

# SOUND BYTE



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## The SoundExchange Influencers Series Returns

On Wednesday, May 27, SoundExchange returned to Nashville's famous Bluebird Café to host the third installment of the *SoundExchange Influencers Series* featuring BeBe Winans, Jonathan McReynolds and Alexa Cruse. The *SoundExchange Influencers Series* brings music legends and up-and-comers together to highlight each generation's impact on the next. It focuses on the importance and power of all generations of music — past, present and future — while simultaneously raising awareness that all music has value.

BeBe Winans has undoubtedly had an impact on many artists. As an R&B and gospel vocalist, BeBe achieved notoriety both as part of the hit-making duo BeBe & CeCe Winans and as a solo artist. He's a six time GRAMMY Award winner including winning Album of the Year for co-producing Whitney Houston's smash hit film soundtrack for *The Bodyguard*.



(L-R) Jonathan McReynolds, Jimmy Nichols, SoundExchange President and CEO Michael Huppe, BeBe Winans, Alexa Cruse (Photo Credit: Terry Wyatt for SoundExchange)

Inspired and influenced by BeBe, Jonathan McReynolds and Alexa Cruse joined BeBe on the stage for a handful of performances and commentary on their careers and musical inspirations. During the event, they also discussed legacy artists, fair pay and recognition for all sound recordings across all mediums and all eras of music. It was a must-see event and only witnessed by those lucky enough to be in Nashville at the right time and right place. Check out more photos on [our blog](#) and share your thoughts on the Influencers Series with us on Twitter at [@SoundExchange](#).

## The Time to Act is Now

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It's been more than two months since the incredible event at the SAG-AFTRA headquarters in NYC introduced the Fair Play Fair Pay Act. And since that time, people rallying around this important legislation have sent thousands of social media posts and thousands of letters to Members of Congress.

But the work cannot end here. If you haven't yet written to your Member of Congress, now is the time to act! And if you have already written, you should pass along this important message to family, friends or fellow musicians. Great change comes when people band together around an important cause. We can't think of anything more imperative than **all artists being compensated fairly when their music is used, across all platforms.**

To quickly send a letter to your Member of Congress, visit our website [here](#) or click on the banner below to take action today!



## Amazon Drops Out of MIC Coalition

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The MIC Coalition's wealthy corporations (and the trade associations they fund) suffered a blow, just one month after launch. Amazon dropped out of the coalition because of the coalition's focus on rate setting.

Steve Boom, Amazon's VP of digital music told [Billboard](#): "When we joined the coalition we had a particular agenda topic that we were interested in, and that was transparency." He continued, "What has become clear to us since MIC went public is that part of the agenda — transparency — is getting lost in the wilder noise surrounding rate-setting."

Amazon is not the first and certainly won't be the last to question the MIC Coalition's motives. Read more about this on [MusicBusiness Worldwide](#).

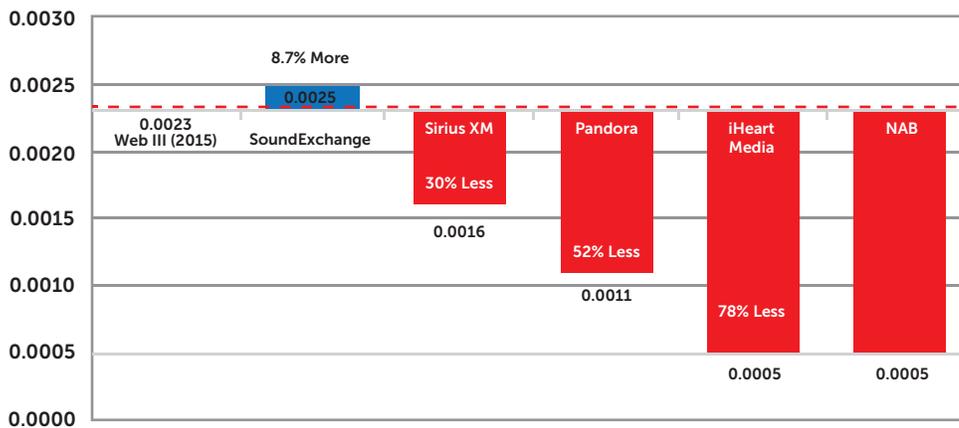
# Web IV

After six weeks of hearings and dozens of witnesses, testimony in the Web IV hearing wrapped up on June 3, 2015. SoundExchange’s overarching message remains simple: musicians and rights owners deserve to be compensated at a fair market rate for their work, creativity and investment in music. After all, digital music services would not have a business if it wasn’t for the hard work and investment of talented artists and labels.

