

THE
#BROKENRECORD
CAMPAIGN

IVORS ACADEMY

MPG
MUSIC PRODUCERS
GUILD

Musicians'
Union
MU

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1A 2AA

4th June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you on behalf of today's generation of artists, musicians, songwriters and producers here in the UK.

For too long, streaming platforms, record labels and other internet giants have exploited performers and creators without rewarding them fairly. We must put the value of music back where it belongs – in the hands of music makers

Streaming is quickly replacing radio as our main means of music communication. However, the law has not kept up with the pace of technological change, and, as a result, performers, producers and songwriters do not enjoy the same protections as they do in radio.

Today's musicians receive very little income from their performances – most featured artists receive tiny fractions of a US cent per stream and session musicians receive nothing at all.

To remedy this, only two words need to change in the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act. This will modernise the law so that today's performers receive a share of revenues, just like they do in radio. It won't cost the taxpayer a penny but will put more money in the pockets of UK taxpayers and raise revenues for public services like the NHS.

There is evidence of multinational corporations wielding extraordinary power and songwriters struggling as a result. An immediate government referral to the Competition and Markets Authority is the first step to address this. Songwriters earn 50% of radio revenues, but only 15% in streaming. We believe that in a truly free market the song will achieve greater value.

Ultimately though, we need a regulator to ensure the lawful and fair treatment of music makers. The UK has a proud history of protecting its producers, entrepreneurs and inventors. We believe British creators deserve the same protections as other industries whose work is devalued when exploited as a loss-leader.

By addressing these problems, we will make the UK the best place in the world to be a musician, producer or a songwriter, allow recording studios and the UK session scene to thrive once again, strengthen our world leading cultural sector, allow the market for recorded music to flourish for listeners and creators, and unearth a new generation of talent.

We urge you to take these suggestions forward and ensure the music industry is part of your levelling-up agenda as we kickstart the post-Covid economic recovery.

