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LIQUID AUDIO INC
Form PRRN14A
August 09, 2002

SCHEDULE 14A
(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the registrant []

Filed by a party other than the registrant [X]

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement.
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)).
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Rule 14a-12.

LIQUID AUDIO, INC.
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

MM COMPANIES, INC.,
JEWELCOR MANAGEMENT, INC., BARINGTON COMPANIES EQUITY PARTNERS,
L.P., RAMIUS SECURITIES,
LLC, DOMROSE SONS PARTNERSHIP,
JAMES A. MITAROTONDA and SEYMOUR HOLTZMAN
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

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 - Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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- (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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[] Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

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PRELIMINARY COPY; SUBJECT TO COMPLETION
DATED August __, 2002

2002 ANNUAL MEETING OF
STOCKHOLDERS OF LIQUID AUDIO, INC.

PROXY STATEMENT
OF
THE MM COMPANIES, INC. GROUP

This proxy statement and the enclosed WHITE proxy card are being furnished to you, the holders of shares of common stock, par value \$.001 per share, of Liquid Audio, Inc., a Delaware corporation, in connection with the solicitation by MM Companies, Inc. (formerly known as musicmaker.com, Inc.) and other entities participating with MM Companies for use at the 2002 annual meeting of stockholders of the Company, and at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. The other entities participating with MM Companies are Jewelcor Management, Inc., Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P., Ramius Securities, LLC and Domrose Sons Partnership who, together with MM Companies, are referred to as the MM Companies group.

The MM Companies group is soliciting proxies to obtain control of the Company's board of directors and to oppose the Company's issuance of stock in connection with its proposed merger transaction with Alliance Entertainment Corp.

The Company has entered into a merger agreement with Alliance Entertainment pursuant to which the Company is making a tender offer for up to 10,000,000 shares of its common stock at \$3.00 per share, Alliance Entertainment would merge with a subsidiary of the Company and the stockholders of Alliance Entertainment would own 74% of the combined company following the merger. In order for these transactions to proceed, the Company's stockholders must vote to approve the issuance of the Company's stock to stockholders of Alliance Entertainment in the merger. We believe these transactions are not in the best interest of stockholders of the Company. By the Company's own admission, there is no assurance that the purported benefits of the merger will be realized and the merger involves significant risks.

Instead of these transactions, we are proposing that the Company use its cash to make a substantial distribution to all stockholders. Based upon publicly available information, we currently believe that the Company can make a

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distribution of \$3.00 per share. If the Company does not have sufficient cash to make a \$3.00 per share distribution, we believe that the Company should make a distribution that is as large as possible after reserving funds to satisfy the Company's obligations and minimal ongoing expenses. We also believe the Company should immediately discontinue its current cash draining operations, pursue avenues for monetizing the Company's technology through sale or licensing and explore other business opportunities to create stockholder value. Our nominees for director support these proposed actions and, if elected, will seek to implement them.

If our nominees are elected, they intend to advocate a series of actions to promote corporate democracy and place control of the Company firmly in the hands of stockholders

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acting by majority vote. These actions include elimination of the stockholder rights plan adopted by the current board and amendment of the Company's charter and by-laws to eliminate the staggered board and supermajority voting requirements and to allow stockholders to act by written consent. Further, we believe our nominees will bring to the board the judgment, experience, energy and objectivity needed to produce the maximum value for the Company's stockholders.

The Company currently has five directors divided into three classes. The terms of the two Class III directors expire at the 2002 annual meeting. The MM Companies group is nominating two directors, Seymour Holtzman and James A. Mitarotonda, for election to this class.

In addition, we are proposing to amend the Company's By-laws to expand the board of directors by four positions and to provide that only stockholders can take action to fill the positions created by vacancies, including vacancies created by an expansion of the board. In order to adopt the amendments to the By-laws, a vote of two-thirds of the outstanding shares is required. Subject to the passage of these amendments, we are proposing four additional nominees, Joseph R. Wright, Jr., Jesse H. Choper, William J. Fox and Thomas E. Constance, for election as directors. If our proposed amendments to the By-laws are adopted and all of our nominees are elected, our nominees will represent six of the nine members of the Company's board of directors.

The MM Companies group recommends that you vote

- o to elect each of our nominees;
- o to adopt our proposed amendments to the Company's By-laws; and
- o against the Company's proposal to issue stock in the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment.

See "The Proposals" for a complete description of the actions that we propose. See "Information About The MM Companies" and "Certain Other Information Regarding The MM Companies Group Nominees" for information about the MM Companies group and about our nominees.

The Company has announced that the 2002 annual meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. pacific time on September 26, 2002 in Redwood, California and that the record date for determining stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2002 annual meeting is August 12, 2002.

Your vote is important, no matter how many or how few shares of common stock you own. The MM Companies group urges you to mark, sign, date and return

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the enclosed WHITE proxy card promptly in accordance with the instructions set forth below. Please do NOT sign any proxy card you may receive from the Company.

You are urged to mark, sign and date the enclosed WHITE proxy card and return it in the enclosed envelope whether or not you plan to attend the 2002 annual meeting. If you need

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assistance in voting your shares of common stock, please call the MM Companies group's information agent, D.F. King & Co., Inc., toll-free at 1-800-431-9643 or if you are a bank or broker please call collect at 1-212-269-5550.

This Proxy Statement and the accompanying WHITE proxy card are first being furnished to the Company's stockholders on or about _____, 2002.

INTRODUCTION

The MM Companies group seeks to maximize value for all of the Company's stockholders. The MM Companies group does not believe that such value can be achieved through the Company's current business model, under which the Company is spending almost \$2 million each month while generating virtually no revenues. The MM Companies group has expressed its concerns to the Company and has requested representation on the Company's board of directors. To date, apart from one brief meeting, the Company has refused to meet with the MM Companies group or take any action to address our concerns.

In June 2002, the Company announced that it had entered into a merger agreement with Alliance Entertainment. At the 2002 annual meeting, the Company intends to seek stockholder approval for the issuance of stock in connection with such transaction. The MM Companies group does not believe the proposed merger is in the best interests of the Company's stockholders. The MM Companies group has informed the Company of its opposition to the transaction with Alliance Entertainment. See "Introduction -- The Proposed Merger With Alliance Entertainment" for additional information regarding the proposed merger and "Background Of And Reasons For The Solicitation" for the text of several of our letters setting forth our concerns about the proposed merger.

The Failure of the Current Business Plan

Since its inception in 1996, the Company has depleted \$103 million of the \$189 million that it has raised. The Company has accumulated a deficit of \$116 million on total revenues of just \$10 million, not including so-called "business development" revenues from related parties. It is no wonder that the Company's equity market value has declined by approximately 95% in the last two years.

Contrary to what one would expect for a successful development stage company, the Company's revenues have been declining over the past several quarters. Indeed, in the most recently completed quarter for which data is publicly available, the Company realized a grand total of \$136,000 in revenues and a cash burn of \$5,236,000. In its report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2002, the Company concedes:

"We expect to incur additional losses and negative cash flow from operations through at least mid-2003. Our revenues may not increase or even continue at their current levels and we may not achieve or maintain profitability or generate cash flow from operations in future periods. The digital music market may never develop to the extent that we are able to generate positive cash flows."

In a nod to this bleak outlook, in its report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 2001 the Company disclosed that in May 2001 it adopted "a corporate restructuring program to reduce expenses to preserve the Company's cash position while the digital music market develops." In the three quarters since adoption of this plan, the Company has squandered an additional \$17 million of its cash and accumulated losses of over \$16 million on revenues of just \$720,000, not including so-called "business development" revenues from related parties.

Our representatives have on various occasions voiced our deep-seated concerns about the Company's strategic direction, prospects and cash drain with current management. Over a period of approximately ten months, we sent a series of letters to the Company. Please see "Background Of And Reasons For The Solicitation" for the text of several of our letters to the Company. These letters spoke of the continuing depletion of the Company's assets, our belief of the absence of any realistic prospects under the current business plan and our forceful recommendation that the plan should immediately be terminated. We asked to meet or speak with the Company about these matters. Management did not respond to our letters or take actions to address our concerns. Both the MM Companies group and another significant stockholder of the Company, Steel Partners II, L.P., made offers to current management to acquire all the outstanding shares of the Company at a price in excess of the public trading value of the Company's shares. Management did not respond directly to these offers. Instead, management has characterized spending at a rate of over \$20 million a year while it waits for the development of fee generation within the digital music market as a "restructuring program."

The Proposed Merger with Alliance Entertainment

In June 2002, the Company announced that it had entered into a merger agreement with Alliance Entertainment. Under the terms of the merger agreement, the Company will conduct a self-tender offer at \$3.00 per share for up to 10,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock and issue shares of its common stock to the current stockholders of Alliance Entertainment. The self-tender will be consummated only if the Company's stockholders vote to approve the issuance of stock to Alliance Entertainment stockholders in the merger. Following the self-tender offer and the merger, the former Alliance Entertainment stockholders will own 74% and the Company's stockholders will own 26% of the combined organization. The Company also has stated that consummation of the self-tender offer and the merger is conditioned upon, among other things, the approval by the Company's stockholders of the issuance of shares in the merger to Alliance Entertainment stockholders. The Company is seeking stockholder approval at the 2002 annual meeting for such proposed stock issuance.

The MM Companies group does not believe that the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment or the related self-tender offer and issuance of stock to the stockholders of Alliance Entertainment is in the best interests of stockholders.

The Company's own proxy materials identify numerous risks and uncertainties in connection with the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment. For example, by the Company's own admission:

- o the lack of a public market for Alliance Entertainment capital stock makes it difficult to evaluate the fairness of the merger;

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- o the Nasdaq National Market may delist the Company's common stock following the merger;
- o the Company's stockholders may not realize a benefit from the merger commensurate with the ownership dilution they will experience in connection with the merger; o the combined organization may not realize the expected benefits from the merger and the market price of the Company's stock may decline as a result of the merger;
- o the Company has never been profitable, Alliance Entertainment has recently incurred net losses, and there is no certainty that the combined organization will achieve profitability;
- o the combined organization will have a significant stockholder whose interests may conflict with yours; and
- o the businesses in which the combined organization will engage are extremely competitive, one example of which is the election of several of Alliance Entertainment's retail chain customers to buy a substantial amount of their inventory directly from major labels and studios rather than from Alliance Entertainment.

