

Dear Mr Gowers,

I note with alarm that there is a move to increase the copyright on recordings from the present 50-year limit. I write as a consumer and one whose field of musical interest covers the popular music of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Thanks to the end of copyright on recordings made in that period, I am able to buy reissues on CD produced by small, specialist companies. If they were still under copyright, none of the copyright holders, eg EMI, would be interested in reissuing material which does not sell in vast quantities these days. In other words, CD buyers like myself would have limited access, if any, to recordings by dance bands, singers, musical comedy artists and others from the period of my particular interest.

Fifty years is already a considerable period in which to exploit recordings. Twenty years ago I would have been happier with a shorter period. However, at present, I am able to enjoy reissues which otherwise would not be commercially viable. I think it regrettable that anyone would be lobbying to restrict access to our musical heritage.

Regards,

Peter Wallace