

**Re: Expert Testimony on (i) Community Establishment; (ii) Nexus; and (iii) Support for DotMusic’s Community-Based Application<sup>1</sup> for .MUSIC (Application ID 1-1115-14110)**

Dear ICANN and Economist Intelligence Unit (“EIU”):

Please accept this letter to verify the following facts: (i) the Music Community’s *Establishment* as defined by DotMusic; (2) the matching *Nexus* between the “music” Community and the “music” string (or top-level domain); and (3) that DotMusic possesses documented *Support* from organizations representing a majority of the global Music Community addressed and defined.

Please see my credentials attached hereto that identify my level of expertise and specialized knowledge with respect to music.

**SUMMARY**

Based upon my knowledge of music, the music community and DotMusic’s public statements concerning their .MUSIC community application, DotMusic has established the following facts:

- 1) Its Community definition recognizes the cohesive, symbiotic and overlapping nature of the global Music Community. The definition includes those associated with commercial and non-commercial creation, performance, marketing and distribution of music;
- 2) “Music Community” members have the requisite awareness and recognition of the interdependency, overlapping and cohesive nature of each “organized community of similar nature that relates to music.” These organized and aligned communities are closely united and make “music” as we know it today. It is this self-awareness and interdependence that gives the “Music Community” its strength. With exponential growth of the Internet, mobile and the Domain Name System (DNS), the “Music Community’s” use and reliance on the Internet to create, market and disseminate music-related content, products, services and activities will continue to grow;
- 3) The “Music Community” functions in a regulated sector with global copyright protections – it is clear that the “community,” as defined, implies “more of cohesion than a mere commonality of interest” with an “awareness and recognition of a community among its members.” Several international treaties mandate a globally-recognized set of standards for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gtldresult.icann.org/application-result/applicationstatus/applicationdetails/1392>

the protection of the “Music Community” member rights with relation to their copyrighted music works around the world;

4) The “Music” Community -- as defined by DotMusic -- has at least one entity dedicated to the community supporting DotMusic’s application. Such documented *Support* includes several “international federation of national communities of a similar nature,” music coalitions and others that are strongly associated with “music,” which represent a majority of the Community with considerable millions of members worldwide.<sup>2</sup>

5) The *Nexus* of the “music” Community matches the “music” applied-for string because it represents the entire global Music Community – a community that pre-existed 2007 with a size in the considerable millions of constituents. The “Music Community” definition -- which incorporates the strict fundamental attributes of a closely united Community definition that is “organized” and “delineated” -- ensures that all of its constituent members have a requisite awareness of the community as defined, including both commercial and non-commercial stakeholders, to register a .MUSIC domain without any conflicts of interests, over-reaching or discrimination.

6) DotMusic has received support from the largest coalition of Music Community member organizations ever assembled to support a cause. Such unparalleled global Music Community support represents an overwhelming majority of the global Music Community. Cumulatively, DotMusic possesses documented support<sup>3</sup> from institutions/organizations representing a majority of the defined and recognized Community.

There is substantive evidence that DotMusic fulfills the *Nexus, Community Establishment and Support* criteria for the “Music” string. The inclusion and representation of every music constituent type is paramount to the articulated purpose of the string. DotMusic and its application’s global Music Community supporters substantiate that every type of music constituent contributes to the function and operation of the music sector within a regulated framework. The symbiotic nature of the Community as defined and structured means that “Music” would not function as it does today without the participation of all music constituent types that interconnect to match the “music” string with the “music” Community definition.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://music.us/supporters>

<sup>3</sup> <http://music.us/supporters>

## ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY DEFINITION, ESTABLISHMENT AND NEXUS

### A) *Music Community Definition, Establishment & Community Endorsement*<sup>4</sup>

DotMusic's definition of the "Music Community" as a "strictly delineated and organized community of individuals, organizations and business, a logical alliance of communities of similar nature that relate to music" (See Application, 20a) is factually accurate and representative of the "Music Community." Community characteristics include:

#### *i) An Organized, Cohesive, Interdependent Logically-Allied Community:*

The "Music Community" definition covers the regulated, interdependent and cohesive nature of the music sector that exists today. "Music Community" members have the requisite awareness and recognition of the interdependent, overlapping and cohesive nature of each "organized community of similar nature that relates to music" that comprises the "Music Community." Without such cohesiveness and interdependency, the defined "Music" Community matching the applied-for string ("Music") would not be able to function in its regulated sector, a "Music" regulated sector that was publicly recognized by both ICANN and the Government Advisory Committee.<sup>5</sup>

As a result, the Music Community as defined is "closely united" (As per the definition of "cohesion" according to Merriam-Webster dictionary<sup>6</sup>) or "united or form a whole" (As per the definition of the word "cohesion" according to Oxford Dictionaries<sup>7</sup>).

The "Music Community" as defined (a "strictly delineated and organized community of individuals, organizations and business, a logical alliance of communities of similar nature that relate to music") establishes that:

- (1) There is an awareness and recognition among its members;
- (2) The organized and delineated logical alliance of communities exists; and
- (3) The Community is "closely united" and "interdependent" (i.e. Each "organized community of similar nature that relates to music" which is part of the "logical alliance of communities that relate to music" is not mutually exclusive).

In short, the applied-for string ("Music") matches the name of the "Music" Community as defined by DotMusic's application. DotMusic's "Music Community" definition accurately represents the common definition of the "Music Community," which is confirmed by Wikipedia.

