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14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 15 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 16 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

18 THOMAS MOLINARI,
 19 Plaintiff,

20 vs.

21 AUDIOPHILE MUSIC DIRECT, INC.;;
 22 MOBILE FIDELITY SOUND LAB, INC.,
 23 Defendants.
 24

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

25
 26
 27
 28 ¹ Petition for admission to be filed.

1 **NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS OF DUTIES TO RETAIN EVIDENCE:**

2 1. TO ALL DEFENDANTS: Note and adhere to your duties to retain, and
3 not delete or destroy, all documents, emails, databases, electronic records,
4 electronically stored information, and all other evidence that may be pertinent to this
5 lawsuit, and to cease any destruction or deletion of such evidence that might
6 otherwise take place in the ordinary course of your business or affairs.

7 **NATURE OF THIS ACTION**

8 2. Plaintiff THOMAS MOLINARI, on behalf of himself and all others
9 similarly situated, files this Class Action Complaint against Defendants
10 AUDIOPHILE MUSIC DIRECT, INC. (“Music Direct”) and MOBILE FIDELITY
11 SOUND LAB, INC. (“Mobile Fidelity”), based on personal knowledge as to his own
12 actions and on information and belief as to Defendants’ conduct and practices.

13 3. Plaintiff THOMAS MOLINARI, on behalf of himself and all others
14 similarly situated, files this Class Action Complaint against Defendants
15 AUDIOPHILE MUSIC DIRECT, INC. (“Music Direct”) and MOBILE FIDELITY
16 SOUND LAB, INC. (“Mobile Fidelity”), based on personal knowledge as to his own
17 actions and on information and belief as to Defendants’ conduct and practices.

18 **NATURE OF THIS ACTION**

19 4. Mobile Fidelity manufactures and sells vinyl record albums, among
20 other things. Music Direct (the parent company of Mobile Fidelity) advertises and
21 sells, among other things, record albums made by Mobile Fidelity. This proposed
22 class action is on behalf of consumers who, during the period from four years prior
23 to the commencement of this action to July 14, 2022, purchased a vinyl record
24 album made by Mobile Fidelity that was advertised by Defendants as an *ORIGINAL*
25 *MASTER RECORDING* (“Albums”). Defendants’ advertising was false and
26 deceptive because the Albums were not made directly from the original master
27 recording. Instead, Mobile Fidelity converted the original master analog (studio)
28 recordings to digital files and then used the digital files to make the Albums.

1 Albums made from digital files have a lower sound quality and are not as collectable
2 as albums made directly from the original master recording without any digital
3 remastering. In this action, Plaintiff seeks to represent a nationwide class and a
4 California class for the prosecution of claims against Mobile Fidelity and Music
5 Direct for breach of express warranty, breach of contract, fraud, violations of unfair
6 competition/consumer protection laws, and unjust enrichment.

7 **PARTIES**

8 5. Plaintiff Thomas Molinari is a resident of Napa, California and has an
9 intent to remain in California making him a citizen of California. Mr. Molinari
10 purchased various records from Music Direct and AI, starting in or around 2020. As
11 late as March 7, 2022, Mr. Molinari purchased the Mile Davis album Filles De
12 Kilimanjaro, limited edition, 2 LP set for \$59.99, plus tax and shipping totaling
13 \$74.63. The Mobile Fidelity album was purchased by Plaintiff in Napa, California
14 through the Music Direct website. Prior to purchasing the album, Mr. Molinari relied
15 on the representations from Music Direct and Mobile Fidelity that the albums were
16 analog, as Mr. Molinari was only interested in purchasing this as an analog album.
17 The representations made on the website included that the album was an “Original
18 Master Recording” that used the original tapes. These representations were
19 confirmed on the actual album cover, the albums and inserts that came with the
20 album. Specifically, the album cover had a band at the top “Original Master
21 Recording.” This statement was also made on a band on the top of the insert and on
22 the album itself. The album and the insert also confirmed the album was made using
23 “Gain 2 Ultra Analog.” Nowhere on the website or album were there representations
24 made that digital mastering or DSD (direct stream digital) was used as part of the
25 process of creating the album. Mr. Molinari relied on the various statements and
26 omissions when deciding to purchase the album. These representations and
27 omissions formed the basis of the bargain in that, had Mr. Molinari been aware that
28 the album used digital remastering or DSD technology, he would not have purchased

