

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Subject: that song that was playing when you fell in love
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 4:59:47 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel

I'm sitting here looking at my Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Original Song for a song called "Barefoot Ballet." I wrote the song with Christian Taylor and Wally Kurth, and it was one of three of our compositions used during a season of the soap opera General Hospital, when Wally was starring as Ned Ashton on the show. Other successes in my songwriting career include the No. 1 country song "My Kind Of Girl" (Collin Raye) and the No. 5 song "This Is Me Missing You" (James House). By some standards I am a very successful songwriter. Looking at my bank account proves otherwise.

I have spent decades perfecting my songwriting, and am thrilled with every recording I have ever had, but I can't make a living at it right now. A generation of Americans have grown up proclaiming that theft of music and other intellectual property is their right. At first they pretended to believe internet piracy was hurting no one. They didn't really believe it, even then, but they pretended to believe it. Over the past decade creators of have cried out loudly enough that everyone knows there are real people writing these songs. No one actually thinks internet theft is not hurting anyone.

Please realize that that song you are hearing right now in your head - you know, the one that was playing when you fell in love - is not only one of the most important exports our country has to offer, it is a national treasure.

Sincerely,
Debi Cochran

If we don't do it, nobody will

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"IT ALL BEGINS WITH A SONG"
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