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://music.us/establishment>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/bm/briefing-materials-2-05feb14-en.pdf>, Pg.3

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cohesion>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american\\_english/cohesion](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/cohesion)

According to Wikipedia:<sup>8</sup>

*Music community is defined as a logical alliance of interdependent communities that are related to music, which include commercial participants...and non-commercial participants...and consists of an “ensemble of practices and institutions that make possible and regulate the production, distribution and consumption of music”...UNESCO identifies the music community as a “community of identity” implying common identifiable characteristics and cohesive attributes such as sharing a music culture, norms and subscribing to common ideals related to music...The music community is not defined as much by demographic indicators such as race, gender, and income level, as it is by common values, cohesive norms and interconnected structures to build a community identity. It refers to music-related individuals and organisations in a shared environment with shared understandings and practices, modes of production and distribution. The shared organisation of collective musical activities, identity and community value is created as result of infrastructure and a shared set of common values...Many studies outline the historical, cultural, and spatial significance of the music community, including how its identity is formed through musical practices. The music community shares a cohesive and interconnected structure of artistic expression, with diverse subcultures and socio-economic interactions...subscribing to common ideals. Under such structured context music consumption becomes possible regardless whether the transaction is commercial and non-commercial.<sup>9</sup>*

ii) *An Aware, Pre-Existing and Recognized Community of Considerable Millions Worldwide:*

DotMusic’s definition of the Community covers all Community members associated with the string, each with a requisite awareness of the Community that can be validated through their natural association with a particular music-related community that they clearly identify with. According to DotMusic, all Music Community members must identify their music-related community in order to demonstrate their requisite awareness of the defined Community as part of the .MUSIC registration and validation process.

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<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among the ten most popular websites (Alexa, Retrieved March 23, 2015 from <http://www.alexacom/siteinfo/wikipedia.org>) and constitutes the Internet's largest, most frequently updated and popular general reference work (See OECD, OECD Internet Economy Outlook 2012, OECD Publishing, [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/oecd-internet-economy-outlook-2012\\_9789264086463-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/oecd-internet-economy-outlook-2012_9789264086463-en),Pg.172) that compares favorably to the accuracy of other encyclopedias (such as the Britannica) according to a 2012 study conducted in partnership with Oxford University (See <http://blog.wikimedia.org/2012/08/02/seven-years-after-nature-pilot-study-compares-wikipedia-favorably-to-other-encyclopedias-in-three-languages>).

<sup>9</sup> Music Community. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved March 23, 2015, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music\\_community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_community)

According to DotMusic, the Music Community’s geographic breadth is inclusive of all recognized territories covering regions associated with ISO-3166 codes and 193 United Nations countries with a Community of considerable size with millions of constituents (Application Answer to Question 20a).

According to DotMusic, “registrants will be verified using Community-organized, unified “criteria taken from holistic perspective with due regard of Community particularities” that “invoke a formal membership (Application Answer to Question 20a).” The defined Community represents all music-related entities with a clear and straightforward membership with the Community involved in the legal production, performance, promotion, and distribution of music worldwide. According to DotMusic, the Music Community members must have an active, non-tangential relationship with the applied-for string “music” and also have the requisite awareness of the music-related community that they are a part of by specifically identifying it as part of the registration and validation process (i.e. upon successful registration and validation, each community member will be given a unique community identification number that will automatically associate them with their identified community and the “music” string).

DotMusic’s Community definition matches the applied-for string because it allows both commercial and non-commercial stakeholders to register a .MUSIC domain without any conflicts of interests, over-reaching or discrimination/exclusion. Given the regulated sector of the community, it is clear that the “Music Community” as defined implies “more of cohesion than a mere commonality of interest” with an “awareness and recognition of a community among its members.” Several international treaties mandate cohesive and globally-recognized set of standards for the protection of the music community members’ rights with relation to their copyrighted music works around the world.<sup>10</sup>

The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works<sup>11</sup> provides that each of the 168 contracting parties<sup>12</sup> (representing an overwhelming majority of the world’s population) provides automatic protection for music works first published in other countries of the Berne union and for unpublished music works whose authors are citizens of or resident in such other countries.<sup>13</sup> This means that if a Music Community member’s copyright rights are violated in any other signatory country’s jurisdiction, then the music community member will have the music copyright rights given by that country. Music Community members are clearly aware of the collective Community’s rights, which could not be made possible without these cohesive and globally-recognized set of standards. If such standards were not coherent or enforced then music would not be able to exist in its current form and the industry component of the Music Community sector would not exist. As such, the Community’s *Establishment* and definition is “cohesive” and hence cannot be construed since the Community is a logical alliance of music

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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.rightsdirect.com/content/rd/en/toolbar/copyright\\_education/International\\_Copyright\\_Basics.html](http://www.rightsdirect.com/content/rd/en/toolbar/copyright_education/International_Copyright_Basics.html)

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/text.jsp?file\\_id=283698](http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/text.jsp?file_id=283698)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty\\_id=15](http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty_id=15)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/62482/Berne-Convention>

communities that establish a clearly delineated and organized Community structure that is “closely united” and functions as a “whole”

Further evidence to substantiate the cohesive, symbiotic and overlapping nature of the Community, includes other globally-recognized standards and classification systems, which identify who the individual songwriters, publishers and rights holders are and which songs they are associated with so that Community members are appropriately compensated, regardless of whether the constituent is a commercial, non-commercial or amateur entity. The “music” string is commonly used in classification systems such as ISMN,<sup>14</sup> ISRC,<sup>15</sup> ISWC,<sup>16</sup> ISNI.<sup>17</sup> (Application Answer to Question 20a). For example, if a music entity would like to distribute their music, either commercially or for free, then an ISRC can be assigned to globally identify any specific music work. An ISRC, which facilitates efficient music discovery and community member payment, is constructed from 12 characters representing country, registrant, year of registration and designation (i.e. the serial number assigned by the registrant). With respect to domains, an equivalent system that relates to identifying a specific domain’s registrant and other relevant information pertaining to the domain is WHOIS. Domain registrants are required by ICANN “to provide accurate WHOIS contact data” or else their domain “registration may be suspended or even cancelled”.<sup>18</sup>

Without such Music Community “cohesion” and standardized systems functioning in its regulated sector, the Music Community would not be able to create, market and distribute their music. By the same token, fans would not be able to identify the music they are listening to with a specific music artist, regardless of whether the listening activity or behavior is commercial or non-commercial in nature. The socio-economic structure that characterizes “music” as commonly-known today would be non-existent without these organized and delineated elements that commonly define the Community.

