

# Arvind Mallik and Jonathon Fite

**KMF** Investments





### A PURE PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PRIVATE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

WIDE MOAT INVESTING SUMMIT 2022 HOSTED BY MOI GLOBAL



**BY: ARVIND MALLIK AND JONATHON FITE** 

**KMF INVESTMENTS** 

**JULY 2022** 

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### KMF BACKGROUND



#### - Structure and Strategy -

- Long-term,Value-investing Approach:
- Proven strategy: Define intrinsic value, stay within circle of competence, buy only if there is a large margin of safety

Nimble and Flexible Value Strategy:

- Decision making streamlined in co-manager model to go where the value is (small cap, large cap, bonds, privates)
- Pure Pay-for-Performance Model:
- > Still rather unique in the industry dominated by mutual funds constrained in scope, or the "2 & 20" hedge fund

➤ Fair Structure and Aligned Objectives:

➤ High water marks help ensure focus on 5+ year returns. Our families effectively "all-in", we eat our own cooking.

Clear Disclosures and Communications:

Portfolio grading approach helps partners exploit opportunities we see, helps us tune out market noise

> Loyal Partner Base:

> Strategy drives loyalty, even during peaks of market fear, which allows us to exploit bargains at the best times

These are both our distinguishing features and our competitive advantages

## KMF STRATEGY: FLAVORS OF VALUE WITH APPROPRIATE ENGAGEMENT MODELS



### FCF Based Valuations

Asset Based Valuations

Special situations

> High Quality Buy and Hold

Future growth / GARP

- > Fixer-upper
- > Private Buyer Value
- > Resource Conversion
- > Below Replacement cost
- ➤ Discount to Book-values
- > Net-Net Liquidation value
- Break-up / Spin off values
- Distressed Debt
- > Arbitrage

#### - Value Based Strategy -

#### Over the last 15 years, KMF has pursued a mix of all of these:

- The global financial crisis brought high quality companies down to great prices but also presented a number of special situations
- As investors chased momentum during most of last decade we focused more on quality and asset based opportunities
- Our asset / resource conversion plays served us well lately, but the recent market selloff is presenting GARP opportunities again

#### <u>Different investment types require different engagement models</u>

- Most of our investments are completely passive
- Some benefit from our "Friendly Advisor" approach
- Others result in more active engagement including board representation where we can influence capital allocation

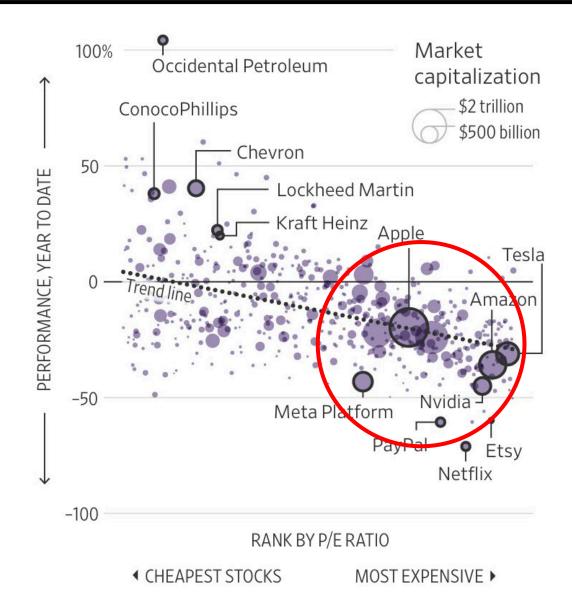
### **CURRENT TECH DECLINE NOTABLE**





## S&P 500 STOCKS: VALUATION VS. PERFORMANCE





IS ANYTHING THAT LOOKS EXPENSIVE ACTUALLY A BARGAIN?