The Company's proxy materials identify numerous other risk factors, including risk factors that relate specifically to the merger, risk factors that relate to the business of Alliance Entertainment and risk factors that relate to the Company's business. You should refer to the Company's proxy materials to review all of these risk factors in detail.

The Company's board and management argue that the anticipated benefits of the merger outweigh the risks. The MM Companies group does not believe this. In our view, the Company's current management has not in the past or in connection with the proposed merger demonstrated a focus on stockholder interests and value that justifies any confidence in management's judgment or objectivity. We say this because:

- o Having developed and presided over the Company's failed business plan, the current board lacks the objectivity to redirect the Company's business plan to one focused on stockholder value and returns.
- o The current board has a demonstrated inattentiveness to stockholder concerns. In the Company's three most recent earnings calls, Gerald W. Kearby, a founding director and chief executive officer of the Company whose term as a Class III director expires at the 2002 annual meeting, did not even entertain questions from analysts and stockholders.
- o The members of the current board and their affiliated entities own in the aggregate 1,847,338 shares or approximately 8.1% of the outstanding shares as compared with the 6,179,679 shares or approximately 28.9% of the outstanding shares that board members and their affiliated entities owned immediately following the Company's

initial public offering. The collective financial incentive of

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the board members as stockholders in the Company to grow the value of its equity is declining.

- o Only two of the six directors who served on the Company's board at time of its public offering approximately three years ago are still in office. A revolving board room door suggests disaffection with the current board and its strategic direction at the highest levels.
- o Mr. Kearby and Robert G. Flynn, a director and a senior vice president of the Company, will each be receiving a \$750,000 "retention payment" and a \$750,000 payment for "an agreement not to compete" if the merger is consummated.
- o Under the terms of the merger agreement that current management negotiated with Alliance Entertainment, Alliance Entertainment--but not the Company--is entitled to receive various payments if the merger agreement is terminated, including a payment of \$1,000,000 if the Company's stockholders vote not to approve the issuance of the Company's stock in the merger and an additional \$750,000 if the Company liquidates within six months thereafter.
- o In connection with the execution of the merger agreement with Alliance Entertainment, the board reduced the triggering threshold under the Company's stockholder rights plan from 15% to 10%, in what appears to us as an attempt to blunt stockholder opposition to the Alliance Entertainment merger.

Our Alternative Proposal: a \$3.00 per share Distribution in Cash

The MM Companies group is proposing, and our nominees will support, a distribution of \$3.00 per share in cash to all stockholders as promptly as practicable following the 2002 annual meeting. This compares with the Company's proposed self-tender, in which only 10 million of the Company's approximately 22.75 million shares will be exchanged for a \$3.00 cash payment, and the risks and uncertainties of the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment, as a result of which, as the Company's proxy materials state, stockholders may lose all of their investment.

Based upon current, publicly available information, we believe that the Company has sufficient available cash and cash equivalents to make the distribution that we propose. As reported by the Company, it had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$86.4 million at March 31, 2002. Assuming that the Company's cash drain in conducting its money losing operations continues at its recent pace of approximately \$5 million a quarter, the Company should have approximately \$76 million in cash at September 30, 2002, less expenses incurred in connection with the proposed merger. We estimate that approximately \$69 million should be required for the proposed \$3.00 per share distribution, based upon the number of shares reported by the Company to be outstanding at June 30, 2002 and the options reported by the Company to be outstanding at December 31, 2002.

If the Company does not have sufficient cash to make a \$3.00 per share distribution, we believe that the Company should make a distribution that is as large as possible after reserving funds to satisfy the Company's obligations and minimal ongoing expenses.

We believe that the certainty of a substantial cash distribution to all

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stockholders will provide value that is superior to the partial tender offer proposed by the Company and the risks and uncertainties of the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment. We therefore urge stockholders to oppose the merger with Alliance Entertainment by voting against the issuance of Company stock in connection with the proposed merger. See Proposal No. 3 under "The Proposals."

Our Platform

The MM Companies group is focused on the goal of achieving the greatest return to stockholders in which we will share on a pro rata basis. We have selected nominees with broad management, professional and financial experience. They are committed to the principles of our platform, with the goal of promoting stockholder value in the near term. In furtherance of these principles, if elected, our nominees intend to pursue:

- o an immediate distribution to stockholders of \$3.00 per share in cash, as described above;
- o immediate steps to slash the Company's general and administrative overhead and facility costs and drastically reduce the Company's use of operating cash;
- o avenues for the licensing or sale of the Company's technology, monetizing these assets in a manner that does not burden the Company's financial resources; and
- o depending on the resources available to the Company following the distribution, alternative business opportunities with prospects for positive cash flow and current profitability.

In addition, our nominees will act to eliminate the burdens that the Company's charter documents and current board have imposed on the exercise of corporate democracy at the Company. These steps include:

- o termination of the Company's stockholder rights plan, which imposes draconian penalties on stockholders or stockholder groups that beneficially own more than 10% of the Company's stock. Not only does such plan effectively prohibit accumulation of stockholdings in excess of this threshold, it may also have the effect of discouraging stockholders from collectively exercising their corporate democracy rights out of concern that they will be deemed to be a group owning more than 10% of the Company's shares;
- o subject to stockholder approval, amending the Company's charter to eliminate the staggered board and allow the Company's stockholders to elect the entire board on an annual basis;
- o subject to stockholder approval, amending the Company's charter to eliminate the requirement that a two-thirds vote of stockholders is required to modify the

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Company's By-laws and certain provisions of the charter, thereby allowing stockholders to act by no more than a simple majority of the outstanding shares; and

- o subject to stockholder approval, amending the Company's charter to eliminate the prohibition on stockholder action by written

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consent.

The nominees of the MM Companies group do not intend to hide behind the barricades erected by the Company's current board that restrict the power of stockholders to control their corporation. Unlike the current board, our director nominees are prepared to submit their performance to the judgment of stockholders, acting freely in the exercise of their electoral rights.

THE PROPOSALS

The MM Companies group is soliciting proxies from the holders of shares of common stock to elect nominees who will constitute a majority of the Company's board of directors. As described in more detail below, the proposals would accomplish this in two steps:

- o first, by electing two directors to fill the seats of the two existing Class III directorships that expire at the 2002 annual meeting; and
- o second, by amending the By-laws to expand the board of directors and authorize only stockholders to fill the newly created directorships, and by electing the four nominees of the MM Companies group to fill these new board positions.

The election of directors to fill the seats of the Class III directorships requires a plurality of the votes cast in the election. The election of directors to fill the newly created board positions requires a vote of the majority of shares outstanding on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting. The amendments to the By-laws to expand the board and authorize only stockholders to fill vacancies requires a 66 2/3% majority of the shares outstanding on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting.

The MM Companies group is also soliciting proxies from holders of shares of common stock to oppose the Company's proposed issuance of stock to Alliance Entertainment stockholders in connection with the proposed merger. Consummation of the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment is contingent upon stockholder approval of the proposed issuance of shares to Alliance Entertainment stockholders. The MM Companies group believes that the merger with Alliance Entertainment is not in the best interests of the Company's stockholders and urges stockholders to oppose the issuance of shares to Alliance Entertainment stockholders in the merger.

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The MM Companies group recommends that you vote for each of Proposal No. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and vote against Proposal No. 3 by checking the appropriate boxes and signing, dating and returning the enclosed WHITE proxy card.

Election of the Existing Class III Directors

Proposal No. 1 -- Election of the MM Companies group nominees as Class III Directors

Proposal No. 1 provides for the election of James A. Mitarotonda and Seymour Holtzman to serve as Class III directors until the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders. See "Certain Other Information Regarding The MM Companies Group Nominees" for information concerning the background and experience of Messrs. Mitarotonda and Holtzman.

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Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Accountants (Company Proposal)

Proposal No. 2 -- Ratification of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent accountants

Proposal No. 2 provides for the ratification of the appointment by the Company's board of directors of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent auditors to audit the Company's financial statements for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2002. See "Auditors" for further information regarding PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Authorization of Issuance of Common Stock (Company Proposal)

Proposal No. 3 -- Authorization of Issuance of Common Stock in connection with Proposed Merger with Alliance Entertainment

Proposal No. 3 provides for the issuance of common stock to the stockholders of Alliance Entertainment in connection with the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment. See "Introduction -- The Proposed Merger With Alliance Entertainment" for further information regarding the proposed merger. We are opposed to the proposed merger and urge you to vote against this proposal.

Amendment of the By-laws and Election of an Additional Four Directors

Proposal No. 4 -- Modification of Provision Regarding the Size of the Board of Directors

Proposal No. 4 provides for the amendment of Article III, Section 3.2 of the Restated By-laws of the Company to set the number of members of the board of directors at nine. The Restated By-laws currently provide that the board of directors shall consist of five (5) members, which number may be changed by an amendment to the Restated By-laws duly adopted by the board of directors or the stockholders or an amendment to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation. In particular, the amendment would delete the first sentence of Article III, Section 3.2 and substitute in its place the sentence "The board of directors shall consist of nine members."

The MM Companies group is proposing to increase the size of the board to facilitate the election of the MM Companies group nominees to a majority of the positions on the board.

