

**From:** Lauren Schmidt <LSc[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 5:58 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** BMI – ASCAP Antitrust Consent Decree comment

To Whom It May Concern,

The non-profit Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, CA, adamantly opposes the Department of Justice's potential termination of the Antitrust Consent Decrees regulating performing rights organizations such as BMI and ASCAP. Such an action could greatly imperil the financial stability of arts entities such as ours, while creating administrative burdens we can ill afford. BMI and others should not be allowed to increase their rates without judicial oversight, to create widespread uncertainty in the concert industry if enabled to act arbitrarily, or to seek percentages of venue revenue streams that are unrelated to their core missions. We strongly urge the DOJ to maintain the status quo with respect to the consent decrees.

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