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<sup>14</sup> The International Standard Music Number (ISMN) is a unique number for the identification of all notated music publications from all over the world. The ISMN is an ISO certified global standard number (ISO 10957:2009). See <http://www.ismn-international.org/whatis.html> and

[http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\\_ics/catalogue\\_detail\\_ics.htm?csnumber=43173](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_ics/catalogue_detail_ics.htm?csnumber=43173)

<sup>15</sup> The ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) is the international identification system for sound recordings and music video recordings. The ISRC is an ISO certified global standard number (ISO 3901:2001) and is managed by the IFPI. See <http://isrc.ifpi.org>, <https://www.usisrc.org/about/index.html> and [http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue\\_detail?csnumber=23401](http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=23401)

<sup>16</sup> The ISWC (International Standard Musical Work Code) is a unique, permanent and internationally recognized reference number for the identification of musical works. The ISWC has been approved by ISO (International Organization for Standardisation) as a global standard (ISO 15707:2001) and is managed by CISAC. See <http://www.iswc.org/en/faq.html> and [http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue\\_detail?csnumber=28780](http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=28780)

<sup>17</sup> The International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI) is the ISO certified global standard number (ISO 27729) for identifying the millions of contributors to creative works and those active in their distribution. ISNI holds public records of over 8 million identities and 490,000 organizations. See <http://www.isni.org/> and [http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue\\_detail?csnumber=44292](http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=44292)

<sup>18</sup> <https://whois.icann.org/en/about-whois> and <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/faqs-f0-2012-02-25-en>

*iii) International Federations and Organizations Dedicated to Community Functions:*

According to ICANN's Applicant Guidebook ("AGB")<sup>19</sup>: *"With respect to "Delineation" and "Extension," it should be noted that a community can consist of...a logical alliance of communities (for example, an international federation of national communities of a similar nature... viable as such, provided the requisite awareness and recognition of the community is at hand among the members."* (AGB, 4-12). The community as defined in the DotMusic application has at least one entity mainly dedicated to the community which has supported DotMusic, which include several "international federation of national communities of a similar nature" relating to music, music coalitions and other relevant and non-negligible music organizations.

One of these entities include the only international federation of national communities relating to government culture agencies and arts councils, which has an integral association with music globally: the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA).

IFACCA is the only international federation that represents government culture agencies and arts councils globally. These national communities are governmental institutions that play a pivotal role with respect to music.<sup>20</sup> IFACCA's members cover the majority of music entities globally, regardless of whether they are commercial, non-commercial or amateurs. Government ministry of culture and council agencies related to music cover a majority of the overall community with respect to headcount and geographic reach. The "Size" covered reaches over a hundred million music entities i.e. "considerable size with millions of constituents" per Application Answer to Question 20a.

The string "music" falls under the jurisdiction of each country's Ministry of Culture governmental agency or arts/music council (emphasis added). The degree of power and influence of government ministry of culture and council agencies with respect to music surpasses any organization type since these agencies (i) provide the majority of funding for music-related activities; (ii) regulate copyright law; and (iii) encompass all the music entities that fall under their country, regardless whether these entities are commercial, non-commercial or amateurs. IFACCA is globally recognized by its strategic partners, such as UNESCO, a United Nations agency representing 195 member states and the European Commission.<sup>21</sup> The UNESCO strategic partnership<sup>22</sup> is relevant, especially since UNESCO founded the International Music Council (the "IMC") in 1949, which represents over 200 million music constituents from over 150 countries and over 1000 organizations globally.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb/guidebook-full-11jan12-en.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.ifacca.org/membership/current\\_members/](http://www.ifacca.org/membership/current_members/)

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.ifacca.org/strategic\\_partners/](http://www.ifacca.org/strategic_partners/)

<sup>22</sup> [http://www.ifacca.org/strategic\\_partners/](http://www.ifacca.org/strategic_partners/)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.imc-cim.org/about-imc-separator/who-we-are.html>

Government activities in the clearly delineated and organized “Music Community” include setting statutory royalty rates. For example, in the United States, mechanical royalties are based on a “statutory rate” set by the U.S. Congress. This rate is increased to follow changes in the economy, usually based on the Consumer Price Index. Currently, the mechanical statutory rate is \$0.091 for songs five minutes or less in length or \$.0175 per minute for songs that are over five minutes long.<sup>24</sup>

Ministries of culture and arts councils (that comprise IFACCA’s membership) support musicians, musical performances, independent music artists, non-commercial musical expression and education in their respective countries. The 165 ministries of culture, arts councils and affiliates that comprise IFACCA’s membership support the “performing arts” and music specifically. Without the financial and logistical support of arts councils and the ministries of culture, the music community would be adversely affected, and in some countries, may not exist in any appreciable manner. For example, the Ministry of Culture 2011 budget for the small country state of Cyprus for culture funding was €34,876,522 with critical support of music activities.<sup>25</sup> Other small government Ministries of Culture, such as Albania,<sup>26</sup> or government Ministries of Culture and Arts Councils from countries with larger populations, such as India,<sup>27</sup> all provide critical support and substantial advocacy for music. Other examples include government institutions collaborating and advocating music through their funded country-based pavilion initiatives at Midem, the world’s largest music conference.<sup>28</sup>

