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 and Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Limited*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

RESERVOIR MEDIA MANAGEMENT, INC.;
 RESERVOIR MEDIA MANAGEMENT (UK)
 LIMITED; SHAPIRO, BERNSTEIN & CO.
 LIMITED,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SUNO, INC.,

Defendant.

Case Number: 3:26-cv-12305

**COMPLAINT FOR DIRECT
 COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT,
 CIRCUMVENTION OF PROTECTION
 MEASURES, AND REMOVAL OR
 ALTERATION OF CMI**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs, Reservoir Media Management, Inc., Reservoir Media Management (UK) Limited,
2 and Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Limited (collectively, “Reservoir”), for their Complaint against
3 Defendant Suno, Inc. (“Suno” or “Defendant”) allege, on personal knowledge as to matters relating
4 to themselves, and on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

5 **I. NATURE OF THE CASE**

6 1. Reservoir is an independent music company which owns or controls, in whole or in
7 part, the exclusive rights to many valuable musical compositions and sound recordings pursuant to
8 its contracts with songwriters, artists, and other rights holders. Reservoir is the first female-founded
9 and -led publicly traded independent music company in the United States. It brings this action to
10 enforce these rights against the Defendant who has built its entire business model based on copyright
11 infringement at a scale never seen before.

12 2. Reservoir’s catalog encompasses some of the most iconic, influential, and enduring
13 musical compositions in history, spanning generations and genres and collectively generating billions
14 of streams worldwide. These celebrated works include, inter alia, Joni Mitchell’s “Big Yellow Taxi”
15 and “Both Sides Now”; Billy Strayhorn’s “Lush Life”; Johnny Cash’s “Ring of Fire”; Madonna’s
16 “Papa Don’t Preach”; Kiki Garcia’s “Conga”, the signature hit of Miami Sound Machine; Miles
17 Davis’s “So What”; “In the Mood”, famously recorded by Glenn Miller and His Orchestra; Bobby
18 Vinton’s “Mr. Lonely”; Evanescence’s “Bring Me to Life,” “Going Under,” “Lithium,” and “My
19 Immortal”; Don Ho’s “Tiny Bubbles”; Joe Walsh’s “Life’s Been Good”; Mac Davis’s “It’s Hard to
20 Be Humble”; Drowning Pool’s “Bodies”; Kings of Leon’s “Waste a Moment”; and Finger Eleven’s
21 “One Thing” and “Paralyzer.” A list of 1,050 copyrighted musical compositions in which Reservoir
22 owns 100 percent or exclusively controls the United States copyrights, with numerous exclusive
23 rights under the United States Copyright Act, including but not limited to the exclusive right to license
24 and initiate this action in its name, and that Defendant has infringed, is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**
25 (hereinafter the “Works”). The Works contain some of the most iconic lyrics and melodies in music
26 history.

27 3. Suno, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Cambridge,
28 Massachusetts, with additional offices in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, has admitted

1 to copying “essentially all music files of reasonable quality that are accessible on the open Internet”
2 to train its AI music generator—a dataset of tens of millions of songs/recordings that, given its scope,
3 necessarily includes Reservoir’s copyrighted Works. Indeed, publicly available sources, such as The
4 Atlantic’s AI Watchdog (first published September 2025, expanded to music search tools in June
5 2026), confirm that many of the Works appear in data sets known to be used by AI companies in the
6 training of AI models. Publicly available sources also confirm that Suno accessed these Works from
7 licensed streaming services (such as Spotify, YouTube, or SoundCloud) and paywalled platforms
8 (e.g., Tidal), as well as others, including Jamendo (www.jamendo.com), Free Music Archive
9 (freemusicarchive.org), and MusicBrainz (musicbrainz.org), by scraping and circumventing
10 technological access controls—in part through the use of tools and services supplied by Bright Data
11 (as further defined below). Reservoir never authorized Suno to copy, reproduce, or otherwise use the
12 Works for AI training or any other purpose.

13 4. Suno did so in a manner that completely disregards the rights of Reservoir, and
14 constitutes copyright infringement, and other unlawful conduct, by making unlicensed copies of the
15 Works, as well as server copies, removing Copyright Management Information (“CMI”), and training
16 the AI models themselves to disregard the CMI in both its training and output to conceal the
17 infringement.

18 5. Suno took the Works and the sound recordings embodying them and trained its AI
19 model so that its users, who number over ten million, can create sound recordings based upon
20 prompts. Suno operates on a “freemium” model allowing some free access, but charges users monthly
21 subscription fees to fully use its platform, which produces AI-generated music files intended to mimic
22 human-made songs.

23 6. Suno’s users do not even have to write lyrics or melodies. No, armed with the illicit
24 copies of millions of copyrighted works—including Reservoir’s Works—Suno’s AI model can create
25 an entire song, including the instrumentals, vocals, and entirely generated lyrics, all thanks to the
26 training on these unlicensed copies of the Works in its library. That is, Suno made illicit copies of
27 millions of copyrighted musical works, including Reservoir’s Works, and then—without any
28 remuneration to the rights holders—created a platform where anyone capable of paying \$10 per

month can create complete songs based entirely on these illicit copies. This is not speculation. Suno’s Founder and CEO, Mikey Shulman, gave an interview admitting: “One of the biggest challenges in modeling music is just that a three minute song has so many data points in it that it is really difficult for models to accurately capture all of the interesting stuff there. Our models are taught to just continue a piece of music. And with that, and a little bit of extra sauce for getting these things to start properly, we can go from an idea in somebody’s head, to an entire three minute song very easily.”¹ That is, while Suno advertises itself as a completely generative AI music creation service that generates songs from whole cloth, its own CEO admits that it has just trained its models to “continue a piece of music”—that is, the music that Suno illegally scraped and copied to train its Model in disregard of the rights of the copyright holders allows Suno to create unlicensed derivative works thereof. Without the unlawful copying of Reservoir’s Works and ingestion into its AI models, Suno’s service would be incapable of producing the product/service that has been used by more than 100 million people and netted it over 2 million paid subscribers.²

7. Suno has materially enjoyed the fruits of others’ labor, closing its Series D in June 2026, raising over \$400 million at a \$5.4 billion valuation.³ Indeed, Suno’s business is generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually with projected revenue to reach \$1 billion by 2028.⁴

8. Mr. Shulman’s motivations are clear. Because, per Mr. Shulman, “[i]t’s not really enjoyable to make music now,”⁵ he decided to cut out human creation from the process. Mr. Shulman explained, “[w]e didn’t just want to build a company that makes the current crop of creators 10 percent faster or makes it 10 percent easier to make music. If you want to impact the way a billion

¹ “Suno Generates Beautiful Songs with Oracle Cloud”. www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKIIQiS8MLc

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/conormurray/2026/02/26/ai-music-platform-suno-reaches-2-million-subscribers-as-industry-backlash-grows/>

³ Stassen, Murray, “Suno Raises Over \$400 Million, Pushing Valuation to \$5.4 Billion.” Music Business Worldwide, <www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/suno-raises-over-400-million-pushing-valuation-to-5-4-billion/> (last visited July 30, 2026).

