

From: Fred Story <fr[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 7:44 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Comment on Consent Decree review.

To whom it may concern:

I am a professional songwriter and media composer currently represented by ASCAP as my Performance Rights Organization. I've made my living in this profession for the past thirty years, so I have personally witnessed...and been affected by...myriad technologies that have impacted every aspect of our industry.

While many of these innovations have allowed me to work more productively and expand my potential client base, new distribution and public performance channels via the internet have had a disastrous impact on my earning ability - and that of hundreds of thousands of my fellow artists.

It's baffling to me that, recent revisions notwithstanding, a government action from 1941 continues to hold sway over an important American industry....seventy-three years later!

It seems that every day I read comments from my fellow songwriters about ridiculously low royalties from streaming services like Spotify, Google Play, Pandora, or YouTube. It's unfathomable to me that some of the largest, most profitable technology companies in the world are cashing in on the creative endeavors of musicians, composers and songwriters - and paying those artists next to nothing. I believe the consent decrees are a component of that exploitation.

Admittedly, I don't have an answer for what the new model should be. But one thing is clear. The old model is broken. And until we can dismantle legal remedies that have long outlived their usefulness, it will be difficult - if not impossible - to fashion solutions that factor 21st century realities.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Fred Story
Concentrix Music and Sound Design
3120 Latrobe Dr., Suite 190
Charlotte, NC 28211

704-372-3448
www.concentrixmusic.com