Electronically Filed
Docket: 25-CRB-0015-PB (2028-2032)
Filing Date: 11/03/2026 08:44:33 PM EST

Before the
UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT ROYALTY JUDGES
Library of Congress
Washington, DC

In re **DETERMINATION OF ROYALTY RATES AND TERMS FOR PERFORMANCE OR DISPLAY OF NONDRAMATIC MUSICAL WORKS AND PICTORIAL, GRAPHIC, AND SCULPTURAL WORKS BY PUBLIC BROADCASTING ENTITIES (PB V)**	**Docket No. 25-CRB-0015-PB (2028-2032)**

JOINT PROPOSAL OF GLOBAL MUSIC RIGHTS, LLC, THE NRB MUSIC LICENSING COMMITTEE, INC., AND THE CATHOLIC RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Global Music Rights, LLC ("GMR"), the NRB Music Licensing Committee, Inc. ("NRBMLC"), and the Catholic Radio Association, Inc. ("CRA") join in a proposal to establish statutory license rates pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 118 for the payment of statutory blanket license royalties to GMR by certain noncommercial radio broadcasting entities that (a) are not licensed to colleges, universities, or other nonprofit educational institutions and are not affiliated with National Public Radio ("NPR") (the "Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Stations") and (b) broadcast a religious format and are licensed to colleges, universities, or other nonprofit educational institutions ("Religious-Formatted College Radio Stations") for the performance of copyrighted musical compositions in the GMR repertory ("Joint Proposal"). This proposal covers the years 2028 through 2032.

GMR, THE NRBMLC, AND CRA

GMR is a performing rights organization that represents many of today's most popular music creators in licensing public performance rights in their musical compositions. Founded in 2013 as the first performing rights organization in the United States in nearly 75 years, GMR's

catalog has quickly expanded to include over 50,000 musical works. This is the second time that GMR has participated in a proceeding to set statutory license rates pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 118.

The NRBMLC is a nonprofit corporation that represents hundreds of noncommercial educational religious radio broadcasters in music licensing matters. It or its predecessor has negotiated license rates applicable to these stations in this proceeding and prior proceedings under 17 U.S.C. § 118.

CRA is a nonprofit corporation that provides advice, guidance, and educational resources to Catholic radio station operators, assisting them in their mission of radio evangelization. It represents most of the over 700 Catholic radio stations in the United States and has negotiated licenses for these stations' use of musical works.

THE PROPOSAL

GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA have reached agreement regarding GMR license fees and hereby submit this Joint Proposal regarding rates under 37 C.F.R. § 381.6, rates applicable to Religious-Formatted College Radio Stations subject to 37 C.F.R. § 381.5, and other provisions in 37 C.F.R. §§ 381.1, 381.2, 381.9, and 381.11. A Joint Proposal is submitted in lieu of a voluntary settlement agreement because the NRBMLC and CRA do not represent all Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Stations or all Religious-Formatted College Radio Stations.

GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA hereby propose royalty rates for all musical compositions in the GMR repertory for the five-year period from 2028 through 2032. GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA also propose corresponding revisions to the text of section 381.6, as follows:

1. The revision of section 381.6(d)(4)(i) to replace (a) "January 1, 2023" with "January 1, 2028," (b) "$50" with "$55," and (c) "2023 through 2027" with "2028 through 2032";

2. The revision of section 381.6(d)(4)(ii) to replace (a) "January 1, 2023, but before December 31, 2027" with "January 1, 2028, but before December 31, 2032", (b) "$10" with "$11," (c) "2023-2027" with "2028-2032," and (d) "in 2025 shall pay $30" with "in 2030 shall pay $33";

3. The revision of section 381.6(d)(5) to replace "2023 through 2027" with "2028 through 2032"; and

4. The revision of section 381.6(e)(2) to replace (a) "January 31, 2023" with "January 31, 2028" and (b) "2023-2027" with "2028-2032."

No other revisions to section 381.6 are proposed regarding the musical compositions in the GMR repertory.[1] GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA also propose to carry forward 37 C.F.R. § 381.5(c)(4)(vi) but to replace "2023-2027" in that provision with "2028-2032." The proposed new rates and changes to sections 381.5(c)(4)(vi) and 381.6(d)(4), (d)(5), and (e) are set forth in Appendix A hereto, and proposed regulatory language for sections 381.1, 381.2, 381.9, and 381.11 and pertinent parts of sections 381.5 and 381.6 is set forth in Appendix B hereto.

