UIL OAP MUSIC FAQ’s

Only 30 seconds from a specific copyrighted song, whether vocal or instrumental, is permissible during the play?
   That is correct. UIL rules restrict you to 30 seconds of material from any copyrighted recording.

Can the same 30 seconds be used multiple times, whether looped or in different places as long as the total amount of music used does not exceed 10 minutes?
   That is correct. You may sample 30 seconds from a track/song and use the same 30 seconds of material multiple times. You may not, however, exceed a total of ten minutes of music.

Can a different 30 seconds from the same song be used?
   No. UIL rules restrict you to 30 seconds of material from any copyrighted recording.

In creating a music cue for my play, may the first 30 seconds come from one copyrighted source and the subsequent 30 seconds come from a different copyrighted source of the same song? In other words, may the same song performed by two different artists and copyrighted and sold as two different CDs be blended to create a single music cue that is more than 30 seconds long?
   You are allowed to do that as long as you do not use more than 30 seconds from any of the sources.

I have one track of music that is 2:36. I am only using :29 seconds for the opening. Am I allowed to use a different :29 seconds elsewhere, in the play, from the same track?
   No. You may only use a total of 30 seconds of material from a specific copyrighted piece.

The OAP HANDBOOK states that if the music is played from off-stage, it counts towards your 10 minutes; so does that then mean if the instrument is being played onstage by an actor (per script) that it doesn’t count towards your ten minutes?
   All live or recorded music played from on or off stage counts towards the 10-minute allotment.

With the new rules regarding music and copyright, how do I show that music used in our show is original and not copyrighted?
   You will need to indicate that in the Official Music Log. The log can be downloaded from the UIL website as an Excel file. (Resources and Forms)
Can we purchase production music and use more than 30 seconds of it? If we get permission from the copyright holder, can we use more?

No. At this time we are not making exceptions.

THE MUSIC LOG

The illegal use of music in public performance can carry severe and widespread penalties. Please make sure that your Official Music Log is clear about the usage in your performance. It must truthfully reflect what is used in the play.

“The process of obtaining rights to use music in live performance is never an easy one. Unlike obtaining the rights to produce a play, there is no central clearinghouse for music clearance … An impressively large number of people could be charged for a single violation of copyright. The Federal Copyright Act extends ‘joint and several’ liability for each infringement. Each individual involved could be held responsible for the whole amount of the fine—the director, the theatre’s artistic director and chair, individual members of the production staff, each member of the student cast and crew (or their legal guardians), the school (acting as producer), the owner of the building in which the performances take place, and in the case of public schools, the school board or district. Serious? You bet.”

http://lecatr.people.wm.edu/copy.htm#Steps%20to%20obtain