



August 9, 2019

U.S. Department of Justice
 Antitrust Division
 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20530
 Email: ATR.MEP.Information@usdoj.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Cincinnati Arts Association, we are submitting this public comment to respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Justice to continue to uphold the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. These decrees provide necessary protections against anti-competitive behavior and continue to play an integral role in facilitating fair and equitable music licensing for music performances in the United States.

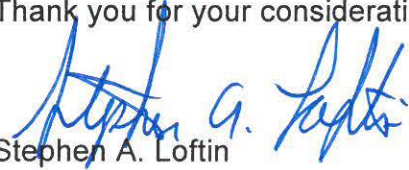
The Cincinnati Arts Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, responsible for managing two performing arts facilities. We present a myriad of performances many of which include copyrighted music.

Terminating the consent decrees would disrupt the music marketplace and jeopardize our ability to license music for performances. This impacts resident companies, non-profit users and Education and Community Engagement programs. This will significantly impact the arts and entertainment efforts.

The consent decrees promote competition and mitigate market abuses by requiring all licenses be non-exclusive and all license requests be granted. Further, by stipulating for judicial oversight, the consent decrees provide a necessary check on ASCAP and BMI by providing an avenue to settle rate disputes for all licensees outside of private arbitration. In an industry already heavily skewed in favor of ASCAP and BMI, the limitations imposed by the consent decrees ensure smaller venues can still afford to provide patrons with performed musical content.

We strongly urge the Department of Justice to keep the consent decrees in place.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.


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 Cincinnati Arts Association
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