The proposed GMR blanket license rates set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 381.6(d)(4) consist of a single flat fee covering the entire five-year license term (or the entire remaining license term for stations that begin broadcasting during the term). The parties have determined that a flat-fee structure incorporating a single five-year payment in lieu of annual payments is the most suitable rate structure for noncommercial stations playing musical compositions in GMR's repertory, as it is simple and efficient to administer. It also provides predictability to both copyright licensees and copyright licensors and is particularly suitable for the Non-NPR Non-College Noncommercial Radio Stations that are largely dependent on listener donations to fund their operations.

[1] The rates in 37 C.F.R. § 381.6(d)(1)-(3) for public performances of musical compositions in the repertories of American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Broadcast Music, Inc., and SESAC, Inc. will be addressed separately.

The Joint Proposal also proposes to carry forward the current reporting provision in section 381.6(f). That provision is reasonable for noncommercial stations and has worked well over the years that it has been in place with other performing rights organizations.

The parties understand that other sections of the regulations are relevant to this proposal, specifically 37 C.F.R. §§ 381.1, 381.2, 381.9, and 381.11, which the parties propose be carried forward unchanged (except that in section 381.1, "January 1, 2023" should be changed to "January 1, 2028," and "December 31, 2027" should be changed to "December 31, 2032").

Under the Joint Proposal, a Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Station shall not pay a separate fee for an in-band, on-channel, digital radio ("HD Radio") signal that is a "simulcast" of the station's analog, over-the-air signal within the same market. But, to the extent that a Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Station broadcasts different programming by means of its HD Radio signals ("Multicast Signals"), the station must report and pay for each Multicast Signal as a separate station.

GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA propose that 37 C.F.R. §§ 381.1 and 381.6 be revised and the rates be adopted as proposed herein.[2] Such adoption in the regulations would make further proceedings, including filing of Written Direct or Rebuttal Statements, discovery, or a hearing, unnecessary for Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Stations and Religious-Formatted College Radio Stations insofar as their performance of GMR musical compositions is concerned.

[2] In addition to the NRBMLC and CRA, the only other broadcasting entity that filed a petition to participate in the current section 118 rate proceeding and is listed on the Participant List that represents radio stations in this category is K-LOVE, Inc. ("K-LOVE"), which is represented by the NRBMLC in connection with rates paid to GMR. K-LOVE joins in this proposal submitted by the NRBMLC, CRA, and GMR.

CONCLUSION

GMR, the NRBMLC, and CRA request that the Copyright Royalty Judges adopt this Joint Proposal for the statutory license fees to be paid to GMR by the Non-NPR/Non-College Noncommercial Radio Stations pursuant to section 118 of the Copyright Act.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Scott A. Zebrak
Scott A. Zebrak (D.C. Bar No. 452649)
scott@oandzlaw.com
OPPENHEIM + ZEBRAK, LLP
4530 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: (202) 450-3758
Fax: (866) 766-1678

Counsel for Global Music Rights, LLC

/s/ Karyn K. Ablin
Karyn K. Ablin (D.C. Bar No. 454473)
ablin@fhhlaw.com
FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, PLC
1300 N. 17th St., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
Telephone: (703) 812-0443
Fax: (703) 812-0486

Counsel for the Catholic Radio Association, Inc.

/s/ Karyn K. Ablin
Karyn K. Ablin (D.C. Bar No. 454473)
ablin@fhhlaw.com
FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, PLC
1300 N. 17th St., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
Telephone: (703) 812-0443
Fax: (703) 812-0486

Counsel for the NRB Music Licensing Committee, Inc.

