

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Intellectual Property
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 12:49:13 AM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

I am a performing songwriter living in Nashville, TN. I moved to this town to pursue songwriting and have worked in the field of music licensing for 10 years. I have seen first-hand the contribution to humanity that music makes.

Here is a personal experience: One day friend related to me her experience being a child of a holocaust survivor and how it has effected her life. She described clinical depression and said that she sometimes felt suicidal and as if she was "falling off the earth". This left such a deep impression on me that I went home and wrote a song "Watch Me Fall". This song is on my independent CD entitled "In A New Light", released in 2000.

When I sent my friend a recording of the completed song, she contacted me soon after and left me a voice mail I will never forget. She said she felt that I had effectively saved her life by writing the song for her. She was so touched by the empathy expressed in the song it made her feel she had something to live for. Ms. Espinel, this story is not an exaggeration, and neither are the many stories of children who have had custom songs written for them by those volunteering for an organization called "Songs of Love" which provides songs written especially for children who are chronically and fatally ill.

All of this illustrates the healing power of the creative arts that goes well beyond the intrinsic role they play in most every part of our lives. Creators of original works must be encouraged and nurtured so that they may keep creating. Having to scrape by and sacrifice health, home and family in order to be a creative person is not nurturing. Strong copyright laws which protect intellectual property are essential to keep creators producing the works that make our civilization rich and healthy.

The government must work to educate the public in the importance of supporting those who create by contacting them for permission before using their music. They must be educated to understand that copyright laws are not meant to stifle them, but to keep creative work fresh and thriving. We must also work to streamline and regulate the process by which creators are compensated for performance of their works in digital media. Specifically, the internet providers and the "you-tubes" of the internet should be held accountable for their content; rather than indemnifying themselves and putting the onus on the individual person posting, since they are the ones benefiting from traffic on their networks or sites.

Please "help protect the creativity of the American public" by keeping our intellectual property protected. Additionally, the National Endowment for the Arts must be re-invigorated and new grants and endowments must be developed to nurture the creative spirit.

Thank you for your consideration and call for input. It is appreciated.

Julie Grower
Performing Songwriter

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Check out new songs on MySpace! "<http://www.myspace.com/juliegrower>" Julie is represented by Sharp Objects in Nashville. "<http://www.Sharpobject.com>"