⁴ Kristin Robinson, Is Suno the Music Industry’s Biggest Nightmare – Or Greatest Hope?, Billboard (Mar. 11, 2026) (available at <https://www.billboard.com/pro/suno-ai-music-startup-cover-story/>) (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

⁵ 20VC Podcast with Harry Stebbings, *Mikey Shulman, CEO @Suno: The Future of Music, What is Gonna Happen?* at 23:01-23:16 (Jan. 10, 2025).

1 people experience music you have to build something for a billion people.”⁶ Said another way, Suno
 2 was never meant to be a tool for artists to create music but was instead always meant to replace the
 3 artists whose works were being unlawfully copied by directly reaching those artists’ listeners with
 4 AI-generated substitutes which copy the originals.

5 9. Suno’s investors knew from the beginning that they were funding a massive vehicle
 6 for copyright infringement with one investor calling the risk that labels and publishers would sue as
 7 just “the risk we had to underwrite when we invested in the company, because we’re the fat wallet
 8 that will get sued right behind these guys... Honestly, if we had deals with the labels when this
 9 company got started, I probably wouldn’t have invested in it. I think that they needed to make this
 10 product without the constraints.”⁷

11 10. And, when the labels and publishers did, in fact, file suit, Suno agreed to settle with
 12 Warner Music Group to use its sound recordings as training data for generative AI models. Suno
 13 agreed to “deprecate[]”⁸ its then-current models and launch the now-operable V6. Mr. Shulman
 14 commented on the settlement, “I don’t think of what we did as a settlement. I think about this much
 15 more like a partnership It is much more long term.”⁹ Suno also reached an agreement with BMG.
 16 In a public statement Mr. Shulman made an about-face, no longer seeing partnerships with
 17 rightsholders as “constraints” but as a partnership that would “generate new revenue” for artists and
 18 songwriters, claiming to believe in “responsibly [] working directly with the people who make music
 19 and the companies that represent them.”¹⁰ Likewise, Suno has reached an agreement for a “strategic
 20 _____

21 ⁶ *Id.*

22 ⁷ Brian Hiatt, *A ChatGPT for Music is Here. Inside Suno, the Startup Changing Everything*, Rolling
 Stone (Mar. 17, 2024) (available at [https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/suno-ai-
 23 chatgpt-for-music-1234982307/](https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/suno-ai-chatgpt-for-music-1234982307/) (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

24 ⁸ Press Release, Warner Music Group, *Warner Music Group and Suno Forge Groundbreaking
 Partnership* (Nov. 25, 2025) (available at [https://www.wmg.com/news/warner-music-group-and-
 25 suno-forge-groundbreaking-partnership](https://www.wmg.com/news/warner-music-group-and-suno-forge-groundbreaking-partnership) (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

26 ⁹ Kristin Robinson, *Is Suno the Music Industry’s Biggest Nightmare – Or Greatest Hope?*, Billboard
 (Mar. 11, 2026) (available at <https://www.billboard.com/pro/suno-ai-music-startup-cover-story/> (last
 27 visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

28 ¹⁰ Press Release, BMG, *BMG and Suno Announce Global Strategic Alliance Advancing AI Music
 Opportunities And Revenue Streams* (Aug. 12, 2026) (available at [https://www.bmg.com/news/bmg-
 and-suno-announce-global-strategic-alliance-advancing-ai-music-opportunities-and-revenue-
 streams](https://www.bmg.com/news/bmg-and-suno-announce-global-strategic-alliance-advancing-ai-music-opportunities-and-revenue-streams) (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

partnership” with Believe, a leading digital music company, for it to provide its music as training data for Suno’s models.¹¹ That is, now that it faces numerous lawsuits and challenges from rightsholders, Suno has all but admitted that there is a functioning market for licensing music and sound recordings for training data, that such licenses are part of “responsibly” creating AI models, and has essentially admitted to the unlawfulness of its conduct for all the music used to train its models that remains unlicensed—including Reservoir’s Works. Suno’s business model was admittedly and clearly: infringe now, make billions by being the first mover, and try to settle on the cheap later. Seeking forgiveness is clearly more profitable than permission, which they obviously could have done but consciously chose not to do.

11. The reason for this about-face and sudden willingness to license is no surprise. Suno has lost every step of the way. Its motions to dismiss in other cases have been denied, and, on July 31, 2026, the Munich Regional Court in Germany ruled in a suit brought against Suno by Germany’s music collecting society, GEMA, for identical conduct to that at issue in this case, that Suno infringed GEMA’s copyrights by training its models on GEMA’s songs in the U.S. (of which it stored entire works inside its models), and by reproducing them. Judge Elke Schwager noted that it was undisputed that Suno obtained the training data through stream-ripping, and Suno admitted it trained on GEMA’s works without paying for them. Most importantly, the court ruled that Suno needed a license to GEMA’s works under U.S. copyright law, *i.e.*, where the training physically happened. And finally, it granted GEMA an injunction and issued a disclosure order requiring Suno to disclose its revenue tied to the infringed works.¹²

¹¹ Press Release, *Believe and Suno Announce Strategic Partnership to Advance Licensed AI Music Opportunities for Independent Artists and Labels*, Believe (Sept. 8, 2026) (available at <https://www.believe.com/press-release/believe-and-suno-announce-strategic-partnership/> (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

¹² Virginie Berger, *Suno Loses Copyright Lawsuit To GEMA—AI Music Companies Should Worry*, Forbes (Aug. 5, 2026), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/virginieberger/2026/08/05/suno-lost-to-gema-why-the-ruling-should-worry-ai-music-companies/> (also noting the suit filed by Koda, Denmark’s music collecting society, against Suno over the same conduct). Further, the Society of Composers, Authors, and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) filed suit in the Federal Court of Canada against Suno on September 2, 2026 for the same conduct. <https://www.socan.com/socan-is-standing-up-for-music-creators-and-publishers-with-legal-action-against-suno-inc-for-unauthorized-use-of-music-in-generative-ai-platform/>.

12. All irony lost, Mr. Shulman remarked about another pending lawsuit against Suno, “[i]t just seems silly to throw a bunch of venture dollars at lawyers instead of sitting down and talking about how you could work together.”¹³ However, at no point prior to launching any of its AI models did Suno “sit down” with anyone from Reservoir, and this statement is belied by the investor statements, discussed *ante*, that prior to getting caught with its proverbial hands in the cookie jar, Suno felt that it didn’t need the “constraints” of license agreements with the rightsholders. That is, Suno willfully infringed on millions of copyrights—including all of the Works in this case.

13. Bright Data Ltd., with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bright Data, Inc. (collectively, “Bright Data”), provides data-scraping, proxy-network, and dataset services sold to customers including AI developers such as, as relevant here, Suno. Bright Data develops, markets, and sells web-scraping infrastructure, residential and datacenter proxy networks, and pre-packaged datasets to business customers worldwide. Publicly available sources show that according to leaked source code from Suno, it used proxy services it acquired from Bright Data and scraped “millions of songs and lyrics” from YouTube Music, Deezer, and Genius.¹⁴ In this leaked source code, there is a YouTube Music workflow that shows 2,057,486 artist records saved as output. For each artist, the code requests the artist’s song playlist without a track limit. If there is no playlist identifier, it falls back to the song results already available. This shows a systematic effort to collect across artists’ catalogs. Further, a separate Genius workflow records 6,980,653 successful song-page processing records confirming that not less than this number of extracted lyrics exist in Suno’s code.