1 the album. In or about July 2022, Mr. Molinari discovered that his album used DSD
2 technology as part of the mastering chain. Around this same time, he learned that
3 numerous other Mobile Fidelity albums he purchased through Music Direct, Mobile
4 Fidelity or on the secondary market were also not pure analog and instead used
5 digital remastering or DSD technology. Some of these records included: Miles
6 Davis: Nerfertiti, Bob Dylan: Blond on Blond, Duke Ellington: Ellington at
7 Newport, Mile Davis: On the Corner, Mile Davis: My Funny Valentine, Mile Davis:
8 Miles in the Sky, Miles Davis: Jack Johnson, Mile Davis: On the Corner, Bob
9 Dylan: Blood on the Tracks, Bob Dylan: John Wesley Harding and Bob Dylan: Oh
10 Mercy.

11 6. Defendant Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Inc. is a corporation
12 incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois having its principal place of
13 business in the State of Illinois, doing business as Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab,
14 Mobile Fidelity and MoFi. Mobile Fidelity produced, advertised and sold the
15 Albums to consumers throughout the United States, including California.

16 7. Defendant Audiophile Music Direct, Inc. is a corporation incorporated
17 under the laws of the State of Nevada having its principal place of business in the
18 State of Illinois, doing business as Music Direct. Music Direct advertised and sold
19 the Albums to consumers throughout the United States, including California As the
20 parent corporation of Mobile Fidelity, at all times relevant Music Direct exercised
21 such a degree of control over its subsidiary corporation that the subsidiary can
22 legitimately be described as only a means through which the parent acts, or nothing
23 more than an incorporated department of the parent, such that Mobile Fidelity
24 should be deemed to be the agent of Music Direct.

25 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

26 8. Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of this Court over the subject matter of
27 this action is predicated on 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). There is complete diversity of
28 citizenship between and among the Plaintiff on the one hand and the Defendants on

1 the other. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and
2 costs. The Court may exercise supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a)
3 over all claims by the other class members that may be in lesser amounts because all
4 claims arise out of the same Article III case or controversy and derive from a
5 common nucleus of operative facts so that considerations of judicial economy,
6 convenience and fairness to litigants favor trial in a single proceeding.

7 9. Venue in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a
8 substantial part of the events or omission giving rise to the claims in this action
9 occurred within the Northern District.

10 10. Divisional Assignment. Assignment to the San Francisco Division is
11 proper pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-2(d) because a substantial part of the events or
12 omissions that give rise to this action occurred in Napa County.

13 11. Defendants have substantial ongoing business relationships in
14 California with consumers who purchase their products. Defendants' contacts with
15 California are such that the maintenance of this suit does not offend traditional
16 notions of fair play and substantial justice. The State of California has a sufficient
17 relationship with Defendants and the litigation to make it reasonable to require
18 Defendants to defend this action in the federal court located in that state.
19 Defendants' numerous and ongoing contacts with the State of California are
20 sufficient to establish the Court's general personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

21 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22 12. Vinyl record albums made directly from the original master analog
23 (studio) recording have superior sound quality and are more collectable, and
24 therefore more valuable and expensive, than albums made from a digital file or
25 digital audio recording process such as DSD.

26 13. At all times relevant, Defendants advertised, labelled, marketed and
27 represented to Plaintiff and the rest of the Class that the Albums were made from the
28 original master recording. Defendants made the representations to the Plaintiff and

1 the rest of the Class. Each Defendant’s website represented that each Album is an
2 “Original Master Recording.” In 2017, two of Mobile Fidelity’s mastering engineers
3 noted during an interview that “some people ask us questions like is it an all analog
4 master chain? It is.” In 2020, Mobile Fidelity sent customer service e-mails to
5 consumers informing them that “there is no analog to digital conversion in our vinyl
6 cutting process[,]” and that “[a]ny product that bears the ORIGINAL MASTER
7 RECORDING stripe on the jacket lets the customer know that the Original Master
8 Tape was used to produce the release.” These representations were repeated on the
9 actual album cover and the insert that came with the album. The album and the
10 insert also represented that the album was made using “Gain 2 Ultra Analog” “only
11 utiliz[ing] first generation original master recordings as source material for our
12 releases.” At all times relevant, no where on the website or album were there
13 representations that the Albums were made using DSD or any other digital mastering
14 process. All of these representations are false and deceptive because the Albums
15 were not made directly from the original master tape. Instead, Defendant digitally
16 mastered the Albums by converting the master analog recording to a digital file and
17 then used the digital file to make the Album. Defendants intentionally hid this fact
18 from consumers until July 2022 when Mobile Fidelity’s engineers revealed the truth
19 during an interview. Defendants have since acknowledged the Albums were digitally
20 remastered and began disclosing the same in their advertising.

