



Brussels, March 22, 2021

Dear Mr. Franceschini,

We, performers from across Europe, stand in unity calling on all Member States to ensure the proper and effective implementation of the 2019 European Copyright Directive in Europe, and in particular its Article 18 which provides performers with a right to appropriate and proportionate remuneration!

Streaming and downloading platforms are no longer part of an emerging market. It is how most people now enjoy listening to music or watching films or series. Yet despite revenues from digital overtaking all other forms of exploitation, we, the musicians, singers, actors and other performing artists, are not receiving a fair share, and in most cases indeed nothing at all.

Whilst legislation is protecting us for non-interactive uses like broadcasting, guaranteeing that we are paid fairly through our Collective Management Organisations, it does not when the same music recording, series or film is streamed or downloaded.

The current system is totally inefficient to protect performers and needs to be addressed urgently through the meaningful implementation of Article 18.

We believe the best solution to this issue is for Member States to implement an unwaivable remuneration right that is enforceable even after the transfer/licensing of the exclusive right and is managed by our Collective Management Organisations (CMOs). Such a system would unlock a new revenue channel for us and ensure that we will be paid for our work played.

It is the system that performers want because we know that this system guarantees payment independent from our weak bargaining positions and already works for us for other modes of exploitation and does already work in some countries, such as Spain, for streaming and downloading.

Performers are the backbone of the Cultural and Creative Sector. Yet whilst we find it increasingly challenging to make ends meet, our main concern as experienced performers is that this situation will discourage new young talent from entering the creative arts. Now more than ever it is crucial to make sure that we can earn a living from our art, especially in the ever-growing digital market! We count on your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Paolo Fresu (**Italy**), James Hersey (**Austria**), Johan Van Assche (**Belgium**), Laura Groeseneken (**Belgium**), Piet Maris (**Belgium**), Remi/Mirela Priselac (**Croatia**), Lake Malawi (**Czech Republic**), Reigo Ahven (**Estonia**), Franck Vigoux (**France**), Lulou/Lukas Loules (**Germany**), Grigoris

Lambrianidis (**Greece**), Kornel Horvath (**Hungary**), Mundy (**Ireland**), Gilbert O'Sullivan (**Ireland**),
Edgars Rakovskis (**Latvia**), DSKO (**Netherlands**), Michal Urbaniak (**Poland**), Andrei Tudor
(**Romania**), Juraj Burian (**Slovakia**), Katarina Cas (**Slovenia**), Sebastian Cavazza (**Slovenia**), Nacho
Garcia Vega (**Spain**), Helena Stjernstrom & Mattias Bylund (**Sweden**)

Meet Our PayPerformers Ambassadors

Paolo Fresu - Italy



Paolo Fresu is a jazz musician and composer, trumpet and flugelhorn player. Alongside the concert activity he combines the artistic direction of various festivals and the coordination of multiple educational, cultural and publishing projects.

He has recorded over four hundred records, and has been awarded in Italy and abroad for these. In 2010 he founded the record label Tùk Music. He received an honorary master's degree from the University of Milan Bicocca in psychology of social processes, decision-making and economic behavior (2013) and a honorary degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston (Perugia, Umbria Jazz 2015). He received the 'Art and human rights' award from Amnesty International Italia in 2011.

James Hersey – Austria



James Hersey is an Austrian-American pop singer and songwriter from Vienna. He signed with Glassnote Records in 2015. He scored two Gold Records for "Miss you" and "Coming Over". He also was featured on the track "Coming Over" by Dillon Francis and Kygo, which reached #40 in the US *Billboard* Mainstream Top 40 chart and #1 on the Dance/Club Play chart.

Johan Van Assche - Belgium



Johan Van Assche (*1956) is a Flemish actor and director. While theatre has always been his biotope, he helped shape Flemish cinema (*The Treatment*, *The Memory of a Killer*, ...) and he became a fixture in the renewed Flemish television with roles in *Beau Séjour*, *The Spiral*, *Cordon*, *De Dag* and most recently *The Serpent*.

Apart from being a very active actor, Johan has been head of theatre company *De Tijd* since 1987 and artistic director of the acting department at the Antwerp Royal Conservatoire, the former Herman Teirlinck Institute.