14. For example, publicly available sources have confirmed that Suno used Bright Data’s services to scrape and incorporate into its training data files like “youtube_music” which includes over two million music clips of approximately 113,879 hours—the equivalent of thirteen years—of music files scraped from YouTube.¹⁵

¹³ Stuart Dredge, *Suno Boss Targets ‘Bigger, Brighter Future’ With Music Industry*, Music Ally (Jan. 14, 2025) (available at <https://musically.com/2025/01/14/suno-boss-targets-bigger-brighter-future-with-music-industry/>) (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

¹⁴ Koebler, Jason, “Hack Reveals Suno AI Music Generator Scraped YouTube, Deezer, and Genius,” 404 Media, <www.404media.co/hack-reveals-suno-ai-music-generator-scraped-youtube-deezer-and-genius/> (last visited July 30, 2026)

¹⁵ See note 14, *supra*.

II. THE PARTIES

15. Plaintiff Reservoir Media Management, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 200 Varick St., 8th Floor, New York, New York 10014, and with additional offices in Los Angeles, Nashville, Toronto, London, Abu Dhabi, and Mumbai.

16. Plaintiff Reservoir Media Management (UK) Limited is a private limited company formed under the laws of England and Wales and is one hundred percent wholly-owned by Reservoir Media Management, Inc.

17. Plaintiff Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Limited is a private limited company formed under the laws of England and Wales and is one hundred percent wholly-owned by Reservoir Media Management (UK) Limited.

18. Reservoir, via its parent entity, Reservoir Media, Inc., is publicly traded on the NASDAQ under the ticker "RSVR."

19. Reservoir owns and/or controls with the exclusive right to license, among many other exclusive rights under the Copyright Act, the Works on Exhibit A and to initiate litigation on their behalf. Each Work listed in Exhibit A constitutes an original work of copyrightable subject matter under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.*, and has been registered with the U.S. Copyright Office as evidenced by the registration numbers listed therein. The copyrights for each of the Works in Exhibit A remain valid and subsisting and have been owned and/or controlled by Reservoir at all times relevant to the allegations in this Complaint.

20. Defendant Suno, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 17 Dunster Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Suno develops, operates, and sells a generative AI music service that creates digital music based on user prompts. Suno charges users monthly subscription fees to use its platform, which produces AI-generated music files designed to mimic human-made songs.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

21. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sections 1331 (federal question) and 1338(a) (copyright actions) because the claims alleged herein arise under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. sections 101 *et seq.*, including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 17

1 U.S.C. sections 1201-1205.

2 22. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Suno because Suno has transacted
 3 business in this District, including offering and selling its AI music generation service to customers
 4 in California via the Internet; because Suno's infringing conduct has been directed at and caused harm
 5 in this District; because the infringing conduct occurred in this District given Suno's use of Oracle
 6 servers physically located in this District; because, on information and belief, it operates its business
 7 out of its offices located in this District; and because the exercise of personal jurisdiction over Suno
 8 comports with due process. Suno operates its business out of offices in Cambridge, Mass., New York,
 9 Los Angeles, and, more recently, San Francisco. It has been reported that Suno opened its San
 10 Francisco office in late March 2026 in SoMa ("South of Market" area). *See S. Chen, AI music*
 11 *generator Suno opens SF office* (April 3, 2026), Axios. According to that report, Suno's co-
 12 founder/CTO Georg Kucsko told Axios (via email) that opening doors in San Francisco "will be
 13 critical as we continue to scale" and that the company is "investing especially heavily in our machine
 14 learning team to develop our frontier music model".¹⁶ Since that time, Suno has been actively
 15 recruiting employees to work in its San Francisco office. *See E. Tanaka, "AI Song Factory Suno*
 16 *Sneaks Into SoMa as San Francisco Tech Beat Kicks Back In," Hoodline* (April 3, 2026) (noting at
 17 that time, "Local job listings point to an active recruitment drive for engineers, product designers and
 18 machine learning researchers based in San Francisco").¹⁷ According to that report, many of the roles
 19 offered on Indeed "list San Francisco as the required location and note that some positions will be on
 20 site." *Id.* As of August 2026, job openings on Indeed include Lead Machine Learning Data
 21 Operations, Senior Director of Customer Experience, Senior Corporate Recruiter, Senior Counsel,
 22 Director of Accounting, and others.¹⁸ In addition, Suno uses Oracle servers "to train its proprietary
 23 machine learning models and support growing demand for its next generation of generative music
 24 models." Oracle, *AI Innovators Flock to Oracle to Address Some of the World's Most Pressing*

25 _____
 26 ¹⁶ <https://www.axios.com/local/san-francisco/2026/04/03/suno-ai-music-generator-startup-office-expansion>

27 ¹⁷ <https://hoodline.com/2026/04/ai-song-factory-suno-sneaks-into-soma-as-san-francisco-tech-beat-kicks-back-in/>

28 ¹⁸ <https://www.indeed.com/q-suno-l-san-francisco%2C-ca-jobs.html?vjk=34349af3bb314a9a>

1 *Challenges* (March 18, 2024). According to publicly available sources, Oracle’s servers are located
2 in Virginia, Illinois, Phoenix, San Jose, CA (Northern District), as well as Mexico and Canada.
3 According to other public sources, each of Sonos five fundraising rounds were pitched to and lead by
4 venture capital firms located in the Northern District—Seed round (Matrix Ventures, Cambridge/San
5 Francisco); Series A round (Matrix Ventures, Cambridge/San Francisco) Series B round (Lightspeed
6 Ventures, Menlo Park); Series C round (Menlo Ventures, Menlo Park); and Series D round (Bond
7 Capital, San Francisco).

8 23. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. sections 1391(b) and/or 1400 because
9 Defendant Suno maintains an office in this District to, among other things, manage the training of its
10 AI Models and the data servers on which they operate, and uses data servers located in the District
11 through Oracle Cloud Infrastructure for that purpose – which includes hosting the illicit copies of the
12 Works on these servers.

13 **IV. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT**

14 24. Pursuant to the Court’s Assignment Plan (General Order No. 44), this action is an
15 intellectual property action within the meaning of Local Rule 3-2(c) and therefore is not subject to
16 intradistrict venue provisions.

17 **V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

18 **A. Reservoir and Its Copyrights**

19 25. Reservoir is a leading independent music company that owns or exclusively controls
20 copyrights in tens of thousands of musical compositions and master recordings spanning virtually
21 every genre and era of popular music. Reservoir’s catalogs include works by some of the most
22 celebrated songwriters and recording artists in history, including rock, pop, country, blues, R&B, Hip
23 Hop, and alternative.

24 26. Reservoir knows that great music starts with great songwriting and masterful lyricists
25 and is committed to supporting and protecting the creative works its songwriters have entrusted to it.
26 As a publisher, Reservoir regularly enters into licenses and other agreements for the Works, through
27 which Reservoir compensates its songwriters for their share of earnings. Reservoir’s songwriters rely
28 on the income received from these transactions to support their livelihood and art. This system of

1 licensing, permissions, and authorized use is the backbone of the music publishing industry and
2 ensures that the songwriters and publishers who have invested their blood, sweat, tears, heartache,
3 elation, and experience into their creative works receive compensation for the use of those works.

