

Hello Andrew Gowers

SONGWRITER AND RELATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE OF THIS PROPOSAL

I am a songwriter and strongly feel that 50 years copyright is perfectly sufficient - I am also very worried about a 95 year retrospective copyright.

Most of the songwriters are dead and copyright for the 50 to 95 year period proposed is held by large companies that have no intention of producing these 'old songs' - they would find it totally uncommercial in nearly ever case.

The enthusiasts that have been making these old recordings available cheaply to the general public are doing a great service.

I have been trying to collect information about my Great Aunt, Clarice Mayne - in her day (1909 to 1939) she was one of the most popular Music Hall singer and starred in many Royal Command Performances etc. and yet little is known of her now. Information about her is very scant and I am trying to write a history of her for family and friends.

The greatest moment in my life was when I bought one of these reproduced CDs and for the first time heard her singing - she had retired from the stage before I was born. I bought a further copy for an elderly relative and she plays it everyday, giving her a lot of pleasure during her failing health.

Original recordings are extremely rare and under your proposal you will deny many relatives and enthusiasts the chance to hear these 'old' performers.

I have no idea who holds the copyright of my Great Aunt's recordings (most of her songs were written by her husband) and doubt that any 'commercial' recording company such as EMI etc would find it lucrative to re-master these old recordings.

Apparently the companies that 'own' the copyright, in many cases, do not even have any of the recordings as they discarded them years ago - if they ever had them in the first place.

Please do not continue with this proposal - the consequences will only hurt us relatives and enthusiasts.

Yours faithfully
Lee Raymond (Ms)