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22 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 23 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

24 -----X

25 PONDEROSA TWINS PLUS ONE and  
 26 RICKY SPICER, individually and on behalf of  
 27 all others similarly situated,

**Civil Case No.: '16CV2258 LAB JMA**

28 Plaintiffs,

v.

**CLASS ACTION**  
**COMPLAINT**

29 IHEARTMEDIA, INC., SPOTIFY USA, INC.,  
 30 GOOGLE INC., APPLE INC., PANDORA  
 31 MEDIA, INC., SONY INTERACTIVE  
 32 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC (f/k/a SONY  
 33 COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT INC.),  
 34 DEEZER, INC., and SOUNDCLOUD, INC.,

**JURY DEMAND**

35 Defendants.

36 -----X

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1  
2 Plaintiffs Ricky Spicer and Ponderosa Twins Plus One, by their attorneys Napoli  
3 Shkolnik PLLC and Imbesi Law P.C., file this action on behalf of themselves and all  
4 other individuals similarly situated against iHeartMedia, Inc., Spotify USA, Inc.,  
5 Google, Inc., Apple, Inc., Pandora Media, Inc., Sony Interactive Entertainment, LLC  
6 (f/k/a Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.), Deezer, Inc., and Soundcloud, Inc.,  
7 (collectively, “Defendants”) for common law copyright infringement stemming from  
8 their unauthorized and unlawful use of sound recordings initially created before  
9 February 15, 1972 (the “Pre-1972 Recordings”) within the State of California. Plaintiffs  
10 and those similarly situated rights holders seek compensation from Defendants, as well  
11 as injunctive relief for violation of Plaintiffs’ rights flowing from the unauthorized and  
12 uncompensated appropriation of the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
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**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

**A. Ricky Spicer**

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18  
19 1. Mr. Spicer was born on July 3, 1957. Mr. Spicer’s biological father is  
20 Richard Spicer and his mother was Silvia Spicer. Mr. Spicer biological parents  
21 separated when he was three years of age. After his parents’ separation, Mr. Spicer’s  
22 mother had sole custody of all six of her children and was their primary caretaker.  
23

24 2. Mr. Spicer’s mother was injured in an automobile accident when he was a  
25 child, which rendered her comatose for a significant amount of time. The treating  
26 physicians of Mr. Spicer’s mother did not expect her to survive the injuries she  
27  
28

1 sustained from the automobile accident. Fortunately, Mr. Spicer's mother survived but  
2 the injuries caused her to suffer severe emotional distress throughout the remainder of  
3 her life.  
4

5 3. In 1963, Mr. Spicer's mother could no longer care for her children because  
6 of the psychological injuries. She was admitted to psychiatric facility and Mr. Spicer  
7 and his five siblings were forced to be cared for by relatives for several months until she  
8 was discharged  
9

10 4. In 1968, Mr. Spicer's mother experienced another psychological injury  
11 rendering her unable to care for Mr. Spicer and his siblings.

12 5. After her injury in 1968, none of Mr. Spicer's extended family members  
13 were able to care for his siblings or him. Mr. Spicer's older brother began military  
14 service for the United States and his two youngest sisters were admitted to a foster  
15 home.  
16

17 6. The remaining three children, who included Mr. Spicer and his brother and  
18 sister, were all admitted to a group home operated by the state of Ohio, where they lived  
19 together for nine months.  
20

21 7. After nine months of living together, in 1969, Mr. Spicer's sister was  
22 admitted to a separate home for girls and Mr. Spicer's brother and he were admitted to a  
23 group home for boys, known as "Ohio Boys Town."  
24

25 8. Mr. Spicer was twelve years of age when he lived at Ohio Boys Town.  
26 During that time, he began to sing with a couple of boys that lived in his neighborhood.  
27  
28

1 Mr. Spicer and his friends would practice singing extensively, utilizing any available  
2 time after school and on weekends.

3  
4 9. In 1969, Mr. Spicer and his friends auditioned for a talent contest at a local  
5 high school and performed exceptionally. The following night, Mr. Spicer and his  
6 friends returned to the school to perform again. Because of the boys' exceptional  
7 performance on the previous night, many people attended, including individuals  
8 apparently engaged in the recording business.