An array of accomplished economists were joined by industry notables from UMG, Sony, Warner, Merlin, Beggars, Secretly Group, Concord, AFM, and many others on SoundExchange’s witness list to support the case for fair market rates for music.

The webcasting services involved in this hearing process attempted to make the case to lower the royalty rates for the music they use, to rates that would be well below market rates. Here is a quick overview of everyone’s requests:

**2015 CRB Per Performance Rates vs. 2016 Proposed Per Performance Rates**



The parties will give closing arguments on July 21 and the Copyright Royalty Judges are expected to deliver a decision on the rates for the next five years in December of this year.

# SoundExchange Summit at the New Music Seminar 2015

SoundExchange will be back at New Music Seminar (NMS) to present the SoundExchange Summit. NMS is all about belief in building the music business, belief in change and belief in long-term success for artists and businesses alike. NMS provides a platform for discourse by the voices that disrupt the conventional, tackle key issues and give a stage for emerging artists to shine. NMS is the place to network, engage, and discuss the future of music and business.



This year we're bringing some exciting panels and presentations to everyone attending the conference. Our Tuesday, June 23, lineup includes:

- ▶ **SX 101/"Money in Your Pocket"** — Scott Berenson, Director of Claims Management and Sean Glover, Senior Manager, Artist and Label Relations, will host this presentation, which is designed to educate the audience on performance royalties and why SoundExchange membership is crucial in today's digital music industry.
- ▶ **Does Living in the Past Provide a Vision for the Future?** — This presentation will host artists to share their success stories (and failures) in the music industry over the past several decades, which will show how the industry has evolved over time.
  - Conductor: David Spero (Founder, David Spero Management).
  - Featuring: Gunnar Nelson (Musician, Singer, & Songwriter), Josh Solomon (Musician, The Empty Pockets), Felix Cavaliere (Singer, Songwriter, Music Producer)
- ▶ **"Legal Eagles"** — A presentation about entertainment law, this panel will feature an expert group of lawyers to discuss their contributions to the music industry and how artist integrity is more important now than ever.
  - Conductor: Jay Rosenthal, Esq. (Partner, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp)
  - Featuring: Ken Anderson, Esq. (Special Counsel, Sheppard Mullens), Danielle Aguirre, Esq. (General Counsel & SVP, Business Affairs (National Music Publishers' Association), Christine Lepera, Esq. (Partner, Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp)
- ▶ **Advocacy and Becoming Your Own Advocate** — Wrapping up the day, Julia Massimino, Vice President of Global Public Policy, will lead a discussion on advocacy in the recorded music industry. Julia will speak about how they can get involved in spreading awareness about the Fair Play Fair Pay Act and the Protecting the Rights of Musicians Act.

New Music Seminar featuring the SoundExchange Summit kicks off on Sunday, June 21! Keep up with the latest on the [NMS website](#).

See you in New York!

## A Possible LIBBY Headed to DC

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For the second consecutive year, SoundExchange has been nominated for the “Independent Champion Award” at the A2IM Libera Awards (The Libby’s)!

We are honored to be recognized in this category that also includes NPR, Merlin, Pandora and others. Since inception, SoundExchange has supported and advocated for the independent music community. For more on what we do each and every day for independent musicians, click [here](#).

The winners of this year’s Libera Awards will be announced on June 25 in New York City. For a full list of nominees for the 2015 awards, click [here](#).

## Events

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### **New Music Seminar 2015**

**June 21–23, 2015**

New York, NY

### **A2IM Indie Week 2015**

**June 22–25, 2015**

New York, NY