

Dear Ms. Franklin,

My name is Sydney Pollack and I am a film director. I'm also a huge fan of yours. A long time ago, I was asked by Warner Bros. if I would "help them out" and organize a way to film you and the James Cleveland choir during your recording of AMAZING GRACE. I had had no experience in documentaries, but I was excited to be able to watch you record and to try and film it. I came with five or six cameramen and we shot lots of footage those two incredible nights that you were recording.

I've often wondered about that footage over the years and so some months ago I called the studio to find out about it and to suggest that we try to put some of it together and see what's there. To that end, I have had a young man trying to synch up the tracks which is an enormous job since all five cameras were shooting at random.

There is wonderful footage of you, the choir, your father, and the audience. Some of it during the songs themselves, and some of it between the songs.

I believe it was Jerry Wexler who had the original idea to film it, but now Warner wants to make sure that you would have no objection to trying to make either a video or a TV special out of it. Or at least put it together for archival purposes and to have a visual record of that extraordinary session. They have asked me to contact you. Since I don't know you well enough to approach you myself I have asked Clive Davis to pass this letter along to you.

I am not a lawyer and my sole purpose here is to convey my enthusiasm and to try to get Warner Bros and your lawyers to discuss the possibilities of all this happening. If you have any interest in proceeding further, please let me know and I will contact the appropriate people at Warner Bros.

I'm currently shooting a film in Wash DC, but you can reach me or my assistant, Keri Wilson at 917/991-3921. Her pager number is; 800/918-1167. My private line at the hotel is 202/872-1196 and

there is a machine that will take a message. My cell phone is
202/253-1000.

Thanks so much for your time, and for all the pleasure you've given
so many of us for so long.

Sincerely,