

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

69th Plants Committee

November 27, 2017

Musical Instruments Intervention Regarding Agenda Item 69.3

Interpretation of Annotation #15

Thank you, Chair.

I am pleased to comment on behalf of the League of American Orchestras, in collaboration with the International Association of Violin and Bow Makers, the National Association of Music Merchants, the Confederation of European Music Industries, International Wood Products Association, Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, the French Musical Instrument Organization, Forest Based Solutions, Taylor Guitars, Martin Guitars, Paul Reed Smith Guitars, and an array of additional music organizations listed in Information Document 12. Together, we represent hundreds of thousands of musicians, and instrument makers and retailers around the world, who strongly support the effort to conserve Dalbergia and other threatened species.

Since CoP17, there has been a great deal of uncertainty about the treatment of musical instruments and instrument parts containing Dalbergia, when transported across borders. This uncertainty was heightened by the short timeframe for implementation of the Dalbergia decision.

We support longer-term revisions to Annotation #15. As Annotation #15 cannot be formally amended until the next Conference of Parties in 2019, however, there is an urgent need to clarify a number of its key terms so that Parties can adopt a consistent and workable process for the international movement of musical instruments during the interim period.

We appreciate the leadership that CITES parties have undertaken in Committee proceedings to take into consideration both noncommercial travel with musical instruments and commercial trade. We wish to express our support for the interim definitions related to Annotation #15, submitted by the Plants Committee and the Secretariat, and offered for consideration in Doc 69.3, including changes suggested by the European Union and United States related to marking requirements.

We are pleased to participate in an in-session group regarding other proposed changes. Beyond this Committee's proceedings, we stand ready to be an ongoing resource as further steps are taken to either amend or replace Annotation #15. We also remain committed to educating music community stakeholders globally about how their compliance with CITES

requirements will support both urgent conservation needs and essential international cultural activity.

Thank you.