

SIVA VAIDHYANTHAN

ARTICLES

HEP CATS

How did Led Zepplin become embattled in copyright?

Borrowed heavily from Willie Dixon; sometimes they credited him and sometimes they didn't.

Discuss how blues music is created, as described by Muddy Waters

“Feel Like Goin’ Home”:

- He made it up after he'd been mistreated by a girl
- From the cotton field
- Robert Johnson recorded it
- He learned it from Son House

Blues musicians all copied from one another.

What's the practice in Jamaica known as “versioning”?

It's the practice of making another version of a hit song. If one song becomes a hit, lots of versions of it will be released, practically simultaneously. The best version wins out.

According to Siva, why would Thomas Jefferson love Napster?

Because he wanted copyright to support the free-flow of information and ideas?
Saw copyright as an incentive to create/market NOT as a property right

Yet over time, copyright has come to be seen as a defacto property right instead of a temporary monopoly

Discuss: How does defining copyright as a property right affect artists?

Orig. artists can have more control over their work; their descendants can profit more

Other artists are restricted:

Led Zepplin would not be Led Zepplin without Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon

Muddy Waters would not be Muddy Waters without Robert Johnson and Son House

Early Beastie Boys and Public Enemy and Ice Cube records would not exist

No MAD magazine, no Saturday Night Live, no Wind Done Gone

How does defining copyright as a property right affect the public?

Pro-property right argument: if you don't assure artists property right, people won't create

Anti-property argument: Decreases amount of cultural material the public has access to

