



AMP's Stand on Spec Work

June 16, 2010

Dear Fellow Music Professionals,

In light of the recent letter from Local 399 Organizer Steve Dayan in support of television composers' rights, and the negative affect that spec work has on the quality of an entire creative industry, we in the Association of Music Producers wish to express our full agreement.

It is commonly understood that the selection of music can be highly subjective, and the decision of "what works best" to score film or to deliver a message is challenging indeed. In the commercial industry, there is ever-increasing pressure to provide a clear audio 'picture' of the composer's creation--even before a budget has been agreed upon, or even discussed.

The evolution of music technology has made it seem as though compositions - scores - can be created almost instantly. Yet this is *never* the case. Hours, and artistry, go into the creation of *all* music!

Providing free spec demos for high volume music searches can prove to be financially ruinous to single composers and large music houses equally.

AMP believes that musicians, composers, sound designers and producers should be paid for their services. Even if that payment is a basic demo or search fee.

Don't sell yourself short. Ask for a fee to cover your expenses, with the understanding that ownership of the music is yours *until* it is optioned for use in a fair manner.

PJ Hanke / AMP West President