Government ministries and arts councils provide critical support for the Music Community, including commercial music organizations. By way of example, government ministries’ and arts councils’ substantial connection to and support of “music” is noted in the reports of funding and support for music. Some examples to showcase the degree of power of the IFACCA’s membership towards the string and global and national music are music investment and music funding (Annual reports by governments and councils):

- New Zealand Ministry of Culture has funded significant music projects. Some include the REAL New Zealand Music Tour (\$415,000), the New Zealand String Quartet (\$150,000) and New Zealand Music Commission: (\$1,378,000).<sup>29</sup>
- The Australian Government/Council For The Arts invested \$51.2 million for the nation’s orchestras; \$21.6 million for opera; \$10.8 million for other music artists and

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<sup>24</sup> U.S Copyright Office, <http://www.copyright.gov/carp/m200a.html>

<sup>25</sup> 2011 Annual Report for Cyprus Ministry of Culture, Section 1.2 “Music”

([http://www.moec.gov.cy/en/annual\\_reports/annual\\_report\\_2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.moec.gov.cy/en/annual_reports/annual_report_2011_en.pdf)). Activities include Music Performances in Cyprus (1.2.1) and Abroad (1.2.2), Subsidization of Paphos Aphrodite Festival (1.2.3), Music Publications (1.2.4), Subsidization and Purchases of Digital Records (1.2.5), Promotion for Cypriot musical creativity abroad (1.2.6), Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation (1.2.7), Music Information Centre (1.2.8), Developing Music Education (1.2.9), Organising of the 1<sup>st</sup> Musicological Symposium (1.2.10) and Musical Festivities for the European Volunteerism Year (1.2.11)

<sup>26</sup> [http://www.culturalpolicies.net/down/albania\\_012011.pdf](http://www.culturalpolicies.net/down/albania_012011.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> 2010-11 Annual Report from India Ministry of Culture, [http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/hindi/pdf/Culture-AnRe-2010-2011\(Eng\).pdf](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/hindi/pdf/Culture-AnRe-2010-2011(Eng).pdf)

<sup>28</sup> <http://my.midem.com/en/contact-us/pavilion-representatives/>

<sup>29</sup> 2011 Annual Report from New Zealand Ministry of Culture:

[http://www.mch.govt.nz/files/Annual%20report%202011%202012%20pdf%20version%20\(D-0448383\).PDF](http://www.mch.govt.nz/files/Annual%20report%202011%202012%20pdf%20version%20(D-0448383).PDF)



organizations; \$13.1 million for multi-platform artists and organizations; and \$4 million in miscellaneous funding, including sector building and audience development initiatives and programs.<sup>30</sup>

- Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's national, arts funding agency investing \$28 million in its Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank (Page 16) and \$28,156,000 in Music Arts Programs (Page 66).<sup>31</sup> The Government of Canada also renewed its annual investment of \$27.6 million over five years in the Canada Music Fund.<sup>32</sup>
- The United Kingdom Department for Culture and Education (DfE) will fund music education at significant levels: £77 million, £65 million and £60 million will be available in the three years from April 2012.<sup>33</sup>
- The United States National Endowment of the Arts has awarded more than \$4 billion to support the arts since its inception<sup>34</sup> and has a strong focus on music as outlined in its Strategic Plan<sup>35</sup> with Congress requested to provide \$154,465,000 for fiscal year 2014.<sup>36</sup>
- The National Arts Council of South Africa invested 2,536,131 ZAR in Music and 9,995,000 ZAR in Orchestras and has focused strongly on the "Strengthening of live indigenous music and advocating the revival of the live music circuit in South Africa"<sup>37</sup>
- The Singapore Arts Council will fund \$10.2 million in the arts under its 2013 Grants Framework, including the Ding Yi Music Company and Siong Leng Musical Association.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2011, the support for artistic activities by the Arts Council of Finland was €32.4 million of which €4,921,850 was awarded to music.<sup>39</sup>

Each of IFACCA's members has a clear association with, and mandate to support the music arts in their countries. In most countries, their ministry of culture/arts council is the largest funder and marketing supporter of the music arts.

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<sup>30</sup> 2011 Annual Report for the Australia Council for the Arts, [http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/142351/Australia-Council-Annual-Report-201112.pdf](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/142351/Australia-Council-Annual-Report-201112.pdf), Page 28

<sup>31</sup> 2011 Annual Report for Canada Council for the Arts, [http://www.canadacouncil.ca/NR/rdoonlyres/6F7549BB-F4E5-4B8B-95F4-1FF9FAFB9186/0/CanadaCouncilAnnualReport2012\\_COMPLETE.pdf](http://www.canadacouncil.ca/NR/rdoonlyres/6F7549BB-F4E5-4B8B-95F4-1FF9FAFB9186/0/CanadaCouncilAnnualReport2012_COMPLETE.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.pch.gc.ca/eng/1294862453819/1294862453821>

<sup>33</sup> Department for Culture, The Importance of Music, A National Plan for Music Education, [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/180973/DFE-00086-2011.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180973/DFE-00086-2011.pdf), Page 4, 2011

<sup>34</sup> 2011 Annual report for the National Endowment of the Arts, <http://www.nea.gov/about/11Annual/2011-NEA-Annual-Report.pdf>, Page 2

<sup>35</sup> NEA Strategic Plan 2012-2016, [www.arts.gov/about/Budget/NEAStrategicPlan2012-2016.pdf](http://www.arts.gov/about/Budget/NEAStrategicPlan2012-2016.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.ifacca.org/national\\_agency\\_news/2013/04/10/us-president-requests-154465000-neh-2014/](http://www.ifacca.org/national_agency_news/2013/04/10/us-president-requests-154465000-neh-2014/)

