

Free Music From the Library

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 Have your library card and its PIN handy (the library will reset the PIN if you have lost it).
- 2 Install the free Freegal and/or Hoopla app from your phone or tablet's app store.
- 3 Open the app, find your library by name, and sign in with your card number and PIN.
- 4 Stream freely to discover music, and spend your weekly Freegal downloads on songs you want to keep.
- 5 Pair a Bluetooth or smart speaker so the music fills the room, not just the phone.
- 6 Only install the real apps from the official app store; they never ask for a credit card.

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Freegal & Hoopla Music: Free Songs From Your Library Card

Freegal and Hoopla -- stream songs, keep a few a week, all free and legal with your card

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1896 · NO. LE-06 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

1. Read this first — this music is free and legal	5
2. The short version	5
3. What Freegal and Hoopla music actually are	6
4. Streaming versus keeping — the key difference	6
5. How the Freegal weekly allowance works	7
6. Getting (or finding) your card and PIN	7
7. Installing the apps and signing in	8
8. Finding the music you love	8
9. Building a playlist of your own	9
10. Getting the music onto a speaker or the whole room	9
11. Listening in the car	10
12. Great for classical, gospel, jazz and oldies	10
13. What you will need to get started	10
14. Headphones, earbuds and private listening	11
15. Listening on a computer	11
16. Using a smart speaker	12
17. Your old stereo, and burning a CD	12
18. Hoopla does more than music	13
19. Sharing music across the generations	13
20. A word on sound quality and data	13
21. A gentle tour by decade and mood	14

22. Making a playlist as a gift	14
23. Radio-style listening	15
24. If the music will not play	15
25. Keeping your music organized	16
26. Two ways people come to this — and both are fine	16
27. Music for the occasions of life	17
28. Getting the most out of it	17
29. Setting it up for a parent	18
30. Keeping it safe and legitimate	18
31. Common mistakes	19
32. Common questions	19
33. Is this really free and legal?	19
34. What is the difference between streaming and keeping?	20
35. How many songs can I download to keep?	20
36. Can I play it on a speaker or in the car?	20
37. Does my library actually have Freegal?	20
38. The quick recap	21
39. You do not have to do this alone	21
A Picture to Follow Along	23
A Second Look	24
A Note From Bill	24
Your Visit — and My Promise	25

WELCOME

1. Read this first — this music is free and legal

With your library card you can stream music, and at many libraries keep a few songs a week, all free and aboveboard.

Here is the idea at the heart of this guide: your public library does not just lend books and movies — a lot of libraries lend music too. Through apps called Freegal and Hoopla, your library card streams songs and whole albums, and at many libraries Freegal even lets you download a handful of songs each week to keep for good. All of it is free, and all of it is perfectly legal.

That last word matters. The internet is full of shady sites promising 'free music' that are really pirating songs or hiding viruses. Freegal and Hoopla are the honest exception: real services your library pays for out of its budget, the same way it pays for the books on the shelf. You put in no credit card, you break no rules, and there are no ads.

I am Bill, from Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. When folks tell me they miss their old records or want music without another monthly bill, this is one of my favorite things to show them — a world of songs from the card already in their wallet.

WATCH OUT

If a website offers 'free music downloads' and asks for a credit card or wants you to install something odd, close it. The real library music apps never ask for payment — there is nothing to pay.

THE SHORT VERSION

2. The short version

Four steps and you are listening tonight — for free.

If you want the whole thing in a nutshell before we take it slowly, here it is.

- 1 Have your library card and its PIN handy (the library will reset the PIN if you have lost it).
- 2 Install the free Freegal and/or Hoopla app from your phone or tablet's app store.
- 3 Open the app, find your library by name, and sign in with your card number and PIN.
- 4 Search for an artist or album and press play — and on Freegal, use your weekly downloads on songs you want to keep.

That really is all there is to it. Everything after this page is detail — the difference between streaming and keeping, how the weekly limit works, and how to get the music onto a

speaker so the whole room can hear it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Not sure whether your library offers Freegal? It varies more than most services, so check your library's website or ask at the desk. Hoopla, which also carries music, is offered by Portage County District Library.

WHAT THEY ARE

3. What Freegal and Hoopla music actually are

Two free music services your library pays for on your behalf.