9  
10 10. After their performance, the group was approached by Tony Wilson. Prior  
11 to the meeting, Mr. Spicer did not know Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson gave Mr. Spicer a  
12 business card and informed him that he wanted to record songs with another local  
13 group, at a studio operated by Mr. Wilson's boss, Chuck Brown ("Mr. Brown"), owner  
14 of Saru Records ("Saru").

15  
16 **B. The Ponderosa Twins Plus One**

17  
18 11. Subsequently, Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Spicer to the members of the  
19 singing group "The Ponderosa Twins." At the time, the members of the Ponderosa  
20 Twins were Alvin and Alfred Pelham and Keith and Kirk Gardner.

21  
22 12. After an informal meeting, Chuck Brown convinced Mr. Spicer to record  
23 songs with The Ponderosa Twins. The boys sung well together and decided to form a  
24 singing group, Mr. Spicer being the "plus One" in the group (hereinafter "the Group").  
25  
26  
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28

1           13. The Group was initially managed by Mr. Brown under his Astroscope  
2 Record Label and had a distribution deal in place with Sylvia Robinson, owner of All  
3 Platinum Records.  
4

5           14. On October 12, 1970, when Mr. Spicer was 12, the Group naively signed a  
6 personal services contract and recording agreement. Though, as a minor, he lacked the  
7 capacity to legally bind himself to those agreements. Instead, those executory  
8 agreements would become voidable upon reaching the age of majority.  
9

10           15. The Group released 6-sided vinyl records, which were compiled and  
11 released on the Group's first studio album, "2 + 2 = 1" (the "Album"). The Album  
12 included singles such as the classics "You Send Me," "I Remember You," "Why Do  
13 Fools Fall in Love," and most notably, "Bound."  
14

15           16. All of these releases received widespread acclaim, especially "Bound," and  
16 the group was quickly labeled the "next Jackson 5" for their exciting stage act,  
17 unprecedented maturity, and ability to market love and sex themes despite their youth.  
18

19           17. Mr. Spicer was the lead vocalist when the group recorded "Bound." His  
20 voice is distinctly heard throughout the song, including its chorus, which contains the  
21 following words sung by Mr. Spicer:  
22

23                   Bound, bound  
24                   Bound to fall in love

25           18. His father and Chuck Brown signed the personal services contract and  
26 recording agreement as his purported legal guardians. However, at the time, Mr.  
27 Spicer's father was not his guardian; the State of Ohio was.  
28

1 19. Throughout 1970, the Group toured for months, sometimes performing  
2 twice in a single day. Although the Group was promised payments for their  
3 performances, Mr. Brown and Saru failed to make any payments to Mr. Spicer or the  
4 other members of the Group for any performances. In 1975, the Group fell apart due to  
5 the lack of royalties and no revenue from their live shows. The Group never recovered.  
6

7 20. Despite his youth, Ricky managed to accomplish success in the music  
8 industry, going on to release several popular songs and performing with Gladys Knight  
9 and James Brown.  
10

11 21. Despite his extraordinary talent, his performances, and other  
12 accomplishments, Mr. Spicer was never fairly compensated.  
13

14 22. Mr. Spicer's fellow members of the Group, Alvin and Alfred Pelham are  
15 now deceased, and Kirk and Keith Gardner are currently incarcerated. Mr. Spicer  
16 maintains a friendly relationship Kirk and Keith Gardner and the relatives of Alvin and  
17 Alfred Pelham.  
18

19 23. As evidence of Kirk and Keith Gardner's trust of Mr. Spicer, both have  
20 conveyed a power of attorney to Mr. Spicer, which enables him to fully represent the  
21 living members of the Group.  
22

23 24. Mr. Spicer is the only living member of the Group able to fully detail its  
24 history and protect its legal rights.

