



Academy of Country Music  
American Academy of Teachers of Singing  
American Composers Forum  
American Federation of Musicians  
American Guild of Musical Artists  
American Guild of Organists  
American Harp Society  
American Music Center  
American Orff-Schulwerk Association  
Artists Against Hunger & Poverty  
ASCAP  
BMI  
Chopin Foundation of the United States  
Conductors' Guild  
Country Music Association  
Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity  
Early Music America  
Interlochen Center for the Arts  
International Alliance for Women in Music  
International Federation of Festival  
Organizations  
International Music Products Association  
(NAMM)  
Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity  
Music Critics Association of North America  
Music Performance Fund  
Music Publishers Association of the United  
States  
Music Teachers' Association of California  
Music Teachers National Association  
National Academy of Popular Music  
National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences  
National Association for Music Education  
National Association of Negro Musicians  
National Association of Recording  
Merchandisers  
National Association of Teachers of Singing  
National Federation of Music Clubs  
National Flute Association  
National Guild for Community Arts Education  
National Guild of Piano Teachers/  
American College of Musicians  
National Music Publishers' Association  
National Opera Association  
Recording Industry Association of America  
SESAC  
Sigma Alpha Iota  
The Songwriters Guild of America

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March 28, 2016

Dr. Steve Crocker  
Chairman of the Board, ICANN  
([steve.crocker@icann.org](mailto:steve.crocker@icann.org))

Mr Fadi Chehadé  
CEO, ICANN  
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Mr Chris Disspain  
Chair of the Board Governance Committee, ICANN  
([chris.disspain@icann.org](mailto:chris.disspain@icann.org))

Dear Messrs Chehadé, Crocker and Disspain,

I am writing on behalf of the board of directors of the National Music Council and the almost one million individual constituents of our member organizations. We would like to express our concern for the decision by ICANN to reject the DotMusic application ID. 1-1115-14110, on the basis that it failed to represent the music community for the purposes of ICANN's CPE evaluation. The international music community has come together across the globe to support the DotMusic application, and we cannot comprehend how the application could have failed on the community criteria.

The National Music Council of the United States was founded in 1940 and chartered by the 84th Congress in 1956 to act as a clearinghouse for the joint opinion and decision of its members and to work to strengthen the importance of music in the nation's life and culture. The Music Council represents the United States to the International Music Council. The Council's initial membership of 13 has grown to almost 50 national music organizations, encompassing every important form of professional and commercial musical activity and education.

The protection of intellectual property rights is vitally important to our members. For that reason, we want to do our part to ensure that any

music-themed, generic top-level domains are operated in the best interests of the legitimate music community. Any alternative is likely to encourage and support damaging and debilitating piracy that negatively impacts every fan, musician and music professional.

We therefore object to the decision noted above, the basis of which is an apparent inconsistency in the application of the governing rules. The global music community supports the DotMusic application, and we urge you to reconsider this decision, as we fear the alternatives will have far-reaching and damaging consequences to the public and to the music industry.

We would be happy to discuss this situation further with you at your convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. David Sanders  
Director