

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Piracy
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 3:49:27 PM

Ms Espinel,

I can't express how pleased I am to see that someone may be able to do something about this rampant crime. I think my situation exemplifies the level of damage - all around - that online piracy creates.

I'm known as Bobby Steele, of the band THE UNDEAD. We've been playing since 1981, and are actually the band that launched the East Village scene. I've always operated independently, and things were looking very good for me in the late 1980s early 1990s - when I was able to sell over 10,000 units in less than one year. It appeared that I might even hit a level where I would be free from Social Security disability, and on the road to independence.

Then, the internet kicked in...

I've witnessed bootleg copies of my recordings being sold on Ebay for as much as \$71.00 - and when Ebay ignored my demand that the bootleg be removed, I had no choice but to put in a bid, and buy the fake item, rather than allow an unsuspecting fan to get ripped off.

Last May, I released a new 3 song CD. In less than a week, I found a bootlegging site that showed it had enabled 11,000 downloads of my recording. That, alone, accounted for \$22,000 in lost income - which would've put me above the poverty level. That was just one week's worth of stolen income.

The fact is - this generation has been raised with the attitude of entitlement, and the belief that 'musicians are happy when they play, and don't deserve to be paid for having fun'. We've been relegated to the status of Slave - provide enjoyment for others, but God-forbid we receive any benefit, lest we be called ingrateful. There is no respect for the musician - just unbridled envy, based on the knowledge that one in a billion struggling musicians is 'Rich' - and therefore the poor, struggling musician should 'share the wealth' that he doesn't even have.

In my situation - I was born with Spina Bifida, and then came down with Polio. A later spinal cord tumor, and a fall between moving subway cars further contributed to my disabilities, yet my story has inspired people the world over. The bootleg industry has kept me broke and dependent on SSD. At 54 years old, it may be too late for me, but I'd like to see the future of those, who take these sacrifices, improved nonetheless.

Bobby Steele