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Proposal No. 5 -- Modification of Provision for Filling Board Vacancies

Proposal No. 5 provides for the amendment of Article III, Section 3.4 of the Restated By-laws to provide that any vacancies on the board of directors and newly created directorships may not be filled by the board of directors but only by action of the stockholders. The Restated By-laws currently provide that vacancies and newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors elected by the stockholders may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office. In addition, the Restated By-laws currently provide that whenever the holders of any class of stock or series thereof are entitled to elect one or more directors by the certificate of incorporation, vacancies and newly created directorships of such class or classes or series may be filled by a majority of the directors elected by such class or series thereof then in office. Proposal No. 5 would eliminate the power of the board of directors to fill all vacancies and newly created directorships and vest such power in the stockholders. In particular, the amendment would delete the text of Article III, Section 3.4 and replace it with the following:

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"Any director may resign at any time upon written notice to the attention of the Secretary of the corporation. When one or more directors shall resign from the board of directors, effective at a future date, such vacancy may only be filled by the stockholders entitled to vote thereon.

(a) Vacancies and newly created directorships resulting from any increase in the authorized number of directors elected by all of the stockholders having the right to vote as a single class may only be filled by a majority of the stockholders entitled to vote thereon.

(b) Whenever the holders of any class or classes of stock or series thereof are entitled to elect one or more directors by the certificate of incorporation, vacancies and newly created directorships of such class or classes or series may only be filled by a majority of the stockholders entitled to vote thereon. If at any time, by reason of death or resignation or other cause, the corporation should have no directors in office, then any officer, or any stockholder, or any executor, administrator, trustee or guardian of a stockholder, or other fiduciary entrusted with like responsibility for the person or estate of a stockholder may call a special meeting of the stockholders in accordance with the provisions of the certificate of incorporation or bylaws, or may apply to the Court of Chancery for a decree summarily ordering an election as provided in Section 211 of Delaware General Corporation Law."

The MM Companies group understands that many if not most Delaware corporations empower both stockholders and existing board members with the ability to fill vacancies and newly created directorships in the board of directors, and the inability of the Company's stockholders to do so is symptomatic of the entrenchment strategy implemented by current management. In the future, it may be advisable to vest a concurrent power in the board to fill vacancies. At this time, however, we are proposing that only stockholders may fill vacancies to facilitate the election of the MM Companies group's nominees under Proposal No. 6.

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Proposal No. 6 -- Election of the MM Companies Group's Nominees to fill the Four Newly Created Board Seats

Proposal No. 6 provides for the election of Jesse H. Choper and William J. Fox to serve as Class I directors until the 2003 annual meeting of stockholders, the election of Thomas E. Constance to serve as a Class II director until the 2004 annual meeting of stockholders and the election of Joseph R. Wright, Jr. to serve as a Class III director until the 2005 annual meeting of stockholders. See "Certain Other Information Regarding The MM Companies Group Nominees" for information concerning the background and experience of Messrs. Choper, Fox, Constance and Wright.

While Proposal No. 6 requires the vote of only a majority of the shares outstanding on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting, it is contingent on the adoption of Proposals No. 4 and 5, which each require a 66 2/3% vote of the shares outstanding on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting.

General

Each of the MM Companies group's nominees has consented to being named herein as a nominee for director of the Company and has agreed to stand for election as a director.

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Although the MM Companies group has no reason to believe that any of the MM Companies group's nominees will be unable to serve as a director, if any MM Companies group nominee is not available to serve, the MM Companies group expects that the remaining MM Companies group nominees, upon taking office, will fill the vacancy with an individual willing to consider and implement the MM Companies group's proposals to maximize stockholder value.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MM COMPANIES GROUP

Members of the MM Companies group, the MM Companies group nominees and certain other persons named below may be deemed to be "participants" in this Proxy Solicitation as such term is defined in Schedule 14A promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. MM Companies is a Delaware corporation that was formerly engaged in the business of marketing customized compact discs over the internet and is presently exploring alternative business opportunities. The address of the principal business and principal offices of MM Companies is c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P., 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10019. The officers and directors of MM Companies and their principal occupations and business addresses are set forth on Schedule I attached to this Proxy Statement.

Jewelcor Management, Inc. is a Nevada corporation primarily involved in investment and management services. The address of the principal business and principal offices of Jewelcor Management, Inc. is 100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd., Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702. The officers and directors of Jewelcor Management, Inc. and their principal occupations and business addresses are set forth on Schedule II attached to this Proxy Statement.

Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. is a Delaware limited partnership formed to engage in the business of acquiring, holding and disposing of investments in various companies.

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The address of the principal business and principal offices of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. is 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

The general partner of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. is Barington Companies Investors, LLC. Barington Companies Investors, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company formed to be the general partner of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. The address of the principal business and principal offices of Barington Companies Investors, LLC is 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10019. James A. Mitarotonda is the Managing Member of Barington Companies Investors, LLC. The business address of Mr. Mitarotonda is c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P., 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

Ramius Securities, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company and a registered broker-dealer. The address of the principal business and principal offices of Ramius Securities, LLC is 666 Third Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10017.

The Managing Member of Ramius Securities, LLC is Ramius Capital Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company that is engaged in money management and investment advisory services for third parties and proprietary accounts. The address of the principal business and principal offices of Ramius Capital Group, LLC is 666 Third Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10017.

The Managing Member of Ramius Capital Group, LLC is C4S, LLC, a Delaware

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limited liability company formed to be the managing member of Ramius Capital Group, LLC. The address of the principal business and principal offices of C4S, LLC is 666 Third Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10017. Each of Peter A. Cohen, Morgan B. Stark and Thomas W. Strauss is a Managing Member of C4S, LLC. The business address of each of Messrs. Cohen, Stark and Strauss is 666 Third Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10017.

Domrose Sons Partnership is a New York partnership formed to engage in the business of acquiring, holding and disposing of investments in various companies. The address of the principal business and principal offices of Domrose Sons Partnership is c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P., 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10019.

James Mitarotonda and his brothers Mario Mitarotonda and Mike Mitarotonda are partners in Domrose Sons Partnership. The business address of each of Mario Mitarotonda and Mike Mitarotonda is c/o Vincci, 70-39 Austin Street, Forest Hills, New York 11375.

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the MM Companies group owns an aggregate of 1,568,100 shares of common stock representing approximately 6.9% of the outstanding shares of the common stock based upon 22,749,626 shares of common stock reported by the Company in the registration statement on Form S-4, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 23, 2002, to be issued and outstanding as of June 30, 2002.

Additional information about MM Companies, the MM Companies group and the MM Companies group nominees including information regarding the beneficial ownership of common stock is set forth under the heading "Certain Other Information Regarding The MM Companies Group Nominees" and in Annex A attached to this Proxy Statement.

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The MM Companies group has retained D.F. King to act as an advisor and to provide consulting and analytic services and solicitation services in connection with this Proxy Solicitation. D.F. King is a proxy service company. It mails documents to stockholders, responds to stockholder questions and solicits stockholder votes for many companies. D.F. King does not believe that it or any of its directors, officers, employees, affiliates or controlling persons, if any, is a "participant" in this Proxy Solicitation or that Schedule 14A requires the disclosure of certain information concerning D.F. King. The business address of D.F. King is 77 Water Street, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10005. D.F. King has informed the MM Companies group that, as of the date of this Proxy Statement, it does not hold any shares of the Company's common stock for its own account or for the accounts of others.

BACKGROUND OF AND REASONS FOR THE PROXY SOLICITATION

Background

On various dates from August 14, 2001 through March 5, 2002, members of the MM Companies group purchased a total of 1,568,100 shares of common stock in the open market for a total purchase price of \$3,457,711, excluding commissions and related costs. The details of these purchases are set forth in Annex A attached to this Proxy Statement. All of the purchases were funded by working capital, which may have included margin loans made by brokerage firms in the ordinary course of business.

On October 8, 2001, MM Companies issued a press release indicating that it and certain other parties had acquired a 6.3% stock ownership stake in the Company and intended to acquire up to approximately an additional 8.6% stock

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ownership stake in the Company. On October 8, 2001, MM Companies also sent a letter to Gerald W. Kearby, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, informing the Company of the acquisition of stock by MM Companies and certain other reporting persons and the intention of such group to acquire additional shares. In the letter, MM Companies requested that the number of directors on the Company's board of directors be increased from five to six and that individuals proposed by MM Companies be appointed to fill two current vacancies on the Company's board of directors and the one newly created seat. MM Companies also requested that the Company meet with MM Companies in order to discuss ways to enhance stockholder value.

On October 9, 2001, the MM Companies group filed with the SEC its Schedule 13D disclosing that the group members had acquired in excess of 5% of the outstanding shares of the common stock.

MM Companies received no response to its letter of October 8, 2001.

On October 15, 2001, MM Companies sent a letter to Robert G. Flynn, Secretary of the Company, and Mr. Kearby. In the letter, MM Companies requested that the Company call a special meeting of stockholders of the Company on November 27, 2001 to elect Seymour Holtzman to fill the existing vacancy on the Company's board of directors, to replace the two directors currently on the board of directors whose term expires in 2002 with James A. Mitarotonda and Joseph R. Wright, Jr. and to make certain amendments to the Company's Restated By-laws. In addition, MM Companies requested that the Company give MM

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Companies the opportunity to inspect and make copies of a complete list of the Company's stockholders.

On October 22, 2001, Steel Partners II, L.P., an existing stockholder of the Company, delivered a letter to the Company offering to acquire all the outstanding stock of the Company for \$3.00 per share in cash.

On October 26, 2001, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Kearby requesting that the Company meet with MM Companies to discuss, among other things, an offer by MM Companies to acquire the Company on terms at least comparable to those proposed by Steel Partners II, L.P.

On November 5, 2001, the Company issued a press release announcing that two individuals had been elected to fill the existing vacancies on the Company's board of directors and that the Company was not interested in pursuing the acquisition offer previously made by Steel Partners II, L.P. or MM Companies.

As a result of the Company's announcement, MM Companies sent the following letter to Mr. Kearby, on November 9, 2001:

Dear Mr. Kearby:

As the second largest stockholders of Liquid Audio, Inc., we at musicmaker.com, Inc. and the others in our group have become increasingly concerned about Liquid Audio's situation, and management's apparent failure to respond to the very serious issues facing the Company.