### IDEA INTRODUCTION Spotify®





#### **#1 Audio Streaming Platform**



#### Optically, not that cheap



Source: Bloomberg Finance LP

### IDEA INTRODUCTION Spotify®

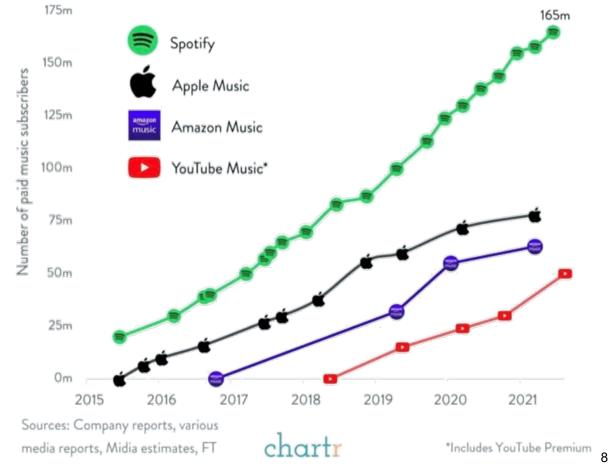




Spotify recently sold off below levels seen before the pandemic...

...Even as Spotify extends its lead in music streaming...



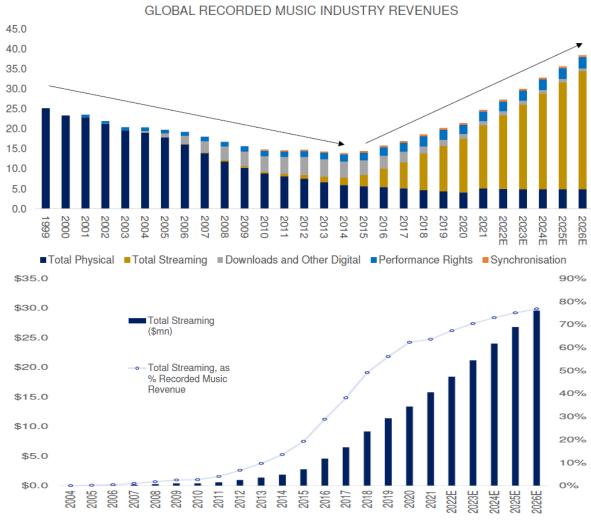




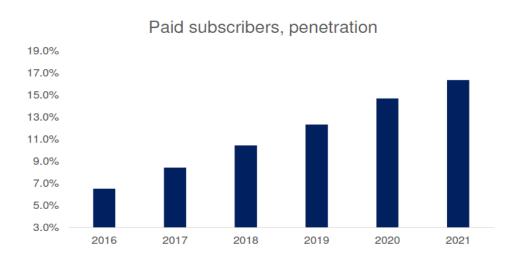
### STREAMING SAVED THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

