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Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2019 6:46 PM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: Do not end Antitrust Consent Decree

I am concerned for Symphonies throughout the US as well as other organizations and restaurants that offer live music. Please Help by keeping the Antitrust Consent Decree in place.

It has recently come to light that the U.S. Department of Justice is considering ending 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. These Consent Decrees require both organizations to provide licenses to anyone who requests a license and to apply standardized fees for the performance of works by similarly situated licensees. The termination of the Consent Decrees would allow Performing Rights Organizations (PROs) to **significantly increase rates without any of the judicial or DOJ oversight required under the Consent Decrees**, allow differing fees between presenters and give them the ability to decline licenses potentially giving the PROs the ability to **control which acts presenters may hire**. This could also create significant uncertainty in how venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward.

Without the Consent Decrees in place, the Lubbock Symphony would be very limited in the compositions they could present to the Lubbock community. This change would also likely increase ticket prices to account for the increased licensing fees. This change not only affects symphonies across the United States, but would also affect any organization or business who plays music over a sound system or hires live music acts. For example, you would likely see increased menu prices at restaurants in order for owners to be able to afford the music they play or the live acts they hire.

I hope for your careful consideration on this issue!

Patricia Wood
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