

Sir,

I am writing to voice my concern over the proposed extension of the Copyright law to 95 years.

As an independent producer/compiler of vintage jazz reissues, the extension to 95 years would at a stroke destroy the ability to reissue ANY jazz recording. The major players (EMI, Polygram) have little or no interest in such marginal material (bear in mind that the average sale of a vintage jazz CD is around 1000-1500 copies) and I could not see them changing their policy for such little profitable return.

My main concern is that the extension would effectively deny young people access to their musical heritage and culture. Over the last 5 years I have produced an annual volume of CDs charting the development of ragtime into jazz - material which would otherwise not have been reissued. They have met with critical acclaim and one teacher at a US high school emailed to say that they were an essential part of his American Music History curriculum.

We all know that the real reason for this is the pressure being brought to bear by record companies and aged rock stars, fearful that their recordings made in the early 1960s are rapidly approaching the time when they will enter the public domain and that these rich and powerful people are worried as hell. They saw what happened to Elvis' records and now fear the worse for the Beatles, Rolling Stones, etc, etc. The proposed extension will only benefit these people - the real losers will be the music fans, students and children who will be deprived of their musical heritage.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Berresford