

Monroe County Public Library Now Offers Free Downloadable Music

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For Immediate Release

Bloomington, Ind. (June 22)--Monroe County Public Library patrons can now download music--free and legal-- from the library's website with their library card. The library has subscribed to the Freegal Music Service, an online database of more than 500,000 songs from the Sony Music Entertainment catalog. Songs are added every day.

Once library patrons download songs from Monroe County Public Library's website, they can keep the music files forever. The files are not on loan and do not expire.

The library's Freegal Music subscription allows registered library cardholders to download three songs a week as digital MP3 files. The files are compatible with PCs, Macs, iPods, iPads, and other mobile devices. No special software is required. Downloads are free and there are no digital rights management (DRM) restrictions.

"We have been waiting a long time for a service like this that delivers great music, compatibility with lots of devices and simplicity of use," said director Sara Laughlin. "It allows us to increase the size and diversity of our music collection by adding access to hundreds of thousands of songs."

The Sony Music catalog offers over 100 genres of music, from current hits to classic songs and jazz from a broad array of artists, both American and international. Record labels include Arista, Columbia, Sony Classical, Sony Music Latin, and many more.

In order to use this new service, county residents must have a Monroe County Public Library card--available free to all residents. To download free music, cardholders must go to the library's website, www.mcpl.info. Using the "free music" link on the home page, they must enter their library card bar code and library account password to search for songs, artists, or genres of interest.

Freegal Music is a service of Library Ideas, a new media company focused on the educational markets, based in Fairfax, Virginia.

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- 2

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