

I understand that the Government is considering extending the copyright period for recorded music from the existing 50 years copyright period.

This will have a damaging effect on music lovers, who rely on specialist companies to reissue 78 rpm recordings on compact disc, and will prevent new generations from hearing any music other than what is currently being hyped by the media.

Specialist companies like Dutton Vocalion, Naxos, and Living Era have helped to preserve historically important recordings and make them available to a wider audience, many of whom - myself included - were not alive when these musical performances were originally recorded.

Far from being pirates, companies like the ones above do pay royalties to the music publishers, and they make available material which the big multi-national record labels are not prepared to issue.

If copyright is extended beyond the current 50 years, consumers will have less choice, and whole generations will grow up without access to some of the finest recordings ever made.

Paul Holroyd