



Authors' Rights as a Story of Technological Change

DIGITAL RIGHTS AWARENESS MODULE 1

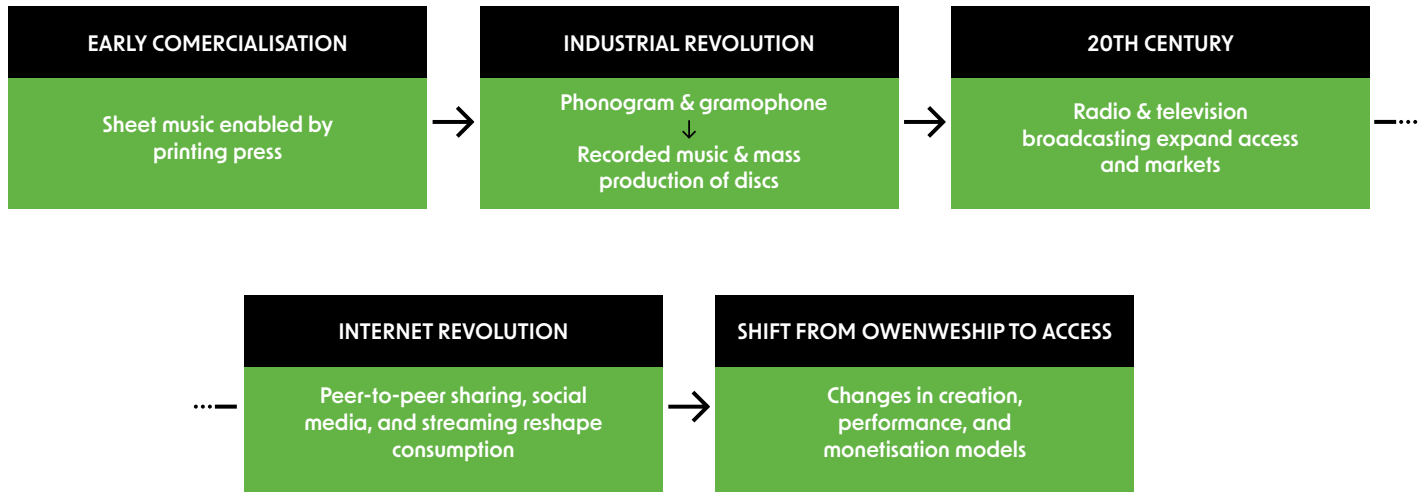
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The Evolution of Music Alongside Technological Progress



The Origins of Authors' Rights

- Emergence in 18th-century Enlightenment Europe

BASIS OF MODERN COPYRIGHT

Statute of Anne (England, 1709)

First recognition of
authors' exclusive rights

French

post-revolution concept:
authorship as expression of
individual personality
→ foundation of moral rights

**Authors' rights equal economic
indipendence plus artistic protection**

From National Laws to Global Protection

19th-century global circulation of creative works increases

Need for cross-border protection
due to territorial nature of national laws

Berne Convention (1886)

Key Milestone:
Minimum international
standards across jurisdictions

**Principal of National
Treatment**

Equal protection regardless
of author nationality

Central role of reproduction right at the time

Foundation of today's international copyright framework

The Turning Point: From Records to Streams

Recorded music historically tied to physical formats (records, tapes, CDs)

Napster & peer-to-peer sharing cause first major digital business model collapse

Loss of tangible carriers reduces control & revenues

Digital platforms re-centralise music economy (iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music, etc.)

Social media becomes a new distribution and user-generated content ecosystem (YouTube as pioneer)

New access-based business models replace ownership



Music in the Age of Algorithms

Streaming & social media dominate music discovery and consumption

Algorithms become new gatekeepers determining visibility and opportunities

Data-driven distribution introduces new inequalities in exposure and remuneration

Fair MusE research focus: impact of platforms, algorithms, and AI on fairness, diversity, and rights of creators



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