

Nov 13th, 2012

Dear Mille,

I have spent the last year wrestling with what to do about the situation concerning my artworks and their continued usage without recognition of copyright. Finally I have decided to talk to you personally and directly.

Although we have never met, I recently saw a documentary on Thrash, and was finally able to put a face and a voice to a name I have known for years. As I have recently been told by numerous Kreator fans, you seem like a decent guy. Let me assure you that I am too, and want to be as reasonable as I can be about this.

However, I am certain that you would no more stand by silently as your work was being sold by someone else, than I should be expected to.

I am in a difficult position here though.

On one hand there's Karl, who I still do not want to cause any unreasonable problems for (as he was repeatedly told). I have fond memories of him in my youth in Berlin, and despite the fact that he has been very uncooperative, and basically told me to f*** off, I still intend to try and be correct in this until my only remaining option is the law. I know that he has had some legal/financial problems in the past, and suspect he thinks I only want to create more trouble for him now...

On the other hand there's you and the band, who I am also certain were completely unaware that Karl never made any provisions for a lifetime of sales of copyright on my work. That sort of thing happens no where on earth, least of all under German law. Such rights are forever mine - even reverting to my family in the event of my death - and can only be negotiated over specified periods of time, and by written, contracted agreement. So ultimately you, your management, and retailers would all be forced to go after him should I pursue this legally.

Now I agree with Karl's first reaction to my inquiries last year - that asking for 25 years royalties would be unreasonable and perhaps unethical. In fact, my expectations are completely reasonable and far less than I could pursue under the law as you will see below. However, his refusal to even answer my emails once I addressed this situation (and a few short weeks ago again), pushed me to have a lawyer contact you directly. If you review her email from that time though, you will remember that she simply and politely requested a 'conversation'. No demands were ever made, as I instructed.

Now for my part, I would be willing to forget that 25 year period of time as a gesture of good will, if we can arrange a standard industry agreement concerning all my copyrights from the date I notified you of my claim last year, and to current and future sales. I can accept the losses from 25 years of sales, in return for the respect and compensation that a standard royalties agreement would establish between us now.

Mille, you and I have connected destinies. The name I have now as the creator of

those images is very gratifying to me (metal fans are the best!), and I would hate for our connection to become negative - simply because I didn't try speaking directly to you. I hope you will agree with my position and recognize my request as very reasonable.

I recently posted the story on my facebook page, and the overwhelming majority of Kreator fans who responded felt that I was more than in the right here. None could understand my not receiving a penny in compensation. Please [read the post](#) and responses if you care to.

Karl for his part, has been foolish in his responses (or lack of) so far, and ultimately if no one is willing to recognize my attempts at being reasonable now... then my conscience will be clear when the lawyers are finished with their version of being 'fair'. Much of the resulting expense will simply end up in their pockets as you may well know, but by then I will have no further regrets either about whatever they claim on my behalf. No one should confuse the friendliness of my approach, with weakness of position however. Furthermore, the email record will demonstrate to any future court, that I have been exhaustively reasonable and patient in this pursuit.

I will greatly appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this email at your earliest convenience. Thanks.

Sincere Best Wishes,

Phil

PS

I doubt Karl ever told you this, but the name 'Kreator' was even kind of my idea. We had a discussion in his office about changing your name from Tormentor to Creatür (or something similar, not sure), and I suggested that american kids would relate to the name Creator (God) spelled with a 'K' like Amerika, when you are questioning it's integrity.

So really man, we have a lot of shared destiny. I hope we will meet and be friends one day.