

Copyright Law

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Introduction

Copyright is a form of intellectual property that holds regular progress of authorship as long as the owner solves their work in a tangible type of expression. In copyright law, many different forms of work include musicians, film makers, scriptwriters, and others. It is obstructive in the music industry because it involves music possessors, writers, and merchandisers to develop and pursue a career to provide any creators of their discographies as a requirement to copy their work towards their own music.

Sampling is a skill that many Hip-Hop and R&B musicians used their platforms for many years as a path to sell their records. Sampling changed the music industry to bring musicians to open their mind, and provide the eligibility to develop a technique to make music.

Learning Outcomes

I Learned the copyright law in the Media Law & Ethics class. I took this class to examine the legal system of the media and it helped me understand the legal consequences of the music business. I reviewed the violation code to observe and apply the ethics and moral reasoning of sampling songs to address the issue to pursue a professional career in a communication and mass media industry.

Justification

Richard Campbell explained about Media Oligopolies on the *Media In Society* book. “Older media industries like film and music are in the hands of a few corporations; this environment is defined as an oligopoly. In an oligopoly, a handful of firms dominate a market or industry. (Campbell et. al. 2014, p. 184)” He mentioned how the media corporations took over the music industry. “The development of Internet file-sharing and illegal downloads and Apple’s new business model (charging 99 cents, at the time, to download a song) put a dent in the old

model, but the remaining four major music companies remain both in control and mutually interdependent, at least for now. (Campbell et. al. 2014 p.185)” When media corporations monopolize the music industry, it combines together for a good legislative, and more determine competition. There is no threat to join the media oligopoly.

Campbell, wrote about the revolution of the music industry to show how participation changed it. "... music-business oligopoly tolerates a certain margin of independence and outsider work in order to gauge trends and innovation, and independently run music labels have seen increased success in the past decade (especially for the artists working for these labels) as the major-label system has been slow to adapt to technology changes and online opportunities in the industry. (Campbell et. al. 2014 p. 187)”

The article of *The Sampling continuum: musical aesthetics and ethics in the age of digital production* concentrates on the credibility of the music industry to discuss about the legal system of the music industry. It “examining the ethics and politics of musical copying, copyright and digitisation. It involved interviews with musicians, managers and producers at different stages of their careers and including practitioners across various genres within ‘popular music’ as it may be broadly understood, covering different levels of commercial operation, from session players and backroom writers to featured artists. (Negus and Street, 2016-2017)” It mentioned the consequences of sampling music. “The status of the sample and digital sampling equipment in popular music has been contentious and disruptive, yet also partly taken for granted. It is something of a cliché in the record industry that ‘where there’s a hit there’s a writ’ and the most common wrangles involve two types of dispute. The first concerns accusations of plagiarism – lifting significant lyrical or melodic aspects of a prior work. (Negus and Street, 2016-2017)”

Theoretical Approaches to Quotation in Hip-Hop Recording, a peer-reviewed article, demonstrates the research of Hip-Hop music. “ Hip-hop, as a broad and varied genre of popular music, has existed for over 30 years on record and is firmly part of the wider culture of the same name that originated in New York City over 40 years ago. It is safe to say that hip-hop is one of the most culturally relevant and influential forms of popular music today and one of the most salient aspects for academic study is the fact that it openly celebrates its connections with the past, creating a vast intertextual network from myriad elements within and outside of hip-hop culture. (Williams, 2014)” It explained how digital sampling impacts the hip-hop community. “As digital sampling technology improved and became more affordable in the mid-to-late 1980s, many of the hip-hop DJ practices (such as *crate digging*, looping and collage techniques) shifted to that of the *hip-hop producer*. (Williams, 2014)”

Money for Nothing: Behind the Business of Pop Music is a 2001 documentary film that draws the attention of musicians including Public Enemy’s Chuck D, Ani DiFranco, and Michael Franti. It discussed how the music industry controlled a new wave of business construction through six media corporations to take over the industry.

Copyright Criminals is a 2010 documentary film which appeared on PBS’s Independent Lens that testifies the development of sampling music in three ways: “artistic expression, copyright law, and money.(Larsen, and McLeod, 2010)” Technology changed the media to see the world in a different perspective on the concept of making music. “Computers, mobile phones, and other interactive technologies are changing our relationships with media, blurring the line between producer and consumer and radically changing what it means to be creative.(Larsen and McLeod, 2010)”

Academic Background

Copyright Infringement is very important to me because I am passionate and determined to work in the music industry. My career goals are to work in record labels to learn more about the business of music. I also want to show *Pitchfork* and *Billboard* magazine my knowledge in the music industry to show how much I care to pursue my dreams.

Methods and Means

I am using Weebly to create least 5-7 blog posts to develop my capstone project. I found two documentary videos to show the concept of copyright and media corporation in the music industry. I will explain music plagiarism to introduce to my next topic to show two songs as an example of a copyright law and how musicians filed or refused a lawsuit.

Failsafe Plan

If I did not find a video documentation series or two songs to discuss my topic, I will use 3 to 5 peer-reviewed articles to support my thesis statement. If I use peer-review articles, it will be more complicated for my readers to understand the marketing behind the music industry. I would not use these two songs to show how these songs were sampled from the original song to show the progression of music plagiarism. I would also not use music plagiarism to introduce the following topic as well.

Artifacts

Date	Explanation
September 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find the information on the media oligopoly in the music industry from the <i>Media in Society</i> book. - Video documentary: <i>Money for Nothing: Behind the Business of Pop Music</i>
September 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Video Documentary: <i>Copyright</i>

	<i>Criminals</i>
September 22, 2021	Source information: Music Plagiarism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is music plagiarism an enormous topic in the business? - What generates the music industry?
September 25-October 3, 2021	Two Songs to represent Music Plagiarism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Make It Happen</i> - <i>I'll Be Missing You</i>
October 11, 2021	Conclusion and References
December 14, 2021	Capstone Project is Due

Conclusion

Copyright Law involves the ethics that create requirements for the music industry to show their original work on their music. Sampling music helps Hip-Hop and R&B artists to find their voice to reveal their true identity through their passion in music. This project is very important to me because I want to show my future employer my knowledge in the music industry.

References

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