Freegal (the name is a squeeze of 'free' and 'legal') is a music service built just for libraries. With it you stream songs and, at most libraries, download a set number of tracks each week that are then yours to keep forever — even if you later stop using the app. It carries a broad catalog of popular and classic music from the major labels.

Hoopla, which you may know for its movies, also lends music — full albums you can stream on loan, borrowed the same way as its films, using one of your monthly Hoopla credits. Between the two, you can both build a small permanent collection through Freegal and dip into whole albums through Hoopla, all free.

Think of them as the library's record shelf brought up to date. The library buys the access; you enjoy the music. There is nothing to subscribe to and nothing to cancel.

STREAM VS KEEP

4. Streaming versus keeping — the key difference

Freegal lets you do both; Hoopla is borrowing only.

This is the one idea worth understanding clearly. 'Streaming' means the music plays over the internet while you listen, like a radio station you choose — nothing is stored, and you need a connection. 'Downloading to keep' means the song is saved onto your device and is yours for good, to play any time, even with no internet.

Freegal usually offers both: unlimited streaming plus a weekly allowance of downloads you keep permanently. Hoopla is borrowing only — you stream a borrowed album for your loan period, and when it is up the album returns itself, just like a library book. Neither is better; they simply suit different habits.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you want a few songs that are truly yours to keep, spend your Freegal downloads on those. If you just want to listen to lots of different albums, stream on Hoopla and do not worry about keeping anything.

THE WEEKLY LIMIT

5. How the Freegal weekly allowance works

A set number of keeper-downloads each week — it varies by library.

Because the library pays for each download you keep, Freegal gives you a weekly allowance rather than unlimited keeping. You might get a handful of download credits a week, which refill on a set day. Streaming is usually generous on top of that, measured in hours rather than songs. The exact numbers are set by your library and differ quite a bit from place to place.

The sensible habit is to stream freely to discover what you like, then spend your limited weekly downloads only on the songs you are sure you want to keep forever. Unused download credits generally do not roll over, so some folks make a point of grabbing a couple of keepers each week, building a real collection a few songs at a time.

TIP

Stream first to decide, then spend a weekly download only on a song you truly love. Over a year, a few keepers a week quietly add up to a collection you own outright.

YOUR LIBRARY CARD

6. Getting (or finding) your card and PIN

The one requirement — and it is free to get.

All of this hinges on a library card and the PIN or password tied to it. If you live in Portage County and do not have a card, getting one is free: a visit to your local branch with a photo ID and proof of address, and many systems let you begin online. If you have a card gathering dust in a drawer, dig it out.

If you have the card but not the PIN, the library can look it up or reset it over the phone or at the desk in a moment. You almost always need that PIN to sign in to the music apps, so it is worth sorting out before you start. Jot the card number and PIN on a slip of paper you keep near the computer.

WATCH OUT

Your card can expire after a few years. If an app suddenly refuses it, the card has very likely just lapsed — a quick renewal at the library and the music starts flowing again.

GETTING THE APPS

7. Installing the apps and signing in

The same simple steps on a phone or tablet.

On a phone or tablet, open your app store, search for 'Freegal' or 'Hoopla,' and install the free app. Open it, choose 'find your library' or similar, search for your library by name, and sign in with your card number and PIN. You may be asked to make a simple free account with your e-mail so the app remembers your music; that is normal and still free.

Freegal and Hoopla also both work on an ordinary computer through a web browser, if you would rather listen at your desk. Whichever you choose, take it one app at a time — there is no need to install everything at once. Start with whichever your library offers and add the other later if you like.

GOOD TO KNOW

Make a free account with your e-mail when the app offers — it is what lets your playlists and kept songs follow you from your phone to your tablet or computer.

FINDING MUSIC

8. Finding the music you love

Search by artist, album, song, or just browse.

Finding something to play is as easy as searching. Type in a favorite artist, an album title, or a single song, and the app shows you what it has. Both services also offer browsing by genre and mood — oldies, country, classical, jazz, gospel, big band — which is a lovely way to rediscover music you have not heard in years.

These are real catalogs, not bottomless like the giant paid services, so now and then a particular album may not be there. But for popular music, classics, and a great deal in between, you will find far more than you expect — and the price could not be better. When one app does not have something, the other sometimes does.