In particular, we were disturbed to see that management has decided to completely ignore both the premium acquisition proposal publicly announced by Steel Partners II, L.P., and our own offer to acquire the Company on terms at least comparable to the Steel Partners proposal (or, alternatively, to work with you on other approaches to enhance shareholder value). We were also taken aback to first learn of management's position through public news reports, rather than

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receiving the courtesy of a direct response to our October 26 letter to you and the Board. In fact, since we first contacted you privately more than one month ago to inform you of our stock ownership, you have refused to respond in any way to our repeated requests to meet with you.

Our interests are the same as any other public stockholder. Liquid Audio has never shown a profit and is losing extraordinary amounts of money with each passing day. In two years, the Company's stock has lost a staggering 95% of its market value. The consensus of the financial community seems to be that Liquid Audio's business model will never be successful and that the Company's value will only decline as it continues to spend money without results. We understand that at least two separate lawsuits have already been filed by Liquid Audio stockholders against the Company and its directors individually, alleging serious breaches of management's fiduciary duties.

In the face of this crisis, investors see management doing nothing to stem the Company's losses or promote shareholder value. At the same time, management has rejected out-of-hand serious offers to acquire the Company at a premium of more than 25% over the prior market price, and is refusing to even communicate with the Company's two largest stockholders.

Moreover, three weeks ago we requested that all Liquid Audio stockholders be given an immediate opportunity to vote as a group to fill the long-existing vacancies on the Company's Board of Directors. Instead of permitting the Company's stockholders to exercise their franchise, management

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reacted to our request by suddenly announcing last Monday that management had privately filled those long-vacant Board seats with its own designees.

The present situation cannot be good for management or for the Company's public stockholders, who continue to suffer from management's actions. We are writing separately, as concerned stockholders, to pursue our request under Delaware corporate law to inspect certain books and records of the Company. We also urge you once again to seriously and responsibly consider the acquisition proposals that have been presented to the Company, and to schedule a meeting with us promptly to discuss our own acquisition offer as well as other potential alternatives for the Company and its stockholders.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

/s/ Seymour Holtzman

Seymour Holtzman
Chairman

/s/ James Mitarotonda

James Mitarotonda
President and Chief Executive Officer
MUSICMAKER.COM, INC.

On December 6, 2001, James Mitarotonda met with management of the Company and expressed concerns about the continuing viability of the Company.

On December 18, 2001, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Flynn and Mr. Kearby informing the Company that at the 2002 annual meeting MM Companies intended to nominate certain individuals as directors and to propose certain

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amendments to the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Restated By-laws. In addition, MM Companies requested that it be given an opportunity to inspect the stockholder list.

As a follow-up to its letter of December 18, 2001, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Flynn and Mr. Kearby on December 20, 2001 notifying the Company that at the 2002 annual meeting MM Companies intended to propose an amendment to the Company's Restated By-laws increasing the size of the board of directors to ten and to fill the four newly created directorships with designated individuals.

On February 6, 2002, the Company announced that Silvia Kessel had resigned as a member of the Company's board of directors.

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In response to such announcement, on February 12, 2002 MM Companies sent a letter to the Company's board of directors requesting that the Company schedule the 2002 annual meeting at the earliest possible date.

On February 22, 2002, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Kearby setting forth MM Companies' willingness to acquire the Company at a price of \$2.50 per share in cash.

In light of the Company's failure to schedule an annual meeting and to consider MM Companies' proposal to acquire the Company, on April 4, 2002, MM Companies sent the following letter to the Company's stockholders:

To Stockholders of Liquid Audio, Inc.

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

As you may know, musicmaker.com, Inc. and others in our group beneficially own an aggregate of approximately 6.9% of Liquid Audio's outstanding common stock. Together we are the Company's second largest stockholder.

We have repeatedly written to, and on one occasion met with, members of the Company's management and Board of Directors to express our deep concerns regarding the Company's financial situation and strategic direction. In our correspondence, as well as the one brief meeting to which management consented, we have indicated that we do not believe that management's current plans for the Company are viable. We think it is unlikely that the Company will realize any economic value from the license agreements it is entering into or the expensive litigation it is pursuing to protect technology which it is not able to successfully exploit. In fact, based on the experience of musicmaker's own business under its prior management, we question the business model underlying all of these license agreements and fear that they will yield little or no revenue for the Company.

We are convinced that the only reasonable path to preserving what value remains for stockholders is a sale of the Company, either to us or, if a more attractive opportunity emerges, to a third party. We also believe that, in all events, it is crucial that the interests of all shareholders be adequately represented on the Company's Board of Directors at the earliest possible time.

In October 2001, we wrote to the Company to indicate our interest in pursuing a potential acquisition of Liquid Audio at a price we then anticipated could be in the range of \$3.00 per share - a premium of more than 25% over the market price at that time. Management eventually responded by rejecting out of hand what we believe was an attractive offer. Unfortunately, we believe the

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Company's situation has deteriorated further over the past four months.

Despite this deterioration, and the fact that the Company has lost 95% of its equity market value in the last two years while continuing to deplete cash rapidly under its current operating strategy, we believe that there is still value inherent in the Company. Accordingly, last month we wrote again to the Company to state our willingness to acquire the Company on a negotiated basis, through a merger with an appropriate acquisition entity, for a price of \$2.50 per share in cash. This proposal is higher than the current market price of the Company's stock, and would provide the Company's stockholders with an immediate opportunity to realize value from their investment in the Company in excess of any presently available alternative. Once again, however, our proposal has been ignored by management.

Neither we nor any other potentially interested party can effectively pursue an acquisition proposal by, for example, making a tender offer directly to Liquid Audio's stockholders as long as

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management retains its so-called "poison pill" or shareholders' rights plan. However, assuming no further acceleration in the Company's deterioration, we are willing to commit to making a tender offer for the Company's stock if management would eliminate the "poison pill" and permit such an offer to proceed.

In the meantime, it is vital that the interests of all stockholders be recognized at the Board level. We have given notice, in accordance with the Company's by-laws, of stockholder nominations for directors at the Company's 2002 Annual Meeting. We have also requested that management hold that meeting as soon as possible. Last year's annual meeting was held on June 1, and the Company's by-laws require the meeting to be held on the second Tuesday of May unless the Board of Directors has set a different date. In a February 12, 2002 letter to the Board of Directors, we indicated that if management did not commit to an expeditious meeting schedule by February 22, we must take that as a sign that management will attempt to delay holding an annual meeting. From management's continued silence on the subject, we fear the worst.

We told the Company months ago that we believed time was of the essence in addressing the Company's problems. That is more true than ever now. With every passing day, the Company expends substantial additional cash, the Company's perceived value declines, and the Company's alternatives and prospects are correspondingly reduced. The time for action has come.

Management's apparent indifference to stockholders - the real owners of the Company - is deeply disturbing. For two successive quarterly conference calls with the investor community management has ignored prevailing business practice and refused to accept questions. Management does not return phone calls or e-mails. Management's ownership interest in the Company, meanwhile, is minimal. It is your investment and our investment as stockholders that is at risk. Where management seems to lack both the will and the economic incentive to act, then we believe all stockholders must become more involved, and be prepared to protect their own interests through participation on the Board of Directors.

We believe the Company's public stockholders risk additional substantial losses if management continues to deplete cash, at a rate of approximately \$5.5 million per quarter, while refusing to either discuss serious offers to acquire the Company at a premium or consider any other potential alternative to maximize value for the Company and its stockholders. Management has adopted an "ostrich strategy" of sticking its head in the sand, ignoring the realities facing the Company and hoping no one will notice. We notice, and we hope other stockholders will notice as well when they focus on the facts.

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In your own best interests, we urge you to make your views known to management now. If you agree with us, let them know that stockholders will not tolerate a delay in this year's crucial annual meeting. Let them know that stockholders want the opportunity to consider and accept or reject for themselves a cash offer for their shares. We understand that Mr. Kearby and the other senior officers and directors of the Company may be contacted as follows:

Gerald W. Kearby, President & Chief Executive Officer
Liquid Audio, Inc.
800 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, California 94063
(650) 549-2000

Robert Flynn, Senior Vice President Business Development
Liquid Audio, Inc.
800 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, California 94063
(650) 549-2000

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Raymond A. Doig, President
EMV Partners Corporation
c/o Liquid Audio, Inc.
800 Chesapeake Drive
Redwood City, California 94063

Stephen V. Imbler, President and Chief Financial Officer
Hyperion Solutions Corporation
1344 Crossman Avenue
Sunnydale, California 94089
(408) 744-9500

Ann L. Winblad
Hummer Winblad Venture Partners
2 South Park, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, California 94109
(415) 979-9600

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (212) 974-5701 or write to me via e-mail at jmitarotonda@barington.com.

Very truly yours,

/s/ James A. Mitarotonda

James A. Mitarotonda
President and Chief Executive Officer

On May 3, 2002, MM Companies filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware to compel the Company to hold its 2002 annual meeting and to require the Company to accept the nominations for directors and other proposals previously submitted by MM Companies.

On May 15, 2002, MM Companies sent the following letter to Mr. Flynn, Mr. Kearby and the board of directors of the Company:

Gentlemen:

We understand that Liquid Audio, Inc. has set July 1, 2002 as the date

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for its 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Accordingly, we will suspend our lawsuit to compel a meeting, which is currently pending against the Company in Delaware Chancery Court.

As you are aware, on December 18, 2001 and December 20, 2001, we notified the Company of our intention to nominate certain individuals as directors of the Company and to present certain proposals at the 2002 Annual Meeting. For the avoidance of any doubt, we reaffirm our intention to nominate the named persons and to present our proposals, as set forth in our prior correspondence (copies of which are attached), except for the following. We will not be presenting our proposals to amend the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and to rescind the Company's "shareholder rights plan." While we continue to believe that these actions are essential for the Company, we intend to focus our campaign on

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the key issue facing the stockholder electorate -- installing management that is guided by the interests of stockholders and not an unattainable business (or should we say "non-business") plan.