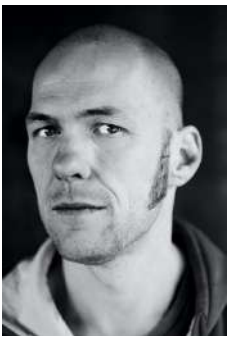
Johan Van Assche is currently managing director of *de Acteursgilde*, the Flemish Actors Guild representing the interests of the professional actors in the Flemish audio-visual industry since 2012.

Laura Groeseneken – Belgium



Laura Groeseneken aka SENNEK is a singer, songwriter and represented Belgium at the Eurovision Song Contest in 2018. She is also a member of the board of directors and the executive committee of GALM (The Flemish Musicians Federation).

Piet Maris – Belgium



Piet Maris is a singer-accordionist, author-composer, frontman of *Jaune Toujours* and driving force behind the artist collective Choux de Bruxelles (with - in addition to Jaune Toujours - groups like *Mec Yek*, *3'Ain* and *Ik en den Theo*)

Photo © Stephan Vanfleteren

Mirela Priselac, Remi – Croatia



Mirela Priselac Remi is Croatian singer-songwriter, composer, poet and a translator. Her music career started in 1997 and in 1998, she formed the acclaimed rap band Elemental with Luka Tralić Shot. In 2004, the band released their award-winning album *Male stvari* (Small Things), which included the hit singles “Romantika” and “Iz dana u dan”, generating over 2.7 million YouTube views. With Elemental, she released 8 albums so far, along with numerous featurings with regional and international artists.

Lake Malawi – Czech Republic



Lake Malawi is a Czech indie pop band from Třinec formed in 2013. The band consists of lead vocalist, guitarist, and keyboardist Albert Černý, bassist and keyboardist Jeroným Šubrt, and drummer Antonín Hrabal. Their debut extended play *We Are Making Love Again* was released in 2015, followed by their debut studio album *Surrounded by Light* in 2017. They represented the Czech Republic in the Eurovision Song Contest 2019 with the song, "Friend of a Friend", and came 11th out of a total of 41 with 157 points.

Reigo Ahven. – Estonia



Reigo Ahven is an Estonian drummer who is active in the band Carousel.

Franck Vigroux - France



Franck Vigroux is a French musician, composer and media artist. He is a multifaceted artist whose works range from experimental electronic music to modern composition and music theatre. Franck Vigroux's music is made of tectonic tensions, beats, electronic textures and a very personal approach to sonic exploration. He is equally prolific as a solo artist and as a collaborator, he has worked with musician such as Elliott Sharp, Mika Vainio, Reinhold Friedl, Ars Nova ...

LULOU/ Lukas Loules - Germany



LULOU Lukas Loules (Hilbert)

Is a LA / Germany based producer / songwriter who co-wrote and produced Fifth Harmony's singles "That's My Girl" & "TheLife", Era Istrefi feat. French Montana's "NoLoveYou's", Tinashe & Chris Brown's single "Player", Carly Rae Jepsen feat Nicki Minaj single "Tonight I'm getting over you" as a collaborator with MXM Max Martin, and had further releases with David Guetta ,DAYA, Tori Kelly, Kesha, Adam Lambert, Showtek and many more. Also he co-wrote many German classics such as "Boomerang" Blümchen or "Für Dich" Yvonne Catterfeld.

Grigoris Lambrianidis – Greece



Grigoris Lambrianidis is a Greek musician (pianist) specialized in traditional Greek music. He studied in the field of classical and byzantine music.

He is the President of the Greek Musicians' Royalties Collecting Society since its foundation in 1997. He is a member of the Executive Committee of FIM and was Vice-President of AEPO – ARTIS for a decade.

He is a known musician in Greece and he has worked with most of the popular Greek songwriters and singers.

He's renown as a persistent fighter for musicians' rights and thus highly appreciated both by musicians and the Greek state as well.

