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Federal Copyright for pre-1972 sound recordings

I study Eastern European Jewish immigrant music and the main sources for this study are 78 rpm recordings. The recordings of this era are our cultural inheritance. While modern interpreters of this traditional music make valuable and interesting recordings of it, a student of the music must be able to have access to the source of what is played in contemporary times. Otherwise we lose our understanding of the basis of this music.

As the companies that produced many of these recordings are defunct, it is important that that not impede access to this great resource for cultural preservation. I urge you to create a legal format which enables us to have access to this music.