

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Free downloadable music @ the library

Attention music buffs. Vancouver Island Regional Library now offers a free downloadable music service that provides access to the entire catalog of Sony Music Entertainment, owner of many different music labels.

The online music service, called Freegal (meaning 'free and legal'), offers hundreds of thousands of songs, more than 50 record labels, and over 100 genres of music from alternative and classic to rock & roll and world music – all without compatibility issues or the need to download special software, known as digital rights management (DRM).

“During last year’s public consultations our customers expressed a desire for free downloadable music, and we’re pleased to offer this new feature,” says Fiona Anderson, director of library services at Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL).

“We’ve been waiting for a service like this that delivers great music, compatibility with lots of devices, and simplicity of use. The best thing for our customers is the fact that they get to keep the music, and we think this will be very popular,” she adds.

All that is needed to browse favourite songs or artists, listen to clips, and download music from the user friendly website is a library card and a four-digit identification number.

The songs that can be downloaded through the Freegal Music site are free in the same way that most things are free to customers of the library because Vancouver Island Regional Library pays the subscription fee for the Freegal service.

Anderson says that there is a limit on the number of songs that can be downloaded each week. In many cases it is set at three songs a week.

“The limit is set to ensure that library customers in our 38 branches have equal access to the songs in the Freegal Music database. A download counter keeps track of the number of songs downloaded each week and resets itself at midnight on Sundays,” she explains.

Freegal can be accessed from the Library’s website at www.virl.bc.ca

For information or assistance, please contact a local branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library.

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