4 27. U.S. copyright law simply does not let technology platforms like Suno ride roughshod
5 over these constitutionally mandated protections of creative expression. Indeed, copyright owners
6 necessarily have the right to police the use of their copyrighted works. “The owner of the copyright,
7 if he pleases, may refrain from vending or licensing and content himself with simply exercising the
8 right to exclude others from using his property.” *Fox Film Corp. v. Doyal*, 286 U.S. 123, 127 (1932);
9 *see also Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.*, 454 F. Supp. 2d 966, 997 (C.D. Cal.
10 2006) (“The right to exclude is inherent in the grant of a copyright; a copyright is not improperly
11 expanded simply because the owner has exercised his or her power to exclude.”). These are age-old,
12 hornbook copyright principles. Defendant simply ignored them.

13 28. Reservoir, its songwriters, and its artists rely on U.S. copyright law to protect their
14 Works from infringement. Without such protections, the music publishing industry would not
15 function because songwriters and artists would be unable to profit from their work, and because
16 publishers and record companies like Reservoir would lack the financial ability and incentive to
17 invest in the careers and promote the works of their songwriters/artists.

18 29. Reservoir generates revenue from its catalog by licensing the Works for use in
19 recordings, live performances, synchronization placements, mechanical reproductions, print, digital
20 transmissions, and streaming. The value of these licensing activities depends entirely on Reservoir’s
21 ability to enforce its exclusive right to authorize—or decline to authorize—the reproduction,
22 distribution, and public performance of its copyrighted Works. Defendant’s conduct directly
23 undermines and dilutes that exclusivity.

24 30. One way Reservoir exploits the Works is to grant licenses for the display of the
25 copyrighted lyrics of its Works to aggregator websites, such as LyricFind and Musixmatch. These
26 licenses require that the licensee provide the corresponding song title, songwriter(s), and other
27 identifying information for the Works—*i.e.*, the CMI. The display of the CMI is essential for
28 informing consumers about the authors of musical works, ensuring credit is given to creators,

maintaining copyright protections, and directing other putative licensees to Reservoir. Any removal or alteration of CMI by unlicensed parties violates these rights and harms the interests of Reservoir and its songwriters. It also violates the law.

B. Suno's Infringing Conduct

(i) Suno unlawfully scraped data from the internet, including Reservoir's Works.

31. Suno operates a subscription-based generative AI platform that generates new songs and audio recordings in response to user text prompts. Suno became widely available starting with version 3 on March 24, 2024, version 5.5 launched in March 2026, and version 6 launched September 9, 2026.

32. Suno's AI model was trained on a corpus of recorded music that, by Suno's own admission in separate litigation, encompasses substantially all available commercial recordings of adequate fidelity. In its answer to the complaint in *UMG Recordings, Inc. v. Suno, Inc.*, No. 1:24-cv-11611-FDS (D. Mass.), Suno stated that its "training data includes essentially all music files of reasonable quality that are accessible on the open Internet, abiding by paywalls, password protections, and the like."

33. Reservoir's Works are among the most widely distributed musical works on licensed streaming services. Given Suno's self-described training methodology—which involved harvesting effectively all available recordings—it is a near certainty that Reservoir's Works were copied into Suno's training sets. Reservoir's Works are available on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube, Amazon Music, SoundCloud, and Tidal, among others, all of which are duly licensed by Reservoir and require some form of account registration, subscription, or other access credentials to use.

34. Upon information and belief, Suno obtained copies of the Works by accessing these platforms through automated scraping tools that bypassed login requirements, subscription gates, and technical anti-bot defenses—in part through tools and proxy services supplied by Bright Data. Suno then ingested these unauthorized copies into its training pipeline, producing an AI model capable of generating audio that closely imitates the style, structure, and expressive character of the copyrighted recordings on which it was trained.

35. Specifically, with respect to its scraping of YouTube Music, Suno illicitly used a

1 notorious method of music piracy known as “stream ripping” to download millions of songs. While
2 YouTube allows users to stream content (playing it as received), it is not designed to allow and instead
3 prohibits making permanent, unrestricted copies of the content it streams. In this regard, YouTube’s
4 Terms of Service generally prohibit the unauthorized use of recordings available on its platform.

5 36. Moreover, YouTube employs enhanced technological measures to protect against
6 unauthorized downloading and copying of licensed content, including Reservoir’s Works.
7 Specifically, YouTube employs a “rolling cipher” encryption measure to control access to such
8 content, preventing external sites or services from directly downloading protected media files.
9 YouTube maintains two different URLs for any given video: the page URL, visible to the user, is for
10 the webpage where the video playback occurs, and the file URL, not visible to the user, is for the
11 video file itself that is played within the page. The file URL is encrypted using a complex and
12 periodically changing algorithm (the “rolling cipher”) that is designed to impede external access to
13 the underlying YouTube video files, thereby preventing or inhibiting any downloading, copying, or
14 distribution of the videos. Upon information and belief, the video player on the page URL must
15 decrypt or descramble the file URL to locate and play the underlying audiovisual file.

16 37. Although YouTube revises the rolling cipher by design, there are illicit tools and
17 services that circumvent the encryption, download audiovisual content available on YouTube, and
18 create copies that can be downloaded and further distributed by users without restriction. This process
19 is commonly known as scraping or “stream ripping.”

20 38. Upon information and belief, Suno used such stream ripping tools—specifically, tools
21 known as YT-DL and YT-DLP, to circumvent YouTube’s encryption and scrape copyrighted
22 recordings from YouTube. This stream-ripping is the key means by which Suno engages in its first
23 infringing act of reproducing the Works.

24 39. Suno’s scraping was made public on or about September 2, 2025, after the ICMP
25 shared evidence with Billboard, in particular private datasets that demonstrate the illegal scraping of
26 copyrighted sound recordings from YouTube by Suno. Suno’s scraping of the Internet and ingestion
27 of this content violates the Copyright Act and constitutes infringement of the Works, and other illegal
28 activity discussed below.

(ii) Suno utilized Bright Data’s technology products to assist in its scraping of copyrighted materials from the internet and to remove CMI from these materials.

40. Bright Data is a commercial vendor of web-scraping infrastructure whose business model is built on enabling customers to extract data from websites at scale—including websites that employ technical measures to prevent exactly that kind of bulk automated extraction. Bright Data’s product suite includes residential and datacenter proxy networks that rotate IP addresses to evade rate limits and IP bans; a “Web Unlocker” service designed to defeat CAPTCHAs, JavaScript challenges, and bot-detection systems; and a “Scraping Browser” that renders pages in a browser environment without the headers and footers to circumvent client-side protections.

41. As discussed above, CMI regularly exists in the headers and footers of files containing musical works. Making the deliberate choice to exclude headers and footers is identical to making the deliberate choice to remove CMI from these files. Suno thus extracted musical recordings from various above-alleged sources on the Internet and stripped the CMI from the entirety of these files, which includes the CMI attributable to the Works.

