

Dear Mr. Gowers

I have recently been following the debate about the extension of copyright and I am very concerned that the record labels (e.g. Jasmine, Sepia, Vocalion, Naxos, , ASV Living Era, Flare, Memoir etc) dedicated to re-issuing out of copyright vintage music copyright are in jeopardy of going out of business.

The reasons why I am concerned and feel strongly that the copyright period should not be extended are numerous – some of which I have listed

1. The recordings from these CD releases are frequently difficult to find elsewhere – in some cases, impossible.
2. The record companies that own these recordings have not shown any interest in releasing any of the material these labels feature prior to them going out of copyright and should the period be extended then this criteria will doubtless continue
3. The liner notes are often well-researched and written by experts and normally give important and valuable information about the artist and recording data. – this is often not always the case with in copyright material issued by the majors.
4. The major labels only seem concerned now that large sellers such as Presley / Cliff Richard / Beatles / Stones etc will soon become out of copyright – they haven't seemed to be bothered about Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn, Rosemary Clooney or Fats Waller etc
5. The out of copyright CDs usually selling for around 8 pounds each which represents good value for money because on labels such as Sepia, Vocalion, Jasmine you do get extra photographs, rare recordings and also more information such as recording dates, label and matrix numbers on the sleeve notes than your standard release provides
6. These releases are a labour of love and are selected, produced and written for by people who know the artists and music concerned and not younger people who have little knowledge of the artists and material being presented..
7. The major record labels are the worst culprits in releasing CDs like The Best of Perry Como, Peggy Lee, Nat King Cole over and over with mostly the same tracks and seem reluctant to search out fresh material for these releases.
8. In an era where everything is geared to charts and expensive DVDs and MP3 players and digital downloads – these are recordings that I as a consumer want to own and have not been able to find elsewhere.
9. If not for these smaller labels, these recordings would surely be lost forever so what they are doing is helping preserve important and historical recordings from which we are able to trace the evolution of popular music and the history of our music theatre.
10. Finally - as all consumers vote with their pockets – the prices of these CDs are fair and reasonable. If these companies have to pay recording royalties as well as the composer royalties currently in place, it may not be economically feasible to release these CDs anymore. Sales figures for these releases are not astronomical and the amount of royalties that the artists – or their estates – concerned would only amount to a small amount, certainly nowhere in the near as large an amount as a week's State Pension!

Ossie Dales