

Linda S. Henderson
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Dear Sir or Madam,

- 1) We need an easily accessible and searchable source to determine if a song is public domain and if it is listed as copyrighted, specific information concerning the copyright. It is rather odd that “Happy Birthday”, written over 100 years ago is “owned”.
- 2) We need a method by which a song owner has power to designate the use of their song. Woody Guthrie rather clearly intended at least some of his songs to have broad open use, and yet, there are those who have “claimed” the property.
- 3) I advocate designation of original version of American songs written prior to 1914 be designated as National Treasures – public domain - in order to encourage the performance and recording of these songs. Such recordings can and should be protected in the interest of the artist who worked to record it within a reasonable time. However, the song itself should be protected from corporate monopoly.
- 4) Copyright should be clearly focused to protect the originator of a work – the artist – and the ability of others to claim interest needs to be scrutinized and very clearly defined.
- 5) We need to broadly encourage performance of all music in small venues and small towns without harrassment from corporate entities. A distiction between live performance and recording rights is needed.

Sincerely,
Linda S. Henderson