42. Upon information and belief, Bright Data’s tools and services were used by Suno to extract the Works from licensed streaming and lyrics platforms. This extraction required circumventing the technological protection measures those platforms employ: authentication gates, subscription paywalls, rate limiting, CAPTCHA challenges, and robots.txt access restrictions, as well as removal of CMI.

(iii) Suno’s Outputs also constitute copyright infringement of Reservoir’s Works.

43. As discussed above, Suno’s Founder and CEO, Mikey Shulman, admitted that the model faces “challenges in modeling music” and “our models are taught to just continue a piece of music.”¹⁹

44. Many outside observers drew the obvious conclusion that Suno’s model, however, was clearly trained on copyrighted music. A few examples follow:

¹⁹ “Suno Generates Beautiful Songs with Oracle Cloud”. www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKIIQiS8MLc

- 1 • “Though neither company will directly confirm or deny it, there is substantial reason to
2 believe that . . . Suno . . . w[as] trained on copyrighted music, without permission[.]” Brian
3 Hiatt, *AI-Music Arms Race: Meet Udio, the Other ChatGPT for Music*, Rolling Stone
4 (Apr. 10, 2024).
- 5 • “While details about the data that trained these AI tools are sparse, there is plenty of reason
6 to believe that they are trained on copyrighted music.” Sharon Goldman, *AI Music May
7 be Having a Moment, But Human Songwriters Would Like a Word*, Fortune (May 17,
8 2024).
- 9 • “Although Suno hasn’t revealed what music has been used to train its music-generation
10 models, it seems almost certain that the startup has used materials without the explicit
11 consent of their creators. For one thing, many of its musical outputs are somewhat similar
12 to popular songs.” Mike Wheatley, *Generative AI Music Maker Startup Suno Raises
13 \$125M in Funding*, SiliconAngle (May 21, 2024).
- 14 • “To create music as convincing as some of the examples generated by Suno and other
15 platforms using AI algorithms means training those algorithms on existing music, and lots
16 of it. And that’s where copyright comes into play, because it’s become plainly obvious
17 that many AI models have been built by ingesting enormous quantities of copyrighted
18 material.” Daniel Tencer, *Suno Could Get Sued By The Record Business. Who’s Backing
19 it With \$125M?*, Music Business Worldwide (May 28, 2024).

20 45. Suno never sought or obtained a license from Reservoir to reproduce, copy, or train
21 on any particular composition or sound recording in Reservoir’s catalog, much less for all of its
22 Works. Suno’s training-data practices constitute direct copyright infringement on a massive scale.

23 46. While Suno claims to have put in guardrails to prevent output that is like existing
24 artists, these guardrails are easily circumvented. For example, while, currently, the platform will not
25 permit a user to include “Reba McEntire” in the prompt, it will allow users to include the prompt “in
26 the style of Reba McIntyre [sic]” in creating a female-vocal country song in McEntire’s style. Indeed,
27 third-party applications like “HookGenius” are advertising services to get around these guardrails by
28 providing users artist-specific prompts for Suno to generate entire albums based on the users’ favorite

1 artists.²⁰

2 47. Further, despite previous protestations that Suno did not merely regurgitate
3 preexisting content and rejecting prompts that use artists' names, Suno V6 (the most recent version)
4 now accepts these requests and "redirect[s]" them "toward descriptive musical characteristics" that
5 Suno attributes to that artist.²¹ That is, Mr. Shulman, Suno's CEO, is admitting that Suno was always
6 designed to model after pre-existing works, but it was not until Suno concluded that its users wanted
7 to use artist-specific prompts that it made the business decision to facilitate the creation of facsimiles
8 of copyrighted works—including the Works. Suno was just withholding this capability until it found
9 a way to market it.

10 48. Further, V6 is trained from user-uploads without appropriate safeguards to prevent
11 users from uploading copyrighted lyrics and music. For example, Suno has allowed user uploads
12 since 2024,²² but stated that copyrighted uploads would be blocked.²³ However, Suno has since
13 announced new safeguards for audio and lyrics for V6.²⁴ The announcement of new safeguards is at
14 least a tacit admission that the previous safeguards were not effective enough to prevent copyright
15 infringement regarding output. The Suno terms and conditions grant Suno a "perpetual, irrevocable"
16 license to train on all user-uploaded content.²⁵ As such, Suno is clearly training its models on user
17 submissions, including copyrighted works and the Works.

18 49. There is further evidence that Suno's guardrails cannot prevent copyright
19 infringement. Suno's platform generates songs and lyrics based on user prompts. For example, when
20 asked to "give me a Miles Davis like Blues track with horns and a quartet" Suno generated two lyric-
21 less tracks both named "Blue Note Quartet" that are clearly inspired by and are unlicensed derivative
22 works of Miles Davis music.

23 _____
24 ²⁰ See <https://hookgenius.app/learn/suno-eminem-style/> and <https://hookgenius.app/pricing/>

25 ²¹ Mikey Shulman, *How We're Building the Future of Music Responsibly*, Suno (Aug. 6, 2026)
(available at <https://suno.com/blog/building-the-future-of-music-responsibly> (last visited Oct. 18, 2026)).

26 ²² <https://suno.com/release-notes/audio-inputs-for-everyone> (last visited Oct. 18, 2026).

27 ²³ <https://blog.suno.com/blog/audio-inputs> (last visited Oct. 19, 2026).

28 ²⁴ <https://suno.com/blog/introducing-v6> (last visited Oct. 19, 2026).

²⁵ <https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/suno-v6-ai-music-models-launch-in-partnership-with-wmg-bmg-and-believe/> (last visited Oct. 19, 2026).

50. Even after these guardrails were implemented, similarly situated plaintiffs have been able to generate infringing works from Suno. *See Round Hill Music LP, et al. v. Suno, Inc.*, Case No. 3:26-cv-8507-RFL (N.D. Cal.), ECF 45 at ¶ 51 (filed Oct. 19, 2026) (“*Round Hill*”) (discussing the infringing output from Suno lifting nearly verbatim the lyrics of “I Got You (I Feel Good)” by James Brown); *id.* at ¶ 55 (discussing how two works at issue in that case are in Suno's demo files); *Gerencia 360 Music, Inc. v. Suno, Inc.*, Case No. 3:26-cv-09248-RFL (N.D. Cal.), ECF 41 at ¶ 48 (Filed Oct. 18, 2026) (discussing the infringing output from Suno based on English-translation lyrics of “Quince Besos” as performed by Cornelio Vega y Su Dinastia).

51. This is evidence that users can easily create unlicensed derivative works merely by submitting them themselves. And, under the terms of service, Suno can then take these user submissions and further train its models on them despite the guardrails.

52. Suno has thus structured its AI models to generate AI music designed to mirror the very copyrighted songs it trains on, for which the above and below alleged outputs are but a few examples. Suno has thereby created AI models that deliver outputs which are verbatim copies, strikingly similar, or at minimum substantially similar to the Works. Indeed, independent sources have repeatedly identified instances where Suno’s outputs are not merely in the style of existing works but contain verbatim or near-verbatim excerpts of pre-existing songs, including outputs that imitate the voices of the artists performing on those songs.

53. These outputs include reproductions of melodies, lyrics, instrumentals, and even full passages indistinguishable from the originals. For example, Suno has output ‘producer tags’ which are an integral musical part of songs throughout the hip-hop and rap genres, and function as a type of signature for a producer.

