

Sirs,

We are looking for a fair deal for composers.

I have had my music played on the radio and television.

I have been streamed on many sites.

They only payments that I ever received were from BMI Live for performance of my work.

No accounting has ever been made from anyone.

Ten years and two albums of recorded work. Close to 40 years of public performance. 70 compositions.

I didn't expect much, but I do expect fair compensation. We haven't received that.

Please consider the following when adjusting the copyright rules/laws.

1. No Audit: As a songwriter, I have no idea whether I am being paid correctly by any digital service and I am not allowed to audit them. This is untenable.

2. Publishers Clearing House: I routinely receive a "notice of intention to use" my work that is always late. This violates the basic rule of statutory licensing. The "NOI" I receive comes with a letter asking me to log into a website to see if I am owed money or how much I am owed. When I go to the website I am asked to sign a click through agreement that makes significant changes to the few statutory rights I have. This is the worst kind of trickery and is worse than the worst direct mail campaigns because I can always throw away the junk mail. This trickery involves my life's work!

3. Black Box: If I am lucky enough to get a certified statement from a CPA, I have no way of knowing if the CPA ever looked at my earnings or if there are any "black box" earnings that I'm entitled to. Given that I get no certifications and no audits, there's no telling how much money should have been paid that wasn't.

4. Don't Protect Scofflaws: You cannot allow services who have never complied with the law to get protection of the laws they have evaded.

Thank you,  
Mike Felten