

Si enki ewi cz-Frederi ck-20050314063006

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Frederick Si enki ewi cz

Comment:

As a student/musician, I seek to have all of the very best tools available to me to help with my study and education. About three years ago, I had run across a friend who had a copy of "Louis Armstrong's 125 Jazz Breaks and 15 Hot Solos" -- a book of transcriptions of Louis Armstrong's work as the most famous jazz trumpeter. At the time I was interested in learning to play more like 'Louie' and the book would have been invaluable to that study, but unfortunately the copyright holder had stopped publishing the work and no sheet music store could locate a copy. As a result, my educational path had to do without a copy of the book of Armstrong solos -- i.e. had to suffer -- simply because the publisher had decided to stop printing it and yet copyright law still insists that it cannot be photocopied and shared for the benefit of all so long as the exorbitant copyright period is in effect. This actually happens quite a bit in the music publishing industry where both sheet music and method books which may be of high quality and great use to musicians are simply taken out of print and made completely unavailable by the publisher.

I strongly endorse opening up these orphan works to enter the public domain to help keep the body of available works in the public domain healthy and vibrant and, quite simply, to create more value for everyone in the world.

Sincerely,
Fred