

[REDACTED]
New Orleans, LA 70118
April 21, 1999

C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear C-SPAN

C-SPAN is the best thing to happen to democracy since the Constitution. Thank you for your gift to this country. I must confess to being more than a little in love with Brian Lamb, a condition I suspect is very common among female viewers.

To repeat a suggestion I made several years ago, please consider playing music by American composers, not just the classical music by, as they say, dead white European males. You cited copyright law issues when I suggested this before, so I've enclosed a summary chart of those laws from the web. You can definitely play anything published before 1923; even if a piece were copyrighted and renewed, you can still play anything published up to 1952. I know nothing about music, but names like Bernstein, Copland, Ellington, Gershwin, Glass, Gottschalk, Gould, Joplin, Loewe, Rodgers, and Sousa come to mind.

C-SPAN is so thoroughly American that I've never understood your use of classical music. It seems so formal, anti-democratic and snobbish--the exact opposite of what C-SPAN is about, in my view.

American music, please. Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion, and thank you again for your gift to democracy.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

5-12-09

WHEN WORKS PASS INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Includes material from new Term Extension Act, PL 105-298

DATE OF WORK	PROTECTED FROM	TERM
Created 1-1-78 or after	When work is fixed in tangible medium of expression	Life + 70 years ¹ (or if work of corporate authorship, the shorter of 95 years from publication, or 120 years from creation ²)
Published before 1923	In public domain	None
Published from 1923 - 63	When published with notice ³	28 years + could be renewed for 47 years, now extended by 20 years for a total renewal of 67 years. If not so renewed, now in public domain
Published from 1964 - 77	When published with notice	28 years for first term; now automatic extension of 67 years for second term
Created before 1-1-78 but not published	1-1-78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12-31-2002, whichever is greater
Created before 1-1-78 but published between then and 12-31-2002	1-1-78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12-31-2047 whichever is greater

1 Term of joint works is measured by life of the longest-lived author.

2 Works for hire, anonymous and pseudonymous works also have this term. 17 U.S.C. § 302(c).

3 Under the 1909 Act, works published without notice went into the public domain upon publication. Works published without notice between 1-1-78 and 3-1-89, effective date of the Berne Convention Implementation Act, retained copyright only if, e.g., registration was made within five years. 17 U.S.C. § 405.

Notes courtesy of Professor Tom Field, Franklin Pierce Law Center

Last updated 11-5-98