Kornel Horvath – Hungary



Kornel Horvath is one of the world's top percussionists. Participated in more than 400 albums, a great number of concert and video recordings and his performances have been streamed with millions of view counts. In addition to performing with the top rock, pop, and jazz names in his homeland like Laszlo Des, Zoran, Tátrai Band, Zoltán Orosz, Charlie, Gabor Dornyei - in tHUNder Duo, Kornel has played with major international jazz musicians including Stanley Jordan, Alegre Correa, Enver Izmailov, Al Di Meola and Christian Galvez. Besides his career as an active musician Kornel Horvath is the founder and the art director of the international SopronDrum percussion festival in Hungary. Kornel Horvath has been awarded a number of prizes in Hungary, including the highest state award, the Kossuth Prize in 2008. In 2016 Kornel Horvath was voted the Best Percussionist in the World in that year's Readers Poll of the British Rhythm Magazine.

Mundy – Ireland



Since 1996 Mundy has released 8 Albums showcasing his eclectic styles in music from Rock, Americana, Folk and Indie. Six of these albums have been in the Top Ten in Ireland including 'Raining Down Arrows' which went straight in at number 1!

Mundy has enjoyed gold and multi platinum record sales in Ireland and also picked up Meteor awards for 'Best Male' and 'Most Downloaded Song' (for 2 years running) with Steve Earle's 'Galway Girl'.

He was signed to Epic Records at the age of 20 and his song To You I Bestow was on the Romeo and Juliet Soundtrack which sold 11 million copies worldwide. He's supported Neil Young and Bob Dylan to name a few and played in the White House for President Obama

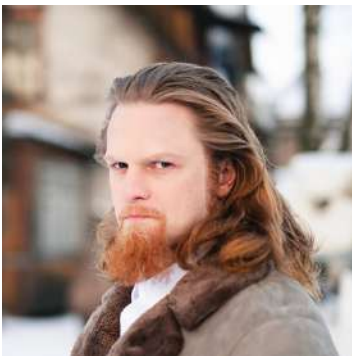
Gilbert O'Sullivan – Ireland



Gilbert O'Sullivan is an Irish male singer-songwriter. After beginning his musical career during the late sixties, playing in various local bands, he had two of his songs recorded by '[The Tremeloes](#)' in 1967 under the credit of 'R O'Sullivan'. He has received three 'Ivor Novello Awards', including 'Songwriter of the Year' in 1973 and is also credited as being the first artist to bring about the practice of 'sample clearance', after successfully suing rapper '[Biz Markie](#)' in 1991 who had used a part of Gilbert's 'Alone Again (Naturally)' song without permission.

Gilbert has 21 albums and 68 compilations accredited to him. There are also some 124 singles/EPs accredited to him. Of these Gilbert has achieved UK music chart success so far in his career. In total, 11 LPs have charted (Top 100) with four achieving 'Top 10' placings and the album '[Back To Front](#)' hitting the coveted No.1 spot in the UK in January 1973. In all, his LP chart success has gained him over 200 weeks in the UK music charts to date

Edgars Rakovskis - Latvia



Edgars Rakovskis is a musician, composer and riff enthusiast. The combination of tameless harmonies and usage of elements from different styles of music define Rakovskis' no-boundary approach to composing.

DSKO – Netherlands



DSKO is a dance music producer living in Amsterdam. From growing up in rural Georgia, making rock music with his cousin, to producing trap beats in Atlanta, to discovering his knack for dance music in LA, DSKO has finally landed himself in Amsterdam which is where he claims he makes his best art. His journey thus far has been unexpected yet rewarding which aligns perfectly with the challenges he faced in his most recent single, 'Birds and Bees' featuring TYSM.

Michał Urbaniak – Poland



Michał Urbaniak (born January 22, 1943) is a Polish jazz musician who plays violin, lyricon, and saxophone. His music includes elements of folk music, rhythm and blues, hip hop, and symphonic music. Urbaniak has played with Billy Cobham, Buster Williams, Chick Corea, Elvin Jones, Freddie Hubbard, George Benson, Herbie Hancock, Joe Henderson, Joe Zawinul, Kenny Barron, Larry Coryell, Lenny White, Marcus Miller, Quincy Jones, Ron Carter, Roy Haynes, Vladyslav Sendek, Wayne Shorter, and Weather Report. In 1973 Urbaniak moved to NYC. In 1985, he was invited to play during the recording of Tutu with Miles Davis.