25 25. Although the Group was promised payment, Mr. Brown and Saru failed to  
26 make any payments to Mr. Spicer for his performances.  
27  
28

1           **C. “Bound” and “Bound 2”**

2           **26.** The exploitation of Mr. Spicer, the Group, and the other Plaintiffs in the  
3 Class continues to this day. For example, Defendants have broadcast the song “Bound  
4 2,” by Kanye West, which features Mr. Spicer’s original recording “Bound.”  
5

6           **27.** In 2013, while listening to the radio, Mr. Spicer heard his voice in a song  
7 produced by the Defendants.  
8

9           **28.** The song, titled “Bound 2,” contains Mr. Spicer’s audio recording of him  
10 singing the chorus to “Bound.”

11           **29.** That same year, Mr. Spicer resolved a lawsuit against Kanye West, Rock-  
12 A-Fella Records, Universal Music Group, and Island Def Jam. The suit was premised  
13 on the unlicensed and infringing use of the sound recording “Bound,” and on a violation  
14 by those defendants of Mr. Spicer’s privacy rights pursuant to NYCRL § 51.<sup>1</sup>  
15

16           **D. Defendants’ Unlawful Conduct**

17           **30.** Mr. Spicer owns the copyrights inherent in the sound recording of “Bound,”  
18 as well as those inherent in the remaining sound recordings featured on the Album.  
19 These rights include the use and distribution of the recording, the right to promote the  
20 recording, and the right to receive royalty payments from the use and broadcast of the  
21 recording, and the right to receive royalty payments from the use and broadcast of the  
22 recording.  
23  
24  
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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup> <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/kanye-west-settles-bound-2-lawsuit-with-soul-singer-20150528>; <http://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/the-juice/6576199/kanye-west-settles-bound-2-sample-lawsuit>  
28

1           **31.** All Defendants knowingly offer the Album and therefore sound recordings  
2 containing Mr. Spicer’s voice without his consent or authorization.

3           **32.** All Defendants operate music applications with functions that operate the  
4 same way. For example, operating under the name iHeartRadio, iHeartMedia offers  
5 internet radio services in the form of customizable music “stations” that stream music to  
6 users on the internet. To create a radio station, all a user has to do is enter the name of a  
7 singer, such as the Group, and the application will create a radio station curated to  
8 match the genre of that singer or music group. Not only will the station play songs from  
9 the Group, but also similar popular music from the genre. iHeartMedia also owns  
10 hundreds of traditional “terrestrial” or AM and FM radio stations and streams their  
11 broadcasts online.

12           **33.** Many of the Defendants’ applications also have features that allow the user  
13 to save a given song, such as “Bound,” to their own personal music library supported by  
14 cloud technology. This cloud service operates as an external, intangible storage space  
15 that is accessible to any user, anywhere on the planet, so long as they can log into their  
16 iHeart, Spotify, Soundcloud, etc., account from a smartphone, tablet, or other  
17 compatible device.

18           **34.** As do all Defendants, iHeartMedia offers its internet radio services to the  
19 public on either a non-subscription or subscription basis. Users can access iHeart  
20 Media’s internet radio services on a variety of internet platforms, including computers,  
21 digital media devices, tablets, video game consoles, and smartphones.



1           **35.** A radio or music streaming service must ensure that its internet-based and  
2 traditional broadcasts of copyrighted sound recordings are authorized and must arrange  
3 to pay royalties before it publicly performs the sound recordings. A radio or music  
4 streaming service must also arrange to pay royalties to the owner of a sound recording  
5 each time the service reproduces the sound recording for purposes of archiving it,  
6 maintaining it, and streaming it online. If the service fails to arrange and pay required  
7 royalties, the use is unauthorized and infringes the sound recording's copyright.  
8  
9

10           **36.** Although federal copyright law provides an automatic license and royalty  
11 rate for digital public performances of sound recordings created on or after February 15,  
12 1972, no such automatic license exists for recordings created before that date. Instead,  
13 state law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction and performance of the Pre-1972  
14 Recordings.  
15

16           **37.** Defendants generate revenue through subscription fees, advertising, or both.  
17 They profit by pirating the Pre-1972 Recordings without permission, license, or  
18 compensation.  
19

20           **38.** Users of Defendants' customizable stations hear advertisements at periodic  
21 intervals between tracks and may skip only six tracks per station per hour (and 15 tracks  
22 total per day) across all stations. Skipping a track often results in an advertising  
23 broadcast.  
24

25           **39.** Defendants' numerous internet and terrestrial radio broadcasts have  
26 included, and continue to include, countless performance of the Pre-1972 Recordings,  
27  
28

1 all of which have been and continue to be made without any permission from or  
2 payment to the owners of the copyright.