<sup>37</sup> 2010-2011 Annual Report for the National Arts Council South Africa, National Arts Council South Africa, <http://www.nac.org.za/media/publications/AR%2010-11%20NAC.PDF/download>, Page 11. Also Mmino, the South African – Norwegian Education Music Programme, solely funds music projects funding a total of 294 projects. Thirteen projects were allocated funding for a total of R1,680,600 of which R1,381,000 went towards music educational and R299,600 to exchange projects (Page 10)

<sup>38</sup> Singapore Arts Council, <http://www.nac.gov.sg/media-centre/news-releases/news-detail?id=c2db15e2-c319-40ec-939c-d58735d0a91c>

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.taiteenkeskustoimikunta.fi/documents/10162/31704/TY+tilastotiedote+1+12+.pdf>, Page 1 and Page

Another clear example of an “entity dedicated to the community” with members that cover hundreds of millions of music constituents with formal boundaries is A2IM, the American Association of Independent Music. A2IM has two types of members: U.S independent Label members and Associate members. A2IM membership for Labels and Associates is invoked formally through an application and if accepted would require annual membership dues.<sup>40</sup>

The reach of A2IM Associate<sup>41</sup> membership covers hundreds of millions of entities (i.e. the reach of A2IM’s total membership “geographic breadth is inclusive of all recognized territories covering regions associated with ISO-3166 codes and 193 United Nations countries with a Community of considerable size with millions of constituents – See Application Answer to Question 20a).

Organized and strictly delineated communities related to music that are A2IM members include:

- **Apple iTunes**<sup>42</sup> – iTunes accounts for 63% of global digital music market<sup>43</sup> - a majority – with a registered community of 800 million registered members<sup>44</sup> available in 119 countries who abide to strict terms of service and boundaries<sup>45</sup> and have downloaded over 25 billion songs<sup>46</sup> from iTunes’ catalog of over 43 million songs<sup>47</sup> covering a global music community, regardless of genre or whether the community entities are amateur, professional, commercial or non-commercial. To add music to iTunes, all music artists must have a formal membership with iTunes via an Apple ID registration, which includes a current credit card on file.<sup>48</sup>
- **Pandora**<sup>49</sup> – Pandora is the world’s largest streaming music radio with a community of over 250 million registered members.<sup>50</sup>
- **Spotify**<sup>51</sup> – Spotify is the world’s largest music streaming community with over 50 million active registered members in 58 countries and over 30 million songs. The music community uploads 20,000 songs every day.<sup>52</sup>
- **Vevo**<sup>53</sup> – Vevo is the world’s leading all-premium music video community and platform with over 8 billion monthly views globally.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> <http://a2im.org/about-joining/>

<sup>41</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/tag/associate+members/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/itunes>

<sup>43</sup> <http://appleinsider.com/articles/13/04/16/apples-itunes-rules-digital-music-market-with-63-share>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.npr.org/blogs/therecord/2015/01/06/375173595/with-downloads-in-decline-can-itunes-adapt>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.apple.com/legal/internet-services/itunes/ww/index.html>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.apple.com/pr/library/2013/02/06iTunes-Store-Sets-New-Record-with-25-Billion-Songs-Sold.html>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.apple.com/itunes/features/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.apple.com/itunes/working-itunes/sell-content/music-faq.html>

<sup>49</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/pandora>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.cnet.com/news/like-a-rolling-milestone-pandora-hits-250m-registered-users/> and <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9MTkxNTM1fENoaWxkSUQ9LTF8VHlwZT0z&t=1>, Pg.9

<sup>51</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/spotify>

<sup>52</sup> <https://press.spotify.com/us/information/>

<sup>53</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/vevo/>

- **Youtube**<sup>55</sup> – Youtube is the world’s largest music video streaming community with millions of music creators -- amateur, professional, commercial or non-commercial -- and over 1 billion registered members covering all regions globally. 6 billion hours of video is watched every month on Youtube,<sup>56</sup> of which 38.4% is music-related.<sup>57</sup>
- **Reverbnation**<sup>58</sup> – Reverbnation<sup>59</sup> is one of the world’s largest music community and a leading music distributor with over 3.87 million musicians, venues labels and industry professionals covering every country globally. The Reverbnation community grows by over 50,000 artists, bands, labels and industry professionals monthly.
- **BMG**<sup>60</sup> – BMG is focused on the management of music publishing and recording rights. BMG has an international presence and represents over 2.5 million music rights globally.<sup>61</sup>

A2IM also includes members that are associated with global government agencies which exclusively represent substantial music economies and music members, such as France (BureauExport<sup>62</sup>), China (China Audio Video Association<sup>63</sup>) and Germany (Initiative Musik).<sup>64</sup> A2IM also has Affiliate<sup>65</sup> associations within the global music community. These include Affiliates such as MusicFirst,<sup>66</sup> the Copyright Alliance,<sup>67</sup> the Worldwide Independent Network (WIN)<sup>68</sup> and Merlin.<sup>69</sup>

A2IM also represents a recognized Music Coalition representing the interests of the Global Independent Music Community.<sup>70</sup> The A2IM Coalition includes Merlin, a global rights agency for the independent label sector, representing over 20,000 labels from 39 countries, Worldwide Independent Network (representing label creators in over 20 countries), Association of Independent Music (representing largest and most respected labels in the world), and IMPALA (Independent Music Companies Association on behalf of over 4,000 independent music companies and national associations across Europe, representing 99% of music actors in Europe which are micro, small and medium sized enterprises).