Andrei Tudor – Romania

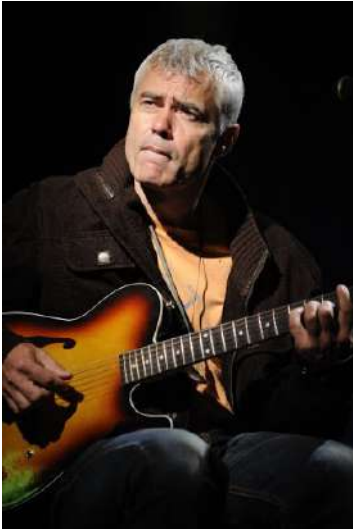


Andrei Tudor (born on 2 Dec.1983), Romanian composer, arranger, conductor, band Leader, began studying piano at age of 4.

He has been collaborating as a composer, arranger, pianist or conductor with lots of foreign and Romanian performers like Angela Gheorghiu, Andrea Bocelli, Mario Frangoulis, Dulce Pontes, Edvin Marton, Goran Bregovic, Walter Ricci, Ally Brooke, María José, Brad Vee Johnson, B & B Gospel Choir, Boney M Experience, Beverly Glenn Sundel, Aura Urziceanu, Monica Anghel, A N D R A, Nico, Luminita Anghel, Andra, Gabriel Cotabita Vlad Mirita, Marcel Pavel, Caesar Oatu, Cristi Minculescu, Adrian Enache, Paula Seling, Pinky, Berti Barbera, Cristina Haios, George Miron & Acapella, Smiley, Irina Sarbu, Bucharest Pops Orchestra, Romanian National Orchestra, Big Band Radio Romania, "George Enescu" Philharmonic, Bucharest Symphonic Orchestra, Orchestra Simfonica Bucuresti, Symphonic Pop Orchestra, Andrei Tudor Orchestra, Opera Comica pentru Copii, etc.

Discography : Songs or arrangements appeared on over 20 released albums and compilations: Angela Gheorghiu - "Eternamente"& "Guardian Angel", Mihai Traistariu- "Altceva" (Gold Record), Andra- "Vis de iarna" (Gold Record), Marcel Pavel - "De Dragul Tau, "Nu te mai am"& "Very Classic ", Monica Anghel - XXI and many other compilations

Over 30 national or international awards in composition or musical interpretation

Juraj Burian – Slovakia

Juraj Burian is a Slovak jazz musician, guitarist and songwriter.

Katarina Čas – Slovenia

Katarina Čas is a Slovenian actress. Čas was born in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia, then part of Yugoslavia. Her first movie was the 1989 Slovene youth film *Peklenški načrt* (The Infernal Plan). She started to appear on TV more often from 1997, as a host of music program for younger generations called *Atlantis* which was broadcast on Kanal A. Since 2005 she has hosted a music program called *Aritmija* on RTV Slovenija. Her international career began with the role of Gabriella in the 2011 Irish movie *The Guard* by John Michael McDonagh. Her most prominent role so far was 2013 film *The Wolf of Wall Street*, in which she portrayed Chantalle. Later, she portrayed Sophie in the 2015 film *Danny Collins* opposite Al Pacino.

Sebastian Cavazza – Slovenia

Sebastian Cavazza (born 19 March 1973) is a Slovenian actor. He has appeared in more than thirty films since 1991.

Nacho Garcia Vega– Spain



Nacho García Vega (Madrid, 1961) is a Spanish musician, songwriter, producer and founder of Nacha Pop among other bands. Since 1980, he has recorded and produced more than twenty albums and participated in numerous musical projects, TV shows and tours. He is currently Vice-president of AIE, the Spanish Performer's CMO. From 2014 he is Coordinator of CoArtis, a Spanish Artists' coalition that promotes along with other European coalitions a review of the rules and the artists' rights in the digital environment. In February 2017 Nacho was elected President of the International Artist Organisation (IAO) based in Paris.

Helena Stjernstrom & Mattias Bylund – Sweden



Mattias Bylund and Helena Stjernstrom are both active in the Swedish music industry.

Mattias is a Grammy awarded arranger and keyboard player participating on two Billboard Hot100 #1:s. He is also a producer, and a frequent musical director on Swedish Television.

Helena is a TV producer, author and journalist, with a background as an oboe player in Swedish symphony orchestras.

Together they're running a music production company which works with songwriters and producers all over Europe and in the United States.