21 14. A reasonable consumer seeing the designation “Original Master
22 Recording” would understand the Album was made from the original master
23 recording without any digital remastering.

24 15. Defendants’ customers and members of the public are likely to be
25 deceived by Defendants’ misrepresentations and false and deceptive advertising
26 alleged herein.

27 16. Plaintiff and the rest of the Class reasonably relied on Defendants’
28 representations, as alleged herein, when making their decision to purchase Albums.

1 Plaintiff and the rest of the Class understood Defendants’ advertising of the Albums
2 to be Original Master Recordings to mean that the Albums were made from the
3 original master recording without any digital remastering.

4 17. Had Defendants not misrepresented or falsely advertised the Albums as
5 being original master recordings, Plaintiff and the rest of the Class would not have
6 purchased Albums or they would have paid less.

7 18. Based on Defendants’ representations of quality and exclusivity,
8 Defendants were able to charge Plaintiff and the rest of the Class a premium price
9 for the Albums.

10 19. Prior to July 14, 2022, Plaintiff and the rest of the Class had no reason
11 to know that Defendants’ advertisements, labelling and representations that the
12 Albums were made from original master recordings were untrue.

13 20. Plaintiff and the rest of the Class have been induced to purchase
14 Albums that were materially misrepresented, mislabeled and have suffered injury
15 and damages as a proximate result of Defendants’ conduct.

16 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

17 21. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
18 Procedure 23, on behalf of himself and all members of the proposed Classes defined
19 below.

20 22. **Class Definitions.** Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)
21 and (b)(3), Plaintiff seeks to represent the following classes (collectively “Class” or
22 “Classes”) defined as:

23 a. **Class 1 (Nationwide Class)** - All persons who purchased in the
24 United States a vinyl record album manufactured by Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Inc.
25 (also known as Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Mobile Fidelity and/or MoFi) that bears
26 the words “ORIGINAL MASTER RECORDING” at the top of the album jacket
27 cover, that was purchased from Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Inc., Audiophile Music
28 Direct, Inc. (also known as Music Direct) or any other retailer during the period

1 from four years prior to the commencement of this action to July 14, 2022; and,

2 **b. Class 2 (California Class)** - All persons who purchased in
3 California a vinyl record album manufactured by Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Inc.
4 (also known as Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Mobile Fidelity and/or MoFi) that bears
5 the words “ORIGINAL MASTER RECORDING” at the top of the album jacket
6 cover, that was purchased from Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab, Inc., Audiophile Music
7 Direct, Inc. (also known as Music Direct) or any other retailer during the period
8 from four years prior to the commencement of this action to July 14, 2022.

9 23. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify this Complaint and/or
10 the proposed Class definitions after receiving Defendants’ Answer and responses to
11 meaningful discovery and/or in the motion for class certification. Subject to
12 additional information obtained through further investigation and discovery, the
13 above-described Classes may be modified or narrowed as appropriate, including
14 through the use of multi-state subclasses.

15 24. **Numerosity.** Based on the size of each Defendant’s business and its
16 position in the market for similar products, Plaintiff believes and allege that the
17 proposed Classes consist of a sufficiently large number of members, and individual
18 joinder would be impracticable. The precise number and identities of Class members
19 are unknown to Plaintiff but should be obtainable through notice and discovery of
20 the Defendants’ business records of orders from, payments from, and shipments to
21 the direct purchasers. Notice can be provided through a variety of means including
22 mail and/or publication, the cost of which is properly imposed on Defendants. Class
23 members are so numerous and are dispersed throughout California and the United
24 States that joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Class members can be
25 identified by, inter alia, records maintained by the Defendants.