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<sup>54</sup> <http://www.vevo.com/c/EN/US/about>

<sup>55</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/youtube/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/yt/press/statistics.html>

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/2092499/internet\\_video\\_2011\\_2014\\_view\\_share\\_site\\_and](http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/2092499/internet_video_2011_2014_view_share_site_and)

<sup>58</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/reverb-nation/>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.reverbnation.com/about>

<sup>60</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/bmg-rights/>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.bmg.com/category/about-us/history/>

<sup>62</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/french-music-export-office>

<sup>63</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/china-audio-video-association-cava>

<sup>64</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/initiative-musik-gmbh>

<sup>65</sup> <http://a2im.org/groups/tag/associate+members/>

<sup>66</sup> <http://musicfirstcoalition.org/coalition>, The musicFIRST Coalition, with founding members A2IM, RIAA, and Recording Academy represents musicians, artists, managers, music businesses, and performance right advocates.

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.copyrightalliance.org/members>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.winformusic.org>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.merlinnetwork.org>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/bengloff-to-chehade-et-al-20aug14-en.pdf> and <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/bengloff-to-crocker-et-al-07mar15-en.pdf>

Cumulatively, A2IM's Label and Associate Membership, A2IM's Affiliates and the A2IM's Global Independent Music Community Coalition, covers a majority of the global music community. Its cumulative membership is in the hundreds of millions of entities with formal boundaries belonging to strictly organized and delineated communities related to music as per the Community Definition and Size (See Application answer to Question 20a).

Another global Music Community Coalition led by the RIAA "on behalf of over 15 national and international trade associations" also expressed its support for .MUSIC to be under a "community" application model, including encouraging statements in support of DotMusic's policies that stated that the coalition "was encouraged to see" that DotMusic "included several measures to deter and address copyright infringement within that TLD." The "coalition members represent the people that write, sing, record, manufacture, distribute and/or license over 80% of the world's music"<sup>71</sup> – a majority of global music.<sup>72</sup>

Collectively, the DotMusic application received support from the largest coalition of music community member organizations ever assembled to support a cause. Such unparalleled global Music Community support represents an overwhelming majority of the global Music Community. Cumulatively, DotMusic possesses documented support<sup>73</sup> from institutions/organizations representing a majority of the Community addressed. Music -- as commonly-known by the general public and experienced today -- would not be possible without these supporting, non-negligible and relevant organizations that have endorsed DotMusic.

In conclusion, there is substantive evidence that DotMusic entirely fulfills the criteria for *Community Establishment* and *Community Endorsement* from the majority of the global Music Community as defined.

## ***B) Nexus***<sup>74</sup>

According to the Applicant Guidebook ("AGB"), to receive the maximum score for Nexus, the applied-for string -- "music" -- must match the name of the community or be a well-known short-form or abbreviation of the community name.

The *Nexus* of the "Music Community" entirely matches the applied-for "music" string because it represents the entire global Music Community as commonly-known and perceived by the general public. This definition allows for all constituents with a requisite awareness of the Community

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<sup>71</sup> <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/riaa-to-icann-05mar15-en.pdf>, Pg.1

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/riaa-to-icann-05mar15-en.pdf>, Pg.3, Appendix A

<sup>73</sup> <http://music.us/supporters>

<sup>74</sup> See <http://music.us/nexus>

defined to register a .MUSIC domain without any conflicts of interests, over-reaching or discrimination. The definition of the Community requires that members have an active, non-tangential relationship with the applied-for string and the requisite awareness of the music community they identify with as part of the registration process. It is clear that the general public will directly associate and equate the string with the Community as defined by DotMusic. There is no possibility of overreaching beyond the definition or allowing unrelated non-music entities to be included as part of the Community.

Community members may register a .MUSIC by either:

- 1) Identifying that they belong to a Music Community Member Organization (“MCMO”); or
- 2) Identifying the community they belong to, which is consistent with the definition of the Community: “the strictly delineated and organized logical alliance of communities of similar nature related to music.”

All Community members are aware of and recognize their inclusion in the defined Community by identifying which clearly defined community they belong to and have an active participation in. The *nexus* of the applied-for string ensures inclusion of the entire global community that the string represents while excluding unrelated-entities not associated with the string. This way there is a clear match and alignment between the “music” string and the Community defined.

While the exact size of the global Music Community as defined is unknown (there is no empirical evidence providing an exact, finite number because amateur entities are also included in the Community’s definition), it is in the considerable millions as explicitly stated in the DotMusic Application. DotMusic’s definition of the Community and mutually-inclusive Registration Policies ensure that eligible members are only music-related and associated with the string. This is because the string identifies all constituents involved in music. Music-only participation optimizes the relevancy of .MUSIC domains to the string and entirely matches the *nexus* between the string and Community defined. According to DotMusic, the Community *definition, eligibility criteria and content and use* requirements ensure that peripheral industries and entities not related to music are excluded so that the string and the defined Community matches and aligns in a consistent manner consistent with DotMusic’s community-based purpose i.e. only entities with music-related activities are able to register .MUSIC domains.

Membership aligns with the *nexus* of the Community and the string, which is explicitly relevant to music. The string as defined in the application demonstrates uniqueness because it has no other significant meaning beyond identifying the community described in the application. According to DotMusic’s application, any tangential or implicit association with the *nexus* of the Community and the string is not regarded as a delineated membership since it would be considered unclear, dispersed or unbound. Such unclear, dispersed or unbound tangential

relationships with the defined “music” Community and applied-for “music” string would not constitute a qualifying Community membership and would be ineligible for registration.

