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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
 12 **WESTERN DIVISION**

13 GOOD MORNING TO YOU ) Case No. CV 13-04460-GHK (MRWx)  
 14 PRODUCTIONS CORP., *et al.*, )  
 15 ) **PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE**  
 Plaintiffs, ) **APPLICATION TO HAVE THE COURT**  
 16 ) **CONSIDER NEWLY DISCOVERY**  
 17 v. ) **EVIDENCE "MISTAKENLY"**  
 ) **WITHHELD BY DEFENDANTS**  
 18 WARNER/CHAPPELL MUSIC, ) **DURING DISCOVERY AND ENTER**  
 19 INC., *et al.*, ) **SUMMARY JUDGMENT IN**  
 ) **PLAINTIFFS' FAVOR**  
 20 Defendants. )  
 21 ) Judge: Hon. George H.  
 ) King, Chief Judge  
 22 ) Courtroom: 650  
 23 )  
 24 ) Fact Discovery Cutoff: July 11, 2014  
 ) MSJ Hearings March 23, 2015  
 25 ) and July 29, 2015  
 26 ) Pretrial Conference: N/A  
 27 ) Trial: N/A  
 28 )

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Plaintiffs make this *ex parte* application to have the Court (i) enter an Order  
3 permitting Plaintiffs to supplement the record with the newly-discovered evidence  
4 that Defendants “mistakenly” withheld during discovery; (ii) consider the newly-  
5 discovered evidence in ruling on the pending Joint Cross-Motions for Summary  
6 Judgment (“Summary Judgment Motions”) (Dkt. 179, 181, 182); and (iii) enter  
7 summary judgment in Plaintiffs’ favor on the basis of the newly-discovered evidence  
8 that proves conclusively that *Happy Birthday* has been in the public domain since no  
9 later than 1922.

10 On July 13, 2015, Defendants gave Plaintiffs access to a database of  
11 approximately 500 pages of documents, including approximately 200 pages of  
12 documents they claim were “mistakenly” not produced during discovery, which  
13 ended on July 11, 2014, more than one year earlier.<sup>1</sup> See Declaration of Betsy C.  
14 Manifold in Support of *Ex Parte* Application (“Manifold Decl.”), ¶¶ 5,8, 9. One of  
15 those documents – a 1927 publication of the *Happy Birthday* song that was expressly  
16 authorized by defendants’ predecessor the Clayton F. Summy Co. – is a proverbial  
17 smoking-gun. *Id.*, Exhibits (“Ex.”) A and B. It and earlier versions of the song that  
18 Plaintiffs subsequently located through their own investigative efforts conclusively  
19 prove that **any** copyright that may have existed for the song itself (*i.e.*, the setting of  
20 the *Happy Birthday* lyrics to the melody of *Good Morning*) **expired decades ago**.

21 This newly-discovered evidence is fully consistent with Plaintiffs’ arguments  
22 that (i) Patty Hill gave the lyrics to the public when she wrote them as a version of  
23 the song she wrote with her sister Mildred Hill and (ii) that the 1935 copyrights  
24  
25

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26 <sup>1</sup> The initially set fact discovery deadline of June 27, 2014 (Dkt. 92) was  
27 extended by Magistrate Judge Wilner, in consultation with this Court, and at the  
28 request of both parties, to July 11, 2014. (Dkt. 119).

1 covered only specific piano arrangements of the song. More importantly, it trumps  
2 all of Defendants’ arguments.

3 Plaintiffs are mindful of the Court’s order directing the parties not to  
4 supplement the summary judgment record when they submitted their supplemental  
5 joint brief on whether Patty Hill abandoned any copyright to the *Happy Birthday*  
6 lyrics. Dkt. 215 at 1. However, because the documents prove conclusively that the  
7 song is in the public domain, thus making it unnecessary for the Court to decide the  
8 scope or validity of the disputed copyrights, much less whether Patty Hill abandoned  
9 any copyright she may have had to the lyrics – indeed, all those issues become moot  
10 – Plaintiffs are compelled to bring them to the Court’s attention now, before more  
11 time is needlessly spent on the pending Summary Judgment Motions and before the  
12 oral argument scheduled for July 29, 2015 (Dkt.222).<sup>2</sup>

13 Pursuant to L.R. 7-19.1, Plaintiffs orally notified Defendants’ counsel on July  
14 24, 2015 at 1:20 p.m. about this *ex parte* application. Details are provided both  
15 below and in the Manifold Declaration.

