

31/05/2015

Dear Mr Tulloch,

I am a film and video game composer who records music frequently in London, bringing hundreds of thousands of pounds of wages to UK musicians. My credits include Titanfall, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare, work on the Narnia and Shrek franchises and a considerable amount beyond. I have had the pleasure of working on the soundtracks for Kingdom of Heaven with Sir Ridley Scott in the gorgeous acoustics of Air Studios' Lyndhurst Hall. There are only two places in London where you can record such things, it requiring an immensely complex technical setup to handle such things (you can't just show up with a dictaphone or a laptop to record 60 microphones of an orchestral set up). These are not "bedroom" operations. This is a multi-million pound industry just in terms of film scoring alone.

Whilst I know that many luminaries of the film and tv industry, including directors, producers and many beyond, as well as music lovers around the world will be bombarding your email in the coming weeks urging common sense, a great many of whom with names considerably more familiar to the general public, I must add my humble voice to them. The choice you have is as follows:

a) Allow a successful studio, one of only two major recording studios in London with the capability to handle an orchestra for a major motion picture, to continue undisturbed, bringing in many millions of pounds of revenue for London musicians as well as ancilliary markets in the area - hotel accomodation, restaurants amongst them; or

b) Allow two individuals to build a private swimming pool and "plant room", whatever that is supposed to be, for their own private use and their children's occasional enjoyment on the odd day where they use it (and let's face it, we all know they'll use it once a week once the initial excitement wears off)...and thereby potentially gut a multi-million portion of the music industry that has been one of the most successful portions of the government's tax break program for post-production, leading to a considerable amount of that work being forced to go to Eastern Europe and Prague, from whence it will NOT return.

Does Camden Council value more the livelihoods of hundreds of musicians, a Grade II listed historic recording studio, a successful recording studio that represents one of two major studios of its kind in the UK....and all of the ancilliary work that comes along with it - or does it value more a private swimming pool and plant room to be used on occasion - whoever knows how much - by just two of its citizens and their children? The public benefit out of Air Studios is enormous. The pleasure given to millions hearing the work recorded there - from Bond to Shrek - is immeasurable. Whilst I'm sure this family's children will enjoy their basement swimming very much, to do so at the cost proposed is ludicrous.

If you have to think about that for even a split second, you are not sane. It is lovely that a young family wants to build a super-basement, but if that would cause the Royal Albert Hall to go out of business the answer would be no, of course not, don't be silly. This is no less significant. The only answer your committee can reasonably

come to is no. Please hastily come to that realisation before you do any more damage to the British music industry - please.

Thanks,

Stephen Barton