
Ed Sheeran settles Photograph copyright infringement claim

11/04/2017



Ed Sheeran has settled a \$20m (£13.8m) copyright infringement claim against him in the US, over his hit song Photograph.

Songwriters Thomas Leonard and Martin Harrington sued the singer last June, [claiming his hit ballad had a similar structure](#) to their song, Amazing.

A lawyer for the pair confirmed to the BBC the claim had now been settled.

Leonard and Harrington's track was released by former X Factor winner Matt Cardle in 2012.

Instantly recognisable

On Friday, court papers were lodged dismissing the case "with prejudice", stipulating that a California federal court would enforce the terms of an agreement.

Richard Busch, who represented Harrington and Leonard, would not comment on the settlement terms.

A spokeswoman for Sheeran's record company, Atlantic Records, told the BBC it did not comment on stories relating to copyright issues.

The songwriters [originally claimed](#) the chorus of the two songs shared 39 identical notes, with similarities "instantly recognisable to the ordinary observer".

They submitted the chord structures for both tracks in court documents.

The image displays musical notation for three tracks: 'Amazing 1', 'Amazing 2**', and 'Photograph*'. Each track is shown with its melody and lyrics, along with chord structures indicated by numbers and letters above the notes.

Amazing 1

Chord structure: 1 Eb, 2, 3 Bb

Lyrics: how did you find me you came out of no - where like li - ghtning

Amazing 2**

Chord structure: 1 Eb, 2, 3 Bb

Lyrics: how did you find me came out of no - where like li - ghtning

Photograph*

Chord structure: 1 Eb, 2, 3 Bb

Lyrics: so you can keep me in - side the po - cket of your ripped jeans

Amazing 1

Chord structure: 4, 5 Cm, 6, 7 Ab(add2)

Lyrics: s'kind of a- maz-ing how you found me through all the noise some - how

Amazing 2**

Chord structure: 4, 5 Cm, 6, 7 Ab(add2)

Lyrics: kind of a- maz-ing how you found me through all the noise some - how oh

Photograph*

Chord structure: 4, 5 Cm, 6, 7 Ab

Lyrics: hold-ing me clo - ser 'til our eyes meet you won't e - ver be a - lone

Mr Busch is the same lawyer [who won a case](#) for the family of the late soul singer Marvin Gaye.

He successfully sued Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams for copyright infringement last year over their single Blurred Lines, winning a \$7.4m (£5.1m) settlement.