

Dear Copyright Office,

*"Why are there so many songs about rainbows? And what's on the other side?"*

Even just reading the lyrics brings back the melody of my childhood. I can't imagine un-hearing that song.

And I don't want to imagine a world in which songwriters who don't perform their own works can't be compensated enough to continue writing such beautiful works.

I am a songwriter. I am a composer. I am a lyricist. I am a professor of songwriting at Berklee College of Music. I am a music fan.

Every single one of these parts of me has been or will be affected by the current government restrictions on ASCAP's ability to negotiate streaming licenses for my work. The collective bargaining agencies who represent me are unable to negotiate fair-market-value for my work. The digital landscape and market for exploitation of my work is shifting far more quickly than any government regulation could keep up with.

Let's please fix this.

Every year music streaming from places like Youtube, Pandora and Spotify increases, while music sales decrease. These streaming services are paying an unlivable wage to the songwriters, and a barely livable wage to the sound-recording owners.

Let's please fix this.

Every time someone convinces a child not to pursue a career as a songwriter, because they'll "never make enough to live" our culture loses the potential for another *"Good Vibrations,"* another *"Anyone who had a heart,"* another *"All I Want For Christmas"* or another *"I can't make you love me."*

Let's please fix this.

Sincerely,

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