

From: Edward R. Smith <flo[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 8:58 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Cc: Galen Wixson <ceo[REDACTED]>
Subject: The Antitrust Consent Decrees DOJ has with BMI and ASCAP

Please keep in effect the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated both Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) since the early 1940s.

We are contributors to the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra which is so very important to the cultural life of Lubbock, Texas. It derives a major part of its support from voluntary contributions over and above ticket prices. To face the increased costs that would almost certainly be a major burden on those carrying so much of the cost of these important cultural activity. Ticket prices, already substantial, would doubtless need to be substantially increased as well as needing to go to the public for additional financial support. The critical mass of attendees at these cultural events needed to maintain them would likely be negatively impacted by the additional financial burdens that would come from ending the Antitrust Consent Decrees.

We plead to you that these Consent Decrees be continued.

Edward R. & Jo Anne M. Smith, LSO patrons and supporters for many decades.