GOOD TO KNOW

Browse by genre or decade when you are not sure what you want. It is a gentle way to stumble back onto the songs of your younger days.

MAKING A PLAYLIST

9. Building a playlist of your own

Gather your favorites into a list you can play any time.

Both apps let you gather songs into playlists — your own named lists, like 'Sunday morning' or 'songs from the sixties,' that you can play straight through whenever you please. You simply tap to add a song to a list as you come across it, and the list is there waiting the next time you open the app.

A playlist is the digital version of the mix tapes and burned CDs many of us once made. It costs nothing to build, you can change it whenever you like, and on Freegal the songs you have downloaded to keep will play from your playlist even with no internet connection at all.

ON A SPEAKER

10. Getting the music onto a speaker or the whole room

From the little phone speaker to something you can really hear.

The music will play through your phone or tablet's own small speaker, but it sounds far better through something larger. If you have a Bluetooth speaker, or a smart speaker like an Amazon Echo, you can send the sound to it so the whole room fills up. Many people are delighted to learn their phone can feed music to a proper speaker wirelessly.

The simplest route is a Bluetooth speaker: you 'pair' it with your phone once, and after that the music plays through the speaker whenever both are on. Smart speakers can sometimes play these library apps directly, though support varies. If this part feels fiddly, it is exactly the sort of thing I am glad to set up for you.

IN THE CAR

11. Listening in the car

Your kept songs make easy company on a drive.

Music is wonderful company on a drive, and the songs you have downloaded to keep on Freegal are ideal for it, because they play even where the cell signal drops out on a country road. If your car connects to your phone by Bluetooth or a cable, your library playlist plays through the car speakers like any other music.

For long trips, spend a few of your weekly Freegal downloads ahead of time on songs and albums you want for the road, so they are saved on your phone and ready whether or not you have a signal. It is a free, cheerful way to pass the miles.

CLASSICAL & GOSPEL

12. Great for classical, gospel, jazz and oldies

The library's music leans toward the timeless.

If your taste runs to classical, gospel, jazz, big band, folk, or the popular music of decades past, you are in luck — these services are rich in exactly that sort of music. The giant paid apps chase the newest hits; the library's collections are deep in the timeless, which suits a great many listeners beautifully.

For anyone who grew up with a particular era of music, rediscovering those songs free is a real pleasure. And for quiet listening — classical while you read, hymns on a Sunday, standards over dinner — the library's shelf is more than generous.

WHAT YOU NEED

13. What you will need to get started

Usually just a phone, tablet, or computer you already own.

You do not need anything special. A smartphone, a tablet, or an ordinary computer with an internet connection and your library card is enough to begin. A pair of earbuds or a Bluetooth speaker makes the listening nicer, but neither is required to start.

For the best sound, a small Bluetooth speaker is a worthwhile and inexpensive addition, and it works with everything else on your phone too. But do not let gear stand in your way — the phone in your pocket is a fine place to begin, and you can always add a speaker

once you are enjoying the music.

TIP

A simple Bluetooth speaker is the one small purchase that most improves the experience — fuller sound for the whole room, and it works with every other app on your phone as well.

HEADPHONES

14. Headphones, earbuds and private listening

For quiet enjoyment that does not disturb the house.

Sometimes you want the music just for yourself — late in the evening, or when someone else is watching television. A pair of headphones or earbuds plugged into, or paired with, your phone or tablet does the job beautifully, and the sound is often richer and more intimate than a speaker across the room.

Wireless earbuds pair to your phone the same way a Bluetooth speaker does: once connected, the music simply comes through them. Wired ones plug into the headphone socket if your device still has one, or into an adapter if it does not. Either way, private listening is a lovely option to have.

GOOD TO KNOW

Headphones are not just for privacy — they are gentle on the ears at low volume and can make quiet classical or gospel feel wonderfully close and clear.

ON THE COMPUTER

15. Listening on a computer

No tablet needed — a web browser works fine.

If you would rather listen at your desk, both Freegal and Hoopla work in an ordinary web browser on a computer. You go to the service through your library's website, sign in with your card, and play music right there — no app to install. For some people, the computer's larger speakers and screen make it the most comfortable way of all.