The inclusion of every music constituent type is paramount to the purpose of the string. Every type of music constituent critically contributes to the function and operation of the music sector within a regulated framework given the symbiotic overlapping nature of the Community as defined and structured. Music would not function as it does today without the participation of all music constituent types which cumulatively match the string with the Community definition.

In conclusion, there is substantive evidence that DotMusic entirely fulfills the criteria for *Nexus*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signature:   
vassilis.varvaresos@gmail.com, Apr 6 '15 ip: 176.183.93.227

Name: Dr. Vassilis Varvaresos

Title: Pianist

Expertise: Doctorate in Piano Performance

Date: 6/4/2015

## **About Dr. Vassilis Varvaresos**

*Doctorate in Piano Performance  
Juilliard School*

Born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1983, Dr. Varvaresos started studying music at the age of five, and received a scholarship to the Conservatory of Northern Greece. He continued his studies at the Conservatory with Milena Mollova. He won First Prize in the 1995 Petar Konjovic International Competition in Belgrade, the 1996 Pan-Hellenic Young Artist Competition in Athens, and was chosen as one of eleven young musicians from around the world to perform in Monte Carlo in a special “little Mozarts” concert organized by Italy’s RAI TV. Dr. Varvaresos holds a bachelor of music degree and a master of music degree from the Juilliard School, where he studied with Jerome Lowenthal. His paper on Claude Debussy, which won the Scholastic Distinction Award from the The Juilliard School, was published in Greece by Kodikas Publications. In May 2011 Dr. Varvaresos received his Doctorate in Piano Performance from the Juilliard School.<sup>1</sup> He was a student of Jerome Lowenthal, Yoheved Kaplinsky, and Robert MacDonald.

Dr. Varvaresos made his sensational New York orchestra debut in 2007 at Lincoln Center performing Lowell Liebermann’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Orchestra under the baton of Andreas Delfs. In October 2010, as a special guest of the Archbishop of the Greek-Orthodox Church of America, Dr. Varvaresos appeared with the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra in Chopin’s Piano Concerto in e minor at Alice Tully Hall, while in the winter of 2008 he was asked to be the soloist with the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, representing Greece on a two-week tour of China, on the occasion of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Dr. Varvaresos, on this occasion, performed in front of a total of 6000 people. Dr. Varvaresos’ made his recital debut in Athens, Greece appearing at the 2010 Athens Festival. During the same summer he has appeared in recital and chamber music concerts in Mykonos, Greece and in Constantinople and Cyprus.

Dr. Varvaresos previous seasons included concerts in Vienna’s legendary Musikverein, performances of Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra in Leukosia and Lemesos under the baton of Spiros Pisinis, recitals in Mykonos, Greece and a featured concert at the International Piano Festival of Gijón, Spain.

Since then, he has performed in numerous occasions both in the U. S. and abroad. Highlight performances include an appearance with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, where Dr. Varvaresos performed Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini and Gerswhin’s Rhapsody in Blue in a double-bill special event as well as concerto and recital appearances in the U.S. and his native Greece.

As a soloist with orchestra in the United States, Dr. Varvaresos has performed Grieg’s Piano Concerto with the Victoria Symphony in Texas, Tchaikovsky’s Concerto No. 1 with the Westmoreland Symphony (PA), Chopin’s Concerto No. 2 with the Dearborn (MI) Orchestra Society, Haydn’s Concerto in D Major

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<sup>1</sup> The Juilliard School is globally recognized as the top music school in the world (See <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/hollywood-reporter-unveils-top-25-745732> and <http://www.world-top-10.com/list/World-Top-Music-School/19>).

with the Hartford Symphony, Mozart's Concerto No. 5 with the Modesto (CA) Symphony, Mozart's Concerto no. 20 with the Altoona (PA) Symphony, Rachmaninov 's Concerto no. 1 with the JCC of Greater Washington, and Beethoven' s Concerto no.3 with the Sacramento Youth Symphony.

Dr. Varvaresos ' performances in his native Greece include the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto at the Megaron Hall with the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, Solon Michailides's Piano Concerto and the Grieg Piano Concerto in the Megaron Hall of Athens, Rachmaninov's Concerto no. 2, Mozart 's Concerto no. 20 and Beethoven' s Concerto No. 3, with the Orchestra of Thessaloniki. He has performed numerous times on Greek State Television, as well as on television in Italy, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Dr. Varvaresos has represented Greece in a special "EuroConcert" at the Museum of Modern Art in Helsinki, at the Greek Embassy in Milan, and for the U.S. Ambassador to Greece. He has also performed as a recitalist in Austria, Germany, France, Italy, The Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

Dr. Varvaresos is a founding member of Fourtissimo!, a group of four award-winning pianists whose goal is to reinvent the concert going experience through tasteful and uncompromising experimentation: unorthodox choice of repertoire, questions and choices concerning the form of the piano recital, and original compositions/transcriptions that test the limitations of the instrument and point the way towards a new type of instrumental virtuosity and inventiveness . The group's debut at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in October 2010 received immediate audience and critical acclaim.

Dr. Varvaresos is also active as a composer. His dance composition Three Etudes was chosen to represent the Juilliard School in a Dance Forum hosted by the Pallucca Schüle in Dresden, Germany in October of 2007. He has written ten film scores, including "Ellsworth Kelly: Fragments" and "Sir John Soane: An English Architect, an American Legacy" produced by the Checkerboard Film Foundation. He has also composed the score for the short film "Hardwood".

Dr. Varvaresos is currently pursuing the prestigious Diplôme d' Artiste-Interpète degree at the Conservatoire Nationale et Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in Paris, France. He studies with Michel Dalberto.

Dr. Varvaresos is recipient of Musical Studies Grants from the Bagby Foundation and the George and Marie Vergottis Foundation. Since 2008, he has also been the recipient of the Gina Bachauer Foundation Grant for Outstanding Talent in Music and Onassis Foundation Grant.