As we have previously indicated to you, we and other stockholders who have contacted us to express their views are deeply concerned about the ongoing depletion of the Company's cash and the other critical issues facing the Company. We expect that between now and the 2002 Annual Meeting the Company's board of directors and its management will take no action that will prejudice the rights of stockholders, including entering into any transaction to buy or sell the Company or any material amount of its assets or taking action that would deplete the Company's already dwindling cash supply. On the contrary, we demand that, even in advance of the Annual Meeting, management close down the Company's money losing operations and arrest the Company's senseless cash drain.

We also advise you that we will hold the current board and management strictly accountable for any action taken in advance of the Annual Meeting that would effectively thwart the exercise of the right of the stockholder electorate to choose directors who will be responsive to the public owners of the Company and who will be guided first and foremost by their interests.

Very truly yours,
musicmaker.com, Inc.

By: /s/ James A. Mitarotonda

James A. Mitarotonda
President and Chief Executive Officer

On May 15, 2002, based on the Company's public announcement that the Company's 2002 annual meeting was scheduled to be held on July 1, 2002, MM Companies suspended its lawsuit to compel a meeting.

On May 30, 2002, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Flynn, Mr. Kearby and the board of directors of the Company, in which it expressed its concern that the Company had filed a proxy statement with the SEC on May 28, 2002 without disclosing the MM Companies group's proposed solicitation of proxies in connection with the Company's 2002 annual meeting. In such letter, MM Companies noted that such failure constituted a significant omission and demanded that the Company not mail its proxy materials to stockholders without correcting its materials to accurately disclose the proxy contest to stockholders.

On May 30, 2002, MM Companies filed a lawsuit against the Company in the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware pursuant to Section 220(b) of the

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Delaware General Corporation Law to compel the Company to permit MM Companies to inspect and make copies of a complete list of the Company's stockholders and related materials. On June 5, 2002, the Company provided to MM Companies a list of the Company's stockholders.

On June 13, 2002, the Company issued a press release announcing that it had signed a definitive merger agreement with Alliance Entertainment and that the Company had postponed its 2002 annual meeting scheduled for July 1, 2002. In response to the Company's public announcement, on June 13, 2002, MM Companies sent a letter to Mr. Kearby and the board of directors of the Company, expressing its dissatisfaction with the Company's proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment and advising the Company to proceed with its 2002 annual meeting on July 1, 2002.

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On June 14, 2002, MM Companies amended its existing complaint against the Company filed in the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware pursuant to Section 211 of the Delaware General Law to seek an order to compel the Company to hold its 2002 annual meeting on July 1, 2002 and filed a motion with the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware for expedited proceedings with respect to such pending action. On such date, MM Companies also sent the following letter to Eric Weisman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Entertainment:

Dear Mr. Weisman:

Your company, Alliance Entertainment, has purported to enter into an agreement for the acquisition of a majority interest in Liquid Audio, Inc. through a merger transaction. Well before you and Liquid Audio announced the agreement yesterday, musicmaker.com, Inc. and other members of its group announced and then commenced a proxy solicitation for election of directors of Liquid Audio and control of its board at an annual meeting of stockholders scheduled for July 1, 2002. We also publicly cautioned Liquid Audio not to enter into any agreement or take other action that would commit Liquid Audio to a major corporate transaction in advance of the stockholders meeting. You undoubtedly knew both of our solicitation and our cautionary notice to the company at the time you and Liquid Audio purported to execute your agreement.

You should have known as well that Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, who represented Liquid Audio in its negotiations with Alliance Entertainment, has represented and continues to represent musicmaker.com. In our view Wilson Sonsini's representation of Liquid Audio in the circumstances is adverse to the interests of musicmaker.com and a violation of applicable principles of professional conduct. We have so informed Wilson Sonsini, and this should have been apparent to you as well.

We note further that the breakup fee provisions of your purported agreement unconscionably seek to penalize Liquid Audio stockholders for exercising their rights to reject your transaction and a properly constituted board of Liquid Audio for exercising its fiduciary duties to do the same.

We therefore inform you that we do not regard your agreement with Liquid Audio as binding on the company and we will conduct ourselves accordingly.

Very truly yours,
/s/ James Mitarotonda

James Mitarotonda
President and Chief Executive Officer

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On June 14, 2002, MM Companies sent the following letter to Ann Winblad, a member of the Company's board of directors:

Dear Ms. Winblad:

The reason I am writing to you is that telephonic and written communications to Mr. Kearby have been fruitless because Mr. Kearby has failed to respond.

Although shareholders do not have the specific financial information regarding the proposed transaction with Alliance Entertainment Corp., many respected individuals in the industry have indicated that Alliance is involved in an industry that operates on very thin margins, which makes profitability very difficult. As you may be aware, Alliance filed bankruptcy in 1997, and was then acquired by Yucaipa

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Companies in 1998. Furthermore, Yucaipa gave Alliance an additional \$25 million in November 2000, to fund its digital properties.

Why would a company with \$600 million in revenues in its most recent fiscal year merge with Liquid Audio, who only had revenues of \$136,000 in the most recent quarter? I would speculate that Yucaipa's interest in Liquid Audio is for the approximate \$85 million in cash that Liquid Audio has in the bank. I also suspect that Alliance has a substantial amount of debt, and desperately needs a cash infusion to continue to operate its business.

The proposed transaction has onerous and ridiculous breakup fees, which in my opinion, are clearly designed to entrench Liquid Audio's current management and permit Mr. Kearby to maintain his position with the company and continue wasting corporate assets. The inclusion of a provision to pay Alliance an additional \$750,000 if the Company decides to liquidate within six months if the transaction is not approved by shareholders is unconscionable.

I am sure you realize the anger Liquid Audio's shareholders have toward management and the Board of Directors, as they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in market value. We have received numerous calls from large and small shareholders who are outraged and disgusted with the shabby treatment they have received from the management of the Company.

It seems to me that as a venture capitalist you would require the management of the Company to be sensitive to shareholder concerns, especially as the Company lost over \$37 million last year, and had a cash burn in the recent quarter of \$5 million.

The Company did not announce or hold its 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders on a timely basis and has wasted substantial sums of money in an effort to frustrate and thwart the shareholder process. I respectfully request that you and your fellow directors permit the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to occur on Monday, July 1, 2002, as the Company had originally scheduled. The Company has already spent the money for this meeting and filed its preliminary proxy with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

I sincerely believe that two substantial outside directors, such as James Mitarotonda and myself, would provide shareholders an avenue in which to express their views. The Company needs input from "truly independent directors."

In the investment banking industry, your reputation should be sacred. In my opinion, you have done yourself and your firm a great disservice by permitting yourself to be involved in the wasteful acts carried out by

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management and the Board of Directors of Liquid Audio, Inc. How could you in good conscience allow the Company to potentially pay up to \$3 million in breakup fees, when you know the shareholders want the Company to liquidate its assets?

The shareholders spoke clearly yesterday when the stock dropped by 10% and traded more than three times its normal volume.

If you would like to discuss this matter, I can be reached at (570) 822-6277, ext. 23.

Sincerely,
/s/ Seymour Holtzman

Seymour Holtzman
Chairman of the Board

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On June 20, 2002, the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware entered an order setting a trial date of July 15, 2002 on the motion of MM Companies to require the Company to hold its 2002 annual meeting.

On July 15, 2002, the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware ordered that the Company's 2002 annual meeting be held on September 26, 2002 and that the record date for determining those stockholders entitled to vote at the 2002 annual meeting be August 12, 2002.

Also on July 15, 2002, the Company issued a press release announcing that it had modified certain terms of its previously announced merger with Alliance Entertainment. The Company indicated that pursuant to the terms of such amended agreement, the Company intended to conduct a self-tender offer for 10,000,000 shares of common stock at \$3.00 per share and that after the merger Alliance Entertainment stockholders would own 74% of the combined enterprise. In addition, the Company announced that it had approved an amendment to the Company's existing stockholder rights plan to reduce the triggering threshold from 15% beneficial stock ownership to 10% beneficial stock ownership.

In response to the Company's announcement, on July 16, 2002, MM Companies sent the following letter to Mr. Kearby, Mr. Flynn and the board of directors of the Company:

Gentlemen:

Liquid Audio, Inc.'s new proposal of a merger with Alliance Entertainment combined with a self-tender offer to acquire 10 million shares of the Company's stock at \$3.00 per share does not cure our fundamental objections. As I am sure you know, the record business is in a shambles with the likelihood that it will get worse before it gets better. In view of these circumstances, we are categorically opposed to this transaction.

If the Company's management is serious about enhancing shareholder value, we believe the Company should distribute \$3.00 per share to ALL of Liquid Audio's shareholders. Thereafter, a determination can be made with the remaining cash in the corporation to either make a further distribution, or to retain a moderate amount of cash and fold it into a viable business. Furthermore, this is a matter that the shareholders should ultimately decide.

We vigorously protest the Board of Directors' decision to amend the Company's preferred stock rights agreement - the poison pill - to reduce the triggering threshold from beneficial ownership of 15% of Liquid Audio's outstanding shares to beneficial ownership of 10%. The Board's conduct is

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unconscionable and, in our opinion, may constitute a breach of their fiduciary duties.

Your immediate response to this letter would be appreciated.

/s/ Seymour Holtzman

Seymour Holtzman
Chairman

/s/ James Mitarotonda

James Mitarotonda
President & CEO

On July 23, 2002, MM Companies filed a lawsuit against the Company, its board of directors and Alliance Entertainment in the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware seeking injunctive and other relief with respect to the consummation of the proposed merger between the

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Company and Alliance Entertainment, the effectuation and enforcement of the merger agreement between the Company and Alliance Entertainment, the consummation of the Company's proposed self-tender offer, the reduction of the "trigger" of the Company's stockholder rights plan and the effectuation and enforcement of the Company's stockholder rights plan to the extent that it interferes with the exercise by the Company's stockholders of their right to vote. In connection with such action, MM Companies filed motions for expedited proceedings and for a preliminary injunction.

On July 23, 2002, the Company filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 for the proposed issuance of common stock to the stockholders of Alliance Entertainment in connection with the merger transaction with Alliance Entertainment approved by the Company's board of directors which registration statement included the Company's preliminary proxy materials.

