



October 22, 2020

Jeffrey P. Bezos
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Amazon.com, Inc.
410 Terry Ave.
North Seattle, WA 98109-5210

Dear Mr. Bezos,

We represent artists, songwriters, musicians, vocalists, managers, producers, audio engineers, major and independent labels and publishers, and many other professionals in all genres of music in the United States. Our members write, sing, play, produce, market, and disseminate nearly all the music professionally recorded in the U.S. today.

We read with interest Twitch's recent announcement regarding its Soundtrack tool. According to Twitch, this tool gives Twitch's users the ability to feature a curated library of licensed music in their live streams.¹ We appreciate that Twitch has acknowledged that it is good business to offer licensed music for use by its streamers, and we welcome that Twitch has started to enter into some agreements with rightsholders to provide licensed music for use by its streamers.

However, we are confounded by Twitch's apparent stance that neither synch nor mechanical licenses are necessary for its Soundtrack tool. We are also deeply disappointed that Twitch continues to allow and enable its streamers to use our respective members' music without authorization, in violation of Twitch's music guidelines.² We are further concerned that Twitch continues to host and widely make available unlicensed music on its platform despite the company's announcements, most recently in June 2020, that it would remove such unlicensed music.³ Twitch appears to do nothing in response to the thousands of notices of music infringement that it has received nor does it currently even acknowledge that it received them, as it has done in the past.

Further, we are concerned by your responses to questions regarding licensing made during the House Judiciary Committee hearing on July 29, 2020. We note that you failed to confirm whether Twitch has acquired any licenses to make copies of musical compositions or digital

¹ <https://www.twitch.tv/p/legal/community-guidelines/music/#soundtrack-by-twitch>

² <https://www.twitch.tv/p/legal/community-guidelines/music/>

³ <https://twitter.com/twitchsupport/status/1270875683787624449?lang=en>

performances of any sound recordings on your platform. You also failed to state what action Twitch is taking to prevent unauthorized copies and performances.

Twitch's neglect of the fundamental rights of musicians, songwriters, sound recording artists, and many others whose music is exploited on Twitch without due compensation stands in stark contrast to Twitch's competitors and to the support of such interests extended by Amazon's own Amazon Music services. As the Artist Rights Alliance noted in its August 10, 2020 letter to you:

“As Twitch uses music to grow its audience and shape its brand, the company owes creators more than the willful blindness and vague platitudes you offered during your Congressional testimony. For working songwriters and performers, fair royalties on a growing platform like Twitch can literally be a matter of life and death – the difference between having a place to live and homelessness and having access to health care or being uninsured. For others it's the difference between being able to work as an artist or having to give up a lifetime of dreams.”

We hope you appreciate the gravity of the situation and will take proactive efforts to ensure that unlicensed music is not available on Twitch.

Sincerely,

American Association of Independent Music

Americana Music Association

Artist Rights Alliance

Church Music Publishers' Association

Christian Music Trade Association

Global Music Rights

Gospel Music Association

International Bluegrass Music Association

Living Legends Foundation

Music Managers' Forum – US

Nashville Songwriters Association International

National Music Publishers' Association

Recording Academy

Recording Industry Association of America

Rhythm & Blues Foundation

SAG-AFTRA

Songwriters of North America

SoundExchange

cc: Emmet Shear, Chief Executive Officer
Twitch Interactive Inc.
350 Bush Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104