



THE
SONNECK
SOCIETY
FOR
AMERICAN
MUSIC

Constituent Member
of the
American Council of
Learned Societies

67
3 May 1997
Blair School of Music
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37212

Peter N. Fowler
Attorney-Advisor
Office of Legislative and International Affairs
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office - Box 4
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The Board of the Sonneck Society for American Music recently discussed at length the draft guidelines proposed by the Conference on Fair Use, dated December 1996. We identified three proposed guidelines that pertain in some way to the professional activities of our Society's membership: 1) digital images, 2) distance learning, and 3) educational multimedia.

The Board voted to **abstain** from supporting or not the proposed guideline on **digital images**. It appears to us that this guideline, in the end, addresss concerns that were secondary to our mission and its execution.

The Board voted to **endorse** the proposed guideline on **distance learning**. This guideline struck us as a reasonable and appropriate application of the principle of fair use.

The Board voted to **abstain** from supporting or not the proposed guidelines on **educational multimedia**. This guideline produced the most discussion, in part because it is clear that there is a sharp division between those who, broadly, consume educational multimedia and those who produce it. The Sonneck Society for American Music numbers among its membership constituents of both perspectives, and the Board did not wish to support one group against the other.

We wish that our deliberations be conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Sincerely,

Dale Cockrell
Professor of Musicology
Past President.

Sonneck Society for American Music

p.s.: please note that correspondence might most appropriately be directed to the current president of The Society: Dean Anne Dhu McClucas, School of Music, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97405; fax: 541 346-0723

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The Sonneck Society for American Music is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of all aspects of American music and music in America and is named in honor of Oscar Sonneck, second chief of the Music Division in the Library of Congress.