ASCAP is the world leader in performance royalties, advocacy and service for songwriters, composers and music publishers. Our mission is to cultivate a symbiotic relationship with all stakeholders in the music industry and to ensure that our music creator members, music users and music lovers around the world can thrive together.
CREATIVITY. COURAGE. COLLABORATION.

A MESSAGE FROM ASCAP PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD PAUL WILLIAMS:

Creating music takes courage. As songwriters and composers, we all face that blank page every day and go exploring. Sometimes we go deep and face real pain, emotions and experiences that have hurt us in some way, and we seek to turn them into art, a piece of music, a song, a way to share what's in your heart with others who may be feeling - or hurting - so that you can connect on a universal level. That's brave.

Or perhaps you feel good and you need to shout it from the rooftops. So you put all your love, passion and soul into your music, you set it to a beat, and you do whatever it takes to get it out into the world. You know the world is a hard place. But you also know that music makes the world a better place. And you know you were put on this earth to make music, and nothing is going to stand in your way. You make a commitment to yourself: This is who I am. This is what I do. I might not make it, but as long as I’m doing what I love, I’m going to try. That’s bold.

That’s the road less taken. But you know what? That’s the road Irving Berlin took. That’s the road Tom Petty took. That’s the road Jay-Z is taking. That’s the road St. Vincent is taking. You’ll meet a lot of interesting people on that road. This is your community.

The more we reach out to those around us, the more we collaborate, the more we transcend what divides us, the more amazing music gets created. Many of today’s most successful ASCAP members know this. They are rewriting the rules, mixing it up and pushing the envelope. Take pop star Justin Timberlake who recently teamed up with country music’s Chris Stapleton on “Say Something.”
Or EDM champs, The Chainsmokers, mixing it up with rock supergroup Coldplay on “Something Just Like This.” Then there’s Pulitzer Prize winner Kendrick Lamar, one of the most influential rappers on the planet. You can find him collaborating with everyone across the musical spectrum - from Beyoncé to Sia to Kamasi Washington - and so many more. Music is more diverse and dynamic than ever today because these visionary music creators are thinking outside the box and are leading music in an exciting new direction.

You know who else is leading music in an exciting new direction? The ASCAP Board of Directors. ASCAP is the only performing rights organization in the United States owned and governed by its members, and ASCAP’s Board members are some of the all-time great songwriters, composers and music publishers. As Chairman of the ASCAP Board, I can say that you’ll be hard pressed to find a more passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable group of men and women.

The ASCAP Board is elected by and from our membership, and that sets us apart from our competitors. We work together on common goals and make decisions that achieve the greatest good for all concerned.

ASCAP exists to ensure that those of us who create music and those who use our music can both benefit from a strong partnership. In 2017, we took that mission to another level by combining our pioneering spirit and relentless innovation and changing the narrative with our competitors, customers and policymakers. And we made some major breakthroughs in our advocacy efforts to reform the music licensing system that is so vital to our nation’s well-being and to our economy.

I love being a songwriter and a member of this community. I am proud to serve with a passionate, dedicated and visionary ASCAP Board of Directors. Never forget that what we do makes a big difference in the lives of so many people. Today, the world needs us. It needs our music. Let’s create music together.
A MESSAGE FROM ASCAP CEO BETH MATTHEWS:
Thanks to the strength of our family of songwriters, composers and music publishers, 2017 was another record-breaking and successful year of growth and change for ASCAP. I am thrilled to report that we achieved an historic 103 year high in revenues of $1.144 billion for public performances of our members’ works, up 8% over 2016. Revenues from ASCAP’s licensing efforts in the U.S. alone grew 11% in 2017 to $846 million, up $86.9 million over 2016, fueled by increased revenues across multiple platforms, including audio/visual media, audio streaming services and radio. ASCAP also continued to secure future revenues for members by closing significant licensing and data partnership deals with major media companies such as YouTube. Foreign revenues held firm with $299 million collected for international performances of ASCAP members’ works.

In a 10% increase over the previous year, we distributed an historic high of $1.007 billion to our nearly 650,000 members in 2017. Domestic distributions from ASCAP-licensed and administered performances in the U.S. also increased, to $723 million, up 15% over 2016.

ASCAP operates on a not-for-profit basis and delivers about 88 cents of every dollar collected back to our members for performances of their music. With a 2017 operating expense ratio of about 12 percent, ASCAP remains among the most efficient Performance Rights Organizations in the world.
ASCAP’s record-high revenues and distributions in 2017 is testament to our amazing repertory of music, representing genres across the musical spectrum. In 2017, we renewed membership agreements with some of the greatest names in music and we welcomed more than 45,000 new members. Notably, ASCAP members wrote or co-wrote all Top 10 Songs on Billboard’s 2017 Hot 100 Year-End chart.

To better support and serve our members, we continued to create the digital products to make their lives easier so that they can focus more on creating music and managing large catalogues of works. These best in class digital tools have helped make ASCAP.com a world class PRO destination that better positions the organization to succeed in the future.