3       **40.** None of the defendants have received a valid license to perform, distribute,  
4 or otherwise appropriate the intellectual property owned by Mr. Spicer and the similarly  
5 situated Plaintiffs.  
6

7       **41.** Defendants never contracted with Mr. Spicer or the Group to use any part  
8 of the Group's recording, "Bound," or any other recording featured on the Album.  
9

10       **42.** Defendants exploited, and continue to exploit, Plaintiffs' and Class  
11 Members' rights without permission and compensation.

12       **43.** The other members of the Class are in the same position: their works are  
13 being used without their permission and without compensation.  
14

15       **E. Pre-1972 Copyright Law**

16       **44.** The Copyright Act creates a federal statutory licensing scheme pursuant to  
17 which all radio companies, such as Defendants, are required to pay royalties for the  
18 public performance of sound recordings protected by the Act. *See* 17 U.S.C. §§ 112(e),  
19 114(d)(2), and 114(f). These companies pay royalties to SoundExchange, a nonprofit  
20 entity established by regulation for the collection and distribution of royalty payments  
21 pursuant to the Copyright Act.  
22

23       **45.** The Copyright Act specifically provides that the Pre-1972 Recordings will  
24 not be subject to federal copyright. 17 U.S.C. § 301(c). But the Pre-1972 Recordings  
25 are not without protection. The Copyright Act explicitly left the regulation of Pre-1972  
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1 Recordings to the states. Thus, New York common law protects Pre-1972 Recordings,  
2 including Ricky's recording of Bound, from being copied, distributed, or otherwise  
3 exploited without license, authorization, or payment.  
4

5 **46.** The Pre-1972 Recordings redefined popular music in America. Defendants  
6 have earned substantial revenue by creating, marketing, and selling advertisements on  
7 radio services featuring the Pre-1972 Recordings owned by Plaintiffs. But despite  
8 Defendants' profiting handsomely by advertising and offering these sound recordings to  
9 the public, they unlawfully fail to arrange for permission to use the recordings or to pay  
10 compensation for their broadcasting.  
11

12 **47.** Defendants have not licensed the Pre-1972 Recordings from their copyright  
13 owners. Nor have they compensated them. Thus, without obtaining authorization or  
14 rendering compensation, Defendants have stolen the Pre-1972 Recordings, copied them,  
15 and publicly performed them in violation of Plaintiffs' exclusive rights.  
16

17 **48.** Moreover, Performing Rights Societies ("PRS"), such as ASCAP, BMI, and  
18 SESAC are often employed to police income generated by streamed-sound recordings.  
19 They also issue mechanical licenses to parties wishing to publicly perform sound  
20 recordings owned by someone else. But due to Mr. Spicer's minor incapacity at the  
21 time of contracting and creating the sound recordings at issue, a phantom party  
22 (possibly Chuck Brown) decided to circumvent the traditional manner of employing  
23 PRS. Instead, this wrongful owner and transferor of the public performance rights in the  
24 Album used back channels and private under-the-table dealings to transfer licenses that  
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1 ultimately wound up in the hands of Defendants. Thus, Defendants publicly perform the  
2 Album without a valid license to do so. This constitutes copyright infringement, and the  
3 royalties generated by the public performances across all of the Defendants streaming  
4 platforms should be forwarded to Mr. Spicer, as he is the rightful owner of the  
5 copyrights vested in the sound recordings contained in the Album.  
6

7 **49.** Defendants' conduct violates Plaintiffs' rights under California common  
8 law prohibitions against misappropriation, conversion, and unjust enrichment. Plaintiffs  
9 seek, on behalf of themselves and a class of similarly situated rights holders,  
10 compensation from Defendants, as well as injunctive relief, for violations of Plaintiffs'  
11 rights, from Defendants' unauthorized and uncompensated use of the Pre-1972  
12 Recordings.  
13  
14

