

From: Daniel Simmons <daniel.simmons@██████████>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 2:36 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Please Stand With Songwriters

Dear Department of Justice,

I am a 22 year old song writer and composer. I just graduated from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Creating music is my life's passion and I will do whatever it takes to make a career for myself in the music industry. However, in this newly emerging digital age, the 70+ year old consent decrees make it nearly impossible for songwriters to earn a living. Popular music is still a multi billion dollar industry, but the songwriters and artists responsible for all of this valuable content are seeing only meager fractions of the profit. It is a huge injustice that streaming companies are able to secure all of the music of BMI and ASCAP without first reaching an agreement and then stall the negotiations to avoid paying at all, while paying minuscule fractions of a penny per play to songwriters. How is it possible that neither the songwriters nor their PROs have a say whether streaming companies can use their property? And no chance to negotiate prices either? Between the effect of the consent decrees and the overwhelming amount of music piracy, the actual music creators see almost no money, while huge profits are being made from their music. Please lift the consent decrees, and allow voluntary, rather than compulsory licensing.

Sincerely,

Daniel Simmons
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