

Michael Connarty MP
Chair
All Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group
Room 218 Portcullis House
House of Commons

21 April 2006

Dear Panel,

Length Of Copyright for Recorded Works

On behalf of the many Members of Parliament and Lords who are members of the All Party Jazz Appreciation Group, I would wish to draw your review's attention to our serious disquiet at the unfairness of the present limit of fifty years for the copyright control and payment for the use of recorded work in the UK. I understand it is similar throughout the EU.

For many recording artists in the jazz genre and the popular music genre the amount of material that has an appeal for up to and beyond 50 years can be very small, but will deliver a regular sum in income to supplement what is often a very small or basic pension. Particularly with jazz recordings, the nostalgia factor which brings one or two of an artist's recordings back into popularity can often occur 50 or more years after the original recording. The present copyright rules for recorded works means that when they re-released after fifty years the artist may still be living, but gain no payment for their work.

In the jazz genre this is true particularly for the 'side artists' on a recording, who may never had the benefits of larger incomes for the front musician or band-leader.

Our members would wish to see the period on which copyright exists for the recording artists on recorded works extended to the same time as presently exists in the United States of America, which I understand to be for ninety - five years. We have discussed this with our members over many years, and there is a substantial body of parliamentary opinion in support of the proposal I submit to your review. There was also an Early Day Motion in my name put in the Commons which gathered considerable support. I ask you to consult this EDM and accept it in support of my proposition.

I look forward to your review's outcome on this point and the many other issues of Intellectual Property.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt and acceptance of this submission to your review.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Connarty MP
Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency