ASCAP IS...

the world leader in performance royalties, advocacy and service for songwriters, composers and music publishers. Our mission is to build and foster a strong 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.
In our country, and around the world, there are so many forces trying to divide us. Our job as songwriters and composers is to lead the world down another path, a way forward that brings us together through our shared humanity. Music does that like no other art form.

As music creators, you possess unique and powerful gifts. When you sit down and you transform what is inside your heart into words and melodies, you are writing your truth. Your truth is all you - your feelings, your insights, your experiences. And when you share your truth through your music, you are actually reaching out to everyone else who has ever felt the same way. That makes people feel not so alone in the world. That makes people feel loved, connected, human.

So, write your truth, write your passion, write what you want to see in the world. As a community of music creators, let’s use our powers of creativity and self-expression for positive change. Then, our songs become gifts with enduring value. When our music goes out into the world and reaches across the globe, it literally can transform lives.

Last year was an incredibly successful year for ASCAP and for our members. Your music topped the charts, made history and shaped the culture like never before.

It was also a good year for the larger music community. After years of telling Congress how hard it is for songwriters to make a living in the age of streaming music, we finally made some progress.
On October 11th, the president signed into law the Orrin G. Hatch - Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act of 2018 -- also known as the MMA. This legislation passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate - which is unheard of in today's political climate.

That is an extraordinary victory for music creators and it shows that music is a great unifier. While the MMA is the first significant piece of copyright legislation for music creators in decades, it doesn’t solve all of our problems, but it takes us closer to fair compensation from digital services.

Thanks to all of you who signed our petition or wrote letters to your legislators in helping to get the MMA made into law. But there’s still more work to be done. Especially now we have the opportunity to build on the improvements of that widely supported bill.

The legislative process is complex and imperfect. It requires consensus-building and compromise. That’s why ASCAP continues to go to Washington, D.C. year after year, fighting on behalf of music creators, testifying at hearings, and bringing songwriters to meet with legislators to tell their personal stories and celebrate with music in concert so that members of Congress can make the connections between the songs and those stories.

ASCAP just held its bi-annual election of its Board of Directors. We are the only performing rights organization made up of songwriters, composers and publishers elected from our membership by our membership every two years.

As Chairman of the ASCAP Board, I can say that they are some of the most passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable women and men in music. I am deeply grateful to work alongside them in leading ASCAP into the future. They maintain the greatest focus on the big picture, anticipating challenges and guiding ASCAP in a way that maximizes success for you – our members, the greatest music creators in the world.
Thanks to the popularity of the ASCAP repertory, which is beloved and enjoyed by listeners around the world on every platform, 2018 was another record-breaking year of growth and transformation for ASCAP.

I am thrilled to report that in 2018, ASCAP achieved historic and record-breaking revenues of more than $1.227 billion, an increase of 7% over 2017.

Revenues from ASCAP’s music licensing efforts in the U.S. surpassed the prior year by 7% to hit $906 million. In addition, key licensing categories saw significant organic growth: Audio Streaming revenue was up by 25% and Audio Visual by 7% year-over-year. General and Background revenue, which encompasses more than 800,000 bars, grills, taverns, hotels, retail stores, fitness centers and other businesses, grew by 9%.
ASCAP secured a total of $321 million in 2018 foreign revenue, an increase of 7% over the prior year. Our International Affairs team achieved this growth via in-depth engagement with collection societies outside of the United States. Consistent distribution verification and third-party data analysis helped to ensure robust payments from key international markets.

In 2018, ASCAP achieved a record-breaking $1.109 billion in distributions. That is an additional $102 million in royalties to our songwriter, composer and music publisher members, an increase of 10% year-over-year. Domestic distributions from ASCAP-licensed and administered performances in the U.S. increased to $814 million, up 12.5% over 2017. Foreign distributions totaled $295 million, an increase of 4%.

The number of individual music performances processed by ASCAP's proprietary data matching systems skyrocketed into the trillions in 2018. Keeping up with this growth, ASCAP maintained its status as one of the most efficient PROs in the world, decreasing its operating expense ratio for the second consecutive year, with nearly 90 cents of each dollar collected going back to its music creator members.

ASCAP’s outstanding 2018 results were driven by our team’s laser focus on making smart, strategic deals to yield growth and stability for our members. Four years into our six-year strategic plan, we are seeing healthy year-over-year compound annual growth rates averaging 7%. In 2018 alone, our commitment to efficiency and innovation allowed us to pay more than $100 million more to our members in distributions than the prior year, all while we continue to take the steps necessary to protect their future.

I am thankful for the incredible, innovative work that our team delivers every day to support ASCAP members and strengthen our organization.
...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.

W R I T E R S

PAUL WILLIAMS
ASCAP PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
SONGWRITER