26 25. **Commonality and Predominance.** There are well-defined common
27 questions of fact and law that exist as to all members of the Classes and that
28 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Classes.

1 These include, but are not limited to, the following:

2 a. whether each Defendant's labeling and/or advertising of the Albums
3 was false and deceptive;

4 b. whether each Defendant's conduct was unfair, unlawful and/or
5 fraudulent;

6 c. whether each Defendant has breached an express warranty or contract
7 relating to the purchase of the Albums; and,

8 d. whether the Classes have sustained damages with respect to the claims
9 asserted, and if so, the proper measure of their damages.

10 26. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes
11 whose members sustained similar types of injuries arising out of the conduct
12 challenged in this action. The injuries flow from a common nucleus of policies and
13 practices by the Defendants and are based on the same legal theories. The claims of
14 the named-Plaintiff are typical of the claims of other members of the Classes in that
15 the named Plaintiff was exposed to each Defendant's false and misleading
16 misrepresentations and omissions, purchased one or more Albums in reliance on the
17 same misrepresentations and omissions, and suffered an injury or loss as a result of
18 those purchases.

19 27. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately
20 protect the interests of all Class members and has retained counsel competent and
21 experienced in class and employment litigation and who have been repeatedly found
22 to be adequate to represent the interests of class members in other complex class
23 actions.

24 28. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to other available methods for
25 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all Class
26 members is impracticable. Furthermore, the expense and burden of individual
27 litigation make it impossible for the Class members to individually redress the
28 wrongs done to them. The claims in this action are manageable on a class-wide basis

1 and can be the subject of a class-wide plan for litigating and resolving these issues.

2 **COUNT I**

3 **Breach of Express Warranty**

4 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this
5 Complaint as if fully set forth here.

6 30. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
7 the proposed Classes against Defendants.

8 31. Plaintiff and the rest of members of each Class purchased one or more
9 Albums from one or both of the Defendants. Albums are goods as defined under
10 Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code and California Commercial Code § 2105.
11 Each Defendant's sale of Albums constitutes a transaction in goods under Article 2
12 of the Uniform Commercial Code and California Commercial Code § 2102.

13 32. Defendants, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor,
14 producer and/or seller of the Albums, represented that the Albums are original
15 master recordings, as alleged herein. However, these representations were false
16 because the manufacture of the Albums included using a digital process, therefore
17 the Albums were not pure analog recordings. The Albums were not as represented
18 and did not conform to the affirmation, promise and/or description relating to each
19 of the Albums because they were not original master recordings. Instead, Mobile
20 Fidelity converted the original master analog recordings to digital files and/or used
21 digital files, digital mastering and/or direct stream digital to make the recordings,
22 and otherwise breached the Express Warranty as set forth in Class Action Complaint
23 (incorporated here by reference).

24 33. Defendants' representations as alleged herein constitute an affirmation
25 of fact or promise or a description relating to the Albums that were made to Plaintiff
26 and the rest of members of each Class, that became and/or were made part of the
27 basis of the bargain, *i.e.*, the purchase of Albums, and created an express warranty
28 under section 2-313 of the Uniform Commercial Code and section 2313 of the

1 California Commercial Code that the Albums shall conform to the affirmation,
2 promise and/or description relating to the Albums.

3 34. The express warranty made by Defendants, and each of them, to
4 Plaintiff and the rest of members of each Class, was breached by each of the
5 Defendants because the Albums were not as represented and did not conform to the
6 affirmation, promise and/or description relating to the Albums, as alleged herein.

7 35. Plaintiff, within a reasonable time after he discovered Defendants'
8 breach, notified Defendants that the Albums purchased by Plaintiff and the rest of
9 the Class members were not as represented.

10 36. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of express
11 warranty, Plaintiff and the rest of the Class have been injured and harmed because
12 they would not have purchased the Albums or would have paid substantially less for
13 them if they had known that the Albums were not analog albums as alleged above.

14 37. The failure of the Albums to be as represented was a substantial factor
15 in causing Plaintiff's and the rest of Class members' harm and resulting damages,
16 for which Plaintiff seeks and is entitled to recover on behalf of himself and the rest
17 of members of each Class, damages including but not limited to the difference
18 between the value of the Albums when purchased and the value they would have had
19 if they had been as warranted, or the amount each of them paid for each Album they
20 purchased, plus interest.