This also means no one is shut out for want of a smartphone. A desktop or laptop with speakers and an internet connection is a perfectly good music machine, and it is a fine way to try the library's music before deciding whether you want it in your pocket too.

SMART SPEAKERS

16. Using a smart speaker

Hands-free music, if you have an Echo or similar.

If you have a smart speaker such as an Amazon Echo, you may be able to play the library's music hands-free, just by asking out loud, or by sending the sound to it from your phone. Support for library apps on smart speakers varies, so it is worth checking what your particular speaker allows, but when it works it is a joy — music to fill the kitchen without touching a thing.

At the very least, almost any smart speaker can act as a Bluetooth speaker: pair your phone to it once, start the music in the app, and it plays through the speaker. If the voice side feels confusing, that pairing trick is the simple fallback that always works.

TIP

Even if your smart speaker cannot run the music app directly, you can nearly always pair your phone to it over Bluetooth and play the music that way.

OLD STEREO & CD

17. Your old stereo, and burning a CD

Bridging the new music to the equipment you already own.

Many folks have a good stereo or a CD player they still love, and there are gentle ways to bring the library's music to them. A small, inexpensive Bluetooth receiver can plug into an old stereo's input and let your phone send music to it wirelessly — suddenly your decades-old speakers are playing today's free library songs.

And because Freegal downloads are yours to keep as real music files, some people still burn them onto a CD on a home computer, to play in a car or a kitchen CD player. It is an old-fashioned step, but it works, and it is a nice bridge for anyone who is happiest with a disc in their hand.

MORE ON HOOPLA**18. Hoopla does more than music***One app, a whole shelf of borrowing.*

While Hoopla lends music, it is worth remembering it lends a great deal more besides — movies, television, audiobooks, e-books, and comics — all on the same monthly borrowing credits. So the app you install for music quietly doubles as a movie night, an audiobook for the car, and a digital bookshelf.

That makes Hoopla one of the best-value single apps a library card unlocks. If you are installing it for the music, take a moment to browse its other shelves too; you may find you need fewer other apps than you thought. We have separate guides on using Hoopla for movies and books.

MUSIC WITH GRANDKIDS**19. Sharing music across the generations***A free, cheerful way to bond with the grandchildren.*

Music is a lovely bridge between generations, and the library's free apps make sharing it easy. Play the grandchildren the songs you grew up with, and let them play you theirs; build a shared playlist together of everybody's favorites. It costs nothing, there are no ads to worry about, and it fills an afternoon with something warm.

For little ones, both services carry children's music and sing-along songs, free of the advertisements that clutter so many free music sites. It is a calmer, safer way to let the grandchildren pick a few tunes when they visit.

SOUND QUALITY**20. A word on sound quality and data***Good sound, and how to avoid using up your data.*

The music streams at a quality that sounds perfectly good through earbuds, a speaker, or the car — you are unlikely to find fault with it. The one thing worth a thought is data: streaming over your home wifi costs nothing, but streaming over a cellular signal when you are out uses your phone's data allowance, like anything else online.

If you listen a lot while out and about, this is another reason the Freegal keeper-downloads are handy — a song saved to your phone over wifi at home plays later with no data used at all. Stream at home on wifi, keep a few favorites for the road, and you need never give data a second thought.

GOOD TO KNOW

Stream over your home wifi to avoid using phone data. Better yet, download a few Freegal keepers at home and play those when you are out, using no data at all.

A TOUR BY DECADE

21. A gentle tour by decade and mood

Rediscovering the music of your younger days.

One of the sweetest things about the library's music is browsing by era. Look for the decades — the forties, fifties, sixties, seventies — and you will find the songs that were playing when you were young, ready to carry you straight back. Mood and genre browsing does the same: a 'relaxing classical' corner, a 'gospel favorites' shelf, a 'big band' collection waiting to be explored.

You do not need to know exactly what you want. Wander the way you once flipped through records at a shop, let a cover or a title catch your eye, and press play. Half the pleasure is the song you had entirely forgotten until it started, and suddenly every word comes back.

A GIFT PLAYLIST

22. Making a playlist as a gift

A free, heartfelt present built from favorite songs.

