

Hello

I have read that it is proposed that UK copyrights for sound recordings be extended to 95 years. It is certainly debatable whether that is wise, but please do not let such a thing be retroactive. If something has already come out of copyright and been re-released by such cd producers as Naxos and Chris Webster (Sounds on CD) and Jim Lockwood (78s2cd), please recognise that many many such recordings will be buried for a century or even forever if such this proposed law is passed. The big copyright-owning recording companies will not re-issue less-than-extremely-profitable recordings, so many classical and other recordings of great artistic worth will be out-of-print and forever lost that smaller specialist record producers have already reissued and would in future reissue. The composers and performers are the losers in this, too: it is merely the big recording companies that will stand to win from legislation of this sort. Many of the composers and performers are already dead. And those few that live merely get a tenth of the royalties anyway. Composers are not well rewarded in their lives, and to make it possible for the publishers to continue to receive the 90 per cent royalties for nearly a century is so very unfair.

best regards,
Robert Watson