

December 10, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Filing of the Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group  
in WT Dockets Nos. 08-166 and 08-167 and ET Docket No 10-24 and Docket No.  
12-268, Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, December 6, 2012, representatives of the Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group, including Laurie Baskin, Director of Government & Education Programs, Theatre Communications Group; Tom Ferrugia, The Broadway League; Brandon Gryde, Dance/USA and OPERA America; Najean Lee, The League of American Orchestras; and Emily Travis, The Association of Performing Arts Presenters, met with a number of staff from the Wireless Bureau including Paul Murray, Mary Bucher, William Stafford and staff from the Office of Engineering & Technology including Ira Keltz, Robert Weller and Hugh Van Tuyl.

The Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group is an informal coalition of performing arts entities whose members use wireless microphones and backstage communications devices in providing performances to the public. Members include: Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, The Association of Performing Arts Presenters; The Broadway League; Dance/USA; The Educational Theatre Association; The League of American Orchestras; OPERA America and Theatre Communications Group.

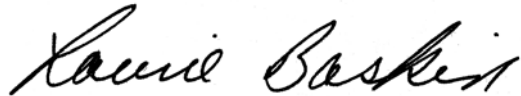
We discussed the Wireless Microphones Proceeding and the opportunity to provide Comments to the Commission on limited expansion of Part 74 licensing eligibility. The Working Group members explained that they continue to seek eligibility for licenses under Part 74 for some portion of wireless microphone users because the 30 day delay in accessing the geo-location database does not allow for the flexibility needed in the professional performing arts sector.

The Working Group discussed the need to protect smaller and mid-sized professional performances and educational theatre performances, particularly in rural areas, by maintaining the two safe-haven channels put forth in the September, 2010 Rule and Order.

Last, the costs of transition to digital microphones as well as costs associated with a move resulting from the Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction were discussed. It was explained that the performing arts sector already moved and purchased new sound equipment as a result of the FCC Order to vacate the 700 MHz band, and another mandatory expenditure would be a significant burden to performing arts organizations.

The Working Group members appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Commission to protect performing arts wireless microphone users in providing high quality services to the public. We look forward to ongoing conversations and appreciate the expertise and time of FCC staff on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Baskin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'B'.

Laurie Baskin  
Director of Government & Education Programs  
Theatre Communications Group