

A-Kolle-Beth-20050226173003

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Beth A. Kolle

Comment:

I work with traditional folk-music and copyrighted music in the folk-music style from several countries the world over. It's next to impossible to get information on this kind of music. I have tried to work with TONO, the Scandinavian copyright clearinghouse, and rarely get a response from them. Harry Fox Agency now charges an exorbitant amount to research copyright, and they know next to nothing about folk music. It took me three years to locate the composer of Inisheer (also called Inis Siar and Inis Oirr), a traditional-sounding melody from Ireland, and that was through a friend living in Ireland, not through an agency or database.

It's hard to be legal under these circumstances. If there were some kind of international database we could research on our own, maybe divided by country and music style as well as by title and composer, that would really help.