A playlist of someone's favorite songs makes a lovely, free gift — the modern cousin of the mix tape. Gather the music a loved one treasures, or the songs from the year they married or a child was born, into a named list, and set it up to play on their tablet or speaker. It costs nothing but thought, and it lands straight in the heart.

For a parent in particular, a playlist of the hymns or standards or dance tunes of their youth, cued up and ready at the touch of one button, can be worth more than any store-bought present. Music reaches people that words sometimes cannot.

STATIONS AND MOODS

23. Radio-style listening

When you would rather not choose every song.

Sometimes you do not want to pick each song — you just want good music playing. The apps help here with genre and mood collections you can set going and leave be, like a radio station of your own choosing. Put on 'classical for the afternoon' or 'oldies' and let it roll while you cook, read, or rest.

It is the easiest way to listen when your hands or your attention are busy elsewhere. Start a collection playing, set the phone or tablet down, and let the music keep you company without another thought.

IF IT WONT PLAY

24. If the music will not play

Usually the internet, the card, or the volume.

If a song will not play, run through three quick checks. First, your internet: streaming needs a connection, so confirm the wifi is on and working. Second, your card and sign-in: an expired card or a wrong PIN stops the app, and both are a quick fix. Third, the obvious one we all miss — the volume, on both the app and the device, and whether the sound is being sent to a speaker that is switched off.

Most playback trouble is one of those three, not anything broken. If a kept Freegal download will not play, it may simply need to finish downloading while you are on wifi. When in doubt, close the app fully and open it again; that alone clears a surprising number of small hiccups.

GOOD TO KNOW

A song that will not stream is nearly always an internet or sign-in matter, not a fault. Check the wifi, the card, and the volume before worrying that anything is wrong.

ORGANIZING MUSIC

25. Keeping your music organized

A little tidiness makes it a pleasure to come back to.

As you gather kept songs and build playlists, a little order pays off. Give your playlists clear names — 'Sunday morning,' 'songs from the sixties,' 'for the car' — so you can find the right mood in a moment. Keep your Freegal keepers in sensible lists too, rather than one giant jumble, and the collection stays a joy to dip into.

None of this needs to be fussy. A handful of well-named playlists is plenty, and you can rename or reshuffle them whenever you like. The aim is simply that when you sit down to listen, the music you want is an easy tap away rather than a hunt.

TWO WAYS IN

26. Two ways people come to this — and both are fine

Cutting a music bill, or simply finding more to enjoy.

Some folks come to library music to stop paying for a streaming service; others simply want more music in their days. Either way it is a happy discovery, so it helps to know which one you are.

If you are trimming a monthly bill

You would like to lean on free music and perhaps drop a paid subscription you keep out of habit.

- Use Freegal and Hoopla for the music you listen to most, and see whether you still need the paid app.
- Spend your weekly Freegal downloads on the songs you want to own, so you keep them even if you cancel.
- Remember there are no ads here, unlike the free tiers of the big services.

If you just want more to enjoy

Your budget is fine; you would simply like a deeper, ad-free well of good music.

- Browse by genre and decade to rediscover music you had forgotten.
- Build playlists for different moods and times of day.
- Set it up on a speaker so the music fills the room, not just the phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

However you got here, a few minutes browsing the library's music tends to turn up old favorites you had not heard in years.

MUSIC FOR OCCASIONS

27. Music for the occasions of life

A free soundtrack for gatherings, holidays and quiet days alike.

Music makes an occasion, and the library's free apps are ready for all of them. Build a cheerful playlist for a family gathering, gentle hymns or classical for a Sunday, lively standards for a holiday dinner, or soft music for a quiet evening. Because it costs nothing, you can make a list for every mood and season without a second thought.

Set a playlist going before guests arrive and let it carry the afternoon, or cue up the songs of a particular year for an anniversary. The music that marks our lives is mostly here for the asking, free, and ready to fill a room whenever you want it.

GETTING THE MOST

28. Getting the most out of it

A few easy habits make the free music go further.

To get the most from the library's music, lean on a few gentle habits. Stream freely to explore, and spend your weekly Freegal keepers on the songs you truly want to own. Build a handful of playlists for the moods and times you listen most. And pair a speaker, even a small one, so the music fills the room rather than trickling from a phone.

