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**MUSICBRAINZ LAUNCHES OPEN SOURCE MUSIC RECOGNITION SERVICE
ANNOUNCES PROJECT SPONSORS & SEEKS NEW SPONSORS**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. – February 11, 2002 – MusicBrainz (www.musicbrainz.org), an open-source music meta-data service, has announced the formal launch of its music recognition service designed to provide an open standard for recognizing and identifying digital music files, while providing an alternative to costly proprietary offerings. Supporting this effort, the project announced a number of service sponsors including Relatable[®], LLC and AgentArts, Inc.

MusicBrainz and its sponsors are creating a ‘music information commons’ where the online music community creates and maintains a public database of information about music, enabling definitive recognition of digital music files and audio CD’s. In development since 1998, MusicBrainz now contains over 650,000 music tracks based on contributions from its community of over 2,000 contributors. This coverage continues to grow as consumers use the MusicBrainz file tagger to identify their digital music files and grow the shared MusicBrainz database.

“Currently there is no free and universally accepted digital music meta-data available to the online music space, and the very few commercial companies who provide this resource offer their services under highly restrictive and expensive licenses. It is our belief that a universal standard for digital music recognition is simply too important and valuable to all online music services to be monopolized by any one company. We also believe that online music consumers would much rather contribute to a truly open source resource,” said Robert Kaye, founder of MusicBrainz.

“The goal of MusicBrainz is to provide a powerful music meta-database that will enable any party, commercial or non-profit, to access reliable and cost effective music meta-data. An open standard for music recognition and meta-data will promote the growth of a whole range of really powerful online music services and features.”

MusicBrainz has begun signing commercial and non-commercial sponsors to contribute the resources required to grow and maintain the service. Potential sponsors could include entertainment software developers, OEM device manufacturers, and other online music services interested in helping to develop a viable, lower-cost alternative to current commercial meta-data services they may be licensing. Support may take the form of financial or in-kind support, or access to a consumer audience base to help grow the MusicBrainz community.

MusicBrainz now has two active partners in Relatable[®] and AgentArts, Inc. A long-time supporter of the MusicBrainz project, Relatable[®] provides the technology that enables MusicBrainz to recognize unique music files based on their digital fingerprint. AgentArts, a provider of music personalization and meta-data datamining technologies, today announced it will contribute open source relational “recommendation” data to MusicBrainz based on its scouring and datamining of P2P data to support music discovery features for online music consumers. The contributed data will be released under the Creative Commons attribution-noncommercial-sharealike 1.0 license.

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More information – **MusicBrainz**

- Robert Kaye contact: +1 805.459.0815 (rob@musicbrainz.org)
- <http://www.musicbrainz.org>
- MusicBrainz white paper - http://musicbrainz.org/papers/mb_nonprofit.html

More information – **Relatable[®] LLC**

- <http://www.relatable.com>

More Information – **AgentArts Inc.**

- <http://www.agentarts.com>