

February 18, 2015

Dear Mr. Hammond,

As PETA's director of Christian outreach and a fellow person of faith, I'm writing on behalf of PETA and its more than 3 million members and supporters with an urgent request. It was recently announced that you will be performing at SeaWorld's Praise Wave musical festival, and I'm writing to urge to cancel your performance. Instead of being "free to worship," orcas and other captive marine animals at SeaWorld are forced to endure suffering that looks nothing like the careful dominion and merciful stewardship that God has called us to. We hope that you will join dozens of other performers—including Martina McBride, Willie Nelson, and Trace Adkins—in standing up for God's creatures by canceling your performance.

Perhaps you've heard about the documentary [Blackfish](#), which has exposed the danger and cruelty of keeping orcas in captivity. As a result, SeaWorld's attendance and stock prices are plummeting. Here's why people are so outraged:

- At SeaWorld, marine mammals are kept in pitifully small tanks and are denied everything that is natural and important to them. Orcas would have to do more than 3,400 laps in the largest tank at SeaWorld to approximate the 100 miles they would swim in the ocean each day.
- Orcas navigate by echolocation. In SeaWorld's tanks, the reverberations from their own sounds bounce off the walls, which has been said to cause them to go insane.
- Some of the orcas at SeaWorld were violently captured from their ocean homes, and many are forced to learn circus-style tricks. According to whistleblower tips from trainers, food is sometimes withheld to get animals to perform.
- Terrified baby orcas are separated from their frantic mothers. In the wild, orca pods contain multiple generations, but in captivity, they are often denied the fulfillment of their God-given desire to be with their families.
- As a result of being held captive, orcas can become neurotic, self-destructive, and downright dangerous. Many have [injured themselves and other orcas](#), in addition to [killing their human trainers](#).

As a follower of Christ who is bound to the call of merciful stewardship, your voice matters and isn't alone. After hearing about the horrific abuses of animals at SeaWorld, thousands of Christians have ended their support of SeaWorld. Most importantly, by canceling your performance, you are taking a side with the marginalized and vulnerable, whom God has called us to protect. **Will you commit to canceling your performance at SeaWorld?** Thank you for your prayerful consideration. I look forward to your response.

In grace and peace,



Sarah Withrow King  
Director of Christian Outreach and Engagement