16 Absent this relief, the Court will waste judicial resources in determining and  
17 hearing further argument on the extensive Joint Cross Motions for Summary  
18 Judgment filed by the parties in November 2014 because the evidence withheld by  
19 Defendants during discovery and Plaintiffs’ investigation prompted by the withheld  
20 evidence readily resolves the key issues in Plaintiffs’ favor. Plaintiffs are not at fault  
21 in the need for this *ex parte* relief, any prejudice to Defendants was created by their  
22 own conduct in “mistakenly” withholding evidence and good cause exists for the  
23 review of this newly discovered evidence by the Court and the grant of Summary  
24

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25 <sup>2</sup> Because the publication is definitive proof that there is no longer *any*  
26 copyright for *Happy Birthday*, we are not asking the Court to permit us to submit any  
27 of these additional documents described in the Manifold Declaration (¶ 10) at this  
28 time. However, Plaintiffs expressly reserve their right to do so at a later time as may  
be necessary or appropriate.

1 Judgment in Plaintiffs' favor.

2 **II. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OPPOSING COUNSEL**

3 Pursuant to Local Rule 7-19, Plaintiffs provide the following contact  
4 information for opposing counsel:

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13  
14 Pursuant to Local Rule 7-19.1, on July 24, 2015, at 1:20 p.m., Plaintiffs  
15 informed counsel for Defendants (Adam Kaplan and Kelly Klaus) that they intended  
16 to file this application on July 27, 2015. Defendants advised Plaintiffs that they did  
17 not oppose the submission of this newly discovered evidence to the Court but will  
18 provide a written response opposing the grant of summary judgment in Plaintiffs'  
19 favor. Manifold Decl., ¶ 3. On July 27, 2015, Plaintiffs electronically served a copy  
20 of this ex parte application and supporting papers on Defendants' counsel *prior* to  
21 filing. *Id.*, ¶ 4. No hearing date is requested, but, if the Court determines that a  
22 hearing would be helpful, Plaintiffs could appear at any time convenient for the  
23 Court and will be prepared to address this application at July 29, 2015 oral argument.

24 **III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

25 In 1927, The Cable Co. ("Cable"), a Chicago music publisher, published the  
26 15th edition of a compilation of children's songs called *The Everyday Song Book*  
27 (*Graded*). On July 13, 2015, Defendants provided Plaintiffs with access to an FTP  
28 site that included (among several other documents) a PDF copy of the 15th edition of

1 *The Everyday Song Book*. See Manifold Decl., ¶ 9. The 16th song in that edition of  
2 *The Everyday Song Book*, appearing on the page marked WC0002424 by  
3 Defendants, was entitled “Good Morning and Birthday Song.” Manifold Decl., Ex.  
4 A. The *Good Morning and Birthday Song* consists of Mildred Hill’s melody for  
5 *Good Morning* together with Patty Hill’s lyrics for both *Good Morning* and *Happy*  
6 *Birthday* (if the Court finds that she wrote the *Happy Birthday* lyrics).

7 A line of text is printed directly below the song’s title in the song book. See  
8 Manifold Decl., Ex. A. The line of text in the PDF copy provided by the Defendants  
9 is blurred almost beyond legibility – curiously, it is the only line of the entire PDF  
10 that is blurred in that manner. After Plaintiffs learned of the existence of *The*  
11 *Everyday Song Book*, they promptly obtained original samples of the first, fourth,  
12 and 15th editions of the book. See Manifold Decl., ¶¶ 11,12, Ex. B. The line of text  
13 (illegibly blurred in the PDF copy provided by Defendants, but clearly printed in  
14 Exhibit B) reads as follows: “Special permission through courtesy of The Clayton F.  
15 Summy Co.” Unlike other individual works in the book, for which a copyright was  
16 identified, *no copyright was claimed or identified* for the *Good Morning and*  
17 *Birthday Song*.

18 The first edition of *The Everyday Song Book*, published in 1916, did not  
19 include the *Good Morning and Happy Birthday* song. However, Plaintiffs obtained  
20 samples of earlier editions of *The Everyday Song Book*. A revised fourth edition,  
21 published in 1922, included the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*. See Manifold  
22 Decl., Ex. C. The *Good Morning and Birthday Song* also appeared, with the same  
23 legend but without a copyright notice, in the 15th editions of *The Everyday Song*  
24 *Book*.

