

From: Melanie Dewey <melaniedeweymus [REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 4:00 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Songwriters Need Better Representation!

Dear Department of Justice,

My name is Melanie Dewey. I am a 22 year old, fresh out of college, songwriter, composer, and musician. I just graduated this past May from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where I obtained a degree in Music Business and Entertainment Industries, and a minor in the Creative American Music (Songwriting) program.

Being a young artist in this business is, to make an understatement, EXTREMELY hard. During my final semester at school, on top of exams, graduating and finishing with a 3.8 GPA, I put out an entire full length album. On top of that, I organized an album release tour, and finally, I also managed an on campus venue in my spare time. If this proves anything, it's that I will do whatever it takes to make songwriting and music my career.

Unfortunately, as everything moves into the digital age, there are necessary changes that need to be made for songwriters, like myself, to thrive the way they once did. No matter how hard working we are, these 70+ year old consent decrees are simply standing in the way of our success. Not only are young musicians already up against competition, but this entire generation of songwriters are at risk of being shut out all because we simply cannot AFFORD to keep up our passions. Creative voices are being stifled!

In two months, I made .86 cents on Spotify, after my album release in April. That means my music was streamed around 150 times. In what world should \$0.86 justify that many listens and consumer engagements? Since popular music is still a multi billion dollar industry, it is no excuse that songwriters and independent artists are seeing only a small fraction of the profit. This is OUR livelihood too. How can we ever take off and become successful if we are making no money to support ourselves?

All of this aside, if we want to get technical, I believe that streaming companies should not be able to secure all of the music from the BMI and ASCAP catalogs without first reaching an agreement. This allows streaming companies to stall negotiations with the PRO'S, while getting by paying a minuscule fraction of royalties to songwriters.

What world do we live in where neither songwriters OR PRO'S have a say what is done with their property? The bottom line is that streaming is becoming the new way that everybody is getting their music. With these facts at odds, something needs to change.

Please lift the consent decrees, and allow voluntary, rather than compulsory licensing.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

Melanie Dewey

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Melanie Dewey
[REDACTED]

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