

These are **item-level statements** adapted from LC rights statements and [Creative Commons Licenses](#).

- All collections should be free to use and reuse without restriction or permission.
- One exception (Joe Smith) requires attribution.
- Some collections will also contain an “ethics” statement (AFC material).
- Also contains a brief explanation of why the collection is free to use

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# Variety Stage Sound Recordings and Motion Pictures

## Use statement

(Based on [Public domain mark](#))

This work has been identified to be in the public domain and is free to use and reuse without restriction. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. Attribution is recommended but not required:

Contains samples of "<item title>" by <contributor name(s)>. Retrieved from Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.

## Why is this free to use?

All recordings made by the companies of Thomas A. Edison between 1890 and 1929 are in the public domain because the assets of Edison Records were transferred to the National Park Service, a federal agency, in the 1950s.

Just for reference: Survey of Reissues of U.S. Recordings. Tim Brooks, 2005. Page 26:  
*One notable component of the public domain for recordings is the body of recordings made by the companies of Thomas A. Edison between 1890 and 1929. Legal title to those recordings did pass to a successor company; however, in the 1950s that company conveyed title to the U.S. government as part of an agreement with the U.S. Parks Department. Thus, Edison recordings can today be used with-out restriction. No other major company is known to have donated its rights to the public in this manner.*

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# Inventing Entertainment: The Early Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings of the Edison Companies

## Use statement

Same as "Variety Stage Sound Recordings and Motion Pictures" above

## Why is this free to use?

Same as "Variety Stage Sound Recordings and Motion Pictures" above

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## National Screening Room (*Govt films only*)

### Use statement

*Same as "Variety Stage Sound Recordings and Motion Pictures" above*

### Why is this free to use?

Citizen DJ provides a subset of films from the National Screening Room that were identified to have been created by the U.S. government, thus are in the public domain.

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## Free Music Archive (*PD only*)

(Based on [Public domain dedication](#))

### Use statement

This work has been dedicated to the public domain by its creator, thus is free to use and reuse without restriction. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. Attribution is recommended but not required:

Contains samples of "<*item title*>" by <*contributor name(s)*>. Retrieved from the Free Music Archive archived website at the Library of Congress, Web Archives Division.

### Why is this free to use?

Most music and recordings in the Free Music Archive are *not* in the public domain. However, Citizen DJ provides a subset of recordings from the Free Music Archive that were published under a [Public domain dedication](#) license by their creators, thus are in the public domain.

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## Joe Smith

### Use statement

This sound recording is free to use and reuse with proper attribution to the copyright owner, Joe Smith. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission, **as long as you clearly give proper attribution:**

Contains samples of "<item title>" by <interviewee name> and Joe Smith. Retrieved from the Joe Smith Collection at the Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

### Why is this free to use?

Joe Smith, the copyright holder of this collection, donated the recordings to the Library of Congress and agreed to make the material free to use and reuse with proper attribution. Citizen DJ excluded interviews that contained performances of songs that were still in copyright.

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## American English Dialect Recordings: The Center for Applied Linguistics Collection

### Use statement

This sound recording is free to use and reuse. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress asks that artists approach the materials in this collection with respect for the culture and sensibilities of the people whose lives, ideas, and creativity are documented here. Attribution is recommended but not required:

Contains samples of "<item title>" by <contributor name(s)>. Retrieved from the Center for Applied Linguistics Collection, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

### Why is this free to use?

The Center for Applied Linguistics donated the recordings to the Library of Congress in 1986. Although these recordings came with no releases, permissions research was undertaken by Library staff as part of their work to make this collection available online. Citizen DJ includes only those interviews where there was written permission given to the Library by the interviewee.

For reference: [A Survey and Collection of American English Dialect Recordings](#). Donna Christian, 1986. See Attachment F: Letter to Library of Congress: I would like to offer the tapes as a gift to the Library of Congress. I believe that they are a valuable resource and would enrich the Library's holdings.

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## MusicBox Project (*PD songs only*)

### Use statement

This sound recording is free to use and reuse. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress asks that artists approach the materials in this collection with respect for the culture and sensibilities of the people whose lives, ideas, and creativity are documented here. Artists are also reminded that privacy and publicity rights may pertain to certain uses of this material. Attribution is recommended but not required:

Contains samples of "<item title>" by <contributor name(s)>. Retrieved from the Dyann Arthur and Rick Arthur collection of MusicBox Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. <permalink>

### Why is this free to use?

Dyann and Rick Arthur, the original copyright holders of the MusicBox Project, relinquished all ownership and copyright of the collection to The American Folklife Center at The Library of Congress in 2010. With this gift, the Library also received copies of the release forms from the performers. Furthermore, Citizen DJ only includes those recordings that contain performances of songs that are in the public domain due to copyright expiration.

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## Tony Schwartz Collection (*performers, commercial excluded*)

### Use statement

This sound recording is free to use and reuse. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. Attribution is recommended but not required:

Contains samples of "<item title>" by <contributor name(s)>. Retrieved from the Tony Schwartz Collection at the Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. <permalink>

## Why is this free to use?

In 2007, Tony Schwartz's entire body of work was acquired by the Library of Congress, thus the Library reserves the right to make his recordings available for reuse as long as those recordings do not contain embedded material to which Schwartz did not own the copyright. Therefore, Citizen DJ excludes: (1) recordings that contain music or speeches from identifiable or named performers and composers, (2) radio broadcasts, and (3) commercials.