## A Creator's View of the Music Ecosystem and Notice & Takedown

Creating music that matters is more than just a labor of love – it takes all the joy, loss, courage, fear, and humanity that we have. But whether it's a Platinum megahit or a lonely ballad written for just one heart, we are grateful for the chance to share our stories and our truth.

We see much to celebrate in today's music landscape – including vibrant digital services that help fans connect with the songs they love.

But we also see profound obstacles facing young artists and songwriters hoping to find their voice and build a sustainable career.

One of the biggest hurdles is an outdated and ineffective law called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and its 'notice and takedown' provisions. Many big tech companies have figured out how to game this law – hiding behind its sweeping immunities while earning billions off of our work. Meanwhile, too many working artists, musicians, songwriters, and producers are left to fight for digital scraps.

Thanks to notice and takedown, a single video service has swallowed up almost every other form of listening, while paying among the lowest royalties in the business – rates it extracts from creators who have no effective way to keep unlicensed copies off the service if they refuse.

The DMCA leaves creators at the mercy of rogue websites that operate at the farthest reaches of US law – and beyond – and offers no meaningful way to hold repeat offenders to account. And forces us to stand by helpless as billions of dollars in advertising is sold around illegal copies of our work.

Notice and takedown has failed in its current form. For the sake of the next generation of artists and songwriters, it must be strengthened, reimagined, and renewed.

Respectfully submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office, (signed as of 9pm EST 3/31/2016)

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Noah Bellamy Chelsea Crowell Jeff Byrd

Jay Bellerose David Byrne **Rodney Crowell** 

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Vince Ector Luqman Brown Elizabeth Cook

Alexandra Eden Paula Henderson Patrick Laplan

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Jeff Formosa Steve Holtje Tessa Lena

Fast Forward Yuka Honda Sean Ono Lennon

Erik Friedlander William Hooker John Leventhal

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Jonny Fritz Percy Howard Denise Lewis

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Jason Furlow Gintas Janusonis Edward JT Lewis

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Melvin Gibbs Waberi Jordan Colin Linden

Lauren Gilbert Terrence Kane Jake Luck

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Jerome Harris Briggan Krauss Rousseau Mannan

Jesse Harris Kris Kristofferson Sarah Manning

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Chris Haskett Sohrab Saadat Ed Marshall

David Henderson Ladjevardi Billy Martin

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