### 15 **PARTIES**

16 **50.** Plaintiff Ricky Spicer is a resident of Ohio.  
17

18 **51.** Plaintiff Ponderosa Twins Plus One is a now defunct music quintet whose  
19 members include Alvin and Alfred Pelham (now deceased), Kirk and Keith Gardner  
20 (currently incarcerated), and Mr. Spicer.  
21

22 **52.** Plaintiffs bring this action individually and on behalf of all those similarly  
23 situated who hold rights in the Pre-1972 Recordings, which Defendants used and are  
24 currently using without permission, license, and compensation.  
25

26 **53.** Defendant iHeartMedia, Inc., is a Delaware Corporation with its principal  
27 place of Business in Texas.  
28

1 54. Defendant Spotify USA Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with its principal  
2 place of business at 76 9th Avenue, Suite 1110, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10011,  
3 USA.

4  
5 55. Defendant Pandora Media, Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with its principal  
6 place of business at 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1650, Oakland, CA 94612, USA.

7  
8 56. Defendant Google Inc. is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of  
9 business at 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View, CA 94043.

10 57. Defendant Apple Inc. is a Corporation with its principal place of business at  
11 *1 Infinite Loop*, Cupertino, CA 95014. 408-996-1010.

12 58. Defendant Deezer, Inc. is a foreign Corporation having its principal place of  
13 business at Rue d'Athènes, 75009 Paris, France.

14  
15 59. Defendant SoundCloud, Inc. is a foreign Corporation with its headquarters  
16 at Rheinsberger Str. 76/77, Berlin, Germany 10115.

17  
18 60. Defendant Sony Interactive Entertainment, LLC (f/k/a Sony Computer  
19 Entertainment Inc.) is a Delaware corporation foreign corporation with its headquarters  
20 at 2207 Bridgepointe Pkwy., San Mateo, California, 94402-0888.

21  
22 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 61. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant  
24 to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) *et seq.*, which commands federal  
25 jurisdiction in a class action where at least one plaintiff or one member of the class is  
26 diverse from at least one defendant, where there are at least 100 members of the  
27  
28

1 proposed class, and the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000  
2 to a reasonable probability.

3  
4 62. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they conduct  
5 business in California. In particular, Defendants solicit and serve California customers  
6 through their interactive websites and on-air advertising. Defendants own numerous  
7 radio stations in California, advertise their internet and terrestrial radio services in  
8 California, and offer their mobile device application through these stations. Each of  
9 these locations is well known and popular in this District. Defendants violate California  
10 law to the detriments of Plaintiffs, class members, and listeners as detailed below, by  
11 publicly performing the Pre-1972 Recordings in California without permission or  
12 paying royalties. This Court also has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28  
13 U.S.C. § 1331 because one of Plaintiffs' civil claims arises under the Constitution, laws,  
14 or treaties of the United States, specifically, violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962.  
15  
16

17  
18 63. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims  
19 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because the state law claims are so closely related to the  
20 claims in which the Court has original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case  
21 or controversy.  
22

23  
24 64. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) because a  
25 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred and or  
26 emanated from this District, and Defendants have caused harm to class members  
27 residing in this District.  
28

**CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

1  
2       **65.**     Named Plaintiffs bring this action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and  
3 (b)(3) on their own behalf and on behalf of the following class of plaintiffs (the “Misappropriation  
4 Class”):  
5

6             All owners of reproduction and public performance rights in the Pre-1972  
7 Recordings that have been publicly performed, copied, or otherwise exploited by  
8 Defendants, without a license or other authorization, in the marketing, sale, and  
9 provision of internet and terrestrial radio services.

