January 2018

Dear ASCAP writer,

Happy new year! Enclosed is your first ASCAP distribution of 2018, reflecting performances of your music between April and June of 2017.

We ended the year with a major victory for music creators. Last month, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that the right of public performance allows for the fractional licensing of musical works, and the consent decrees do not prohibit that right. In more good news, US Reps. Doug Collins (R-GA) and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) introduced the Music Modernization Act of 2017. This bipartisan music reform bill includes provisions that would replace a single rate court judge for each PRO with different judges randomly assigned to each rate-setting proceeding, and allow a rate court to consider all relevant evidence when determining songwriter compensation — an ability that is currently prohibited by law. For too long, songwriters have had to work within an outdated system that over-regulates and undervalues your work. We hope this bill will ultimately result in compensation that reflects the true value of your music. Find out more at ascap.com/advocacy.

Simply put, ASCAP writers ruled 2017. You co-wrote all of the Top 10 songs on Billboard’s year-end Hot 100 list, and Christopher Brody Brown, Daddy Yankee, Ashley Gorley and Drew Taggart took the #1 spots on the year-end songwriter charts for their respective genres. The Recording Academy handpicked 260 of you for Grammy nominations, led by JAY-Z (8 nods), Kendrick Lamar (7) and super-producer No I.D. (5). The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inducted Bon Jovi, The Cars, Dire Straits (PRS), The Moody Blues (PRS), Nina Simone and Sister Rosetta Tharpe into its ranks — ASCAP is proud to license music by all of them. You dominated the Latin Grammys, where Daddy Yankee earned four trophies, and ASCAP-licensed rock en español legend Alejandro Sanz (SGAE) was named Person of the Year. We are thrilled to celebrate another year of accolades for our members.

ASCAP ended the year by unwrapping a few new Member Access services for you. We transformed how you register your music, with a streamlined, single-page form. Our new interactive earnings let current ASCAP writers and publishers visualize your royalty data in new ways, and make it easier for you to find the exact info you need. Our upgraded messaging system offers a seamless communication channel to get help with your account, all within Member Access. Consider them digital holiday gifts, from us to you.

Does your new year’s resolution involve getting serious about your music career? Register for the 13th annual ASCAP “I Create Music” EXPO, coming to LA May 7-9. Our New Year Discount pricing lasts through Valentine’s Day - find out more at ascap.com/expo.

Best wishes for a successful and creatively fulfilling 2018,

Paul Williams