On July 31, 2002, MM Companies sent a letter to the Court of Chancery in the State of Delaware withdrawing its motions for injunctive relief and expedited proceedings in the pending litigation. In such letter, MM Companies indicated that it intended to amend its existing complaint against the Company, the board of directors and Alliance Entertainment.

On August 2, 2002, MM Companies issued a press release confirming that it is continuing its pending lawsuit against the Company, the board of directors and Alliance Entertainment.

CERTAIN OTHER INFORMATION REGARDING
THE MM COMPANIES GROUP NOMINEES

Set forth below are the name, age, business address, present principal occupation, employment history and directorships of each of the MM Companies group's nominees for at least the past five years. This information has been furnished to the MM Companies group by the respective MM Companies group nominees. Each of the MM Companies group nominees has consented to serve as a director of the Company. Each of the MM Companies group nominees is at least 18 years of age. None of the entities referenced below is a parent or subsidiary of the Company.

Name, Age and Business Address

Present Principal Occupation, Five Year
Employment History and Directorships

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Jesse H. Choper, 64
University of California at Berkeley
School of Law
Berkeley, California 94720

Mr. Choper has been the Earl Warren Professor of Public Law at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law since 1965. Professor Choper was the Dean of the Law School from 1982 to 1992. In 1996, he was a visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, University of Milan in Italy Law School and Universidad Autonoma in Barcelona, Spain. From 1960 to 1961, Professor Choper was a law clerk for Chief Justice Earl Warren. Mr. Choper is a

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William J. Fox , 45
c/o Arcade Marketing Inc.
120 East 56th Street
Suite 1200
New York, New York 10022

member of the board of directors of Designs, Inc. (NASDAQ:DESI) and MM Companies, Inc. (OTCBB:MMCO).

Mr. Fox is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Arcade Marketing Inc., a company which specializes in consumer product multi-sensory marketing sample systems and related consumer communication printing. Mr. Fox was President, Strategic and Corporate Development of Revlon Worldwide, Senior Executive Vice President of Revlon, Inc. and Revlon Consumer Products Corporation ("RCPC") (collectively, "Revlon") and Chief Executive Officer, Revlon Technologies, a division of Revlon, from January 1998 through January 1999. He was Executive Vice President from 1991 through January 1997 and Senior Executive Vice President from January 1997 through January 1999 and Chief Financial Officer of Revlon from 1991 to 1997. Mr. Fox served as a director from November 1995 of Revlon, Inc. and from September 1994 of RCPC, until April 1999. He was Senior Vice President of MacAndrews and Forbes Holding Inc., the indirect majority shareholder of Revlon, from August 1990 through January 1999. Mr. Fox currently serves as a director, Co-Chairman of the board and Chairman of the Audit Committee of Loehmanns Holdings Inc. (OTCBB:LHMS.OB). Mr. Fox also is a member of the board of directors of the Fragrance Foundation, the Executive Board of the Dwight Englewood School, the Executive Board of the Federal Drug Agents Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Hope & Hero's Children's Cancer Fund at Columbia University NY Presbyterian Medical Center.

Seymour Holtzman, 66
100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd.
4th Floor
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702

Mr. Holtzman has been involved in the retail business for over 30 years. For many years he has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Jewelcor, Inc., a former New York Stock Exchange company that operated a chain

of retail stores. From 1986 to 1988, Mr. Holtzman was the Chairman of the Board and

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the Chief Executive Officer of Gruen Marketing Corporation, an American Stock Exchange company involved in the nationwide distribution of watches. For at least the last five years, Mr. Holtzman has served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of each of Jewelcor Management, Inc., a company primarily involved in investment and management services; C.D. Peacock, Inc., a Chicago, Illinois retail jewelry establishment; and S.A. Peck & Company, a retail and mail order jewelry company based in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Holtzman is currently the Chairman of the Board of two publicly traded companies: Designs, Inc. (NASDAQ:DESI) and MM Companies, Inc. (OTCBB:MMCO). Mr. Holtzman is a former Chairman of the Board and a current director of Little Switzerland, Inc. (OTCBB:LSVI), a leading jewelry retailer in the Caribbean, Alaska and Key West, Florida. Mr. Holtzman is a well-known shareholder activist who specializes in the banking industry and the retail industry.

James A. Mitarotonda, 48
c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P.
888 Seventh Avenue
17th Floor
New York, New York 10019

Mr. Mitarotonda is Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Barington Capital Group, L.P., an investment firm which he co-founded in November 1991. Mr. Mitarotonda is also President and Chief Executive Officer of Barington Companies Investors, LLC, the general partner of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P., a small capitalization value fund which seeks to be actively involved with its portfolio companies in order to enhance shareholder value. Mr. Mitarotonda is also President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of MM Companies, Inc. (OTCBB:MMCO). In May 1988, Mr. Mitarotonda co-founded Commonwealth Associates, an investment banking, brokerage and securities trading firm. Mr. Mitarotonda served as Chairman of the Board and Co-Chief Executive Officer of JMJ Management Company Inc., the general partner of Commonwealth Associates. From December 1984 to May 1988, Mr. Mitarotonda was employed as Senior Vice

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President/Investments by D.H. Blair & Co., an investment bank, brokerage and securities trading firm focused on micro-capitalization companies. From July 1981 to November 1984, Mr. Mitarotonda was employed by Citibank, N.A. with management responsibility for two of Citibank's business banking branches and became Regional Director of Citibank's Home Equity Financing and Credit Services. Mr. Mitarotonda is a member of the Alumni Advisory Council of New York University's Stern School of Business and is a member of the Executive Committee and Co-Chairman of Membership of the Gotham Chapter of the Young President's Organization. He graduated from Queens College with a BA honors degree in economics and with an MBA from New York University's Graduate School of Business Administration (now known as the Stern School of Business).

Joseph R. Wright, Jr., 63
c/o PanAmSat Corp.
20 Westport Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Mr. Wright is President and Chief Executive Officer of PanAmSat Corp. (NASDAQ:SPOT), a public company that provides global video and data broadcasting services via satellite. Mr. Wright is also Vice Chairman of Terremark Worldwide Inc. (AMEX:TWW), a public company that develops and operates Network Access Point (NAP) telecommunications data centers in the U.S. and internationally. From 1995 to May 2000, Mr. Wright was Chairman, CEO and Director of AmTec, Inc., a public company providing telecommunications and Internet services to and from the U.S. and the Far East, which merged with Terremark Holdings, Inc. From 1996 to May 2000, Mr. Wright was Chairman and Director of GRC International, Inc., a public information technology company which was sold to AT&T. From 1989 to 1994, Mr. Wright was Vice Chairman, EVP and Director of W. R. Grace & Company, Chairman and Director of Grace Energy Company, and President of Grace Environmental Company. Prior to his tenure at Grace, he was Deputy Director then Director of the Federal Office of Management and Budget

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(OMB) under President Reagan, serving in the Cabinet and the Executive Office of the President from 1982 to 1989. He was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce, with oversight of the International Trade Administration, from 1981 to 1982 and later was on the President's Export Council as Chairman of the Export Control Subcommittee.

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Prior to the 1980s, Mr. Wright was President of Citicorp Retail Services and Retail Consumer Services, credit card subsidiaries of Citibank, N.A., following positions in the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture in various management and economic roles, including acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs. He began his career at Booz, Allen and Hamilton, Inc. Mr. Wright is Chairman of the Advisory Board of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. Mr. Wright also currently serves on the board of directors of PanAmSat Corp., Titan Corporation, Baker & Taylor, Verso Technologies, Inc., Jefferson Consulting Group, RealMed and Fairmarket, Inc. (NASDAQ:FAIM) and the AT&T Washington Advisory Board.

Thomas E. Constance, 65
Chairman
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
919 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Mr. Constance is Chairman of the law firm of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in New York City. Prior to joining Kramer Levin, Mr. Constance was formerly Chairman of Shea & Gould, a New York City based law firm. He serves as a director of St. Vincent's Services Inc. and MD Sass Foundation. He also is a director of Uniroyal Technologies, Inc., Kroll-O'Gara and Siga and a member of the advisory board of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P.

The number of shares of the Company's common stock beneficially owned and percentage beneficial ownership of each of the MM Companies group nominees as of the date of this Proxy Statement are as follows:

MM Companies group Nominee	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned (1) (2)		Percentage Ownership (3)
Jesse H. Choper	0		0%
Thomas E. Constance	0		0%
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William J. Fox	0		0%
Seymour Holtzman	1,131,400	(4) (6)	4.1%
James A. Mitarotonda	1,003,100	(5) (6)	4.4%
Joseph R. Wright, Jr.	0		0%
Total	1,478,600	(7)	6.5%

- (1) Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and generally includes voting or investment power with respect to securities. Shares of common stock subject to stock options and warrants currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days are deemed outstanding for purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any group of which the holder is a member, but are not deemed outstanding for computing the percentage ownership of any other

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person. Except as indicated by footnote, and subject to community property laws where applicable, the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them.

- (2) Under the rules of the SEC, the MM Companies group nominees may be deemed to be members of a group and, as a result, each MM Companies group nominee may be deemed to beneficially own shares of common stock beneficially owned by each of the other MM Companies group nominees. Each of the MM Companies group nominees disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of common stock beneficially owned by any of the other MM Companies group nominees.
- (3) Calculated based on 22,749,626 shares of common stock outstanding as of June 30, 2002 as reported in the Company's registration statement on Form S-4 filed with the SEC on July 23, 2002.
- (4) Includes 475,500 shares of common stock owned by Jewelcor Management, Inc. Mr. Holtzman is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Jewelcor Management, Inc. and has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to the 475,500 shares of common stock owned by Jewelcor Management, Inc.
- (5) Includes 339,200 shares of common stock owned by Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. and 8,000 shares of common stock owned by Domrose Sons Partnership. Mr. Mitarotonda is the Managing Member of the general partner of Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. and has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the 339,200 shares of common stock owned by Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. Mr. Mitarotonda is a partner of Domrose Sons Partnership and has shared voting and dispositive power with respect to the 8,000 shares of common stock owned by Domrose Sons Partnership.
- (6) Includes 655,900 shares owned by MM Companies, of which Mr. Holtzman is the Chairman of the Board and Mr. Mitarotonda is President and Chief Executive Officer.
- (7) Consists of 655,900 shares owned by MM Companies, 475,500 shares of common stock owned by Jewelcor Management, Inc., 339,200 shares of common stock owned by Barington Companies Equity Partners, L.P. and 8,000 shares of common stock owned by Domrose Sons Partnership.

