

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



Sacem represents a soul, a collective force, a way of conceiving the cultural influence of our country.

Patrick Sigwalt,
Composer, President of the Board of Directors 2021-2022



For one hundred and seventy years, our fine and ever-modern authors' society has been promoting the values of freedom, emancipation and solidarity.

"For an author, the ultimate betrayal is when your work is not performed," the Algerian playwright Fatima Gallaire said a few years ago.

There is no doubt the year 2020 shook our professions as authors, composers and music publishers by bringing the distribution of our work to a sudden halt: stopping live shows, cancelling tours and festivals along with commissions, shoots and projects. This annual report describes in detail this extraordinary year, during which the Board of Directors of Sacem, of which I was a member, stepped up very early to protect, support, accompany and defend authors, composers and music publishers. I would like to pay special tribute to Bruno Lion, who chaired the Board of Directors of Sacem during this unprecedented year. Together, alongside our professional organisations and with the support of our beloved Comité du Coeur, we have worked tirelessly and demonstrated the utility of Sacem: its model of collective management, not-for-profit, focused on the general interest.

Created in 1851 by three authors and composers, very soon joined by a publisher, Sacem has been owned by its members for 170 years. Its strength lies both in the originality of its governance and in the profound meaning of its mission: Emancipating the creative artist, as well as his publisher, by guaranteeing them the means to create freely and the ability to free themselves from patrons and other moneyed powers. Authors' rights are indeed the only remuneration for those who create works of the mind.

Nowadays, these works of art are stirring up quite a lot of interest. What would digital platforms - or smartphones - be like without music, without series, without films, or documentaries, for example?

Sacem members are the artisans of artistic creation. They nurture music, dubbing and subtitling, and audiovisual works that generate value for the benefit of the Internet giants, who are driven by the fantasy of free access. The question of value sharing is crucial: artistic creation and intellectual property cannot be sold off cheaply. They must be recognised, respected and remunerated at fair value. This is our struggle, in the service of authors, composers and music publishers, and in the name of cultural diversity.

We are an exemplary model of equal opportunity and treatment, guided by modern values of freedom, emancipation and solidarity. Much more than a society, Sacem represents a soul, a collective force, a way of conceiving the cultural influence of our country. A pioneer, steeped in the digital era both through its tools and its ability to negotiate agreements, Sacem is — now more than ever — committed to continuing to innovate and reinvent itself. I will do my utmost to contribute to this by representing my peers throughout the mandate that has been entrusted to me.