UNESCO and Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: Can we “safeguard” music and if we can, should we?

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Born into a family of musicians who spent much of their lives learning and transmitting American folk music traditions, Dr. Seeger holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Ethnomusicology at UCLA and Director Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. He has done extensive research on Brazilian Indian music, worked for decades in audiovisual archives, and was the first curator and director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. He became involved with these UNESCO programs when he was Secretary General of the International Council for Traditional Music, a UNESCO-affiliated NGO.