21 **COUNT II**

22 **Breach of Contract**

23 38. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this
24 Complaint as if fully set forth here.

25 39. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
26 the proposed Classes against Defendants.

27 40. Plaintiff and the rest of the Class entered into a contract to purchase
28 one or more Albums from one or both of the Defendants, and did all that the contract

1 required of them, *i.e.*, they paid for the Albums they purchased. Under each said
2 contract the contracting Defendant's required performance was to sell, deliver and
3 transfer an album that was an original master recording of the artist.

4 41. Each Defendant failed to perform as required by the contract because
5 what was sold to Plaintiff and the rest of the Class members was not an original
6 master recording of the artist. Plaintiff and the rest of the Class members have been
7 harmed thereby.

8 42. Each Defendant's breach of contract was a substantial factor in causing
9 Plaintiff's and the rest of the Class members' harm, for which Plaintiff seeks and is
10 entitled to recover on behalf of himself and the rest of the Class, damages including
11 but not limited to the difference between the value of the Albums when purchased
12 and the value they would have had if they had been as warranted, or the amount each
13 of them paid for each Album they purchased, plus interest.

14 **COUNT III**

15 **Fraud**

16 43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all
17 preceding paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth here.

18 44. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
19 the proposed Classes against Defendant.

20 45. As alleged above, Defendants provided Plaintiff and members of the
21 Classes with false or misleading material information about the Albums, namely
22 that the Albums were made from the original master recordings. Defendants failed
23 to disclose material information to Plaintiff and members of the Classes that the
24 Albums employed digital technologies in the production chain and therefore were
25 not analog albums.

26 46. These misrepresentations and omissions were made with knowledge of
27 their falsehood. Defendants manufacturer, produce, market and/or sell the Albums.
28 Further, Defendant Mobile Fidelity has admitted in a statement by its president in

1 August 2022 that it has been using digital technologies in the production chain of
2 Albums since as early as 2011. Defendant therefore knew that it employed digital
3 technologies in the mastering chain of the Albums.

4 47. A reasonable consumer seeing the designation “Original Master
5 Recording” would understand the Album was made from the original master
6 recording without any digital remastering.

7 48. The misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendants, upon
8 which Plaintiff and the rest of the Class reasonably and justifiably relied, was
9 intended to induce, and actually induced Plaintiff and members of the Classes to
10 purchase the Albums. The specific representations relied upon by Plaintiff are
11 alleged above.

12 49. Defendant had a duty to disclose the use of digital recording
13 technologies in the production chain to Plaintiff and members of the Classes
14 because (i) Defendant was in a fiduciary relationship with Plaintiff and members of
15 the Classes, (ii) Defendant had superior and exclusive knowledge of the use of
16 digital technologies in its production chain, and (iii) Defendant made partial
17 representations regarding the Albums as described above, while failing to disclose
18 that Defendant employed digital technologies in the production chain.

19 50. The fraudulent actions and fraudulent intent of Defendant caused
20 damage to Plaintiff and members of the Classes, for which Plaintiff seeks and is
21 entitled to recover, among other things, on behalf of himself and the rest of the
22 Class, compensatory, actual, incidental, consequential, exemplary and punitive
23 damages, plus interest.

24 51. Each Defendant’s conduct showed malice, motive, and the reckless
25 disregard of the truth such that an award of punitive damages is appropriate.

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COUNT IV

Violations of Unfair Competition Law/Consumer Protection Laws

52. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here.

53. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Classes against Defendants.

54. The consumer protection laws² (“Consumer Protection Laws”) of the fifty states and the District of Columbia prohibit the use of unfair or deceptive business practices in the conduct of trade or commerce.

55. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this cause of action because Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and has lost money or property as a result of Defendants’ actions as alleged herein. Plaintiff purchased Albums from Defendants. Defendants

² See, e.g., Ariz. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-1521, et seq.; Ark. Code §§ 4-88-101, et seq.; Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq.; Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, et seq.; Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq.; Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 6-1-101, et seq.; Conn. Gen Stat. §§ 42- 110, et seq.; 6 Del. Code §§ 2513, et seq.; D.C. Code §§ 28-3901, et seq.; Ga. Code §§ 10-1-390, et seq.; Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 480-2, et seq.; Idaho Code §§ 48-601, et seq.; Illinois 815 ILCS 501/1, et seq. Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 50-623, et seq.; Louisiana LSA-R.S. §§ 51:1401, et seq. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. Tit. 5, §§ 207, et seq.; Md. Code Ann. Com. Law, §§ 13-301, et seq.; Mass. Gen Laws Ann. Ch. 93A, §§ 1, et seq.; Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. §§ 445.901, et seq.; Minn. Stat. §§ 325F, et seq.; Mont. Code §§ 30-14-101, et seq.; Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 407, et seq.; Neb. Rev. St. §§ 59-1601, et seq. Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 41.600, et seq.; N.H. Rev. Stat. §§ 358-A:1, et seq.; N.J. Stat. §§ 56:8, et seq.; N.M. Stat. §§ 57-12-1, et seq.; N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law §§ 349 and 350; N.C. Gen Stat. §§ 75-1.1, et seq.; N.D. Cent. Code §§ 51-15, et seq.; Ohio Rev. Code §§ 1345.01, et seq.; Okla. Stat. Tit. 15 §§ 751, et seq. Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 646.605, et seq.; Pennsylvania 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, et seq. R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 6-13.1- 5.2(B), et seq.; S.C. Code Ann. §§ 39-5-10, et seq. S.D. Codified Laws §§ 37-24-1, et seq.; Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 47-18-101, et seq.; Tex. Code., Bus. & Con. §§ 17.41, et seq.; Utah Code. §§ 13-11-175, et seq.; Vermont 9 V.S.A. §§ 2451, et seq.; Va. Code Ann. §§ 59.1-199, et seq. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 19.86.010, et seq.; W. Va. Code §§ 46A, et seq.; Wis. Stat. §§ 100.18, et seq.; Wyo. Stat. §§ 40-12-101, et seq.

1 falsely advertised, marketed and/or represented that the Albums were made directly
2 from the original master recordings. Had Defendants not misrepresented or falsely
3 advertised the Albums as being original master recordings, Plaintiff would not have
4 purchased the Albums or he would have paid less.

5 56. The UCL and the Consumer Protection Laws prohibit unlawful, unfair
6 and/or fraudulent business practices alleged herein.

7 57. Defendants' acts and business practices, as alleged herein, violate the
8 "unlawful" prong of the UCL because they constitute, for example and without
9 limitation, violations of the express warranty provisions California Commercial
10 Code section 2313; violations of the FAL, as Defendants acts of untrue and
11 misleading advertising, as alleged herein, are, by definition, violations of California
12 Business and Professions Code section 17500; and violations of the CLRA which
13 bars representations that "goods ... have characteristics which they do not have" or
14 "are of a particular standard, quality, or grade ... if they are of another[]" (Cal. Civ.
15 Code §§ 1770(a)(5), (7)).

16 58. Defendants' acts and business practices, as alleged herein, violate the
17 "unfair" prong of the UCL because Defendants' conduct is immoral, unethical,
18 oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers, and otherwise
19 violates public policy based on the practices that are prohibited by the California
20 Commercial Code, FAL and CLRA.

21 59. Defendants' acts and business practices, as alleged herein, violate the
22 "fraudulent" prong of the UCL because they are likely to deceive a reasonable
23 consumer. Specifically, Defendants have violated the "fraudulent" prong of the UCL
24 by representing to Plaintiff and the Class that the Albums were made from original
25 master tapes when in fact digital files were used instead. As alleged above, Plaintiff
26 has identified the specific statements and information he read which was the reason
27 he bought the Albums.

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1 60. The harm to Plaintiff and to members of the general public outweighs
2 the utility of Defendants' practice and, consequently, their practice of falsely
3 advertising, marketing and/or representing that the Albums were pure analog and
4 original master recordings and/or failing to disclose that digital files were used to
5 make the Albums instead, constitutes an unfair business act or practice within the
6 meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200.

7 61. Defendants' practice, as alleged herein, is likely to mislead the general
8 public and, consequently, constitutes a fraudulent business act or practice under the
9 UCL and Consumer Protection Laws.

10 62. Defendants' alleged conduct constitutes repeated violations of the
11 Consumer Protection Laws of each state and the District of Columbia. Each
12 Defendant intended that Plaintiff and the rest of the Class would be induced to
13 purchase Albums based on, and would rely upon, each Defendant's deceptive
14 conduct, and a reasonable person would in fact be misled by the deceptive conduct
15 alleged herein.