54. Upon information and belief, Suno claims that its AI models can produce “radio-quality music,” and has encouraged users to post their outputs to “platforms expressly designed to commercialize music.”²⁶ Suno thus not only ingested the Works into its AI models to train them, but also with the explicit purpose of imitating the expressive features of the Works in digital music

²⁶ *UMG Recordings, Inc. et al v. Suno, Inc., et al.*, Case No. 1:24-cv-11611-FDS, DKT 277, at p. 27, ¶ 74 (D. Mass Aug. 25, 2026))

1 files that serve as substitutes for and compete with the original Works.

2 55. In GEMA's case against Suno mentioned above, GEMA's lawyers were able to
3 reproduce songs like "Daddy Cool" by Boney M. and "Mambo No. 5" almost note for note by
4 prompting Suno with the lyrics, a style, and a title.²⁷

5 56. Plaintiffs in other cases have identified other examples of Suno-generated outputs
6 which infringe others' musical copyrights. For example, Plaintiffs in *UMG Recordings, Inc. et al. v.*
7 *Suno, Inc.* No. 1:24-cv-11611 (D. Mass. June 24, 2024), ECF 1 (the "UMG Complaint"), at pp. 16-
8 18, alleged that Suno's AI model generated music indistinguishable from Chuck Berry's classic
9 "Johnny B. Goode" song, not just once, but twenty-seven (27) times. These Suno generated outputs
10 appear to copy the essential and immediately recognizable melodies and arrangements of the original
11 song.

12 57. The UMG Complaint also alleges that Suno's AI model generated ten (10) different
13 outputs that resemble Bill Haley & His Comets' song "Rock Around the Clock." The Suno output
14 contains four (4) lines at the beginning that are very similar to the original, with identical pitches and
15 rhythm in many places. It also uses a melody later in the output on the phrase, "we're gonna rock
16 around the clock tonight," which is virtually identical to the melody of the original. *Id.*, Paragraph 56
17 at 19.

18 58. The UMG Complaint further alleges Suno generated a song similar to Jerry Lee
19 Lewis' song, "Great Balls of Fire," including ten (10) different outputs that contain a famous melody
20 in this song. One such output includes the recognizable characteristic large vocal leap up to the word
21 "great" in the line, "goodness, gracious, great balls of fire." This line also replicates and follows the
22 rhythm of the original and follows a similar melodic shape. *Id.*, Paragraph 59 at 21.

23 59. Suno's AI model also generated six (6) different outputs that contain portions of B.B.
24 King's famous song, "The Thrill is Gone." The first phrase in the output, "the thrill is gone," uses
25 identical pitches to those used in the third occurrence of this phrase in the original sound recording.

27 ²⁷ Virginie Berger, Suno Loses Copyright Lawsuit To GEMA—AI Music Companies Should Worry,
28 Forbes (Aug. 5, 2026), <https://www.forbes.com/sites/virinieberger/2026/08/05/suno-lost-to-gema-why-the-ruling-should-worry-ai-music-companies/>.

1 The second phrase, “the thrill has gone away,” is also very similar to the same phrase in the original.
 2 *Id.*, Paragraphs 60-61, at pp. 21-22.

3 60. Suno’s AI model also generated eleven (11) additional outputs resembling “Sway.”
 4 *Id.*, Paragraph 61 at p. 22.

5 61. Indeed, Suno has claimed that over 10 million people have already created digital
 6 music files using its AI services as of 2024.²⁸

7 62. As of November 2025, Suno users were generating about 7 million songs **per day**,
 8 and as of February 26, 2026, as mentioned above, Mr. Shulman claimed that more than 100 million
 9 people have used Suno, and that it has over 2 million paid subscribers and \$300 million in annual
 10 revenue.²⁹ Upon information and belief, these digital music files have been released to the public,
 11 including on major streaming services, and thus compete with the copyrighted sound recordings that
 12 enabled their creation for which Suno did not seek or obtain permission to use. Moreover, and as
 13 discussed above, discovery will undoubtedly show that Suno created additional outputs which
 14 infringe upon all the Works, and are either verbatim copies, strikingly similar, or substantially similar.

15 **C. Harm to Reservoir**

16 63. Defendant’s unlawful infringing conduct has caused and continues to cause harm to
 17 Reservoir and the songwriters and artists it represents (and/or whose works it owns).

18 64. The Reservoir Works are world-famous compositions—the very kind of artistic
 19 expressions that the Copyright Act is designed to protect in fulfillment of the Constitutional mandate.

20 65. Without a single penny of remuneration—much less even a request for license—
 21 Defendant Suno, a massive, for-profit company, has engaged in rampant commercial copying,
 22 unauthorized access, and removal of CMI. This has harmed Reservoir by, *inter alia*, devaluing its
 23 catalog, diverting compensation away from Reservoir, precluding licensing opportunities, and
 24 divesting Reservoir of commercial control over these Works. In short, it infringes upon just about
 25

26
 27 ²⁸ Mikey Shulman, *Suno Has Raised \$125 Million to Build a Future Where Anyone Can Make Music*,
 Suno Blog (May 21, 2024), <https://suno.com/blog/fundraising-announcements-may-2024>.

28 ²⁹<https://www.forbes.com/sites/conormurray/2026/02/26/ai-music-platform-suno-reaches-2-million-subscribers-as-industry-backlash-grows/>

every one of Reservoir’s exclusive rights as the copyright owner of the Works.

66. Meanwhile, Defendant has amassed a fortune by circumventing the protections afforded to Reservoir by the Copyright Act. Without the use of works such as those Works owned, controlled, or represented by Reservoir, Suno would have no business.

67. Thus, while simultaneously holding itself out to be a “responsible” company, Suno has been knowingly and intentionally committing willful copyright infringement from inception of its AI models.

D. Fair Use Does Not Apply

68. As this Court in *Bartz v. Anthropic PBC*, 787 F. Supp. 3d 1007, 1030-34 (N.D. Cal. June 23, 2025) (“*Bartz I*”) determined following discovery, the practice of indefinite retention in a general-purpose archive is legally distinct from the narrower act of purchasing and scanning works solely to train a specific model. Suno has engaged in the same conduct, and the indefinite retention of unlicensed copies of copyrighted works, under *Bartz I*, does not constitute fair use. Building and maintaining a permanent stockpile of copyrighted material for open-ended future exploitation fails every factor of the fair-use analysis: the purpose is acquisitive rather than transformative; entire works are retained without limitation; and the unauthorized copies function as market substitutes, displacing sales and licenses on a one-to-one basis. This Court did not mince words when it rejected any suggestion that the Copyright Act contains a technology-sector exception to these well-established principles. *Id.* at 1022 (“Anthropic [another AI company] seems to believe that because some of the works it copied were sometimes used in training LLMs,³⁰ Anthropic was entitled to take for free all the works in the world and keep them forever with no further accounting. **There is no carveout, however, from the Copyright Act for AI companies.**”) (emphasis added).

69. While in other cases for copyright infringement, Suno has waxed poetic about the necessity of progress and AI’s value to society, there is simply no reason—other than expediency—to have that progress come at the cost of copyrights holders. Indeed, even accepting *arguendo* the procedural hurdles for ensuring proper licensing for the size of data needed for an effective AI model,

³⁰ An LLM, or “Large Language Model,” is a type of artificial intelligence program trained on massive amounts of text to recognize, translate, summarize, and generate human-like language.