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SONGWRITER

JOEL BECKERMAN
COMPOSER

RICHARD BELLIS
COMPOSER

MARILYN BERGMAN
SONGWRITER
EX-OFFICIO

BRUCE BROUGHTON
COMPOSER

DESMOND CHILD
SONGWRITER

DAN FOLIART
COMPOSER

MICHELLE LEWIS
SONGWRITER

MARCUS MILLER
COMPOSER

RUDY PÉREZ
SONGWRITER

ALEX SHAPIRO
COMPOSER

JIMMY WEBB
SONGWRITER

DOUG WOOD
ASCAP BOARD WRITER
VICE CHAIRMAN, SONGWRITER

BOARD PICTURED AS OF APRIL 1, 2019
We welcomed 46,000 new members to the ASCAP family in 2018, including songwriter Amy Allen (Halsey, “Without Me”), Scott Harris (Shawn Mendes co-writer) and film composer Tom Holkenborg (Junkie XL - Deadpool, Alita: Battle Angel). We also entered into agreements with many of the greatest names in music, including Migos, Cardi B, Alicia Keys, Louis Bell, Starrah, St. Vincent, Savan Kotecha, Greg Kurstin, French Montana, Miguel, Mike Will Made-It, Kehlani, Calvin Harris, Gucci Mane, Marco Antonio Solís, Goldlink, Meek Mill, Jared Gutstadt, Ashley Gorley, Joseph Trapanese, David Vanacore, James Taylor, Lil Uzi Vert, Lil Baby, Natti Natasha and the estates of Bob Marley and George Michael.
Whether we needed a way to celebrate, escape, heal or connect, ASCAP members and their music were there to provide the soundtrack to 2018. Our members were responsible for #1 songs on 28 separate Billboard year-end charts spanning the genre spectrum - from R&B to rock, Latin pop to hip-hop, country to Christian, electronic to smooth jazz. They wrote or co-wrote 9 out of the Top 10 songs on the year-end Billboard Hot 100.

But ASCAP members did more than write the best-loved music of the year. They also set records, broke through glass ceilings and achieved major career milestones. Whether it was Cardi B becoming the first woman to attain multiple #1 songs, David Garcia's unprecedented 50 weeks at #1 on the country charts with “Meant to Be,” Pinar Toprak becoming the first woman to score a major comic book movie (Captain Marvel), Ariana Grande’s Woman of the Year honor from Billboard or BTS becoming the first Asian act to top the Billboard 200, ASCAP members shaped our culture in 2018.

...WRITING THE SOUNDTRACK OF OUR TIME
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 for meetings to explore ways to update the outdated federal laws that regulate how songwriters license their works.

By year end, ASCAP’s advocacy efforts led to the passage of the Orrin G. Hatch - Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act of 2018. This new bipartisan legislation - passed unanimously in both the House and Senate - represents months of collaboration and compromise between the songwriting, tech and broadcast 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 better reflects the true value of their music.
ASCAP has long been the leader in performance royalties and advocacy for music creators. In 2018, we found new ways to support our community, by partnering with organizations that are doing important work to assist music creators. We donated money to MusiCares to help the thousands of ASCAP members affected by the destructive wildfires that swept through northern and southern California. In a year that found so many women artists, songwriters and composers reaching new heights of success, we were proud to present an all-female, high-profile song camp with She Is The Music, an industry-wide initiative to increase opportunities for and empower female music creators.

PRISCILLA RENEA AND THE SISTERHOOD AT THE ASCAP SHE IS THE MUSIC SONG CAMP
...SECURING NEW REVENUE STREAMS

Last year, ASCAP closed licensing deals with numerous major licensees, contributing to the $1.227 billion in revenue that ASCAP achieved in 2018. The deals ran the gamut from Facebook to NFL Enterprises, from streaming services Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon Music to TV broadcasters HULU and Fox, from multi-channel distributors DISH and iHeartMedia to NACPA, an organization representing American concert promoters.

ASCAP works hand in hand with our licensees to secure an equitable music ecosystem for our members and the businesses that bring their music to the public. With yet another year of record-breaking income, we ensured that ASCAP songwriters, composers and publishers would be fairly compensated, wherever their music was heard.
ASCAP is a longtime digital innovator in the PRO space. We advanced our tech-forward agenda in 2018 with the introduction of a simplified member enrollment experience, and interactive features that allow members to visualize their earnings more conveniently within their ASCAP Member Access accounts. We also launched Mobile Pass, a digital tool to help our members share information that’s essential for properly registering their music.

ASCAP’s first-class data systems processed trillions more individual performances in 2018. Our long-term data-sharing partnership with Nielsen also paid off in a big way last year, enabling ASCAP to credit our members’ music on more than 2000 Nielsen-monitored radio stations on a census basis. We are proud to continue expanding our complete count of performances, and getting more of our members paid.
ASCAP offers numerous opportunities for our members to hone their craft, expand their networks and perform their music for industry tastemakers. In 2018, we held intimate networking events like Collab Lab and Break Bread, and brought thousands of music creators and industry together at our 13th annual ASCAP “I Create Music” EXPO - the largest conference of its kind in the world. We hosted showcases at the Sundance Film Festival and SXSW, gave rising ASCAP urban artists a platform at our On the Come Up showcases across the country, and introduced Nashville to our favorite new country songwriters at our ongoing Bluebird Café series.

We continued to build our renowned roster of workshops in multiple genres, from pop to country to musical theatre - including our renowned Film Scoring Workshop in LA, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2018. And we nurtured the hits of tomorrow through high-profile song camps in Los Angeles, Austin, Nashville and France.
Our members created some of the most universally respected music of 2018, earning both industry accolades and critical acclaim. ASCAP stars Beck, John Daversa, H.E.R., Tori Kelly and Dua Lipa each won multiple Grammys; Anthony Rossomando won an Oscar, Grammy and Golden Globe for “Shallow,” from the 2018 film A Star Is Born. Chris Stapleton was the most decorated country singer-songwriter of the year, with awards at the CMAs, ACMs and Grammys. ASCAP member Itamar Moses took home two Tonys for his musical The Band’s Visit, while Uruguayan singer-songwriter Jorge Drexler earned three Latin Grammys. From Mitski to Steve Mac, Cardi B to Henry Threadgill, our members also dominated critics’ lists across the genre spectrum.
ascap IS HOME TO THE WORLD’S GREATEST MUSIC CREATORS