Above all, make it a small, regular pleasure rather than a project. A little music each day — with breakfast, in the car, over the washing-up — is how the library's free shelf becomes part of the rhythm of your week, at no cost and no bother.

TIP

Grab a couple of Freegal keepers each week and tuck them into a playlist. Over a year, that quiet habit builds a collection of favorites that is genuinely yours.

HELPING A RELATIVE

29. Setting it up for a parent

Free music is a gentle, cheering gift.

For an older parent, music is one of the kindest things to set up, because it asks so little and gives so much. Put Freegal or Hoopla on their tablet, sign in with their card so they never have to fuss with it, and build a playlist or two of the music they grew up with. Then show them the single button that starts it playing.

Pair a small speaker so the sound is warm and easy to hear, and keep the home screen simple — just the music app and a big, friendly play button. A parent who can fill the house with the songs of their youth, free and at the touch of one button, tends to be genuinely moved by it.

TIP

Build the playlist for them, pair a speaker, and leave one clear play button on the screen. The less fiddling required, the more they will actually enjoy it.

STAYING SAFE

30. Keeping it safe and legitimate

Only the real apps, only from the real app store.

Because 'free music' is a phrase scammers love, a word on safety is worth it. The genuine apps — Freegal and Hoopla — are installed only from your phone's official app store or used on their own websites, and you sign in only with your real library card. They never ask for a credit card, because the library has already paid.

If a site promises 'free song downloads' and asks for payment details, or wants you to install a program from outside the app store, that is not a library service — it is very likely piracy or a trap, and it can bring viruses with it. Stick to the official app store and your library card, and you are entirely safe and entirely legal.

WATCH OUT

A real library music app never asks for a credit card or payment. If one does, it is an impostor — close it and get the genuine app from your official app store.

COMMON MISTAKES

31. Common mistakes

Avoid these and the music flows smoothly.

Nearly every snag I hear about comes down to one of a few simple things, and all of them are quick to put right.

- Not knowing the card's PIN, which the apps need in order to sign in.
- Confusing streaming with keeping — a streamed song needs internet; a downloaded one does not.
- Spending the weekly Freegal downloads carelessly, then having none left for a song you really wanted.
- Picking the wrong library from the app's list — choose your exact system, not a similarly named one.
- Assuming it is a trial that will start charging — it never does; there is no card on file.

TIP

Write your card number and PIN on a slip of paper at home. Most 'it will not let me in' calls turn out to be a forgotten PIN or an expired card.

COMMON QUESTIONS

32. Common questions

The questions I hear most about library music.

Here are the ones that come up most often at the kitchen table.

If yours is not here, it is very likely a quick answer — call the branch, or call me, and we will sort it.

QUESTIONS

33. Is this really free and legal?

Completely — your library pays, and it is all aboveboard.

Yes on both counts. Freegal and Hoopla are legitimate services your library licenses and pays for, so you listen free and legally, with no credit card and no ads. The name Freegal even stands for 'free and legal.' You are not pirating anything and you are not the product.

QUESTIONS

34. What is the difference between streaming and keeping?

Streaming plays over the internet; keeping saves the song for good.

A streamed song plays over your internet connection and is not stored — stop the app and it is gone until you play it again. A kept download, which Freegal allows a few of each week, is saved onto your device and is yours forever, playable any time with no internet. Hoopla is streaming only.

QUESTIONS

35. How many songs can I download to keep?

A set number each week — it varies by library.

Freegal gives you a weekly allowance of keeper-downloads, set by your library, that refills on a certain day. Streaming on top is usually generous. Because the number differs from library to library, check your library's Freegal page for your exact weekly allowance.

QUESTIONS

36. Can I play it on a speaker or in the car?

Yes — through Bluetooth, a smart speaker, or the car.

Your phone or tablet can send the music to a Bluetooth speaker, a smart speaker like an Echo, or your car's sound system. Kept Freegal downloads are especially good in the car because they play even where the cell signal drops. Pairing a speaker is a one-time setup I am glad to help with.

QUESTIONS

37. Does my library actually have Freegal?

It varies — check your library's website to be sure.

Freegal is offered by many but not all libraries, and it varies more than most services. Check your library's digital resources page or ask at the desk. Hoopla, which also carries music, is more widely offered, and Portage County District Library has it. Either way, a quick look at your library's site gives the surest answer.

