

## **A Creators' View of the Music Ecosystem and DMCA**

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One of the biggest hurdles is an outdated and ineffective law called the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. 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 the DMCA, 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.

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