

**From:** Michael Alexander <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 9:48 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** Music Rights Organizations' Consent Decree

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

As background, I am a former member of the California Arts Council where I serve as the State Assembly's appointee for 12 years and as Chair for 2. I have worked in the nonprofit performing arts for 50 years with much of my time spent working with musicians. For 27 years I was the Executive Director of Grand Performances, Los Angeles' premier free outdoor performing arts festival. I produced over 1200 performances serving over 1 million people.

Ending this decree would severely adversely impact the many performing arts organizations with which I have been involved over the years as well as all other non profit, educational, community, state and national performance venues, as well as restaurants, hotels, breweries, wineries, and bar ACROSS THE ENTIRE NATION in the following manner:

- 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 arts and concert venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward.

There is a delicate financial balancing act going on to keep the nonprofit music presenters functioning. Upsetting this balance will cause chaos in the field and could end up depriving Americans of access to live music in many communities throughout the country.

**Michael Alexander**  
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