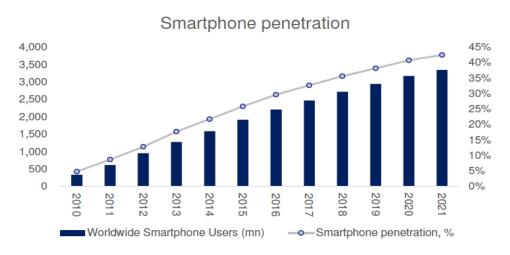


#### Industry revenues driven by streaming growth...



#### Penetration still has room to run...





Source : eMarketer

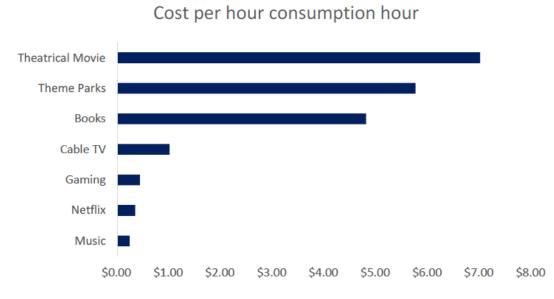


### **MUSIC IS CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT**

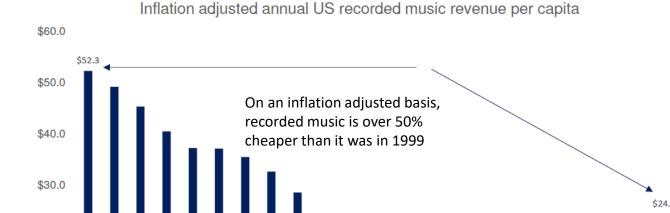


#### Music remains the cheapest source of entertainment...

#### ...and remains well below its inflation-adjusted peak levels



Source : Deutsche Bank Estimates



Source : IFPI, Deutsche Bank Analysis

\$20.0

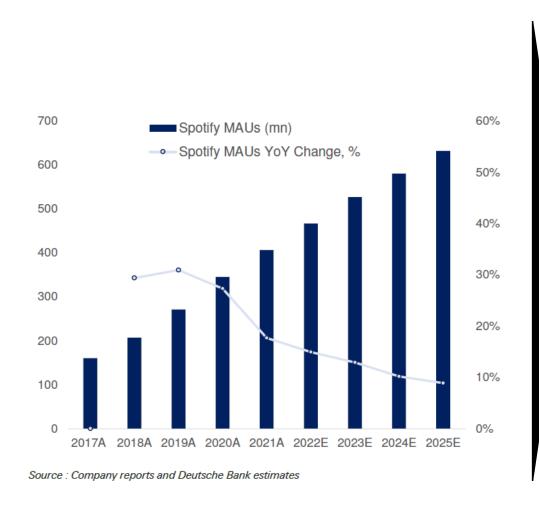
\$10.0



### **SPOTIFY HEADED TO 1B MAUS**



#### Company points to 1B MAUs in the Medium Term...



### MAU Conversion to premium subs has been consistent, which should drive subscription revenues ...



#### In addition to ad supported revenues ...



Source : Company reports, Deutsche Bank estimates

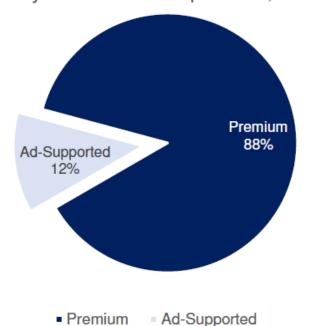


### AD BUSINESS HAS SIGNIFICANT UPSIDE



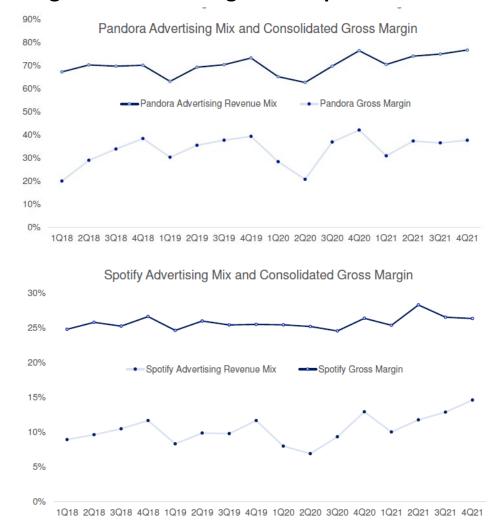
### Ads are a small part of the current Spotify revenue mix