Yours Sincerely,

Damon Albarn OBE
 Lily Allen
 Marc Almond OBE
 alt-J
 Brett Anderson
 Iain Archer
 Joan Armatrading CBE
 David Arnold
 Gabrielle Aplin
 Jazzie B OBE
 Badly Drawn Boy
 Tom Bailey
 Adam Bainbridge (Kindness)
 Timo Baker
 Carl Barat
 Emily Barker
 Gary Barlow OBE
 Geoff Barrow
 Django Bates
 Mike Batt LVO
 Brian Bennett OBE
 Bev Bevan
 Fiona Bevan
 Bicep
 Don Black OBE
 Alfie Boe OBE
 Billy Bragg
 Ian Broudie
 Tim Burgess
 Kate Bush CBE
 Melanie C
 Mairéad Carlin
 Laura-Mary Carter
 Eliza Carthy MBE
 Martin Carthy MBE
 Celeste
 Guy Chambers
 The Chemical Brothers
 Nicky Chinn
 Chrissy Boy
 Allan Clayton
 Jarvis Cocker
 Dame Sarah Connelly
 Phil Coulter
 Roger Daltrey CBE
 Catherine Anne Davies (The anchoress)
 Ian Devaney
 Chris Difford
 DJ Fresh
 Al Doyle
 Markus Dravs
 Sam Duckworth
 Anne Dudley
 Darren Emerson
 Brian Eno
 Paul Epworth
 Bob Ezrin
 James Fagan
 Paloma Faith
 Marianne Faithfull
 Field Music
 George Fenton
 Rebecca Ferguson
 Robert Fripp
 Gabrielle
 Peter Gabriel
 Noel Gallagher
 Guy Garvey
 Bob Geldof KBE
 Boy George
 Barry Gibb
 Gillian Gilbert
 David Gilmour CBE
 Roger Glover
 Nigel Godrich
 Alison Goldfrapp
 Howard Goodall CBE
 Jimi Goodwin
 Jake Goswell
 Graham Gouldman
 Tom Gray
 Roger Greenaway OBE
 Will Gregory
 Harry Gregson-Williams
 Rupert Gregson-Williams
 Ed Harcourt
 Tony Hatch OBE
 Dhani Harrison
 Richard Hawley
 Justin Hayward
 Fran Healey
 Orlando Higginbottom
 Jools Holland OBE, DL
 Niall Horan
 The Horrors
 Tom Howe
 Mick Hucknall
 Crispin Hunt
 Shabaka Hutchings
 William Hyde
 Chrissie Hynde
 Eric Idle
 Jim Irvin
 James
 Holly Johnson
 John Paul Jones
 Sir Tom Jones OBE
 Julian Joseph OBE
 Linton Kwesi Johnson
 Kano
 Alex Kapranos
 Gary Kemp
 Nancy Kerr
 Richard Kerr
 Soweto Kinch
 Alastair King
 Beverly Knight MBE
 Mark Knopfler OBE
 Simon Le Bon
 Yoko Ono, Sean Ono Lennon &
 the Estate of John Lennon
 Annie Lennox OBE
 Shaznay Lewis
 Gary Lightbody OBE
 Tasmin Little OBE
 Cass Lowe
 Callum MacColl
 Laura Marling
 Johnny Marr
 Chris Martin
 Claire Martin OBE
 Steve Mason
 Massive Attack
 Cerys Matthews MBE
 Imelda May
 Sir Paul McCartney CH MBE
 Horse McDonald
 John McLaughlin
 Aidan Moffat
 Thurston Moore
 Stephen Morris
 Steve Morse
 Van Morrison
 Gary "Mani" Mounfield
 Alison Moyet
 Mitch Murray CBE
 Frank Musker
 Laura Mvula
 Kate Nash
 Stevie Nicks
 Orbital
 Roland Orzabal
 Gary Osborne
 Jimmy Page OBE
 Hugh Padgham
 Hannah Peel
 Ian Paice
 Daniel Pemberton
 Pet Shop Boys
 Yannis Philippakis
 Anna Phoebe
 Phil Pickett
 Robert Plant CBE
 Nicholas Plato-Page (AKA Count Dubulah)
 Karine Polwart
 Emily Portman
 Joel Pott
 Michael Price
 Chris Rea
 Eddi Reader MBE
 Sir Tim Rice
 Andrew Roachford MBE
 Orphy Robinson MBE
 The Rolling Stones
 Roots Manuva
 Matthew Rose
 Emeli Sandé MBE
 Jack Savoretti
 Nitin Sawhney CBE
 Andy Scott
 Scouting for Girls
 Seal
 Anil Sebastian
 Peggy Seeger
 Self Esteem
 Nadine Shah
 Feargal Sharkey OBE
 Shura
 Shy FX
 Labi Siffre
 Martin Simpson
 Skin
 Mike Skinner
 Slowdive
 Curt Smith
 Fraser T Smith
 Robert Smith
 SOAK
 Sharleen Spiteri
 Lisa Stansfield
 Sting CBE
 Stephen Street
 The Estate of Joe Strummer
 Suggs
 Bernard Sumner
 Supergrass
 Tony Swain
 Heidi Talbot
 Alexis Taylor
 John Taylor
 Phil Thornalley
 KT Tunstall
 Ruby Turner MBE
 Two Door Cinema Club
 Becky Unthank
 Norma Waterson MBE
 Cleveland Watkiss MBE
 Jessie Ware
 Martyn Ware
 Bruce Welch OBE
 Kitty Whately
 Felix White
 Steve White
 Ricky Wilde
 Olivia Williams
 Roy Wood
 Daniel "Woody" Woodgate
 Paul Woolford
 Wolf Alice
 Midge Ure OBE
 Nicky Yeoh
 Rachel Zeffira
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PS This is the second time we have sent this letter. This week the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) produced a report concluding, in agreement with us, that a remuneration right for streaming is the correct approach to our problem. Since we last wrote, many more artists, performers, composers, songwriters, producers, their estates and professional bodies have contacted us to add their names or to offer support.