

## Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings.

As founder and owner of Archival Television Audio, Inc. I have always maintained a deep passion related to orphaned, and “lost” media, with the genre of early television recordings (the sole surviving TV broadcast record of a program) most treasured, collected and archived. For a multi score of years the ambiguity and haze regarding ownership, usage, reissue, sale and accessibility of such material, base on current varied State copyright laws, has discouraged and deterred yours truly from investing any personal capitol to systematically distributing such “lost” material, commercially.

The ATA collection is comprised of tens of thousands of air checks, thousands of which represent one-of-a-kind audio tape recorded soundtracks, recorded off the air at the time when original television broadcasts aired. The rich heritage of television’s early years (1946-1972) was never diligently archived by the major broadcast museums, the networks, or by but a handful of collectors of such media when technology to do so was costly, and indifference widespread related to such preservation. Less than half of all broadcasts during this time period survive.

Without re-defined copyright guidelines related to pre-1972 sound recordings, applying to all genres, as legislated into a definable and congruous National Law, specifying fair and “common sense” protection, procedures and guide-lines for all concerned...the creator, copyright holder, and rights of an interested public, our precious American Recorded Heritage comes closer to fading away FOREVER. For, as nitrate won’t wait, all audio formats continue to decay when there is not an active attempt to digitize and distribute its analog tangible format. The continuance of convoluted State Copyright Laws, dissuades such activity, since there is little opportunity to profit from such an expensive commitment.

Congress must addressed and reassess the current, Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings Copyright Law, sooner, than later. Currently, the State Laws which exists represents a restrictive maze of ambiguous and frustrating dead end roads for any interested party who desires to research, commercially resurrect, preserve or distribute “unknown / forgotten” audio, or, in many instances, to even access a representative work for academic research...by generations of passionate saviors, who are quickly becoming lost in time themselves. The time is NOW for congress to act. As Charles Buxton once wrote, *“You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it.”*

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