16 63. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct alleged herein,
17 and each Defendant's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices, Plaintiff
18 and the rest of the Class members have suffered injury in fact and lost money or
19 property, for which Plaintiff seeks an order pursuant to California Business and
20 Professions Code section 17203 and the Consumer Protection Laws requiring
21 Defendants to make full restitution to Plaintiff and the rest of the Class of all monies
22 Defendants wrongfully obtained from Plaintiff and the rest of the Class, and/or that
23 damages be awarded to the Class, including but not limited to the difference
24 between the value of the Albums when purchased and the value they would have had
25 if they had been as warranted, or the amount each of them paid for each Album they
26 purchased, plus interest.

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COUNT V

Unjust Enrichment

64. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here.

65. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Classes against Defendant.

66. As a proximate result of each Defendant's conduct alleged herein, each Defendant has received benefits which it has unjustly retained at the expense of the Plaintiff and the rest of the Nationwide Class. Each Defendant has been unjustly enriched in the amount of the sale prices of Albums or the difference between the value of the Albums when purchased and the value they would have had if they had been as advertise, labelled, warranted and/or represented, or the amount each of them paid for each Album they purchased. Plaintiff seeks and is entitled to recover on behalf of himself and the rest of the Nationwide Class, among other things, restitution in the amounts Defendants were unjustly enriched, plus interest.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Classes, respectfully requests that this Court enter an order and judgment as follows:

1. For an order certifying that this action be maintained as a class action for all claims and appointing Plaintiff as the Representative of the Classes and Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;
2. For an order declaring that each Defendant's conduct violates the statutes referenced herein;
3. For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff and the Classes on all counts and for judgment thereon;
4. For an order and judgment for restitution and all actual, incidental, consequential, compensatory, statutory, exemplary and punitive damages in amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;

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- 5. For an award of attorneys' fees to the extent available under applicable law, including but not limited to California Civil Procedure Code § 1021.5;
- 6. For costs of suit herein incurred;
- 7. For pre-judgment interest on all amounts awarded; and,
- 8. For such other and further relief as this Court deems appropriate or which is allowed for in law or equity.

Dated: September 23, 2022

**ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG
& TORRIJOS LLP**

By: /s/Mike Arias
MIKE ARIAS
ARNOLD C. WANG
M. ANTHONY JENKINS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON LLP

NEVILLE L. JOHNSON
DANIEL B. LIFSCHITZ

Attorneys for Plaintiff
THOMAS MOLINARI

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all claims so triable as a matter of right, and for an advisory jury on all other causes of action.

Dated: September 23, 2022

**ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG
& TORRIJOS LLP**

By: /s/Mike Arias
MIKE ARIAS
ARNOLD C. WANG
M. ANTHONY JENKINS

JOHNSON & JOHNSON LLP

NEVILLE L. JOHNSON
DANIEL B. LIFSCHITZ

Attorneys for Plaintiff
THOMAS MOLINARI

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Thomas Molinari

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Napa (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

See Attachment

DEFENDANTS

AUDIOPHILE MUSIC DIRECT, INC.; MOBILE FIDELITY SOUND LAB, INC.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Ormsby County (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and incorporation status.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1)

Brief description of cause:

Misrepresentation to purchasers that record albums were original master recordings.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ according to proof CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) X SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 09/22/2022

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/Mike Arias

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section “(see attachment).”
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an “X” in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an “X” in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an “X” in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

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2 ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET

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4 I. (c) Attorneys for Plaintiff THOMAS MOLINARI

5
6 Mike Arias, Esq. (CSB #115385)
7 Arnold C. Wang, Esq. (CSB #204431)
8 M. Anthony Jenkins (CSB #171958)¹
9 **ARIAS SANGUINETTI WANG & TORRIJOS LLP**
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15 Neville L. Johnson, Esq. (CSB #66329)
16 Daniel B. Lifschitz, Esq. (CSB #285068)
17 **JOHNSON & JOHNSON LLP**
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19 Beverly Hills, CA 90210-3908
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21 Facsimile: (310) 975-1095
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¹ Petition for admission to be filed.