January 28, 2011

U.S. Copyright Office 101 Independence Ave. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Re: Federal Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings

To whom it may concern:

I would like to comment on the issue of federal copyright protection for pre-1972 sound recordings. I learned of this important legislation when I attended a panel discussion at an ARSC (Association for Recorded Sound Collections) conference, and I ask that you follow their guidelines when making your decision: Resolved by the Board of Directors, Association for Recorded Sound Collections, Inc. (http://www.arsc-audio.org/copyright-board.html).

As one whose primary clientele consists of performing artists, I am aware that they have a constitutional right to make a livelihood from the profit on their works. However, the lack of federal laws concerning pre-1972 recordings leaves a great deal of American history locked up on obsolescing media. Since there are no clear federal laws, citizens with good intentions must either subvert the system to get access to recordings, or leave these recordings to deteriorate, since there is no clear law about preservation.

Thank you so much for allowing public comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,
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