

THE  
#BROKENRECORD  
CAMPAIGN

IVORS ACADEMY

Musicians'  
Union  
**MMU**

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to you on behalf of today's generation of artists, musicians and songwriters 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 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 enjoy 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 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 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  
Wolf Alice  
Marc Almond OBE  
Joan Armatrading CBE  
David Arnold  
Massive Attack  
Jazzie B OBE  
Adam Bainbridge (Kindness)  
Emily Barker  
Gary Barlow OBE  
Geoff Barrow  
Django Bates  
Brian Bennett OBE  
Fiona Bevan  
Aflie Boe OBE  
Billy Bragg  
The Chemical Brothers  
Kate Bush CBE  
Melanie C  
Eliza Carthy MBE  
Martin Carthy MBE  
Celeste  
Guy Chambers  
Mike Batt LVO  
Don Black OBE  
Badly Drawn Boy  
Chrissy Boy  
Tim Burgess  
Mairéad Carlin  
Laura-Mary Carter  
Nicky Chinn  
Dame Sarah Connolly DBE  
Phil Coulter  
Roger Daltrey CBE  
Catherine Anne Davies (The anchoress)  
Ian Devaney  
Chris Difford  
Al Doyle  
Anne Dudley  
Brian Eno  
Self Esteem  
James Fagan  
Paloma Faith  
Marianne Faithfull  
George Fenton  
Rebecca Ferguson  
Robert Fripp  
Shy FX  
Gabrielle  
Peter Gabriel  
Noel Gallagher

Guy Garvey  
Bob Geldof KBE  
Boy George  
David Gilmour CBE  
Nigel Godrich  
Howard Goodall CBE  
Jimi Goodwin  
Graham Gouldman  
Tom Gray  
Roger Greenaway OBE  
  
Ed Harcourt  
Tony Hatch OBE  
Richard Hawley  
Justin Hayward  
Fran Healy  
Orlando Higginbottom  
Jools Holland OBE, DL  
Mick Hucknall  
Crispin Hunt  
Shabaka Hutchings  
Eric Idle  
John Paul Jones  
Julian Joseph OBE  
Kano  
Linton Kwesi Johnson  
Gary Kemp  
Nancy Kerr  
Richard Kerr  
Soweto Kinch  
Beverly Knight MBE  
Mark Knopfler OBE  
Annie Lennox OBE  
Shaznay Lewis  
Gary Lightbody OBE  
Tasmin Little OBE  
Calum MacColl  
Roots Manuva  
Laura Marling  
Johnny Marr  
Chris Martin  
Claire Martin OBE  
Cerys Matthews MBE  
Sir Paul McCartney CH MBE  
Horse McDonald  
Thurston Moore  
Gary "Mani" Mounfield  
Mitch Murray CBE  
Field Music  
Frank Musker  
Laura Mvula  
Kate Nash

Stevie Nicks  
Orbital  
Roland Orzabal  
Gary Osborne  
Jimmy Page OBE  
Hannah Peel  
Daniel Pemberton  
Yannis Philippakis  
Anna Phoebe  
Phil Pickett  
Robert Plant CBE  
Karine Polwart  
Emily Portman  
Chris Rea  
Eddi Reader MBE  
Sir Tim Rice  
Orphy Robinson MBE  
Matthew Rose  
Nitin Sawhney CBE  
Anil Sebastian  
Peggy Seeger  
Nadine Shah  
Feargal Sharkey OBE  
Shura  
Labi Siffre  
Martin Simpson  
Skin  
Mike Skinner  
Curt Smith  
Fraser T Smith  
Robert Smith  
Sharleen Spiteri  
Lisa Stansfield  
Sting CBE  
Suggs  
Tony Swain  
Heidi Talbot  
John Taylor  
Phil Thornalley  
KT Tunstall  
Ruby Turner MBE  
Becky Unthank  
Norma Waterson MBE  
Cleveland Watkiss MBE  
Jessie Ware  
Bruce Welch OBE  
Kitty Whately  
Ricky Wilde  
Olivia Williams  
Daniel "Woody" Woodgate  
Midge Ure OBE  
Nikki Yeoh