Spotify Revenue Composition, FY21



Source : Company reports and Deutsche Bank estimates

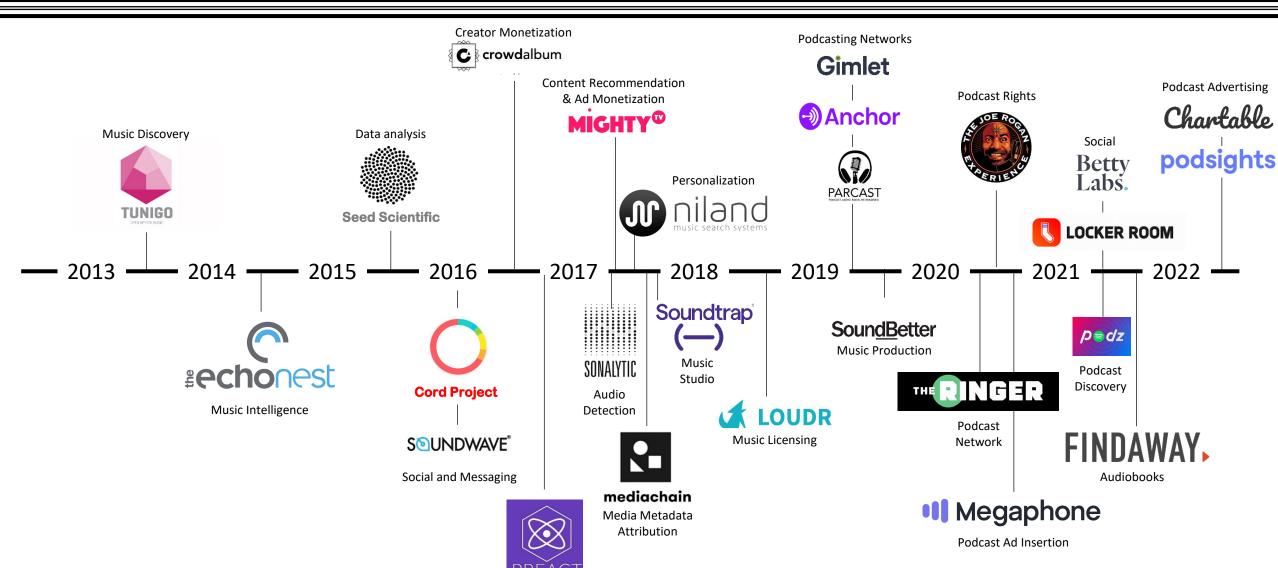
### Compared to Pandora ad mix and gross margins, Spotify has significant room to grow this part of their business





### **INVESTING THRU M&A**





Churn Management



### **INVESTING IN OWNED CONTENT**



Spotify following proven content scaling model – acquire owned IP that attracts and scales across growing user base. Current investments are dragging down gross margins, and "free speech" dynamics have turned controversial in the COVID era.















### **OWNED CONTENT DRIVES SCALE**



Spotify following proven content scaling model – acquire owned IP that attracts and scales across growing user base. Current investments are dragging down gross margins, and "free speech" dynamics have turned controversial in the COVID era.



- "The Joe Rogan Experience" is still the No. 1 show in 93 markets
- In 2021, Mr. Rogan's show was the most-listened-to podcast every month in more than 30 markets
- Mr. Rogan's listeners have grown by 75% from the time he joined Spotify's platform in September 2020 to December 2021
- Mr. Rogan's listeners are highly engaged; they return to Spotify to listen more, and listen to other content beyond his show
- Mr. Rogan's show has been crucial to making Spotify the top U.S. podcast platform by listeners



Source: Audio data provider, Edison Research



### **INVESTING THRU THE INCOME STATEMENT**



	December 31, 2021	
Revenue	9,668	
Cost of revenue	7,077	Is most of this
Gross profit	2,591	
Research and development	912	
Sales and marketing	1,135	
General and administrative	450	Is <u>some</u> of this
	2,497	Growth Capex?
Operating (loss)/income	94	
Finance income	246	
Finance costs	(91)	
Finance income/(costs) - net	155	
(Loss)/income before tax	249	
Income tax expense/(benefit)	283	
Net (loss)/income attributable to owners of the		
parent	(34)	
(Loss)/earnings per share attributable to owners of		
the parent	(0.10)	
Basic	(0.18)	
Diluted	(1.03)	
Weighted-average ordinary shares outstanding		
Basic	191,298,397	
Diluted	193,943,455	

A nuanced view of how Spotify is investing for growth can give insights into pro-forma metrics like "stand still free cash flow"

	2021A
Cash flows from operations	361
R&D Spend as Growth Capex	912
Sales and Marketing @ 20 %	227
Standstill FCF	1500
EUR / USD FX	1.07
Dollar Value	1605
No Growth Multiple	10X
No Growth Value	16050
Cash (\$)	2911
Shares	194
No Growth Value per Share	98

#### **Potential Growth Drivers:**

- MAU growth and conversion
- Ad stack monetization
- Pricing

- Label Renegotiations
- Mix shift toward independent artists



### POTENTIAL VALUE



Current prices imply market believes SPOTs income statement investments will generate much lower returns than they have historically. Recent returns (~45%) have fallen to the 30% range with their ramp in podcast investments.

