

She's So Unusual Created Many Copyright Moments

ALISON HALL

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden named Cyndi Lauper's album *She's So Unusual* as one of the twenty-five entries to the 2018 **National Recording Registry**. Recordings are named to the Registry because of their cultural, historic, and aesthetic importance to the nation's recorded sound heritage. The Library's Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conversation works to ensure these sound recordings will be preserved by some entity and available for future generations. The album was a big part of my teen years, and now it makes me think of all the copyright moments one album can create.

CBS, Inc., registered the sound recording of the album in 1983. Photographer Annie Leibovitz shot the album's cover in front of a closed wax museum in Coney Island. She registered the two photographs, listing the contents as "Cyndi Lauper, Brooklyn, New York, and 1983." Later, Lauper released *She's So Unusual: A 30th Anniversary Celebration*, and Sony Music Entertainment registered the sound recording noting pre-existing sound recordings and registering "7 new sound recordings (Disc 2); new sounds on Disc 1 on tracks 11-13; compilation of sound recordings on Disc 2; artwork; compilation of artwork; liner notes."

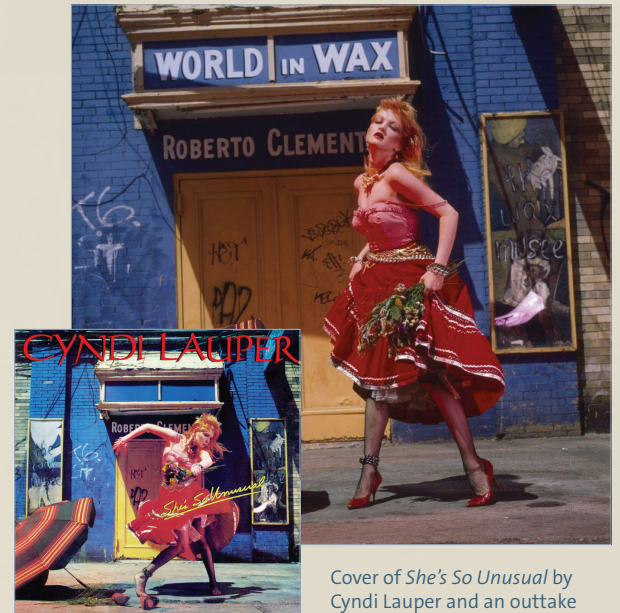
The music and lyrics for each song are registered with the Copyright Office. Lauper co-wrote some of the songs, including the album's hit, "Time After Time," which became her first number one song. She also co-wrote the hit single "She Bop" and album tracks "Witness" and "I'll Kiss You."

The album also included a cover of a song written and first recorded by Prince, "When You Were Mine." And songwriter Robert Hazard wrote and first recorded the hit "Girls Just Want to Have Fun." He registered the song as part of the performing arts work *Five Songs by Robert Hazard* in 1979, calling the song "Girls." The song since has been covered by many other artists, including Miley Cyrus, Panic! at the Disco, and the casts of *Glee* and the *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* musical. Lauper herself released "Hey Now (Girls Just Want to Have Fun)," a reggae-inspired

version of the song, in 1994. Many artists have done parodies of the song, including Weird Al Yankovic with "Girls Just Wanna Have Lunch." Sesame Street spoofed it with "Kids Just Love to Brush" and "Grouch Girls Don't Wanna Have Fun."

"Time After Time" inspired many derivative works too. Miles Davis recorded an instrumental version for his 1985 album *You're Under Arrest*. Artists of different genres sang covers of the song, including Boyz II Men, Uncle Kracker, Matchbox Twenty, Paul Anka, Willie Nelson, and Barry Manilow. The cast of *Parks and Recreation* wrote the lyrics on a dry-erase board and sang part of the song in the episode "Bailout." Additionally, the "Time After Time" video, directed by Edd Griles, opens showing Lauper watching a clip of the 1936 film *The Garden of Allah*.

The video for "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," also directed by Griles, has multiple copyright moments. It includes choreography by the New York dance and music troupe XXY. It features a short clip of Lauper's recording of "He's so Unusual," itself a cover of a 1929 song, and also a video clip of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The scene at the end, while not actually using footage from The Marx Brothers movie *A Night at the Opera*, pays homage to the movie's stateroom scene. The video won the MTV Video Music Award for Best Female Video in 1984, and today, the official video has more than 722 million views on YouTube, keeping the song alive after more than thirty-five years. ©



Cover of *She's So Unusual* by Cyndi Lauper and an outtake of the photo shoot.



Cover of the singles *She Bop* and *Time After Time* by Cyndi Lauper.