

# ALL ABOUT ASCAP



## Who we are

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is a professional organization of 750,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers, owned and run by its members, and the world leader in performance royalties, advocacy and service for music creators.

ASCAP's mission is to deliver value to our members by licensing their music and collecting and distributing payments back to them when their music is performed publicly. Operating as a not-for-profit, ASCAP licenses more music and delivers more value to music creators - 88 cents of every dollar ASCAP collects goes back to members in the form of royalties.

ASCAP is leading the way toward a more transparent, efficient and effective music licensing system. As the only PRO owned and run by its music creator members, ASCAP is uniquely positioned in the industry to understand this rapidly changing landscape and advocate for changes that reflect the modern marketplace so that songwriters are paid fairly for their work.

## Who we represent

ASCAP members are the greatest names in American music – from Irving Berlin to Justin Bieber, Billie Eilish to Jay Z, Garth Brooks to Beyoncé, Duke Ellington to Hans Zimmer – as well as thousands of names you've never heard of, but whose music you love, from songs to symphonies to film scores to music in TV shows.

We also represent thousands of songwriters and composers in the early stages of their careers, hardworking Americans who rely on their ASCAP royalties as a vital part of their livelihood.

While some ASCAP members are also recording artists, we represent the work they do as songwriters and composers. And since the majority of songwriters are not performers, ASCAP works to ensure they too can enjoy a sustainable living.

## What we do

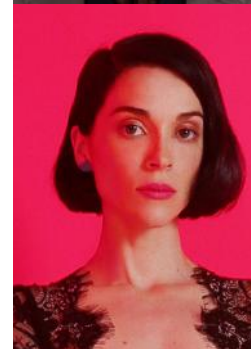
We help our members turn their art into a living by licensing the public performance of their music, and distributing royalties based on those performances.

Performance royalties are critical to songwriters' livelihoods and are becoming even more important as music consumption has moved from downloads to streaming.

ASCAP works with hundreds of thousands of radio and TV broadcasters, music venues, websites, symphony orchestras, bars, restaurants, mobile and wireless services and many more to educate them on the laws associated with public performances of music, as well as to collect licensing fees when ASCAP members' music is used by these businesses.



"Updating the nation's antiquated music licensing system will better serve the needs of not only music creators like me, but businesses that use our music, consumers and the global marketplace for music."  
-Aloe Blacc



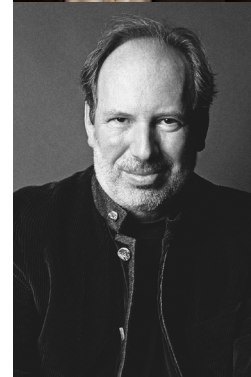
"Joining ASCAP meant something. Today, of all the relationships I have in the music industry, it feels like the one that is non-exploitative. It's just there to be helpful and supportive."  
-St. Vincent



"Everybody who writes should be involved with ASCAP. If you're a songwriter, this is where you need to be."  
-Dr. Dre



"ASCAP's commitment to the next generation of songwriters and composers deeply impressed me and was a major factor in bringing them on board with my team. We have such a responsibility to nurture young musicians."  
-Gustavo Dudamel



"There are so few people who are fighting for us. ASCAP supports composers and they always support me."  
-Hans Zimmer



**Our goal is to keep the music flowing.** An ASCAP license allows music users to publicly perform copyrighted music legally, efficiently and at a reasonable price – while compensating music creators so that they can earn a living from their work. One license provides access to the entire ASCAP repertory – more than 11.5 million musical works.

**ASCAP is a leader in transparency and innovation.** ASCAP’s ACE Repertory database is a public, online, searchable database of the musical works in ASCAP’s vast repertory that allows licensees, members and the public to search by title, writer, publisher or performer and which shows the total shares in works licensed by ASCAP. ASCAP also has a suite of digital tools available to members through a Member Access portal which provides members with interactive earnings reports that offer detailed information on exactly what they earned and where, as a summary or by specific work, licensee category, distribution, or in the case of TV composers, episodes.

**ASCAP ensures our members receive royalties from performances of their works all over the world.** ASCAP has reciprocal agreements with foreign performing rights societies in virtually every country that has laws protecting copyright.

**We host virtual workshops and conferences** to support our members and help them make the most of their music careers. Our roster of grants, showcases and award programs assists promising songwriters and composers to fulfill their potential.

## Why policy matters

**Songwriters and composers are a critical part of the music landscape**, with unique issues that differ from performers and recording artists. The reality is that in the age of streaming music, more music is being performed than ever before, but songwriters’ music is valued less.

**Advances in technology have dramatically changed the music landscape**, creating new opportunities but also new challenges for songwriters and other creators when it comes to music licensing.

**The Music Modernization Act**, passed in October 2018, will help bring the rules that regulate how ASCAP operates in line with the digital revolution, and give songwriters a fair chance at fair compensation in the digital age.

**For policy to be effective, however, the regulatory system has to reflect the realities of today’s digital music marketplace.** The music industry, Department of Justice and Congress agree that we are in critical need of a licensing framework that promotes innovation and efficiency in a free market.

**ASCAP remains committed to working with stakeholders on a pathway that ensures minimal disruption** in the marketplace for both creators and licensees.

**These are difficult times for music creators, especially those who rely on live gigs and in-person sessions for income. ASCAP is supporting music industry initiatives to include music creators in congressional coronavirus relief packages to assist those affected by the pandemic.** ASCAP has also put together resources to help members stay healthy, creative, connected and financially stable during this time, including a contribution to the MusiCares® COVID-19 Relief Fund.

**For more information, visit [ascap.com](http://ascap.com)**



“I’m the last guy in the world you want to ask about how important ASCAP is. Because I’m the guy screaming from the rooftops that we have to protect the writers.”  
-Garth Brooks



“ASCAP was there for me way before anything, when I was still a dreamer, you know? It was the first time I felt like I was a part of something.”  
-Marc Anthony



“The music industry can be very daunting, especially as a young writer...I feel like ASCAP actually cares about what happens to me and are fighting for me out there.”  
-Sara Bareilles



“ASCAP has a value that is pretty much priceless. They research and get your money to you, in a fair way. You wouldn’t trust just anyone with your child - I definitely trust ASCAP with my ‘musical children.’”  
- Priscilla Renea



“I’ve been with ASCAP for over 20 years, and they’re the people who look out for my songwriting interest. It’s great to have an organization like ASCAP fighting for you.”  
-Darius Rucker