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Except as set forth in this Proxy Statement or in the Annexes hereto, to the best knowledge of the MM Companies group, none of the MM Companies group nominees is employed by the Company. All of the MM Companies group nominees are citizens of the United States.

Except as set forth in this Proxy Statement or in the Annexes hereto, to the best knowledge of the MM Companies group, none of the MM Companies group, any of the persons participating in this Proxy Solicitation on behalf of the MM Companies group, the MM Companies group nominees and, with respect to items (i), (vii) and (viii) of this paragraph, any associate (within the meaning of Rule 14a-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) of the foregoing persons (i) owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of the Company, (ii) owns beneficially, directly or indirectly, any securities of any parent or subsidiary of the Company, (iii) owns any securities of the Company of record but not beneficially, (iv) has purchased or sold any securities of the Company within the past two years, (v) has incurred indebtedness for the purpose of acquiring or holding securities of the Company, (vi) is or has within the past year been a

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party to any contract, arrangement or understanding with respect to any securities of the Company, (vii) since the beginning of the Company's last fiscal year has been indebted to the Company or any of its subsidiaries in excess of \$60,000 or (viii) has any arrangement or understanding with respect to future employment by the Company or with respect to any future transactions to which the Company or any of its affiliates will or may be a party. In addition, except as set forth in this Proxy Statement or in the Annexes hereto, to the best knowledge of the MM Companies group, none of the MM Companies group, any of the persons participating in this Proxy Solicitation on behalf of the MM Companies group, the MM Companies group nominees and any associates of the foregoing persons, has had or is to have a direct or indirect material interest in any transaction or proposed transaction with the Company in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000, since the beginning of the Company's last fiscal year.

Except as set forth in this Proxy Statement or in the Annexes hereto, to the best knowledge of the MM Companies group, none of the MM Companies group nominees, since the beginning of the Company's last fiscal year, has been affiliated with (i) any entity that made or received, or during the Company's current fiscal year proposes to make or receive, payments to or from the Company or its subsidiaries for property or services in excess of five percent of either the Company's or such entity's consolidated gross revenues for its last full fiscal year, or (ii) any entity to which the Company or its subsidiaries were indebted at the end of the Company's last full fiscal year in an aggregate amount exceeding five percent of the Company's total consolidated assets at the end of such year. None of the MM Companies group nominees is or during the Company's last fiscal year has been affiliated with any law or investment banking firm that has performed or proposes to perform services for the Company.

To the best knowledge of the MM Companies group, none of the corporations or organizations in which the MM Companies group nominees have conducted their principal occupation or employment was a parent, subsidiary or other affiliate of the Company, and the MM Companies group nominees do not hold any position or office with the Company or have any family relationship with any executive officer or director of the Company or have

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been involved in any proceedings, legal or otherwise, of the type required to be disclosed by the rules governing this solicitation.

The MM Companies group has agreed to indemnify each of the MM Companies group nominees against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the federal securities laws, in connection with this Proxy Solicitation and such person's involvement in the operation of the Company and to reimburse such MM Companies group nominee for his out-of-pocket expenses.

AUDITORS

According to information contained in the Company's proxy statement, the Company's board of directors has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent accountants to audit the Company's financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2002. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has audited the Company's financial statements since 1996. The Company has stated in its proxy statement that a representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is expected to be available at the 2002 annual meeting and will have an opportunity to make a statement if such representative so desires and is expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions. The Company also has stated in its proxy statement that in the event the stockholders fail to ratify the appointment, the Company's board of directors and its audit committee will reconsider whether or not to retain PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and that even if the selection is ratified by the Company's stockholders, the board of directors of the Company,

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at its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

The MM Companies group recommends that you vote for the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002. See Proposal No. 2 under "The Proposals."

SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

The MM Companies group has retained D.F. King to act as an advisor in connection with this Proxy Solicitation. In connection with its retention by the MM Companies group, D.F. King has agreed to provide consulting and analytic services and solicitation services with respect to banks, brokers, institutional investors and individual stockholders. The MM Companies group has agreed to pay D.F. King a fee for its services estimated to be not more than \$_____ and to reimburse D.F. King for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The MM Companies group has also agreed to indemnify D.F. King against certain liabilities and expenses in connection with this Proxy Solicitation, including liabilities under the federal securities laws. Approximately 20 employees of D.F. King will engage in the solicitation. Proxies may be solicited by mail, advertisement, telephone, facsimile or in person. Solicitations may be made by persons employed by or affiliated with the members of the MM Companies group. However, no person will receive additional compensation for such solicitation other than D.F. King.

Banks, brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries will be requested to forward the proxy materials to the beneficial owners of shares of common stock for which they hold of record and the MM Companies group will reimburse them for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

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The expenses related directly to this Proxy Solicitation are expected to aggregate approximately [\$_____] and will be borne by the MM Companies group. These expenses include fees and expenses for attorneys, proxy solicitors, printing, postage, filing expenses and other costs incidental to the solicitation. Of this estimated amount, approximately [\$200,000] has been spent to date. The actual costs and expenses could be materially different than the estimated amounts and, in particular, could be substantially higher if for any reason further litigation is instituted in connection with the matters related to this Proxy Statement.

The purpose of the proposals in this Proxy Statement is to advance the interests of all the Company's stockholders. Therefore, the MM Companies group believes that its expenses related to this Proxy Solicitation should be borne by the Company and it intends to seek reimbursement of such expenses from the Company whether or not this Proxy Solicitation is successful. The question of reimbursement of the expenses of the MM Companies group by the Company will not be submitted to a stockholder vote.

If you have any questions about this Proxy Solicitation or voting your shares or require assistance, please contact:

D.F. King & Co., Inc.
77 Water Street, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10005
Toll Free: (800) 431-9643
Banks and Brokers call collect: (212) 269-5550

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OTHER MATTERS

This proxy solicitation is being made by the MM Companies group and not on behalf of the board of directors or management of the Company. The MM Companies group is not aware of any other matters to be brought before the Company's 2002 annual meeting, except as set forth herein. Should other matters be brought before the 2002 annual meeting, by having signed and returned the enclosed WHITE proxy card, you will have authorized the persons named as proxies in the enclosed WHITE proxy card to vote on all such matters in their discretion.

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The Company's proxy statement relating to the 2002 annual meeting contains information regarding (1) Alliance Entertainment; (2) the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment; (3) financial information regarding the Company and Alliance Entertainment; (4) securities ownership of certain beneficial owners and management of the Company; (5) the committees of the board of directors; (6) the meetings of the board of directors and all committees thereof; (7) the business background and employment biographies of the Company's nominees for election to the board of directors; (8) the compensation and remuneration paid and payable to the Company's directors and management; and (9) the Company's stock price performance in relation to an assumed group of "peers" or market-based indices. The Company's stockholders are referred to the Company's proxy statement in connection with the 2002 annual meeting for such information.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

The Company's proxy statement with respect to the 2002 annual meeting indicates that proposals of the Company's stockholders intended to be presented at the Company's 2003 annual meeting must be received by the Company no later than 120 days prior to the 2003 annual meeting in order for them to be considered for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement. The Company's stockholders are hereby referred to the Company's proxy statement in connection with the 2002 annual meeting for such information.

If you have any questions, or if you require assistance, please contact D.F. King at (800) 431-9643 or collect at (212) 269-5550

INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMPANY

The information concerning the Company contained in this Proxy Statement has been taken from or is based upon documents and records on file with the SEC and other publicly available information. The MM Companies group has no knowledge that would indicate that statements relating to the Company contained in this Proxy Statement in reliance upon publicly available information are inaccurate or incomplete. The MM Companies group, however, has not been given access to the books and records of the Company, was not involved in the preparation of such information and statements, and is not in a position to verify, or make any representation with respect to the accuracy or completeness of, any such information or statements.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Who is entitled to vote?

If the Company's stock records show that you are a stockholder as of the close of business on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting, you are entitled to vote the shares of common stock that you held on such date. Even if

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you sell your shares after the record date for the 2002 annual meeting, you will retain the right to execute a proxy in connection with the 2002 annual meeting. Each outstanding share of common stock entitles its holder to cast one vote for each matter to be voted upon.

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Can I attend the meeting?

All stockholders of record of the Company's common stock at the close of business on August 12, 2002, the record date for the 2002 annual meeting, or their designated proxies, are authorized to attend the 2002 annual meeting. If your shares are held of record by a bank, broker or other nominee, you will need to obtain a "legal proxy" form from your bank or broker if you wish to vote at the 2002 annual meeting.

What constitutes a quorum?

The holders of a majority of the Company's common stock outstanding and entitled to vote, present in person or represented by proxy, will constitute a quorum at the 2002 annual meeting. Votes cast in person or by proxy at the 2002 annual meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the 2002 annual meeting to determine whether or not a quorum is present. The inspector of elections will treat abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum, but abstentions will neither be counted as votes for, nor the withholding of authority for, the election of directors, but will have the effect of a vote against any other matter submitted to a vote of stockholders.

Shares held by nominees for beneficial owners will be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present if the nominee has the discretion to vote on at least one of the matters presented at the 2002 annual meeting, even if the nominee may not exercise discretionary voting power with respect to other matters and voting instructions have not been received from the beneficial owner (a "broker non-vote"). Broker non-votes will not be counted as votes for or against any matter submitted to a vote of stockholders.

How do I vote?

