

**From:** Bryan Crumpler <bryan.crumpler@██████████>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 1:29 AM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** Ending of Consent Decrees

Dear Sirs et Madames,

What a privilege it is to write to you today to comment on the DOJ's potential ending of consent decrees, as discussed in a recent Norman Lebrecht article (viz. <https://slippedisc.com/2019/08/music-hire-rates-could-go-through-the-roof/>)

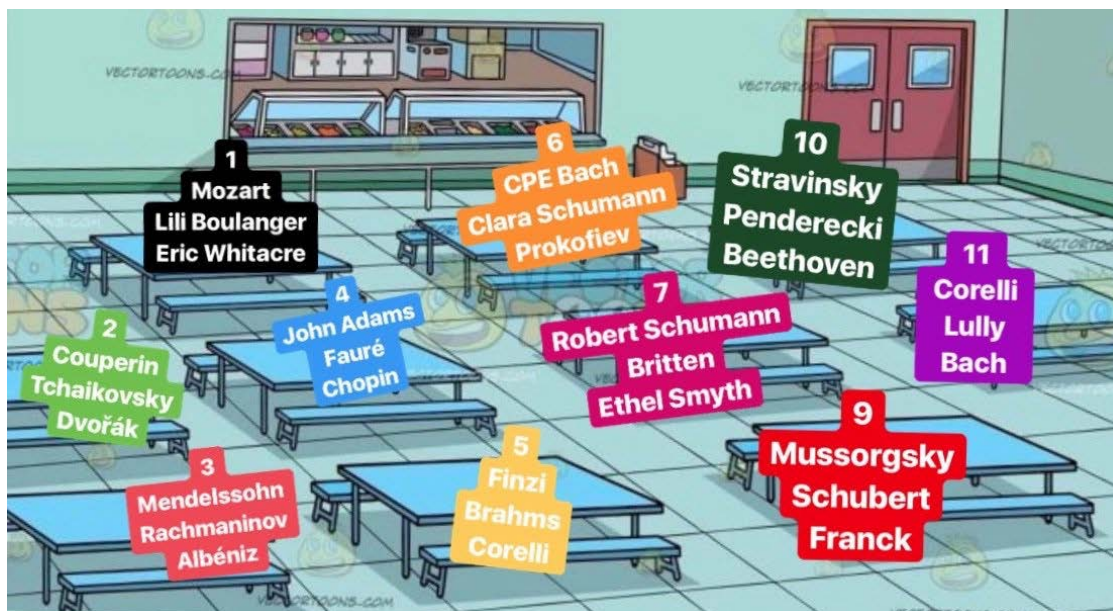
I am going to keep this short and sweet.

**End the consent decrees.**

I am a composer. I am a publisher. I am a musician. I am a performer. I am an educator. I am an entrepreneur. I am a linguist. I am a businessman. I am an orchestra executive and arts administrator. I am many things. Yet, I am in the revolving door of homelessness and suffering health issues I cannot afford to treat.

I have watched from the front lines how for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations (namely orchestras in the United States) undermine the ability of composers and new music publishers such as myself to earn a decent living: shunning us to the wayside, discriminating against people of color, bombarding composers and performers with freebie requests, subjecting us to unreasonable deadlines for little to no pay, asking us to wait years to apply for commissionings we were rejected from for being 3 seconds past a deadline.... It is utterly absurd that living composers, who are the lifeblood of music, cannot survive in today's economy when there are (as I am sure you will find out) countless businesses and organizations exploiting musicians and composers to drive their revenues through the roof, leaving us the crumbs of the pie. You will see that based on how they are able to comment when we folks at the bottom are in no position of power or wealth to argue why the consent decrees are bad for music creators.

I will leave you with this image tweeted by the London Symphony. They asked "Where are you sitting?" I responded: "Where the Black kids sit..." It's a simple statement but so profound, because most of these people are dead and still, they get a seat at the table.



All that being said, do the right thing. End the consent decrees. Stop allowing orchestras and businesses to exploit living composers, forcing us thrive on nanopennies for each exposure to our work. Let us flourish.

Sincerely,  
Bryan A. Crumpler

\*"Prepared, Precise, & Professional"\*