

HOPE CARR

Hope Carr has been clearing samples since De La Soul Is Dead. At that time, publishers and labels didn't understand what she was talking about when she called; negotiations tended to center on which department should handle the request. Within a few years, however, most of them had hired people just to talk to her. Somewhere in there, she established Clearance 13'-8" and has gone on to explore the wider world of music licensing in all formats now known (or hereafter devised, for that matter).

Prior to taking up "What Is That? I Know That!" as her theme song, Carr organized tours in the United States for really odd music from Europe. If you knew what it sounded like, you'd know why clearing samples represented a step forward in terms of making a living. It's also, oddly enough, closer to her background in Comparative Literature. Yes, a fugitive from academe, but that's another story. There are many.