June 2017

Dear ASCAP member,

Enclosed is your second domestic ASCAP publisher statement of 2017, reflecting performances of your music from October through December 2016.

This spring was a season of celebration for ASCAP and our members. We honored songwriting icons Diane Warren, Stephen Schwartz, Meghan Trainor, Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis and the late, great Notorious B.I.G. at our major award shows. Benj Pasek & Justin Paul won the Tony for Best Score for Dear Evan Hansen, which was also named Best Musical. Last week, the Songwriters Hall of Fame inducted Jam & Lewis alongside ASCAP legends Robert Lamm & James Pankow (of Chicago), Max Martin, Jay Z and Berry Gordy, and honored ASCAP Board member Caroline Bienstock with its Abe Olman Publisher Award.

All of these music creators have enjoyed long and successful careers. It is our mission at ASCAP to build a future where every songwriter, composer and music publisher can prosper from their hard work. I am proud of the incredible progress we have made recently to reach that goal. At our own Annual Membership Meeting this year, we announced that ASCAP collected record-breaking revenues of over $1 billion for the third consecutive year, and distributed more than $918 million to our members - a growth of 5.6% over 2015. This is a sure sign that we are becoming more efficient than ever and bringing more value to our licensees every year.

Case in point: ASCAP just announced a new licensing and data collaboration agreement with YouTube. The deal substantially increases the overall compensation for our members from YouTube, and continues to propel ASCAP’s ongoing transformation strategy to lead the industry to more accurate and reliable data. This deal is just one example of how we are transforming to stay ahead of massive changes in the music industry in ways that will benefit our members, today and in the future.

Of course, there is still much work to be done if the music creator community wants to keep making gains. Last month, I traveled to Washington with a crew of ASCAP songwriters and Board members for our annual “We Write the Songs” event on Capitol Hill. We met with a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders to advocate for changes to music licensing laws, reforms that would bring our outdated system back into step with how our music is heard today. We hope to have more news to report soon on the legislative front. In the meantime, find out how you can join our efforts and make your voice heard at www.standwithsongwriters.org.

Thank you, as always, for putting your trust in ASCAP. It is an honor to represent you and your music.

Sincerely,

Paul Williams

PAUL WILLIAMS
President and Chairman of the Board