1 there exists an entire universe of public domain and non-copyrighted materials with which to train
2 the models. For example, literally every (formerly) copyrighted work under U.S. Copyright law
3 written before 1931 (1926 for sound recordings) has now entered the public domain.

4 70. Furthermore, these “expediency” arguments completely falter when compared to the
5 \$5.4 billion valuation that Suno has garnered exploiting illicit copies of copyrighted works, including
6 the Works. The Works were created over periods of dozens of years, and Suno, by its infringing
7 conduct, is destroying the value of these works in a matter of a few years with only profit as its
8 motive. By comparison, there are AI companies and collective rights organizations who seek
9 permission and pay rights holders to create data sets for AI training. Such companies include
10 ElevenLabs, Musical AI, Symphonic, Soundverse, GEMA (through PLAI), GCX/Rightsify, and
11 Troveo. Not only does this further undercut any “expediency” arguments, but it also directly
12 demonstrates the harm Reservoir faces to license with these forthright entities that license and pay
13 for use of copyrighted music

14 71. And, of course, “Fair use presupposes good faith and fair dealing.” *Harper & Row*
15 *Publishers, Inc. v. Nation Enters.*, 471 U.S. 539, 540 (1985). Just as in *Harper & Row*, the copying
16 and permanent retention of the Works (in addition to the millions of other copyrighted works) was
17 not the “incidental effect but the *intended purpose*.” *Id.* (emphasis kept). Worse, the illicit copying,
18 removal of CMI, and permanent retention of these copyrighted works *for the purpose* of regurgitating
19 infringing copies thereof or to create songs to directly compete falls well outside of the enumerated
20 fair use activities set forth in the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. section 107. There is simply nothing fair
21 about a company using theft to build for purely commercial purposes a multi-billion-dollar business
22 while those from whom it steals receive nothing.

23 72. The Third Circuit held this to be true in *Thomson Reuters Enter. Ctr. GmbH v. ROSS*
24 *Intel. Inc.*, No. 25-2153, 2026 WL 2932557 (3d Cir. Sept. 29, 2026). Analyzing the four fair use
25 factors, the court explained that the legal research company ROSS’s taking of information
26 conglomerate and legal research engine Thomson Reuters’ copyrighted materials to train its AI on
27 how to be responsive to users’ questions, as well as to compete with the product it was stealing from,
28 was not fair use. This “is the same same-purpose reasoning” as that in *GEMA v. Suno*, where the

1 Munich Regional Court “assessed the US fair use position on training carried out in the US and
 2 rejected it, finding that outputs served the same purposes as the originals rather than a new one, and
 3 that the use was commercial.”³¹

4 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

5 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION – DIRECT COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

6 73. Reservoir re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth
 7 in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

8 74. Reservoir owns or exclusively controls valid, subsisting copyrights in the Works
 9 identified in Exhibit A.

10 75. Suno, without authorization from Reservoir, reproduced Reservoir’s copyrighted
 11 Works by: (a) scraping or otherwise obtaining copies from licensed streaming platforms and other
 12 online sources, including through the use of circumvention tools and services provided by Bright
 13 Data; (b) assembling those copies into training datasets; (c) storing and reproducing those copies,
 14 including server copies in a permanent, all-purpose internal repository maintained for indefinite
 15 reproductions for future use; (d) unlawfully reproduced the Works at issue here through the making
 16 of permanent server copies; and (e) processing those datasets through its model-training pipeline.
 17 Each such act independently violated Reservoir’s exclusive rights under 17 U.S.C. sections 106(1)
 18 and 106(2). Indeed, publicly available sources such as the leaked source code confirm that Suno is
 19 training on the Works. For example, the following Works appear in the leaked source code: “Both
 20 Sides Now” by Joni Mitchell, “Diamonds on the Inside” by Ben Harper, “Ring of Fire” performed
 21 by Johnny Cash (written by June Carter, and Merle Kilgore), and “Jukin’ City” by Danny Brown,
 22 David Hlubek, and Steve Holland. Further, another file in the leaked source code has song metadata,
 23 including artist information for the following Works: “8th of November” by Big & Rich, “Good
 24 Friends” by Joni Mitchell, a cover of “River” originally by Joni Mitchell “Eyes on You” and “Over”
 25
 26
 27

28 ³¹ <https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/a-us-appeals-court-has-rejected-a-fair-use-defense-over-ai-training-what-does-it-mean-for-the-labels-fight-with-suno/>.

1 by Kings of Leon, a cover version of “Bring Me to Life” originally by Evanescence.³² Upon
 2 information and belief, all of the Works exist in some form or fashion in Suno’s code, training sets,
 3 and have been unlawfully reproduced by Suno.

4 76. None of these acts qualifies as a fair use. As the *Bartz I* court held, the indefinite
 5 retention of copyrighted works in a general-purpose repository for uncommitted future exploitation
 6 is not transformative and fails every factor of the fair-use test. The same reasoning applies to Suno’s
 7 accumulation of copyrighted recordings for AI training at commercial scale without any license or
 8 compensating benefit to rights holders.

9 77. Defendant’s infringement in these regards was willful. At all times relevant to this
 10 Complaint, Defendant had actual knowledge that it was making copies of the Works without license
 11 or payment.

12 78. Furthermore, Suno, without authorization from Reservoir, has separately infringed
 13 and continues to infringe the Works each time Suno’s AI music generator reproduces, displays,
 14 performs, or prepares a derivative work based upon the copyrighted Works. These infringing outputs
 15 include songs created in response to user prompts that are substantially similar, if not strikingly
 16 similar, to the Works and unlicensed derivative works that incorporate, without a license, the original,
 17 copyrighted elements of the Works.

18 79. Suno’s leaked code shows that it deliberately enabled “stem splitting” *i.e.*, breaking
 19 up sound recordings of musical compositions into separate tracks for vocals, drums, and the various
 20 instruments played. Further, Suno purportedly also deliberately sought out *a cappella* versions of the
 21 songs so that it could more faithfully create vocals based upon the infringed Works and further train
 22 its AI model on multiple iterations of the musical composition, especially with regard to the lyrics of
 23 the song so that its model could “create” (*i.e.* regurgitate infringing derivative works) lyrics based
 24

25 ³² See also *Round Hill*, ECF 45 at ¶ 77 (discussing how “the lyrics for Gil Scott-Heron’s “Save the
 26 Children” exist in the leaked code in an evaluation-data JSON file” from the leaked Suno code, and
 27 that “, one of the files used to generate music for evaluating Suno’s models is
 28 diversity_prompts.json, which contains many sets of lyrics including lyrics that are
 substantially—if not strikingly—similar to the Works, including, *e.g.*, Steinman’s ‘Two Out of Three
 Ain’t Bad’ ... and Scott-Heron’s ‘The Revolution Will Not Be Televised’”)

1 thereupon.

