

February 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Chapman,

As PETA's director of Christian outreach, a fellow person of faith, and a longtime fan of your work, I'm writing on behalf of PETA and its more than 3 million members and supporters with an urgent request. I was *Speechless* when I heard that you will be performing at SeaWorld for its Praise Wave musical festival and urge you to cancel your performance. SeaWorld may market its *abusement* park as *The Great Adventure*, but the suffering that orcas and other captive marine animals at SeaWorld are forced to endure is *Hell in the Real World*. We hope that in light of the information below, you will refuse to participate in SeaWorld's abuse of God's creatures, as dozens of other performers—including Martina McBride, Willie Nelson, and Trace Adkins—have already done.

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. The following are some reasons 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. Unable to *dive in* or *go deep*, orcas would have to do more than 3,400 laps in the largest tank at SeaWorld to approximate the 100 miles that 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 permanently separated from their frantic mothers and sent to other facilities. 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, I hope you'll agree that the abuse I've described here contradicts the careful stewardship and loving dominion that we are called upon to show God's creatures. **Will you be a "Voice of Truth" and cancel your SeaWorld performance?** Thank you for your prayerful consideration. I look forward to your response.

For *all* God's creatures,



Sarah Withrow King
Director of Christian Outreach and Engagement