Dated: November 3, 2026

APPENDIX A

Proposed GMR Blanket License Rates and Terms for (a) Radio Stations Not Licensed to Colleges, Universities, or Other Nonprofit Educational Institutions and Not Affiliated with National Public Radio and Proposed Amendments to 37 C.F.R. § 381.6(d)(4), (e) and (b) Religious-Formatted College Radio Stations

37 C.F.R. § 381.5(c)(4)(vi): For stations broadcasting primarily in a religious format (including, without limitation, Contemporary Christian music, praise and worship, Gospel, Southern Gospel, Spanish religious music, inspirational, religious, etc.), at their option for 2028-2032, either the rates set forth in paragraph (c)(4) of this section or the rates set forth in § 381.6(d)(4).

37 C.F.R. § 381.6(d)(4): For all such compositions in the repertory of GMR, the royalty rates shall be as follows:

(i) for a public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section that is broadcasting one or more radio stations as of January 1, 2028, a single $55 fee for each such station for the entire five-year license term from 2028 through 2032; and

(ii) for a public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section that begins broadcasting a radio station after January 1, 2028 but before December 31, 2032, a pro-rated amount equal to $11 multiplied by the number of full or partial years remaining in the 2028-2032 license term as of the date on which the radio station begins broadcasting (*e.g.*, a public broadcasting entity that begins broadcasting a radio station in 2030 shall pay $33 for that station for the remainder of the term);

37 C.F.R. § 381.6(d)(5): For the performance of all other such compositions, from 2028 through 2032: $1.

(e) *Payment of royalty rate.*

(1) *ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC.* …

(2) *GMR.* For fees due pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(i), the public broadcasting entity shall pay the required royalty rate to GMR not later than January 31, 2028. For fees due pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(ii), the public broadcasting entity shall pay the required royalty rate to GMR not later than 60 days after the public broadcasting entity begins to broadcast the radio station for which such fee is due. If a fee is paid pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(i) or (d)(4)(ii) for a radio station and that station changes ownership during the course of the license term but continues to fall within the scope of this section, no additional fee shall be due for that station during the 2028-2032 license term.

APPENDIX B

§ 381.1 General.

This part establishes terms and rates of royalty payments for certain activities using published nondramatic musical works and published pictorial, graphic and sculptural works during a period beginning on January 1, 2028, and ending on December 31, 2032. Upon compliance with 17 U.S.C. 118, and the terms and rates of this part, a public broadcasting entity may engage in the activities with respect to such works set forth in 17 U.S.C. 118(c).

§ 381.2 Definition of public broadcasting entity.

As used in this part, the term public broadcasting entity means a noncommercial educational broadcast station as defined in section 397 of title 47 and any nonprofit institution or organization engaged in the activities described in 17 U.S.C. 118(c).

§ 381.5 Performance of musical compositions by public broadcasting entities licensed to colleges and universities.

(a) *Scope*. . . .

(b) *Voluntary license agreements*. . . .

(c) *Royalty rate*. A public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section may perform published nondramatic musical compositions subject to the following schedule of royalty rates:

(1) For all such compositions in the repertory of ASCAP, . . .

(2) For all such compositions in the repertory of BMI, . . .

(3) For all such compositions in the repertory of SESAC, . . .

(4) For all such compositions in the repertory of GMR, . . .

. . .

(vi) For stations broadcasting primarily in a religious format (including, without limitation, Contemporary Christian music, praise and worship, Gospel, Southern Gospel, Spanish religious music, inspirational, religious, etc.), at their option for 2028-2032, either the rates set forth in paragraph (c)(4) of this section or the rates set forth in § 381.6(d)(4).

(5) For the performance of all other such compositions: $1.

(d) *Payment of royalty rate*. …

(e) *Records of use*. …

§ 381.6 Performance of musical compositions by other public broadcasting entities.

(a) *Scope*. This section applies to the performance of copyrighted published nondramatic musical compositions by radio stations not licensed to colleges, universities, or other nonprofit educational institutions and not affiliated with NPR. In the event that a station owned by a public broadcasting entity broadcasts programming by means of an in-band, on-channel ("IBOC") digital radio signal and such programming is different than the station's analog broadcast programming, then any such programming shall be deemed to be provided by a separate station requiring a separate royalty payment.

(b) *Definitions*. …

(c) *Voluntary license agreements*. Notwithstanding the schedule of rates and terms established in this section, the rates and terms of any license agreements entered into by copyright owners and noncommercial radio stations within the scope of this section concerning the performance of copyrighted musical compositions, including performances by noncommercial radio stations, shall apply in lieu of the rates and terms of this section.

