

Inside ASCAP: Leading the way to a more transparent, accurate and accountable music licensing system

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is the only performing rights organization (PRO) owned and run by its songwriter, composer and publisher members.

Operating on a not-for-profit basis, ASCAP is the most effective, efficient and innovative PRO in the world. Utilizing state-of-the-art technology, we lead the industry in licensing businesses, tracking music performances — **more than 500 billion streams, plays and performances per year** — and distributing royalties to songwriters, composers and publishers. We developed the most sophisticated tools available to see where and how frequently music is being enjoyed on a world-wide level and additionally, how songwriters are being compensated.

As the industry standard-bearer for transparency, accuracy and accountability, ASCAP is at the vanguard of today's efforts to modernize the music licensing system. As technology transforms the music landscape, ASCAP will continue to innovate to serve music creators and users in the digital age.

HOW ARE ROYALTIES SET AND DISTRIBUTED?

- **A board of directors elected from, and by, the ASCAP membership:** Every ASCAP Board member is elected by and from the membership in elections held every two years. Our Board is composed entirely of 12 ASCAP writers (songwriters, composers, lyricists) and 12 ASCAP publishers, ensuring that every decision the Board makes is in the interest of ASCAP members as a whole. www.ascap.com/about/board-intro.aspx
- **Detailed payment information available online to all:** We offer a step-by-step overview of how we collect license fees and convert them into royalties for our members (www.ascap.com/members/payment/). More specific information about our weighting formulas is also publicly available in the governing documents section of our website: www.ascap.com/members/governingdocuments.aspx
- **An independent board to review disputed royalty claims:** The ASCAP Board of Review is an independent panel of writer and publisher members, elected by ASCAP's membership, which hears claims by members that their royalty distributions were not made in accordance with the rules and regulations. Attesting to the accuracy and transparency of payments, there have been no disputed royalty claims brought before the Board of Review in 14 years.

"ASCAP's new APM system allows us to more quickly and accurately pay members for their radio and internet performances. Using complex matching algorithms to harvest big data, the APM system has transformed the way members are paid."

-ASCAP CIO Mark Katz.

"Through tracking enhancements coupled with a greater number of licensees playing a wider variety of music than ever before, the number of members receiving royalties has increased 45% in the past five years alone."

- ASCAP CEO John LoFrumento to 2014 Membership Meeting.



HOW DOES ASCAP LICENSING WORK?



700,000+ businesses legally perform copyrighted music through an ASCAP license

The **ACE Database** (www.ascap.com/ace), the most-visited page on ASCAP's website, is a public-facing, fully searchable database of all the performed music in our repertory, including detailed information about the writers and publishers of each musical work

Through our new MusicMark collaboration with BMI and SOCAN, music users will get an even more complete picture of the music represented by all three societies.

ASCAP recently received CIO magazine's "CIO 100 Award" for operational and strategic excellence in information technology

ASCAP has proposed regulatory reforms, including a faster, simpler process for settling rate disputes with licensees that would reduce operating costs even further and result in more money in songwriter members' pockets



500,000+ songwriter, composer and publisher members count on ASCAP to collectively license their copyrighted works

ASCAP tracks **500 billion** performances across a wide range of media platforms — from radio, to TV, to concert venues — and over 100 countries worldwide using the latest technology. The number of performances continues to increase exponentially every year.

ASCAP's **Member Access** portal provides 24/7 visibility into a member's full catalog of works, when and where their music has been played, and how much it's earning in royalties.

Members can also reach member services via telephone (**1-800-95-ASCAP**) to ask questions and get more information about royalties or their catalogue.

88 cents of every dollar collected is paid out in royalties to the songwriters, composers and publishers of the music performed — whether broadcast, live or online. This makes ASCAP one of the most efficient PROs in the world.