

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing about the suggestion ,backed by Cliff Richard and others that mechanical copyright should be extended beyond the present time limit to 95 years.

Like many musicians and enthusiasts of 'old' traditional music, blues and early classical music recordings, I am alarmed that this suggestion could prevent the reissue of much music on CD by small companies and individuals. Much of this material is unavailable on the large labels; they simply do not have an interest in anything other than mass market music.

Over the years , the folk, jazz, classical and blues market has been sustained by small companies, many of whom reissue valuable song and music from old out of copyright recordings

If the proposed extension comes in, music recorded in the 1920s and 30s by small companies will be locked up forever in the vaults of multinational recording empires who swallowed up the pioneer companies.

I believe the government should look after the interests of the poor relations of the musical arts, not those who have already become millionaires from mass sales.

yours faithfully

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geoff woolfe