhibited. Sometimes PD pieces are newly arranged and we also need to clear the publishing rights for any new arrangements.