Music Media FAQs

Q: Would I be able to digitize and stream an audio CD or cassette I own in Blackboard for my students to listen to?

A: No. It is illegal to reformat media to enable streaming of its content. Proper licensing must be obtained if you wish to stream any form of media on a website or course management system.

Q: May I play in my class a musical piece that I own on a CD, cassette or file?

A: As long as the performance of the piece is for educational purposes and is held during class in a classroom, then such use would be permissible under fair use guidelines.

Q: May I make a copy of an audio CD or cassette to place on reserve instead of using my personal copy?

A: No. It is illegal to reproduce a commercially available recording. Either purchase an additional copy or suggest the library purchase a copy for its collection.

Q: Queuing and changing CDs or audio files to play short sections can be awkward in class. May I edit together portions of videos?

A: It depends. If you are using very brief excerpts from several different pieces and they are for a one-time use, this would probably be permissible under fair use. If you are using several segments from the same piece and/or expect to use it in subsequent semesters, then permission would need to be obtained.

Q: May an auditorium or other large space be used to play a piece of music to a class or several sections of a course?

A: Yes, so long as the presentation is not open to the public or the college community at large AND is part of the syllabus. Presentation for entertainment purposes requires permission or a license.

Q: How does the "face-to-face" instruction requirement affect the practice of placing CD’s on reserve and assigning them to students?

A: Since the instructor is not present there is much debate regarding this issue. Bentley University takes the position that students who are required to listen to music that are assigned or recommended as supplemental material for a specific course or to complete an assignment may do so.