

Written evidence submitted by Tim Richards

I am a self-employed pianist, composer and educator. Between 1982 and 2015 I released over 15 albums (on Vinyl and CD) on various labels. All of these were under my own name, or the following band names:

Tim Richards TRIO
Spirit Level
Great Spirit
Tim Richards' Spirit Level
Tin Richards' Great Spirit
Tim Richards' HEXTET

Over the last 10 years or so, tracks from most of these albums have appeared on SPOTIFY and YOUTUBE, in many cases without my permission. Revenue from CD sales has dwindled to nothing.

The streaming royalties payable by SPOTIFY in no way make up for the loss of physical sales. In order to earn the same as I previously would for a single CD sale, I would need to get 100,000 hits on Spotify – that's 1/1000 of a penny for each track – a derisory amount.

Furthermore, in many cases the royalties are paid to the record company who released the album, and VAT IS DEDUCTED, further reducing the minuscule amount payable.

In my view SPOTIFY's activities are verging on the criminal. I would go so far as to say that they have resulted in the partial collapse of the recording industry. Why bother going to the time, trouble and expense of making a recording, when everyone expects it for free?

It is high time that they were called to account, and a more reasonable remuneration system implemented.

Tim Richards

<http://www.timrichards.ndo.co.uk/discography.html>