

# RioVista-Media Music Tracks

## Public Domain and Music Copyright Information

### General Reference Information on Music Copyright Laws

Sources of original scores that are in the public domain:

- *Dover Publications*
- *Edwin F. Kalmus Publications*

A search on the Internet can locate many resources of information on copyright law, music, and the public domain.

Publishers like *Dover* and *Kalmus* cannot copyright the original compositions themselves—which is what they are actually re-producing. Copyrights on *their* publications apply specifically to certain notes, the layout, and the artwork, etc., of the score-book itself.

**Copyright Law and Music Arrangements:** Updated arrangements (created *after* 1923) of any Public Domain works are protected. An example of this is the swing version of the "*Song of India*" arranged by Tommy Dorsey (in the 1930's).

**Copyright Law and Music Performances:** Performances are also copyright. For example, there are dozens of recorded performances of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* that are all protected by copyright law. This also includes any midi-sequenced performances.

### About U.S. Copyright Law and what is "in the Public Domain"

The following applies specifically to the USA: **All music works published prior to January 1, 1923 are listed in the public domain.**

### About International Copyright Law and what is "in the Public Domain"

Most countries follow either the 50 or 70 year post-mortem law. That is, the life of the composer plus 50 or 70 years. The following countries either directly follow or in certain key ways operate within the 50 year rule:

1. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand
2. Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and China (note that India follows a 60 year rule)
3. Poland and Russia, Egypt and South Africa

Many other countries also follow the 50-year rule, with the entire list being too numerous to give here.

The only composer, whose works RioVista produces, that is still under the 70-year rule, is Serge Rachmaninoff. Any of Rachmaninoff's music works published *before 1923* are in the public domain within the USA and all of the "50-year rule" countries listed directly above (as well as a number of others not listed). RioVista has produced 2 of Rachmaninoff's pieces and these are available from our *Classics Series, Collection 3* (both were originally published before 1923).