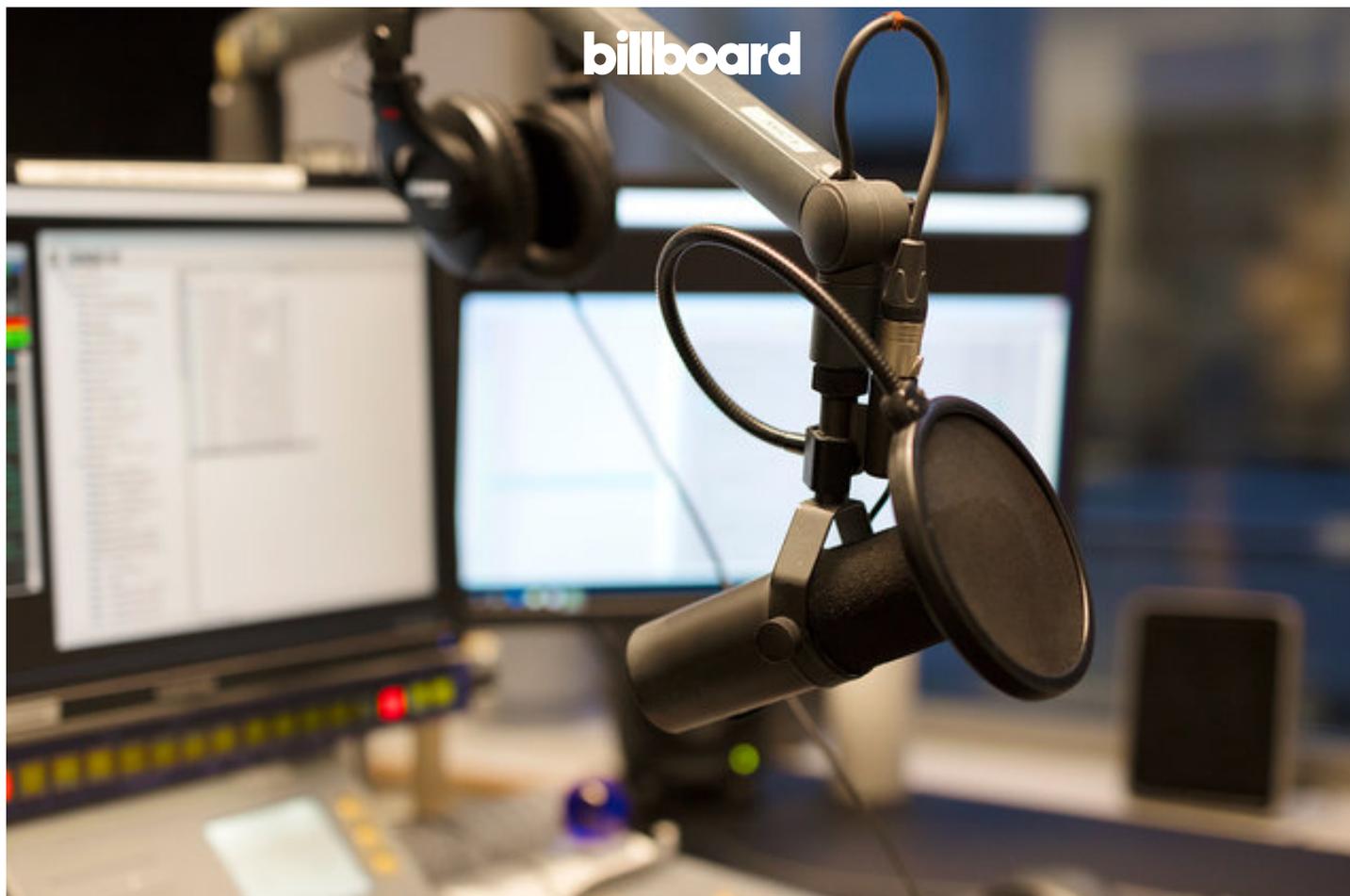




iHeartMedia to Acquire Podcast Giant Stuff Media, Home of 'Atlanta Monster' and 'Stuff You Should Know'

9/13/2018 by [Marc Schneider](#)





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iHeartMedia has entered into an agreement to acquire [Stuff Media](#), the pioneering podcast network behind such programs as *Stuff You Should Know*, *Atlanta Monster* and *Aaron Mahnke's Cabinet of Curiosities*. The purchase, for a [reported \\$55 million](#), would nearly double iHeart's usage metrics and increase its position as the No. 1 commercial podcast publisher globally.

In Stuff Media, iHeart will soon be able to leverage a decade's worth of podcasts from one of the nation's largest podcast publishers, which boasts more than 61 million global streams and downloads per month. The acquisition would bring with it Stuff Media's experienced podcasting management team as well, including president and CEO **Conal Byrne**, who will join iHeartMedia as head of its podcast division.

Stuff Media's branding will stay the same and remain headquartered in Atlanta, the companies said. *Billboard* has confirmed that the acquisition does *not* include the 20-year-old HowStuffWorks reference [website](#) that spawned Stuff Media, which also includes veteran programs like *Stuff You Missed in History Class*, *TechStuff* and *BrainStuff*, as well as *Ridiculous History*, *FoodStuff*, *Stuff Mom Never Told You* and *Stuff They Don't Want You to Know*. *Stuff You Should Know* co-host **Chuck Bryant** -- who doubles as head of development at the network -- launched a movie interview show, *Movie Crush*, late last year.

