

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-Inte](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:31:40 PM

Victoria Espinel
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Filed via email

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I am a composer and an author. As such I am concerned that my copyrights be protected.

But the current state of copyright law has gone far beyond protecting the copyrights of living American authors, or even dead ones. Thanks to the lobbying of large entertainment companies, the copyright limit has been extended to an absurd extent. For example, George Gershwin died more than 70 years ago, and yet the copyrights of all of his pieces written after 1922 are still protected. This is not to protect his heirs; he had no children, but even his grandchildren would be dead by now. It is to protect the movie studios, record companies, and music publishers that continue to benefit from his copyrights, while denying reasonable access to scholars, performers, students, and the general public. Thus a few rich people are benefited while the vast majority of Americans, most of whom are not wealthy, are excluded.

Anything you can do to redress the balance and the application of copyright law would be not only appreciated, but fair. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allen Cohen
Associate Professor of Music
Fairleigh Dickinson University