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SOUND BYTE



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SoundExchange Launches Public Search Site



Today, SoundExchange launched an ISRC Search Site, which will provide the music industry access to the most comprehensive International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) database. The **SoundExchange ISRC Search Site** will improve efficiency and accuracy, which will enable performance royalties to be paid more quickly to artists and labels.

The new SoundExchange ISRC Site leverages the vast SoundExchange repertoire database of ISRCs so recording artists, rights owners and music services can locate accurate identifiers

for creative content. While ISRC data is available elsewhere, it has not been provided in such a comprehensive manner until now.

"We created this critical resource to improve our own efficient royalty processing, and we are delighted now to give the music community access to this much-needed data," SoundExchange President and CEO Michael Huppe said. "This is part of our ongoing commitment to develop products and services that help the music industry move forward. We eliminate friction through better and more efficient technology solutions, so creators can focus on the music."

Check out what *Billboard* had to say.

ICYMI: \$803M Distributed by SoundExchange in 2015

Each quarter, we publish our Digital Radio Report that details the accomplishments of SoundExchange throughout the past quarter in payments to recording artists and record labels. In case you missed it, check out the final report from 2015 [here](#).

And be on the lookout for the first report in 2016 coming soon!

Copyright Office IT Modernization

The Copyright Office issued a provisional plan for modernization of its IT systems on Tuesday, March 1. As the starting point of copyright registration and recordation in the United States, modernization of the U.S. Copyright Office should be of tremendous concern to every creator who relies on our copyright laws to provide meaningful protection of their work. The inadequate technological capabilities of the Copyright Office have been the subject of discussion for several years, and a focus of the current Register, Maria Pallante. The report issued earlier this month lays out a plan to not only cure the current lag in IT capabilities, but build the systems that are necessary for the future needs of the industry. The Office has laid out a course that includes building a flexible, open-sourced, cloud-based system in which pieces can be made operational as they are completed. The Register has invited input on the plan during a public comment period that runs through March 31, 2016.

To read the full plan, click [here](#). Comments on the plan can be submitted through an online form [here](#).

Broadcasters Lobby Congress: Claim Music Creators Do Not Deserve to Get Paid For Their Work

[CLICK HERE: WRITE YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS](#)

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) sponsored a Lobby Week from February 22-24, 2016 giving the \$18 billion radio industry an opportunity to flood the halls of Congress spreading misconceptions about a terrestrial performance right for music creators – in other words, making excuses for why they should not have to pay music creators – while promoting the Local Radio Freedom Act (H.Con.Res.17).

The Local Radio Freedom Act (LRFA) is a “Sense of Congress” resolution that misleads Members of Congress into believing that they are supporting “small broadcasters” when they are actually signing a resolution in opposition to what broadcasters claim is a performance “tax” (disclaimer: what they are referring to as a “tax” is actually a performance right that ensures music creators get paid royalties).

According to the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, the NAB spent \$17.4 million to lobby Congress in 2015 – money that could have been used to pay music creators the royalties they deserve for their work. It is also important to note that most small broadcasters – who claim they will not be able to stay in business if there is a performance right – spent more money on their lobbying trip to Washington last week than they would have to pay in royalties each year (the Fair Play Fair Pay Act includes a \$500 exemption for small broadcasters with revenues under \$1 million a year).

SoundExchange’s advocacy team is working hard to protect the interests of music creators on the Hill, but we need your help! It is now up to all of us – music creators and those who support them – to respond to the false narrative broadcasters and their powerful Washington lobbyists delivered on the Hill by [writing to your Member of Congress](#). Ask them to support the Fair Play Fair Pay Act (H.R.1733), which would level the playing field by creating a fair market value performance right for all music creators across all music platforms, including terrestrial radio.

Blake and Karoline Go to Washington

In January's edition of *SoundByte*, we had a piece about radio veteran Karoline Kramer Gould and her stand against the injustices against artists rampant in terrestrial radio (in case you missed it, you can read that piece [here](#)).

Shortly after we published that article, Karoline came to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress about the disparity in terrestrial radio. She and singer-songwriter turned music advocate Blake Morgan met with several members of the House of Representatives throughout a long day spent on Capitol Hill.

To learn more about their cause and their visit to Capitol Hill, click the image to the right for a short video.



You can follow [Blake](#) and [Karoline](#) on Twitter to stay up to date on their work.

Garth Brooks' Streams Steam Him into Elite Company



Congratulations to Garth Brooks for receiving the SoundExchange **Digital Radio Award!**



The idea of one billion streams on digital radio is a true measure of success. One billion streams demonstrate a type of popularity that is reserved for an elite few artists. The SoundExchange Digital Radio Award was created to honor just that — the incredible staying power of an artist and a celebration of that artist's acclaim on digital radio.

Garth Brooks is one such artist who merits this recognition. He becomes the first country artist to earn this prestigious award. Despite taking a significant break from touring over the past decade and a half, Garth's popularity and cavernous catalogue of recordings propelled him into exclusive company as one of very few artists to receive the SoundExchange Digital Radio Award.

When Garth Brooks visited Baltimore, Md. for a five-show weekend, SoundExchange President and CEO Michael Huppe presented him with the SoundExchange Digital Radio Award. Garth was thrilled to receive the honor.

Follow Garth on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Stay tuned to *SoundByte* and SoundExchange on social media to see who might receive the award next!

Who's In Your Fantasy Band?

If you're a musician, chances are you have artists or bands that you look up to or emulate. You may even dream about what it would be like to share the stage together and play to a sold out crowd. That got us to thinking – who's in your fantasy band? If you could pick anyone, dead or alive, to be a part of your ultimate fantasy band, who would it be?



We asked artists – including Wale, Charlie Puth, Joe Jonas, Rhiannon Giddens and many others – that very question.

Be sure to check out [our Instagram](#) for their answers – some might surprise you!

Events

Spring National College Media Convention 2016

March 12-15

New York, NY

SXSW 2016

March 15-19

Austin, Texas