

**From:** Steve Wenig <SWe[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 9, 2019 2:38 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment on ASCAP and BMI consent decree

Dear sir or madam,

On behalf of the Oregon Symphony, I am writing in response to the public comment request related to the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. Our orchestra plays a vital role in the cultural well-being for the residents of Portland, Oregon and beyond. We perform for an audience of approximately 225,000 each season and additionally serve our community through an array of music education and engagement programs. We provide employment for almost 100 professional musicians and an arts administration staff of 50. We also fund the creation of new orchestral works of art and several of our concerts are offered for those without financial means or access.

As a non-profit, simply put, we are not in the position to afford the greatly increased rates that BMI and ASCAP are seeking to implement with the termination of the consent decrees. Our orchestra has been operating under fair and reasonable terms with these groups for decades and the changes resulting from the removal of the consent decrees are unnecessary, costly and will impact the cultural landscape in our community. Additionally, such a change will surely put musicians AND composers out of work.

Given the size of these organizations and their market power, these consent decrees are needed to keep them in check.

Respectfully,

**Steve Wenig**

Vice President and General Manager | Oregon Symphony

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