2 80. In addition to using “stem splitting,” Suno also used a training code that uses related
3 recordings together. The Suno code puts a cover recording followed by the “main” (original)
4 recording of the same song when creating a training data instance. That gives the Suno model the
5 cover as reference audio while it learns to predict the main recording. In this manner, Suno uses
6 multiple versions of a song during its AI model training. This could be used, for example, to take a
7 copyrighted acoustic performance scraped from the internet by Suno without permission and generate
8 a full-band version or turn a ballad into a dance track.

9 81. Each infringing output by Suno constitutes an independent violation of Reservoir’s
10 exclusive rights to reproduce (section 106(1)), prepare derivative works (section 106(2)), distribute
11 copies (section 106(3)), publicly perform (section 106(4)), and publicly display (section 106(5)) the
12 Works.

13 82. Suno’s output-stage infringement is willful. While Suno advertises that it enacted
14 safeguards to prevent copying of copyrighted elements, these safeguards are easily overcome.

15 83. Reservoir has been damaged by Defendant Suno’s infringement and is entitled to
16 recover actual damages and Defendant Suno’s profits under 17 U.S.C. section 504(b), or in the
17 alternative, statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per Work willfully infringed under 17 U.S.C. section
18 504(c). Reservoir identifies 1,050 Works, meaning that the total statutory damages sought in this
19 case is \$157,500,000.00.

20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION – CIRCUMVENTION OF PROTECTION MEASURES, 17 U.S.C. § 1201**

21 84. Reservoir re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth
22 in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

23 85. Reservoir’s copyrighted Works are hosted on licensed streaming and lyrics platforms
24 that deploy technological measures to control access to those Works. These measures include, without
25 limitation: user-authentication requirements (login credentials and session tokens), paid-subscription
26 paywalls, CAPTCHA and bot-detection challenges, IP-based rate limiting, JavaScript rendering
27 requirements, and Terms of Service and robots.txt directives restricting automated access. These
28 measures effectively control access to Reservoir’s copyrighted Works within the meaning of 17

1 U.S.C. section 1201(a)(3)(B).

2 86. Suno violated 17 U.S.C. section 1201(a)(1) by circumventing—directly and through
3 the use of Bright Data’s tools and services—technological measures that effectively controlled access
4 to Reservoir’s copyrighted Works on licensed streaming and lyrics platforms, thereby obtaining
5 unauthorized access to and copies of those Works for use in training its AI model.

6 87. Defendant’s violations of section 1201 were willful and conducted for commercial
7 advantage and financial gain.

8 88. Reservoir has been damaged by Defendant’s violations and is entitled to remedies
9 under 17 U.S.C. section 1203, including injunctive relief, actual damages or statutory damages of up
10 to \$2,500 per violation under section 1203(c)(3)(A), costs, and attorneys’ fees. There are 1,050 Works
11 on Exhibit A for a total of \$2,625,000.00.

12 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION – REMOVAL OR ALTERATION OF CMI, 17 U.S.C. § 1202**

13 89. Reservoir re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth
14 in the preceding paragraphs as if set forth fully herein.

15 90. Reservoir’s copyrighted Works, as displayed on licensed lyrics platforms and
16 streaming services, bear copyright management information within the meaning of 17 U.S.C.
17 section 1202(c), including: the title of the composition, the identity of the songwriter(s) and/or
18 composer(s), the identity of the copyright owner and/or publisher (Reservoir or its affiliates), and
19 other identifying data such as ISRC codes and copyright notices.

20 91. Defendant intentionally removed or altered CMI from Reservoir’s copyrighted Works
21 during its data-cleaning pipeline, in violation of 17 U.S.C. section 1202(b)(1). Upon information and
22 belief, Defendant’s engineers selected a data-extraction methodology that aggressively stripped
23 authorship and ownership metadata, choosing it over available alternatives that would have preserved
24 that information.

25 92. Defendant knew, or had reasonable grounds to know, that CMI is vital to protecting
26 Reservoir’s copyright interests and that its removal and omission of CMI would induce, enable,
27 facilitate, and/or conceal infringement. Suno was aware that its AI models memorize the training-
28 data content. It follows that stripping CMI during training would conceal Suno’s infringement. This

1 satisfies the “double scienter” requirement established in *Stevens v. Corelogic, Inc.*, 899 F.3d 666,
2 671, 673 (9th Cir. 2018); see *Concord Music Group, Inc. v. Anthropic PBC*, No. 5:24-cv-03811-EKL,
3 2025 WL 4808984, at *4-5 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 6, 2025) (holding similar allegations sufficient at the
4 pleading stage, citing *Kadrey v. Meta Platforms, Inc.*, 2025 WL 744032 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 7, 2025),
5 and *Mango v. BuzzFeed, Inc.*, 970 F.3d 167, 173 (2d Cir. 2020)).

6 93. Defendant’s violations of section 1202 were willful and conducted for commercial
7 advantage.

8 94. Reservoir has been damaged by Defendant’s violations and is entitled to remedies
9 under 17 U.S.C. section 1203, including injunctive relief, actual damages or statutory damages of up
10 to \$25,000 per violation under section 1203(c)(3)(B), costs, and attorneys’ fees. There are 1,050
11 Works on Exhibit A for a total of \$26,250,000.00.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment against
14 Defendant Suno and grant the following relief:

15 (a) A declaration that Defendant committed willful copyright infringement of Reservoir’s
16 copyrighted Works in violation of 17 U.S.C. sections 106 and 501;

17 (b) A declaration that Defendant has violated 17 U.S.C. section 1201 by circumventing
18 technological measures effectively controlling access to Reservoir’s copyrighted Works;

19 (c) A declaration that Defendant has violated 17 U.S.C. section 1202 by intentionally
20 removing or altering copyright management information from Reservoir’s Works and distributing
21 copies with such information removed, with knowledge or reasonable grounds to know that doing so
22 would induce, enable, facilitate, or conceal infringement;

23 (d) A permanent injunction prohibiting Defendant, and its officers, agents, employees,
24 successors, and assigns, from further infringing Reservoir’s copyrights in the Works or engaging in
25 any of the unlawful conduct alleged herein;

26 (e) An order directing Defendant to deliver for impoundment or destruction all
27 unauthorized copies of Reservoir’s copyrighted Works in its possession, custody, or control—
28

1 including copies retained in training datasets, internal repositories, model weights, and server
2 infrastructure—pursuant to 17 U.S.C. section 503(b);

3 (f) An order requiring Defendant to provide a complete accounting of all training data,
4 scraping activities, and datasets involving Reservoir’s copyrighted Works;

5 (g) An award of actual damages suffered by Reservoir and disgorgement of Defendant’s
6 profits attributable to the infringement, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. section 504(b); or, in the alternative, an
7 award of statutory damages of up to \$150,000 per Work willfully infringed, pursuant to 17 U.S.C.
8 section 504(c), which for all 1,050 Works would be \$157,500,000.00;

9 (h) An award of actual damages or statutory damages of up to \$2,500 per violation of
10 17 U.S.C. section 1201 and up to \$25,000 per violation of section 1202, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. section
11 1203(c);

12 (i) An award of Reservoir’s reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs of suit, pursuant to 17
13 U.S.C. sections 505 and 1203(b)(4)-(5);

14 (j) Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum lawful rate; and

15 (k) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

16
17 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

18 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
19 Procedure 38(b).

1 Dated: October 21, 2026

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