Starting Standstill FCF	\$ 1,500	GP less R&D and 20% of Sales and Marketing					
EUR/USD Conversion	\$ 1,605	@ 1.07					
Reinvestment Amount	1139	R&D + 20% of Sales and Marketing					
Implied Reinvestment Rate	76%	Reinvestment amount / Standstill FCF					
Shares Outstanding	194	million shares					
Terminal Value Multiple	10	times previous year Standstill Cash Earnings before Reinvestment					
Discount Rate	10%						

#### Return on Invested Capital

	10	0%	1	5%	2	20%	2	25%	3	80%	3	35%	4	10%	4	5%
40%	\$	79	\$	91	\$	105	\$	121	\$	140	\$	162	\$	187	\$	216
45%	\$	79	\$	93	\$	109	\$	128	\$	151	\$	178	\$	210	69	24/
50%	\$	78	\$	94	\$	113	\$	136	\$	163	<b>\$</b>	196	\$	236	\$	283
55%	\$	78	\$	95	\$	117	\$	144	\$	177	\$	217	\$	266	\$	325
60%	\$	77	\$	97	\$	121	\$	153	\$	191	\$	240	\$	299	\$\$	373
65%	\$	76	<del>55</del>	98	\$	126	\$	162	\$	208	\$	265	\$	338	\$\$	428
70%	\$	76	\$	100	\$	131	\$	172	\$	225	\$	294	\$	381	\$	492
75%	\$	75	\$	101	\$	136	\$	183	\$	245	\$	325	\$	430	\$	564
80%	\$	74	\$	103	\$	142	\$	195	\$	266	\$	361	\$	485	\$	648

Recent Implied Market Value

**Historical Levels** 



### **BALANCE SHEET SAFETY**



Unlike the "profitless" tech space which soared during the pandemic (and subsequently got torched), Spotify has more cash than debt and is free cash flow positive. This company is not Peloton or Nio...

$(in \ \epsilon \ millions)$	December 31, 2021
Assets	
Non-current assets	
Lease right-of-use assets	437
Property and equipment	372
Goodwill	894
Intangible assets	89
Long term investments	916
Restricted cash and other non-current assets	77
Deferred tax assets	13_
	2,798
Current assets	
Trade and other receivables	621
Income tax receivable	5
Short term investments	756
Cash and cash equivalents	2,744
Other current assets	246
	4,372
Total assets	7,170
Equity and liabilities	
Equity	
Share capital	_
Other paid in capital	4,746
Treasury shares	(260)
Other reserves	853
Accumulated deficit	(3,220)
Equity attributable to owners of the parent	2,119

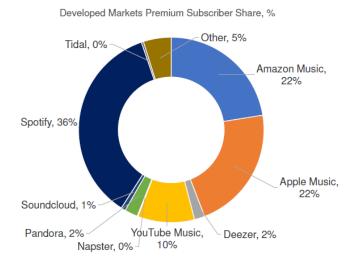
	December 31, 2021
Non-current liabilities	
Exchangeable Notes	1,202
Lease liabilities	579
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	37
Provisions	
	1,825
Current liabilities	
Trade and other payables	793
Income tax payable	23
Deferred revenue	458
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,841
Provisions	22
Derivative liabilities	89
	3,226
Total liabilities	5,051
Total equity and liabilities	7,170

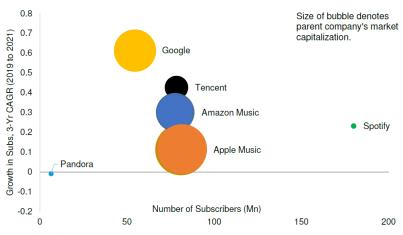


### IS THERE A MOAT?



Competition is fierce and well funded. But, competition is not new, and Spotify lead seems to be getting bigger





**Potential Moat** 

**Low Cost Producer / Scale Moat** 

**Brand Moat** 

**Network Effect Moat** 

**Switching Cost Moat** 

**Patent Moat** 

**License Moat** 

Likely?