QUICK RECAP

38. The quick recap

The whole guide in one glance.

- Your library card streams music free through Freegal and Hoopla — no ads, no credit card, nothing to cancel.
- Freegal also lets you download a few songs a week to keep forever; Hoopla lends whole albums on loan.
- Streaming needs internet; kept downloads play anywhere, even in the car with no signal.
- Install the free app, pick your library, and sign in with your card number and PIN.
- The weekly download limit and whether Freegal is offered both vary by library — check yours.
- Only install the real apps from the official app store; they never ask for a credit card.

GOOD TO KNOW

A world of music — classical, gospel, oldies and more — from the card already in your wallet, free and legal. Few bargains beat it.

BILL'S HERE TO HELP

39. You do not have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made finding free music through your library feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and do not worry for a moment about memorizing anything.

When you would rather have a hand, that is exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that do not need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I am a patient tech helper, so for library apps and speakers I will happily sit with you until the music is playing just the way you like.

GOOD TO KNOW

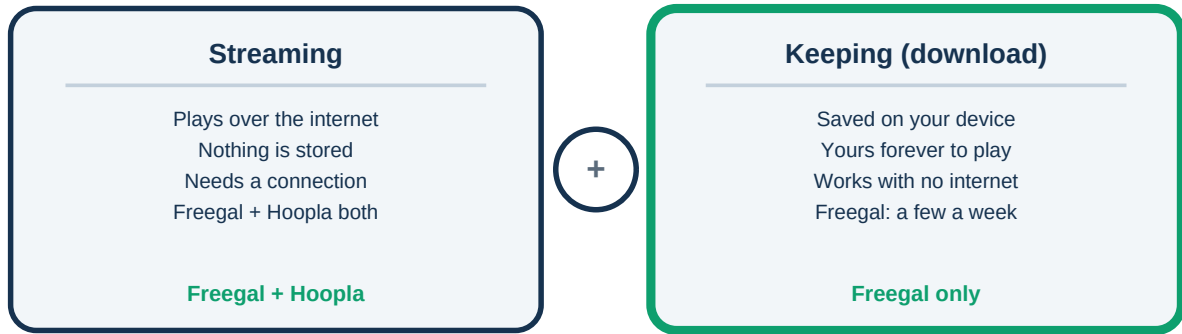
Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you are ever not 100% happy with a visit, I will make it right or refund it. That is a promise. — Bill

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Stream or Keep?

The one difference worth understanding



Stream to discover, then spend a weekly download on a keeper.

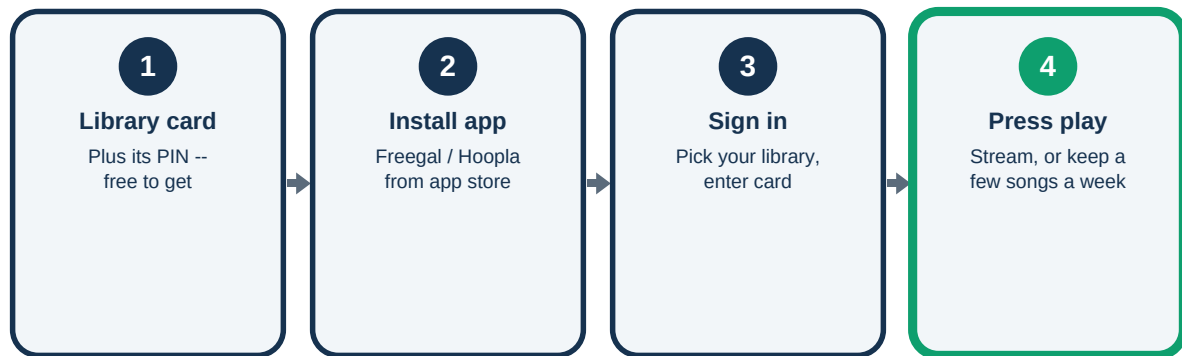
Hoopla music is borrow-and-stream only; Freegal lets you keep a few songs a week.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Four Steps to Free Music

From library card to playing



No card on file, no ads, nothing to cancel -- paid for by your library.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.