25 Publication of the *Good Morning and Birthday Song* in *The Everyday Song*  
26 *Book* in 1922 and thereafter, with Summy’s authorization but without a copyright  
27 notice, is fully consistent with Plaintiffs’ position that the *Happy Birthday* lyrics had  
28 been dedicated to the public many years before then. Because the lyrics were in the

1 public domain, there was no reason for a copyright notice to be set forth in the song  
2 book. Moreover, the authorized publication of the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*  
3 in 1922 without a copyright notice also is fully consistent with Plaintiffs' position  
4 that the 1935 copyrights (E51988 and E51990) covered only the specific piano  
5 arrangements written by Summy's employees Orem and Forman (as well as the  
6 second verse written by Forman). Since the lyrics were already in the public domain  
7 long before 1935, there was nothing else to be copyrighted other than the new work  
8 that Summy's employees contributed when those copyrights were registered.<sup>3</sup>

9 **IV. LEGAL STANDARD**

10 An application for *ex parte* relief is granted when (1) the moving party would  
11 be "irreparably prejudiced if the underlying motion is heard according to regular  
12 noticed motion procedures" and (2) the moving party is without fault in creating the  
13 situation requiring *ex parte* relief. *Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental*  
14 *Casualty Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488, 492 (C.D. Cal. 1995).

15 A pre-trial scheduling order may be modified "upon a showing of good cause."  
16 Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4); *Zivkovic v. Southern California Edison Co.*, 302 F.3d 1080,  
17 1087 (9th Cir. 2002). Good cause is shown if the schedule "cannot reasonably be met

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 <sup>3</sup> The *Everyday Song Book* also flatly contradicts two of defendants' so-called  
20 "undisputed" facts in the Corrected Joint Statement of Uncontroverted Facts [Dkt.  
183] filed on Dec. 1, 2014:

- 21 • There is no evidence that Clayton F. Summy Co. ever authorized, prior to  
22 1936, any "publication" (for purposes of the Copyright Act of 1909) of the  
23 lyrics of *Happy Birthday to You* by a different person or entity. D57.  
24 • There is no evidence that Clayton F. Summy Co. was ever aware, prior to  
25 1936, of any "publication" (for purposes of the Copyright Act of 1909) of the  
26 lyrics of *Happy Birthday to You* by a different person or entity. D56.

26 Summy expressly authorized the *Happy Birthday* lyrics to be published in the *Good*  
27 *Morning and Birthday Song* in the second edition of the *Everyday Song Book*. Since  
28 Summy expressly authorized publication of the *Good Morning and Birthday Song* in  
1922, it was certainly aware of the publication prior to 1936.

1 despite the diligence of the party seeking the extension.” *Photomedex, Inc. v. Irwin*,  
2 No. 04-CV-0024, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 56774, at \*4.

3 Plaintiffs meet the requirements for *ex parte* relief and for the underlying  
4 request to have the Court consider newly discovered evidence “mistakenly” withheld  
5 by Defendants during discovery and during the extensive briefing of cross-motions  
6 for Summary Judgment and, therefore, respectfully request that the Court grant this  
7 application and enter Summary Judgment in favor of Plaintiffs.

8 **A. The Court Should Exercise Its Discretion to Consider**  
9 **This Newly Discovered Evidence**

10 This Court has broad discretion to permit a litigant to supplement the factual  
11 record on the cross-motions for summary judgment. *Bell v. City of Los Angeles*, 835  
12 F. Supp. 2d 836, 848 (C.D. Cal. 2011) (Matz, J.) (citing *Betz v. Trainer Wortham &*  
13 *Co.*, 610 F.3d 1169, 1171 (9th Cir. 2010)); Fed. R. Civ. P. (“Rule”) 56(e). District  
14 courts in the Ninth Circuit routinely allow parties to supplement the summary  
15 judgment record with newly-discovered evidence. *See, e.g., George v. Northwestern*  
16 *Mut. Life Ins. Co.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 99454, \*9-10 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 1, 2011);  
17 *LimoStars, Inc. v. N.J. Car & Limo, Inc.*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 87771, \*11 (D.  
18 Ariz. Aug. 8, 2011) (citing *United States v. Maris*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15088, \* 5  
19 n. 5 (D.Nev. Feb. 4, 2011); *Mitchel v. Holder*, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21088, \* 1 n.1  
20 (N.D. Cal., Mar. 9, 2010). As the Supreme Court explained in *Celotex Corp. v.*  
21 *Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 327 (1986) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 1), permitting an  
22 amendment to consider newly-discovered evidence is “an integral part of the Federal  
23 Rules as a whole, which are designed ‘to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive  
24 determination of every action.’”

