



March 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

As the national coronavirus pandemic takes its toll on all Americans, I urge you to protect our nation's musicians, performers, songwriters, and studio professionals. Just as many large industries will be seeking support, you should not forget the smallest of small businesses: individual music makers who will not benefit from employer-based relief.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the music community. Music festivals, tours, live events, video shoots, writing workshops, studio recording sessions, and more have been canceled across the country and around the world. These cancellations don't just affect famous featured artists and headlining bands. They impact thousands of songwriters, session musicians, live musicians, backing vocalists, audio engineers, studio mixers, and other individuals who make a living by making music.

These music makers generally work as self-employed freelancers or independent contractors. They work from project to project, and are not engaged in typical employer-employee relationships. They do not have the benefits of an employer-provided safety net such as sick leave or health care. And they are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Music is the original "gig economy."

As Congress considers emergency steps to provide critical support to American workers and families, it must extend such support to self-employed gig workers like those in the music community. Including these non-traditional workers in a stimulus package will give hundreds of thousands of individuals and their families the financial assistance they need during this crisis.

In hard times like these, America depends on music to provide comfort and inspiration. As you take necessary action to provide assistance to workers during our present crisis, please remember to support the music makers that support all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.M.J.', is positioned above the typed name.

Harvey Mason jr.  
Chairman and Interim CEO  
Recording Academy

