

Protect Intellectual Property Rights Protect the Creators/ Artists of the USA

Personal devices such as I-pods and mobile phones are not free.

Computers are not free.

Internet Service is not free.

The distribution of content is not free.

Building a website is not free.

Content should not be free.

If we are not willing to pay for content, then the content (product) has no value. The creator has no value. Can we afford to have a country where the creator has no value?

The traditional business models of movies, music, books, etc. have been hit by a virtual tsunami. This technological revolution has lead many to believe that content (music, books, movies, etc) should be free. Why? Clearly they have a misguided and distorted understanding of what it is to create and develop talent and artistry and even produce the end product. Yet, companies such as, Comcast, Apple, Sprint, software companies, and the like, all provide the opportunity for their users to steal from the creative class of this nation.

My personal journey began at age 5 with piano lessons. Age 8-44 have been completely devoted to developing my abilities as a classical musician and as a studio musician. This is a lifetime of dedication, which now is threatened by the lack of protection of intellectual property (content).

I have played on thousands of recordings which have been played for free on the radio (I am fighting for Performance Rights Legislation) and which have been pirated. The royalty funds which literally provide for my livelihood are endangered as traditional music business models fail.

By many standards, my career has been a success. I have recorded with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton, Bruce Springsteen, James Morrison Jennifer Lopez and many more incredible stars. I also work with many independent artists, composers and songwriters who contribute greatly to the American music fabric of this country. Intellectual property rights need protection through strong IP laws and new royalty models (like the Digital Distribution Act of 1998) in order to survive. It is my hope that the President and Congress will work quickly and decisively to protect the creative community in the United States of America.