10       **66.**     The persons in the Misappropriation Class are so numerous that individual  
11 joinder of all members is impracticable under the circumstances. Although the precise  
12 number of such persons is unknown, the exact size of the Misappropriation Class is  
13 easily ascertainable, as each class member can be identified by using Defendants’  
14 records. Plaintiffs allege upon information and belief that there are many thousands of  
15 Misappropriation Class members.  
16

17       **67.**     The following common questions of law and fact specific to the Misappropriation Class  
18 predominate over any questions affecting individual members:  
19

- 20             a. Whether Defendants copy, perform, or otherwise exploit Pre-1972  
21 Recordings in their internet or terrestrial radio services or both without  
22 authorization or permission;  
23  
24             b. Whether such uses are lawful;  
25  
26             c. Whether Defendants’ conduct constitutes misappropriation;  
27  
28             d. Whether Defendants’ conduct constitutes unfair competition;

- 1 e. Whether Class Members have been damaged by Defendants' conduct and  
2 the amount of such damages;  
3  
4 f. Whether punitive damages are appropriate and the amount of such  
5 damages;  
6  
7 g. Whether an Order enjoining future unauthorized use of the Pre-1972  
8 Recordings in internet and terrestrial radio services is appropriate and on  
9 what terms;  
10  
11 h. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched  
12  
13 i. Whether Defendants have converted Plaintiffs' property to their own use;  
14 and  
15  
16 j. Whether Defendants should disgorge their unlawful profits and the amounts  
17 of such profits.

16 68. The Named Class Representatives' claims are typical of the  
17 Misappropriation Class's claims, as they arise out of the same course of conduct and the  
18 same legal theories as the rest of the Misappropriation Class, and Plaintiffs challenge  
19 the practices and course of conduct engaged in by Defendants with respect to the  
20 Misappropriation Class as a whole.  
21

22 69. Excluded from the class are Defendants, their employees, co-conspirators,  
23 officers, directors, legal representatives, heirs, successors, and wholly or partly owned  
24 subsidiaries or affiliated companies; class counsel and their employees; and the judicial  
25 officers and associated court staff assigned to this case.  
26  
27  
28



1           70. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class. They  
2 will vigorously pursue the claims and have no antagonistic conflict. Plaintiffs have  
3 retained counsel who are able and experienced class action litigators and are familiar  
4 with representing plaintiffs in large scale claims.  
5

6           71. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to  
7 the class, and final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate  
8 respecting the class as a whole. A class action is also appropriate because Defendants  
9 have acted and refused to act in a manner that, upon information and belief, generally  
10 applies to thousands of individuals, thereby making injunctive relief appropriate for the  
11 class as a whole.  
12

13           72. Questions of law or fact common to Class Members predominate over any  
14 questions affecting only individual members. Resolution of this action on a class-wide  
15 basis is superior to other available methods and is a fair and efficient adjudication of the  
16 controversy because, in the context of this litigation, most individual Class Members  
17 cannot commit large financial resources to prosecute lawsuits against Defendants.  
18 Further, separate actions by individuals would create a risk of inconsistent or varying  
19 judgments, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants  
20 and substantially impede or impair the ability of Class Members to pursue their claims.  
21 It is not anticipated that there would be difficulties in managing this case as a class  
22 action.  
23  
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1           73. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend all class allegations as appropriate, and to request  
2 any state law subclass or other subclasses if necessary, upon completion of class-related discovery and  
3 motions for class certification.

4  
5                                   **COUNT I**  
6                                   **COMMON LAW COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AND UNFAIR**  
7                                   **COMPETITION**

8           74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs  
9 as if fully set forth herein.

10           75. The Pre-1972 Recordings, when created, were the original product of  
11 mental exertion personified in concrete form. Plaintiffs and the Misappropriation Class  
12 therefore have property rights in them as recognized by California common law.

13           76. By copying the Pre-1972 Recordings without authorization from Plaintiffs  
14 and Class Members, and publicly performing those Recordings to their users for their  
15 own gain, Defendants misappropriated the Pre-1972 Recordings and infringed  
16 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' property rights, which damaged them. As a result of  
17 Defendants' misappropriations of the Pre-1972 Recordings, Plaintiffs and Class  
18 Members are entitled to an order enjoining Defendants from continuing to use those  
19 recordings without authorization and compensation and an order imposing a  
20 constructive trust on any money acquired by means of Defendants' misappropriations,  
21 including all gross receipts attributable to Defendants' misappropriation of the Pre-1972  
22 Recordings.  
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1 77. Defendants' conduct, as described above, constituted a repeated and  
2 deliberate pattern of misappropriation of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' property,  
3 justifying the imposition of punitive damages.  
4