We also came together as an industry in 2017 to overcome some difficult challenges. We achieved a court victory for songwriters that affirms the fractional licensing of music works in our repertory. We also introduced the Music Modernization Act of 2017, new legislation that will greatly improve the lives of our music creators.

Strengthening ASCAP’s core operations remains a key strategic initiative. We continue to upgrade our administrative infrastructure. I am so thankful for the incredible work that the ASCAP team delivers day in and day out to support our members.
WE ARE THE ONLY MEMBER-OWNED PERFORMING RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The 12 writers and 12 publishers on the ASCAP Board of Directors know the needs of our members first-hand, represent no outside interest group and combine deep experience and strategic vision to lead the organization into the future.
ASCAP MEMBERS WROTE THE SOUNDRACK TO 2017.
From pop to hip-hop, Latin to R&B, country to EDM and rock to gospel, music from ASCAP songwriters crowned 31 separate song charts in 2017, and took all 10 of the Top 10 spots on the Hot 100. Chart-topping members included Ashley Gorley, Drew Taggart, Daddy Yankee, Christopher Brody Brown, James Fauntleroy, Ray Charles McCullough, Jeremy Reeves, Frederic Kennett, Isaac Slade, Joe King, Kandi Burruss, Tameka Cottle, Steve Mac (PRS), Justin Bieber, Poo Bear, Mattman & Robin (STIM), Kendrick Lamar, Mike Will Made-It, Lil Uzi Vert, Louis Bell and Quavo, Takeoff, and Offset of Migos.

WE ARE WORKING TO REFORM OUR OUTDATED MUSIC LICENSING SYSTEM.

ASCAP works with bipartisan allies on Capitol Hill to build consensus and workable solutions to revamping our music licensing system. Our annual “We Write the Songs” Concert at the Library of Congress along with our ASCAP “Stand With Songwriters” Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill brings together ASCAP members and executives with legislative leaders to explore ways to update the WWII-era federal laws that regulate how songwriters license their works. By year-end, ASCAP’s advocacy efforts led to the introduction of the Music Modernization Act of 2017. This new bipartisan legislation represents months of collaboration and compromise between the songwriting and tech industries, creates a more flexible framework that can adapt to the realities of the modern music marketplace, and will ultimately result in compensation for ASCAP members that reflects the true value of their music.

In December 2017, in a significant victory for ASCAP music creators, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City affirmed that the right of public performance allows for the fractional licensing of music works. The achievement was the result of a joint effort by ASCAP and BMI to challenge the Department of Justice’s interpretation of our respective consent decrees and to enact modifications that will protect songwriters, composers and music publishers.
Music together launched an initiative to improve the sharing of unique identifiers and matching of sound recordings and compositions across the industry and in multiple territories, leveraging cutting edge technology, such as blockchain and graph databases.

Then in July, ASCAP and BMI announced a joint database reconciliation project of our songs repertories that will deliver an authoritative view of ownership shares for the vast majority of music licensed in the U.S. The first-ever initiative reflects ASCAP’s strategy to proactively and voluntarily move the entire industry forward to more accurate, reliable and user-friendly data.

WE ARE FORGING UNPRECEDENTED PARTNERSHIPS.

ASCAP’s groundbreaking moves in transparency and innovation continued to lead the industry toward more cooperation and alignment on data issues. In April, 2017, ASCAP, SACEM and PRS for
ASCAP and YouTube signed a multi-year agreement in July 2017 for U.S. performance rights and data collaboration. It achieves two important ASCAP goals. It yields higher overall compensation for ASCAP members from YouTube and will continue to propel ASCAP’s ongoing transformation to lead the industry toward more accurate and reliable data.

ASCAP’s record-high licensing revenue in 2017 was also fueled by increased revenues across multiple platforms, including audio/visual media, audio streaming services and radio. In addition to the YouTube agreement, we also negotiated favorable deals with other top licensing partners.
ASCAP debuted a market-leading suite of digital tools in its Member Access portal in 2017, unparalleled in the performing rights sector. The tools make it easy for songwriters, composers and publishers to register and manage large catalogues of works and provide songwriters and publishers with new data visualization tools for a deeper dive into their earnings data, empowering them to make more informed business decisions about their catalogs and works.
We support our members’ long-term success and help foster the hits of tomorrow through high-profile song camps, workshops in multiple genres, showcases at major industry events like the Sundance Film Festival and SXSW and through our ASCAP “I Create Music” EXPO, the largest conference of its kind in the world.
Our members created some of the best-loved and most honored music of 2017. From Kendrick Lamar’s five Grammy wins for *DAMN.* to Du Yun’s Pulitzer Prize for *Angel’s Bone*; from Benj Pasek and Justin Paul’s Golden Globe for “This Is Me” from *The Greatest Showman* to Daddy Yankee’s Song of the Year Latin Grammy for “Despacito;” from Garth Brooks’s sixth Entertainer of the Year Award at the CMAs to Reba McEntire’s Dove Award for *Sing It Now,* ASCAP members created the songs, scores, symphonies and more that united us throughout the year.

ASCAP MEMBERS CAN KEEP CREATING THE MUSIC THAT CONNECTS US ALL.
IS HOME TO THE
WORLD’S GREATEST MUSIC CREATORS