25 The Court previously directed the parties not to supplement the summary  
26 judgment record when they submitted the supplemental joint brief on whether Patty  
27 Hill abandoned any copyright to the *Happy Birthday* lyrics. Dkt. 215 at 1. However,  
28 Plaintiffs prepared their motion for summary judgment, their portion of the Corrected  
Joint Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, and their portion of the Joint Appendix

1 before they learned of the publication of *The Everyday Song Book*, which Defendants  
2 “mistakenly” withheld from production during discovery.<sup>4</sup> This was through  
3 absolutely no fault of Plaintiffs, who acted diligently immediately after obtaining  
4 access to the 1927 edition of that compilation.

5 Now that this evidence has been uncovered, fairness, economy, and due  
6 process compel the Court to exercise its discretion to allow Plaintiffs to supplement  
7 the record, to consider the newly-discovered evidence – which proves conclusively  
8 that there is no copyright to the *Happy Birthday* lyrics – and to decide the cross-  
9 motions for summary judgment in Plaintiffs’ favor based upon this newly-discovered  
10 evidence.

11 **B. The Newly-Discovered Evidence Proves Conclusively That**  
12 **the *Happy Birthday* Lyrics Entered the Public Domain No**  
13 **Later Than 1922**

14 Under Section 9 of the 1909 Copyright Act, “any person entitled thereto by  
15 this Act may secure copyright for his work by publication thereof with the notice of  
16 copyright required by this Act” affixed to all copies of the work. 17 U.S.C. § 9.<sup>5</sup> At a  
17 minimum, Section 18 of the 1909 Copyright Act required the notice to include the

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18 <sup>4</sup> Defendants have provided no details of the nature of their so-called “mistake”  
19 in not producing any of these documents before discovery ended on July 11, 2014,  
20 such as when they were first discovered, where they were stored, how they were  
21 located, who located them, and the nature of defendants’ “mistake” in not timely  
22 producing the documents. Timely production of documents, and in particular the  
23 1927 publication of the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*, would have affected  
24 Plaintiffs’ conduct of discovery, their briefing on the cross-motions for summary  
25 judgment, and (no doubt) the Court’s consideration of the summary judgment cross-  
26 motions. Plaintiffs reserve all of their rights regarding Defendants’ untimely  
27 production of the documents.

28 <sup>5</sup> At the initial hearing on the cross-motions for summary judgment, defendants’  
counsel admitted that a copyright was not obtained unless the work was published  
with the requisite notice: “What was necessary was publication with notice.” Dkt.  
208 at 7:24.



1 word “Copyright,” the abbreviation “Copr.,” or the “©” symbol as well as the year  
2 of first publication and the name of the author of the copyrighted work. 17 U.S.C. §  
3 18. If the strict notice requirements of the 1909 Copyright Act were not met, the  
4 “published work was *interjected irrevocably into the public domain.*” *Twin Books*  
5 *Corp. v. Walt Disney Co.*, 83 F.3d 1162, 1165 (9th Cir. 1996) (emphasis added).  
6 None of these notice requirements was met for the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*  
7 included in the fourth edition of *The Everyday Song Book* published in 1922.<sup>6</sup>

8 Forfeiture occurs for individual works included with the author’s permission in  
9 a compilation published by another person. With few exceptions, none of which  
10 apply here, when an individual work is included in a compilation and the copyright  
11 notice includes only the compilation publisher’s name, the author of the individual  
12 work loses his copyright and the author’s work falls into the public domain. *See New*  
13 *York Times Co. v. Tasini*, 533 U.S. 483, 494-95 (2001). Copyright in the individual  
14 work is forfeited and the work falls into the public domain when, as here, it is  
15 published as part of a collective work with permission of the author but without a  
16 copyright notice in the name of its author. *Milton H. Green Archives, Inc., v. BPI*  
17 *Communs., Inc.*, 378 F. Supp. 2d 1189, 1195-97 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (copyright notice  
18 must be issued “in the name of the copyright holder, not merely in the name of the  
19 publishing newspaper, magazine or campaign book) (*citing Tasini*, 533 U.S. at 494  
20 (2001)).

