

Welcome Message



Dear members, ladies and gentlemen,

2025 was a challenging yet highly successful financial year for GEMA – and not just in financial terms. Against a backdrop of profound changes in the music industry, we have succeeded in further strengthening our role as a strong, reliable and forward-looking partner.

The music industry continues to undergo structural change. Despite rising revenues, the situation remains tense: new streaming dynamics, disruptive technologies such as generative artificial intelligence, increasing competitive pressure and tight budgets are putting the cultural ecosystem under strain.

In this environment, GEMA sees itself as a pioneer. In particular, when it comes to generative AI, we took responsibility early on and addressed key questions: How do we protect creative works? How do we ensure transparency in data usage? And how do we guarantee a fair share of the value created?

We achieved a significant milestone last November: we have secured the first landmark ruling in the field of generative AI at the Munich Regional Court. The court found that OpenAI infringes current copyright law through the training and operation of ChatGPT. This ruling has international significance. At the same time, we are pressing ahead: with our lawsuit against Suno, we are now focusing on the licensing of audio content, in one of the first cases concerning audio AI in Europe.

We have also continued to grow as a strong community. In the summer of 2025, we welcomed our 100,000th member. This milestone exemplifies GEMA's appeal to creative professionals in Germany and beyond. With a comprehensive range of services, such as GEMAPlus, as well as our close cooperation with international partners and sister collecting societies, we are continuously strengthening our network.

At the same time, we have once again demonstrated our financial strength. We have managed to further increase our revenues and the total amount distributed, whilst simultaneously reducing our costs. In parallel, we are consistently driving forward our own transformation. Guided by our 'GEMA 2030' vision, we have set an important course to become even more efficient and service-oriented. These include, amongst other things, reducing commission rates for online and international business, systematically measuring customer satisfaction, further digitising our services, and expanding our international network.

The music industry will continue to evolve in the future: technologically, economically and socially. We are determined to play an active role in shaping this change and to continue to champion our members' interests with vigour. We are guided by clear principles: fairness, transparency, efficiency and strong representation of authors.

It is reassuring to know that GEMA is backed by a strong team that is helping to shape this change. I would therefore like to extend my special thanks to GEMA's staff – for their commitment, expertise and daily dedication. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our members for their trust and for the close and collaborative partnership.

We look forward to 2026 with confidence and determination. We are well positioned to continue to be a strong voice for music creators in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Tobias Holzmueller (GEMA CEO)