

Music Archive



The BBC radio and TV archive is the largest of its kind in the world, and includes musical performances plus artist interviews and appearances from the 1920s to the present day.

BBC Worldwide has worked with Universal Music to unlock this vast resource, giving the music company access to BBC archive material of its artists, for example U2, Elton John, Jimi Hendrix, Sting, Bee Gees, The Police, and ABBA, to create commercial products such as albums and DVDs.

The deal also has the potential to deliver both commercial value and public service benefit to the BBC. Material from the BBC and Universal's archives becomes available, creating a pool of distinctive audiovisual content that the BBC can draw upon to create new music-related programming for broadcast in the UK, and for BBC Worldwide to exploit internationally.

The deal is the first of its kind between BBC Worldwide and a key music industry partner. It is part of the company's strategy to work with the music industry in deriving greater value from the wealth of music-related material in the corporation's archive.