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>6</sup> Because Cable attributed *Good Morning and Birthday Song* to Summy Co.,  
23 Cable’s copyright in the compilation did *not* cover that individual work. Under  
24 Section 24 of the 1909 Copyright Act, the proprietor of a compilation owns  
25 copyrights “in the collective itself (*i.e.*, the collection, arrangement, and display of  
26 the constituent parts) and any individual contributions that it initially held copyright  
27 ownership in,” but not in the work of others included with their permission. *Faulkner*  
28 *v. Nat’l Geographic Soc’y*, 220 F. Supp. 237, 239 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) (*citing Self-Realization Fellowship Church v. Ananda Church of Self-Realization*, 206 F.3d 1322, 1329-30 (9th Cir. 2000), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 1126 (2001) (compilation copyright does not include copyright in work of others included in compilation)).

1 Thus, Cable’s failure to include a mandatory copyright notice, as required by  
2 the 1909 Copyright Act, meant that the *Happy Birthday* lyrics would have been  
3 “interjected irrevocably into the public domain” upon the publication in 1922, had  
4 they not already been given to the public by Patty Hill many years before.

5 After learning of the *Everyday Song Book*, Plaintiffs also promptly  
6 investigated the copyrights for the various editions of the work. We have discovered  
7 the following copyrights, and no others, for *The Everyday Song Book*:

- 8 • Reg. No. A453345, for the first edition, filed on Aug. 5, 1916 (which  
9 did not include the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*); and
- 10 • Reg. No. A624750 for a revised edition, filed on Oct. 6, 1921 (which  
11 included the *Good Morning and Birthday Song*).<sup>7</sup>

12 Neither of those two copyrights was ever renewed – not by Cable or by  
13 Summy. Thus, for A453345, the copyright expired 28 years later on Aug. 5, 1944,  
14 and for A624750, the copyright expired on Oct. 6, 1949. Whatever work those two  
15 copyrights may have protected, it is now unquestionably in the public domain.  
16 Therefore, even if the Court overlooks the absence of a copyright notice in the 1922  
17 publication of the fourth edition of *The Everyday Song Book* and does not determine  
18 that the *Happy Birthday* lyrics passed into the public domain when published in 1922  
19 (if Patty Hill had not already given them to the public), then the copyright expired no  
20 later than 1950 when it was not renewed. Of course, even if federal copyright for the  
21 *Happy Birthday* melody and lyrics were properly gained by publication with notice  
22 in 1922 (which it was not), and that copyright had been properly renewed in 1949  
23 (which it was not), the song would have fallen into the public domain at midnight on  
24 December 31, 1997. *See* 17 U.S.C. § 304, n.7 (explaining that, before the enactment

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25  
26 <sup>7</sup> *See* Manifold Decl., Exs. D and E. Plaintiffs believe the revised edition for  
27 which this copyright was obtained was not published until 1922 (*i.e.*, as the fourth  
28 edition of *The Everyday Song Book*), which therefore bears the copyright date of  
1922.

1 of the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act on October 27, 1998, § 304(b) of  
2 the Copyright Act granted a term of copyright of 75 years – which § 305 extended to  
3 the end of the calendar year – for all works still in their renewal period as of  
4 December 31, 1976). Thus, given the authorized publication of *Happy Birthday* in  
5 1922 without a copyright notice, there is no conceivable set of facts under which the  
6 song would be under copyright after December 31, 1997.

7 Because the untimely, thirteenth-hour discovery from defendants conclusively  
8 resolves this part of the copyright dispute and renders consideration of all other  
9 issues presently before the Court moot, we respectfully request that the Court  
10 consider *The Everyday Song Book* as definitive proof that the copyright for *Happy*  
11 *Birthday* was forfeited in 1922 or, in the alternative, that any copyright for *Happy*  
12 *Birthday* expired in 1949.

13 **V. CONCLUSION**

14 For the reasons stated above, Plaintiffs respectfully submit that this *Ex Parte*  
15 Application should be granted. The Court should (i) enter an Order permitting  
16 Plaintiffs to supplement the record with the newly-discovered evidence that  
17 Defendants “mistakenly” withheld during discovery; (ii) consider the newly-  
18 discovered evidence in ruling on the pending cross-motions for summary judgment;  
19 and (iii) enter summary judgment in Plaintiffs’ favor on the basis of the newly-  
20 discovered evidence that proves conclusively that *Happy Birthday* has been in the  
21 public domain since no later than 1922.

22 Dated: July 27, 2015

**WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER  
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