(d) *Royalty rate*. A public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section may perform published nondramatic musical compositions subject to the following schedule of royalty rates:

(1) For all such compositions in the repertory of ASCAP . . .

(2) For all such compositions in the repertory of BMI . . .

(3) For all such compositions in the repertory of SESAC . . .

(4) For all such compositions in the repertory of GMR, the royalty rates shall be as follows:

(iii) for a public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section that is broadcasting one or more radio stations as of January 1, 2028, a single $55 fee for each such station for the entire five-year license term from 2028 through 2032; and

(iv) for a public broadcasting entity within the scope of this section that begins broadcasting a radio station after January 1, 2028 but before December 31, 2032, a pro-rated amount equal to $11 multiplied by the number of full or partial years remaining in the 2028-2032 license term as of the date on which the radio station begins broadcasting (*e.g.*, a public broadcasting entity that begins broadcasting a radio station in 2030 shall pay $33 for that station for the remainder of the term);

(5) For the performance of all other such compositions in the aggregate, from 2028 through 2032, $1.

(e) *Payment of royalty rate.*

(1) *ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC.* …

(2) *GMR.* For fees due pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(i), the public broadcasting entity shall pay the required royalty rate to GMR not later than January 31, 2028. For fees due pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(ii), the public broadcasting entity shall pay the required royalty rate to GMR not later than 60 days after the public broadcasting entity begins to broadcast the radio station for which such fee is due. If a fee is paid pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(i) or (d)(4)(ii) for a radio station and that station changes ownership during the course of the license term but continues to fall within the scope of this section, no additional fee shall be due for that station during the 2028-2032 license term.

(f) *Records of use.* A public broadcasting entity subject to this section shall furnish to ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, and GMR, upon request, a music-use report during one week of each calendar year. ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, and GMR each shall not in any one calendar year request more than 10 stations to furnish such reports.

§ 381.9 Unknown copyright owners.

If PBS and its stations, NPR and its stations, or other public broadcasting entity is not aware of the identity of, or unable to locate, a copyright owner who is entitled to receive a royalty payment under this part, they shall retain the required fee in a segregated trust account for a period of three years from the date of the required payment. No claim to such royalty fees shall be valid after the expiration of the three-year period. Public broadcasting entities may establish a joint trust fund for the purposes of this section. Public broadcasting entities shall make available to the Copyright Royalty Judges, upon request, information concerning fees deposited in trust funds.

§ 381.11 Notice of restrictions on use of reproductions of transmission programs.

Any public broadcasting entity which, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 118, supplies a reproduction of a transmission program to governmental bodies or nonprofit institutions shall include with each copy of the reproduction a warning notice stating in substance that the reproductions may be used for a period of not more than seven days from the specified date of transmission, that the reproductions must be destroyed by the user before or at the end of such period, and that a failure to fully comply with these terms shall subject the body or institution to the remedies for infringement of copyright.

Proof of Delivery

I hereby certify that on Tuesday, November 03, 2026, I provided a true and correct copy of the Joint Proposal of Global Music Rights, LLC, the NRB Music Licensing Committee, Inc., and the Catholic Radio Association, Inc. to the following:

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, represented by Sam Mosenkis, served via E-Service at smosenkis@ascap.com

Broadcast Music, Inc., represented by Brian A Coleman, served via E-Service at Brian.Coleman@faegredrinker.com

Church Music Publisher's Association, Inc., represented by Jack R Hicks, served via E-Service at rush@ktaglaw.com

K-LOVE, Inc., represented by Keenan P Adamchak, served via E-Service at kadamchak@wbklaw.com

National Public Radio, represented by David P Mattern, served via E-Service at dmattern@kslaw.com

Public Broadcasting Service, represented by Wesley E Weeks, served via E-Service at wweeks@wiley.law

SESAC Performing Rights, LLC, represented by Keane Barger, served via E-Service at kbarger@loeb.com

The Harry Fox Agency LLC, represented by James M Smith, served via E-Service at msmith@harryfox.com

Global Music Rights, LLC, represented by Scott A Zebrak, served via E-Service at carly@oandzlaw.com

Signed: /s/ Karyn K Ablin