

From: Lynn Gelormino <LGe [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 9, 2019 9:26 AM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: BMI and ASCAP Antitrust Consent Decree

We disagree with the U.S. Department of Justice ending the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated the Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) with BMI and ASCAP since 1941.

Ending these decrees would have an adverse impact on non-profit performing arts centers like the Warner Theatre, as well as all other non-profit educational, community, state and national performance venues. The potential effect is as follows:

- it would allow BMI and ASCAP to increase fees, without any judicial or DOJ oversight, to every performance venue, thereby raising tickets prices for consumers; and*
- it would endow BMI and ASCAP with the ability to unfairly control the performing artists that venues may hire.*

Ending this decree WILL create significant uncertainty in how performing arts, concert venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward.

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“The arts are the best insurance policy a city can take on itself.”—Woody Dumas, former Mayor of Baton Rouge