5 78. By knowingly misappropriating works without their owners' permission  
6 and performing these works to millions of users of internet and terrestrial radio service,  
7 Defendants acted and continue to act maliciously and oppressively to injure Plaintiffs  
8 and Class members by depriving them of compensation for the use of the Pre-1972  
9 Recordings. Defendants continued misappropriation of the Pre-1972 Recordings was  
10 done with wanton and willful disregard of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' rights and the  
11 harm suffered by Plaintiffs and Class Members was foreseeable to Defendants.  
12

13  
14 2. As a result of Defendants' misappropriation of the Pre-1972 Recordings,

15 79. Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to an order enjoining Defendants from  
16 continuing to use those recordings without authorization and compensation and to an order imposing a  
17 constructive trust on any money acquired by means of Defendants' misappropriation, including all  
18 gross receipts attributable to Defendants' misappropriation of the Pre-1972 Recordings.

19 80. Defendants' conduct has constituted a repeated and deliberate pattern of  
20 misappropriation of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' property, necessitating the  
21 imposition of punitive damages. Through this deliberate misappropriation and the  
22 performance of these works to millions of users of internet and terrestrial radio services,  
23 Defendants continue to act maliciously and oppressively to injure Plaintiffs and Class  
24 Members.  
25  
26

27  
28 **COUNT II**

**VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 980(a)(2)**

1  
2 81. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs  
3 as if fully set forth herein.  
4

5 82. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 980(a)(2), Plaintiffs possess exclusive  
6 ownership interests in and to the Pre-1972 Recordings, including the artistic  
7 performances embodied in those recordings.  
8

9 83. By their unauthorized reproduction, performance, distribution, or other  
10 exploitation of Pre-1972 Recordings in California, Defendants have violated California  
11 Civil Code § 980(a)(2).  
12

13 84. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations, Defendants have  
14 received and retained money that does not belong to them, but belongs to Plaintiffs.  
15

16 85. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations of California  
17 Civil Code § 980(a)(2), Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, significant  
18 damages.  
19

20 86. Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined by this Court will  
21 continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot fully be compensated by  
22 money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary,  
23 preliminary, and permanent injunctions, prohibiting further violation of the ownership  
24 interests of Plaintiffs in the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
25

26 **COUNT III**  
27 **MISAPPROPRIATION**  
28

1 87. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs  
2 as if fully set forth herein.

3 88. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 980(a)(2) and California common law,  
4 Plaintiffs possess exclusive ownership interests in and to the Pre-1972 Recordings,  
5 including the artistic performances embodied in those recordings.  
6

7 89. Plaintiffs invested substantial time and money in creating and developing  
8 the Pre-1972 Recordings  
9

10 90. Because Defendants failed to obtain licenses, they did not incur any of the  
11 costs that a licensee is obligated to pay in order to reproduce, perform, distribute, or  
12 otherwise exploit the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
13

14 91. Defendants have misappropriated, and continue to misappropriate, for their  
15 own commercial benefit, the exclusive ownership interests in and to the Pre-1972  
16 Recordings.  
17

18 92. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' misappropriation,  
19 Defendants have received and retained money and value that belongs to Plaintiffs.

20 93. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' misappropriation, Plaintiffs  
21 have suffered, and continue to suffer, significant damages.  
22

23 94. Upon information and belief, Defendants acted with oppression, fraud,  
24 malice and/or in disregard of Plaintiffs' rights. Therefore, Plaintiffs are entitled to an  
25 award of punitive damages against Defendants.  
26  
27  
28

1 95. Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined by this Court will  
2 continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot fully be compensated by  
3 money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary,  
4 preliminary, and permanent injunctions, prohibiting further violation of the ownership  
5 interests of Plaintiffs in the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
6

7  
8 **COUNT IV**  
9 **UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES**

10 96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs  
11 as if fully set forth herein.

