

## Billy Bragg pulls music from MySpace

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### CBC Arts

Folk musician Billy Bragg has yanked his music from the MySpace website saying he's afraid his music could be used without his permission.

Bragg, whose hits include *Levi Stubbs' Tears* and *Sexuality*, accuses the popular online community site of exploiting musicians.

A statement on Bragg's MySpace page says: "Once an artist posts up any content [including songs] it then belongs to MySpace ... and they can do what they want with it, throughout the world, without paying the artist."

The clause that concerns Bragg states artists "grant to Myspace.com a non-exclusive, fully-paid and royalty-free, worldwide licence [with the rights to sublicense through unlimited levels of sub licensees] to use, copy, modify, adapt, translate, publicly perform, publicly display, store, reproduce, transmit and distribute such content on and through the services."

"There are four words I never like to see together — 'royalty free worldwide licence.' The alarm bells start ringing," Bragg told *The Independent* newspaper in Britain.

"The rights you are giving to MySpace are above and beyond anything you would give to a record company."

A spokesman for MySpace in Britain said copyright remains with the musician at all times. The clause is there to allow the music to be used on the site in the way the artist intended.

"Because the legalese has caused some confusion, we are at work clarifying it to make very clear that MySpace is not seeking a licence to do anything with an artist's work other than allow it to be shared in the manner the artist intends," said a statement released by MySpace.

"Putting music on MySpace does not give us the right to sell it. The musicians own their content and can do with it as they wish."

The online networking site is popular with musicians posting their work. Stars such as Madonna and U2 all have homepages on the site.

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