

[Company Letterhead]

Date: August 7, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Dr. Steve Crocker, Chair ICANN Board of Directors steve.crocker@icann.org

Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President & CEO fadi.chehade@icann.org

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RE: Opposition to DotMusic Limited's Community Application for .MUSIC

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the American Society of Young Musicians (ASYM). As an organization committed to music education and endeavors, we have considered the community application submitted by the DotMusic Limited for the .MUSIC top-level domain, Application ID No. 1-1115-14110. We submit this letter in opposition to that community application.

ASYM is a non-profit 501c3 national organization comprised of musicians, music students, songwriters, studio technicians, and individuals in the music community who share a commitment to the development and support both educationally and musically of young musicians. It is one of a number of groups worldwide organized to promote and protect the interests of those involved in music and music education.

DotMusic Limited claims in its application to represent the interests of those in advancing the musical interests of young people, but it does not. We certainly have not granted them permission to act on behalf of our organization or those in our field of music generally regarding the operation of a .MUSIC top-level domain, and are not aware that any of the many other organizations in musical education have done so either. We also do not consider this applicant to represent the broad interests of a "music community," if such a thing even exists.

Furthermore, contrary to the public scare tactics employed by DotMusic Limited to garner support, we understand that all applicants for .MUSIC will be required to protect and enforce the interests of internet users of domain names in the .MUSIC top-level domain through the implementation of mandated safeguards in its public interest commitments. Accordingly, we as a group consider it more important that the ultimate operator of a .MUSIC domain have a strong background and considerable experience in operating a domain name registry and employing and enforcing safeguards for the protection of its end-users.

Also, music by its very nature touches *every* human being on earth. What may be considered a legitimate musical interest by one person/entity may not be in alignment with the legitimate

interests of another – and no one entity should be permitted to hold itself out as the arbiter of all musical interests. We are concerned that, by claiming to act on behalf of some sort of defined music “community,” DotMusic would unfairly prevent access to domain names by those with legitimate musical interests who may not otherwise satisfy the criteria that a single registry unilaterally creates in what it deems to be the needs of a music “community.” Such restrictions on expression are, in our view, contrary to what music is all about, and would be a disservice to both creators and consumers of music worldwide.

For these reasons, we ask that our opposition is taken into account when evaluating this application.

Sincerely,

Javree Hutcherson, National President
American Society of Young Musicians