

Napster is back as digital music service Rhapsody rebrands

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Napster was launched in 1999 as a peer-to-peer file-sharing service and became wildly popular as Internet users discovered ways to get music online.

But Napster was found to be facilitating [music piracy](#) and shut down by US courts in 2001, leading to bankruptcy.

The brand lived on, however, and was acquired by US retailer Best Buy in 2008 for \$121 million, before being sold to Rhapsody for an undisclosed price.

A short blog post Tuesday on Rhapsody said little about the change, with a headline, "Rhapsody is becoming Napster."

The statement said: "No changes to your playlists, favorites, albums, and artists. Same music. Same service. Same price. 100% the music you love. Stay tuned!"

Napster was created by Sean Parker—who went on to be Facebook's first president and has since become a prominent Silicon Valley figure—and his friend Shawn Fanning.

With an estimated 3.5 million subscribers, Rhapsody has been trailing other online [music](#) services such as Spotify, Pandora and Apple Music.

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