

Bulgarian radio can play modern music again

Easier

3rd March 2017

Radio listeners in Bulgaria can now start listening to modern music again. For the past two months, they could only listen to music that was over 70 years old. A dispute over copyright meant the Bulgarian National Radio (BNR) could not play any pop music. Listeners could only listen to classical music or folk songs that were recorded before World War II. In the European Union, copyright disappears 70 years after an artist's death. BNR has now signed a deal with the copyright organization. In the deal, BNR will pay more royalty fees. A part of these fees goes to the singer,

band, composer or songwriter of a song or a piece of music. Every time the radio plays a song, it must pay royalties to the artist. Something surprising happened during the two



month dispute over copyright and royalties. The number of listeners to BNR's shows increased by 20 per cent. After the radio station started playing only Bulgarian folk tunes, classi-

cal music and pre-war jazz, more people started listening to the radio. It seems many listeners are more interested in listening to older music than Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift. BNR is now thinking about changing its music programming. BNR boss Aleksandar Velev said there could even be new radio stations. Mr Velev told reporters: "We will not change the profiles of the current radio shows. Instead, we will launch new radio stations with more types of music."



1. What do you think about what you read?
2. Why do people say today's new music isn't very good?
3. Is Justin Bieber's music better than music from the 1960s?
4. Will the Internet end radio stations?
5. What are the good things about new music?

Types of Music

Rank these with your teacher.

Put the best types of music the top.

- hip-hop / rap
- electro
- country
- heavy rock
- classical
- pop
- folk
- jazz

**SPEAK
YOUR
MIND**