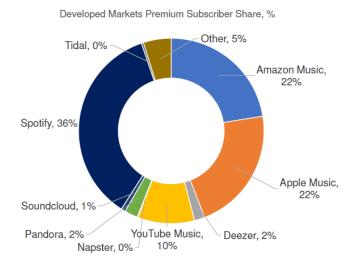
Source : Bloomberg Finance LP, MIDiA Research, Deutsche Bank Estimates

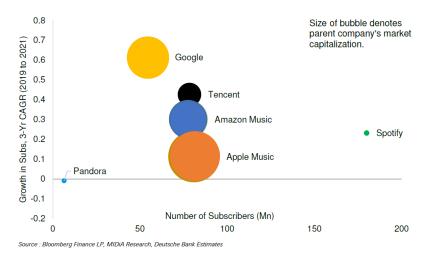


### IS THERE A MOAT?



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#### **Potential Moat**

Low Cost Producer / Scale Moat Brand Moat Network Effect Moat



Likely?

#### **Evolution and Evidence**

- Started with "instant" playback capability
- Innovated to human curated playlists, others followed
- Evolved to AI based curation where scale matters:
  - > Spotify has over 3 billion playlists, Apple has 35K
  - ➤ Spotify users listened nearly 1.1B hours last year, Apple users streamed about 250M hours
  - ➤ Spotify has ~50K songs uploaded per day (15M songs per year). Independent artists & bands now own 30% of overall market share.
- Recommendation engine drives brand affinity, which drives sharing of new playlists and social networking 20



### **INSIDERS ARE BUYING**







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Home / Today's Market

# CEO Daniel Ek Just Bought \$50 Million of Spotify (SPOT) Stock. Here's Why.

Ek is purchasing SPOT stock for the first time since 2019

By Eddie Pan, InvestorPlace Assistant News Writer May 6, 2022, 11:41 am EDT

Shares of **Spotify** (NYSE:**SPOT**) stock are in full focus today after CEO Daniel Ek disclosed a \$50 million insider purchase. This year, SPOT stock has gotten hammered; shares are down over 50% year-to-date (YTD). For comparison, the **S&P** 500 is down about 13% YTD.

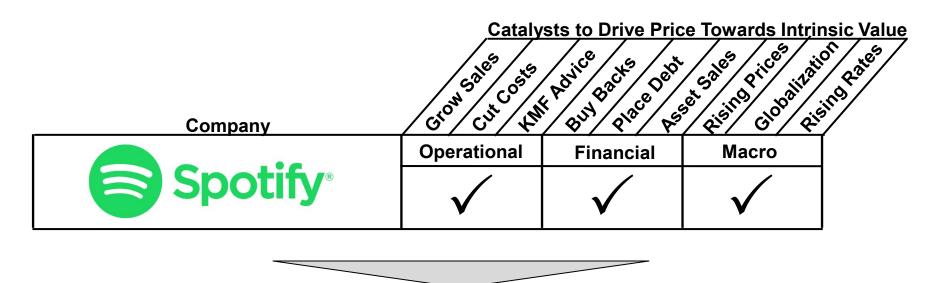
Last week, the streaming company reported earnings, which caused SPOT stock to close down more than 12%. Spotify posted revenue of 2.66







#### - KMF Catalyst Framework -



- Operational: Podcast/Audiobook investments, user growth, ad-monetization, label negotiations
- Financial: Investor day pointers to GM expansion, better FCF generation, acquisition
- Macro: Global user growth, especially in emerging markets



### **COMPELLING INVESTMENT**



#### - MOI Investment Checklist -

- >Spotify "checks" most MOI investment criteria
  - ✓ Value stock has declined to no-growth price
  - ✓ Safety sufficient liquidity and strong cash flow
  - ✓ Moat brand and potential network/switching moats demonstrated
  - ✓ Management Ek good record, putting money where mouth is
  - ✓ Capitalization very strong balance sheet
  - ✓ Performance shares trading at depressed levels
  - √ Macro may see ad shift
- > Spotify shares have substantial upside potential
  - Recently bounced off "no growth" price
  - Historically high reinvestment rates and return on investment when viewed though "stand-still free cash flow" lens
- > We look forward to feedback and any questions
  - Reach us at <u>email@kmfinvestments.com</u>