Website: <http://www.varvaresos.com/>



## Press Reviews

...Varvaresos playing was effervescent..."

[The Hartford Courant](#)

"Tout aussi investi, Vassilis Varvaresos lui donne la réplique pianistique avec un égal feu intérieur, dans un jeu concentré qui exclut toute virtuosité "

<http://www.concertclassic.com/article/winterreise-par-dimitris-tiliakos-et-vassilis-varvaresos-leclat-de-deux-jeunes-interpretes#sthash.IPOVYqDa.dpuf>

"Τηλιακός και Βαρβαρέσος τόλμησαν να πάρουν ρίσκα σε διάφορα επίπεδα και να καταθέσουν τη δική τους πρόταση: σύγχρονη, μουσικά ενδιαφέρουσα και πνευματικά διεγερτική." Kathimerini, 1.2.2015

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/801408/article/politismos/moysikh/ena-3exwristo-xeimwniatiko-ta3idi>

"Μια βραδιά που πρόσφερε τροφή στην ψυχή.", efsyn, 20.1.2015

<http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/heimoniatico-taxidi-san-na-itan-gia-proti-fora>

"Ήταν ένα απ' αυτά τα ρεσιτάλ που όσοι το παρακολούθησαν ένιωσαν πως είχαν κερδίσει ένα από εκείνα τα σπάνια διαμαντάκια που μοιράζει κατά καιρούς το Μέγαρο στο κοινό του." Protagon, 17.1.2015

<http://www.protagon.gr/?i=protagon.el.politismos&id=38927>

"The score is for Vassilis a good opportunity to recreate the world we live in. A modern remake of the romantic concerto. How? By imposing an extremely diverse sound, a turmoil at times hard to contain – but with braveness in reaching the octaves, by the pervasiveness of his personality which superimposes an almost cinematic vision on Tchaikovsky's music."

<http://www.festivalenescu.ro/en/news/346>

"En totale communion avec le public, il a parachevé sa "conquête" avec un Fantaisie-Impromptu de Chopin d'une parfaite fluidité et musicalité avant de "porter l'estocade" avec une improvisation fouguese, brillante et délirante, mêlant intelligemment des thèmes aussi variés que Summertime de Gershwin, la Vè Symphonie et la Lettre à Elise de Beethoven, la 2è Rhapsodie hongroise de Liszt...Jeune, très jeune, mais déjà très grand musicien qui sait rendre son public heureux, nous espérons le revoir très vite à Nohant!"

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/nohant-festival-chopin/concert-de-vassilis-varvaresos-dimanche-22-juin-2014/251101535082771?fref=nf>

A Paris, le festival Chopin souffle ses trente bougies. "De son côté, Vassilis Varvaresos a su emporter l'adhésion du public avec une interprétation magistrale de l'ouverture de Tannhäuser de Wagner transcrite par Liszt. Une partition aux proportions dantesques dont il a su restituer tout le souffle épique et tragique, avec une virtuosité confondante."

[La Lettre du musicien](#)

"First up was Mozart's elegant Sonata in B flat major. Inui and Varvaresos captured Mozart's musical dialogues, between themes, performing forces and movements. Theirs was lucid, transparent playing entirely in tune with Mozartean ideals."

[AL.com](#)

"Υπάρχουν κάποιοι άνθρωποι που, όταν τους γνωρίσεις, καταλαβαίνεις πως έχουν γεννηθεί με ένα ιδιαίτερο ταλέντο και ωριμάζουν για να μεγαλοουργήσουν." [Protagon](#)

"...Και πιστεύω πως αυτός ο σολίστας θα γίνει ο εκφραστής μιας νέας σεμνής, δημιουργικής και βαθιά συναισθηματικής και ανθρώπινης Ελλάδας, που θα λάμπει στα επόμενα χρόνια στο μουσικό στερέωμα."

[Protagon](#)

"Following this great program greatly played, Vassilis Varvaresos played a spicy Greek dance with all the exuberance and heartiness of a soul in love with life."

**The New York Concert Review**

Varvaresos at **Carnegie Hall**

"On March 19, 2012, the world-renowned Greek pianist Vassilis Varvaresos performed at a benefit piano recital at Carnegie Hall to thunderous applause."

**Cyprus Federation Org**

"So impressive, in fact, that I had no desire to hear any encores. Vassilis Varvaresos had demonstrated what he already has shown through Europe. For he is that rare young performer who, with a mere two hands, can tell the most gorgeous tales"

[Harry Rolnick at Concertonet.com](#)

"... Varvaresos played with rhythmic energy, sincerity, and contagious passion. This is a pianist that truly possesses everything..."

**La Voz de Asturias**

"Young Master on the Rise."

**The Washington Post**

"...Varvaresos engaged his audience for a performance that sizzled from start to finish. I felt as though I was hearing this piece for the first time and now I 'm a believer. Vassilis Varvaresos not only has a natural yet finely honed technique, it springs as one with the wide scope of profound musicianship. The Liszt was delivered in an astonishingly powerful and poetic trajectory. The audience was stunned. I remembered to stand up and shout – if ever there was a reason to yell Bravo, this was it."

**New York Concert Review**

"...Dr. Varvaresos first offered No. 9, "Vertige," in a rendition so dizzying that one needed to clutch one's seat..."

[New York Concert Review](#)

Varvaresos managed to control perfectly the robust Steinway – he was able to create a clean, tight sound that served perfectly the aesthetics of the time. His phrasing was elegant, flexible, [...] with well-crafted commas and periods. He delivered an outstanding “Allegretto e innocente...”

**Eletherotypia (Greece)**