"While podcasting has already experienced tremendous growth, the real opportunity to bring the full potential of podcasts to the mainstream still lies ahead," said **Bob Pittman**, chairman and CEO of iHeartMedia, Inc. "Stuff Media is the original trailblazer of the podcasting industry, and we've been impressed by its ability to grow a massive, loyal audience over the past decade, led by a strong, experienced and cohesive management team, who we welcome to iHeartMedia."

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Pittman added, "This strategic acquisition will pair Stuff Media's wildly popular content and strong creative capabilities with iHeartMedia's extensive resources and massive scale through our digital platforms, social reach and broadcast radio stations, introducing podcasts to the vast majority of the country and offering even more unique opportunities for advertisers to reach their consumers."

iHeart currently has two podcasts in the top 20 overall on Apple Podcasts, *Sleuth* (No. 12) and *Spit* (No. 16).

Byrne said that combining Stuff Media's assets with iHeart's industry-leading publishing platform "gives us the unassailable position in the podcasting business and a platform like no one else. No company in the world has iHeart's audience size and innovative drive, and coupled with the creative engine of Stuff Media, this is a game changer for podcast storytellers and advertisers alike, and I'm honored to be leading this effort."

Given that iHeartMedia is in the middle of a Chapter 11 process, their proposed acquisition of Stuff Media is subject to bankruptcy court approval.

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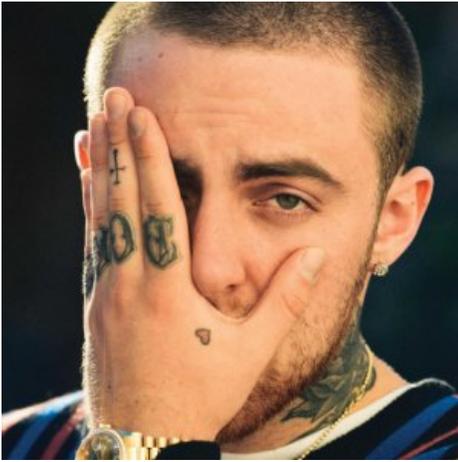
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Coalition Of Music Makers Launches In UK To Push For 'Fair, Transparent' Industry

9/13/2018 by [Richard Smirke](#)



Joanna Dudderidge

Members of the new UK Council of Music Makers

"The current climate around the economics of streaming has been hampered by outdated laws," says patron Imogen Heap.

A new umbrella trade body has launched in the U.K. to "fight for the rights" of songwriters, artists, music managers and producers.

Called the UK Council of Music Makers (CMM), the association brings together British trade groups The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA), the Featured Artists Coalition (FAC), Music Managers Forum (MMF), The Music Producers Guild (MPG) and Musicians' Union (MU) to collectively campaign on behalf of creators.

Its first motion has been to commend yesterday's EU Copyright Directive vote, which saw the European Parliament pass controversial reforms to copyright law, including the requirement for user generated content (UGC) platforms like YouTube and Dailymotion to set up automatic content recognition systems blocking any copyright infringing material.

"Music makers bring untold joy and entertainment to the masses," says The CMM in a statement announcing its formation. It goes on to say that the proposed EU Copyright Directive, if delivered in full, "will support our community, help modernise the industry, encourage a healthier market with fairness and transparency, and promote a sustainable, innovative music business with music makers at its heart. This is vital in ensuring music makers are clearly and adequately remunerated for their work," says the statement.

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In the months and years ahead, The CMM says its focus will be on working with the British government to ensure "a music ecosystem that is fully fair and fit for purpose" post-Brexit, including modernisation of the legal framework around intellectual property.

It will also campaign for greater transparency around reporting of revenues, updating pre-digital era contracts and ensuring new contracts are fair, as well addressing inequalities that exist throughout the music industry.

"As a Music Maker in the digital era, and as part of CMM, I want to ensure the future is positive, progressive, and flourishing for creators in their development and beyond," said founding patron **Imogen Heap**.

"The current climate around the economics of streaming and the digital transition of the music business has been hampered by outdated laws and outmoded contracts which can be convoluted, confusing and unfair - particularly for those music makers without the resources to fully understand or challenge them," she stated.

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"With collective voice and clout as the CMM, we pledge to take action on such issues with government, working with the IPO and others, to create an economy in which music makers can

progress and thrive alongside innovations in technology," the double Grammy winning artist went on to say.

Other artist ambassadors for the newly-formed trade body include Blur drummer **Dave Rowntree**, singer-songwriter **Jack Savoretti** and **Frank Carter**.

Record producer **Cameron Blackwood**, who worked on both of **George Ezra's** U.K. No. 1 albums, said the umbrella organization wanted "to change the broken economics creatives face."

"The current model is failing future talent while it is based on the past," he said. "The CMM is here to make sure it's sustainable."



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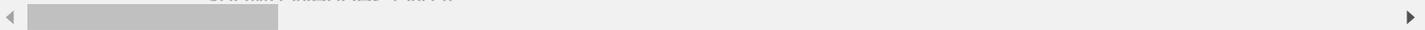


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