Voting by proxy for holders of shares registered in the name of a brokerage firm or bank. If your shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee (i.e., in "street name"), only your bank or broker can give a proxy with respect to your shares. You should receive a proxy card from your bank or broker which you must return in the envelope provided in order to have your shares voted. If you have not received a proxy card from your bank or broker, you may contact it directly to provide it with instructions on how you wish to vote. If you need assistance in dealing with your bank or broker, please contact D.F. King at (800) 431-9643 or collect at (212) 269-5550.

Voting by proxy for holders of shares registered directly in the name of the stockholder. If you hold your shares in your own name as a holder of record, you may vote your shares by marking, signing, dating and mailing the WHITE proxy card in the postage-paid envelope that has been provided to you by the MM Companies group. To vote your shares in accordance with your instructions at the 2002 annual meeting, we must receive your proxy as soon as possible but, in any event, prior to the 2002 annual meeting.

Vote in person. If you are a registered stockholder and attend the 2002 annual meeting you may deliver your completed WHITE proxy card in person. "Street name" stockholders who wish to vote at the 2002 annual meeting will need to obtain a "legal proxy" form from the broker, bank or other nominee that holds

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their shares of record and must bring that document to the meeting in order to vote in person at the 2002 annual meeting. If you need assistance, please contact D.F. King at (800) 431-9643 or collect at (212) 269-5550.

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What should I do if I receive a proxy card which is not WHITE?

If you submit a proxy to us by signing and returning the enclosed WHITE proxy card, do NOT sign or return the proxy card or follow any voting instructions provided by the Company's board of directors unless you intend to change your vote, because only your latest-dated proxy will be counted.

Can I revoke my proxy instructions?

You may revoke your proxy at any time before it has been exercised by:

- o submitting a written revocation with the Corporate Secretary of the Company or D.F. King;
- o submitting a duly executed proxy bearing a later date with the Corporate Secretary of the Company or D.F. King; or
- o appearing in person and voting by ballot at the 2002 annual meeting as described above under "How do I vote? -- Vote in Person."

Any stockholder of record as of the record date of the 2002 annual meeting attending the 2002 annual meeting may vote in person whether or not a proxy has been previously given, but the presence (without further action) of a stockholder at the 2002 annual meeting will NOT constitute revocation of a previously given proxy.

If you choose to revoke a proxy by giving written notice or a later-dated proxy to the Corporate Secretary of the Company, we would appreciate if you would assist us in representing the interests of stockholders on an informed basis by sending us a copy of your revocation or proxy or by calling D.F. King, at (800) 431-9643 or collect at (212) 269-5550. Remember, your latest-dated proxy is the only one that counts.

Will other matters be voted on at the annual meeting?

We are not now aware of any matters to be presented at the 2002 annual meeting other than the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of the Company's independent auditors. If any other matters not described in the proxy statement are properly presented at the 2002 annual meeting, including matters incidental to the conduct of the 2002 annual meeting, proxies will be voted in accordance with the best judgment of the proxy holders.

If I plan to attend the annual meeting, should I still submit a proxy?

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Whether you plan to attend the 2002 annual meeting or not, we urge you to submit a proxy. Returning the enclosed WHITE proxy card will not affect your right to attend the 2002 annual meeting.

How will my shares be voted?

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If you give a proxy on the accompanying WHITE proxy card, your shares will be voted as you direct. If you submit a proxy to us without instructions, our representatives will vote your shares in favor of the proposals. Submitting a WHITE proxy card will entitle our representatives to vote your shares in accordance with their discretion on matters not described in this Proxy Statement that may arise at the 2002 annual meeting, including matters incident to the conduct of the 2002 annual meeting. Unless a proxy specifies otherwise, it will be presumed to relate to all shares held of record on the record date for the 2002 annual meeting by the person who submitted it.

How can I receive more information?

If you have any questions about giving your proxy or about our solicitation, or if you require assistance, please call D.F. King at (800) 431-9643 or collect at (212) 269-5550.

Your vote is important. No matter how many or how few shares you own, please vote (i) to amend the Restated By-laws to set the number of directors at nine, (ii) to authorize stockholders to fill vacancies on the board of directors and newly created directorships, (iii) to elect the MM Companies group nominees and (iv) against the issuance of stock in connection with the proposed merger with Alliance Entertainment by marking, signing, dating and mailing the enclosed WHITE proxy card promptly.

THE MM COMPANIES, INC. GROUP
_____, 2002

SCHEDULE I

Directors and Officers of MM Companies, Inc.

Name and Position -----	Principal Occupation -----	Principal Business Address -----
James Mitarotonda, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Barington Capital Group, L.P.	c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P. 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor New York, New York 10019
Jesse Choper, Director	Professor of Public Law, University of California at Berkeley School of Law	Univ. of California Law School Boalt Hall Berkeley, California 94720

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Seymour Holtzman, Chairman	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Jewelcor Management, Inc.	100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd. Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
Devarajan S. Puthukarai, Director	Former Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Operating Officer, musicmaker.com, Inc.	MM Companies, Inc. c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P. 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor New York, New York 10019
William Scranton III, Director	Head of Scranton Family Office	201 Penn Avenue PNE Bank Building Scranton, PA 18503
Irwin Steinberg, Director	Former Vice Chairman, musicmaker.com, Inc.	MM Companies, Inc. c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P. 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor New York, New York 10019
Joseph Wright, Jr., Director	President & Chief Executive Officer, PanAmSat Corp.	c/o PanAmSat Corp. 20 Westport Road Wilton, Connecticut 06897
Melvyn Brunt, Chief Financial Officer	Chief Financial Officer, Barington Capital Group, L.P.	c/o Barington Capital Group, L.P. 888 Seventh Avenue, 17th Floor New York, New York 10019

SCHEDULE II

Directors and Officers of Jewelcor Management, Inc.

Name and Position -----	Principal Occupation -----	Principal Business Address -----
Seymour Holtzman, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, President	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, President Jewelcor Management, Inc.	100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd. Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
Joseph F. Litchman, Director, Vice President/Treasurer	Vice President/Treasurer	100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd. Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
Maria Sciandra, Corporate Secretary, Director	Corporate Secretary	100 North Wilkes Barre Blvd. Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702

ANNEX A

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TRANSACTIONS IN COMMON STOCK

The following table sets forth information with respect to all purchases of common stock of the Company by the MM Companies group during the past two years. Except as set forth below, to the knowledge of the MM Companies group, no participant in this solicitation or MM Companies group nominee has purchased or sold securities of the Company within the past two years.

Name	Date	Transaction Type	Number of Shares	Price Per Share
MM Companies	8/14/01	Purchase	2,000	\$2.25*
MM Companies	8/15/01	Purchase	100,000	\$2.33*
MM Companies	8/16/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.30*
MM Companies	8/21/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.30*
MM Companies	8/27/01	Purchase	20,000	\$2.33*
MM Companies	8/28/01	Purchase	15,000	\$2.38*
MM Companies	8/28/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.28*
MM Companies	9/4/01	Purchase	12,000	\$2.37*
MM Companies	9/5/01	Purchase	2,500	\$2.31*
MM Companies	9/5/01	Purchase	1,000	\$2.32*
MM Companies	9/6/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.33*
MM Companies	9/17/01	Purchase	7,000	\$2.14*
MM Companies	9/17/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.06*
MM Companies	9/18/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.135*
MM Companies	9/19/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.197*
MM Companies	9/20/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.18*
MM Companies	9/21/01	Purchase	6,500	\$2.07*
MM Companies	9/24/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.12*
MM Companies	9/24/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.10*
MM Companies	9/25/01	Purchase	50,000	\$2.048*
MM Companies	9/26/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.035*
MM Companies	9/27/01	Purchase	30,000	\$2.052*
MM Companies	9/28/01	Purchase	27,500	\$2.07*
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MM Companies	10/1/01	Purchase	30,000	\$2.075*
MM Companies	10/4/01	Purchase	30,000	\$2.13*
MM Companies	10/5/01	Purchase	50,000	\$2.135*
MM Companies	10/5/01	Purchase	7,000	\$2.13*
MM Companies	11/16/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.34*
MM Companies	11/21/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.35*
MM Companies	11/30/01	Purchase	3,600	\$2.32*
MM Companies	12/14/01	Purchase	3,000	\$2.31*
MM Companies	12/17/01	Purchase	50,000	\$2.33*
MM Companies	12/18/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.34*
MM Companies	12/28/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.31*
MM Companies	12/28/01	Purchase	2,900	\$2.31*
MM Companies	12/28/01	Purchase	5,000	\$2.31*
MM Companies	12/31/01	Purchase	3,200	\$2.30*
MM Companies	2/25/02	Purchase	1,500	\$2.22*

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MM Companies	2/27/02	Purchase	2,000	\$2.23*
MM Companies	2/27/02	Purchase	2,000	\$2.21*
MM Companies	2/27/02	Purchase	3,800	\$2.24*
MM Companies	2/27/02	Purchase	2,000	\$2.24*
MM Companies	2/28/02	Purchase	1,200	\$2.21*
MM Companies	3/5/02	Purchase	200	\$2.25*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/16/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.30*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/16/01	Purchase	50,000	\$2.32*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/20/01	Purchase	20,000	\$2.30*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/21/01	Purchase	20,000	\$2.30*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/22/01	Purchase	12,500	\$2.29*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/23/01	Purchase	13,000	\$2.30*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/24/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.312*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	8/27/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.33*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/7/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.316*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/17/01	Purchase	3,000	\$2.03*

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Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/17/01	Purchase	7,000	\$2.14*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/18/01	Purchase	20,000	\$2.135*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/19/01	Purchase	12,000	\$2.197*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/20/01	Purchase	10,500	\$2.18*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/25/01	Purchase	75,000	\$2.048*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/26/01	Purchase	25,000	\$2.035*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/27/01	Purchase	40,000	\$2.052*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	9/28/01	Purchase	10,000	\$2.07*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	10/1/01	Purchase	27,500	\$2.0752*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.	10/4/01	Purchase	50,000	\$2.13*
Jewelcor Management, Inc.				