12 97. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 980(a)(2) and California common law,  
13 Plaintiffs possess exclusive ownership interests in and to the Pre-1972 Recordings,  
14 including the artistic performances embodied in those recordings.  
15

16 98. Defendants' conduct in reproducing, performing, distributing, or other  
17 exploitation of the Pre-1972 Recordings constitutes a misappropriation of Plaintiffs'  
18 property rights and a violation of California Civil Code § 980(a)(2).  
19

20 99. By misappropriating Plaintiffs' property rights and by violating California  
21 Civil Code § 980(a)(2), Defendants have engaged in unfair business practices in  
22 violation of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.  
23

24 100. As a direct and proximate consequence of its violation of California  
25 Business & Professions Code § 17200, Defendants have received and retained money  
26 that should have been provided to Plaintiffs.  
27  
28

1 101. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs are  
2 entitled to restitution and disgorgement under California Business & Professions Code §  
3 17200.  
4

5 102. Upon information and belief, Defendants acted with oppression, fraud,  
6 malice, and/or disregard for Plaintiffs' rights. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to an  
7 award of punitive damages against Defendants.  
8

9 103. Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined by this Court will  
10 continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot fully be compensated by  
11 money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy-at-law. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary,  
12 preliminary, and permanent injunctions, prohibiting further violation of the ownership  
13 interests of Plaintiffs and each member of the class in the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
14

15  
16 **COUNT V**  
**CONVERSION**  
17

18 104. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations in the above paragraphs  
19 as if fully set forth herein.  
20

21 105. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 980(a)(2) and California common law,  
22 Plaintiffs possess exclusive ownership interests in and to the Pre-1972 Recordings,  
23 including the artistic performances embodied in those recordings.  
24

25 106. By reproducing, performing, distributing, or otherwise exploiting the Pre-  
26 1972 Recordings, Defendants have converted for their own use Plaintiffs' rights in the  
27 Pre-1972 Recordings and have dispossessed each of their property rights.  
28

1 107. As a direct and proximate result of its conversion, Defendants have  
2 received and retained money that belongs to Plaintiffs.

3 108. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' conversion,  
4 Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer significant damages.  
5

6 109. Upon information and belief, Defendants acted with oppression, fraud,  
7 malice, and/or in disregard of Plaintiffs' rights. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to an  
8 award of punitive damages against Defendants.  
9

10 110. Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined by this Court will  
11 continue to cause, irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot fully be compensated by  
12 money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary,  
13 preliminary, and permanent injunctions, prohibiting further violation of the ownership  
14 interests of Plaintiffs in the Pre-1972 Recordings.  
15

16  
17 **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**  
18

19 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of the proposed class,  
20 request relief against Defendants as follows:

- 21 a) Certification of the action as a Class Action pursuant to the Federal Rule of  
22 Civil Procedure and appointment of Plaintiffs as Class Representatives and  
23 their counsel of record as Class Counsel;  
24  
25 b) Actual damages, punitive damages, treble damages, and such other relief as  
26 provided by the statutes and common law cited herein;  
27  
28



- 1 c) Disgorgement of all profits earned by Defendants from reproducing,  
2 distributing, publicly performing, and otherwise exploiting the Pre-1972  
3 Recordings in internet and terrestrial radio services;  
4  
5 d) A constructive trust on any money acquired by means of Defendants'  
6 conversion, including all gross receipts attributable to Defendants'  
7 conversion of the Pre-1972 Recordings;  
8  
9 e) Prejudgment and post judgment interest on any monetary relief;  
10  
11 f) Equitable relief enjoining future unauthorized use of the Pre-1972  
12 Recordings in internet and terrestrial radio services;  
13  
14 g) The costs of bringing this suit, including reasonable attorneys' fees and  
15 costs; and  
16  
17 h) All and any other relief to which Plaintiffs and Class Members may be  
18 entitled at law or inequity.

19 DATED: September 7, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Jennifer Liakos

Jennifer Liakos

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**ATTESTATION OF FILER**

I, Jennifer Liakos, attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the Signatory, which shall serve in lieu of her signature on the document.

Signed this 7th day of September 2016.

/s/ Jennifer Liakos  
Jennifer Liakos

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