



GEMA MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

What types of membership categories are there?

GEMA distinguishes between associate and full members*. Only full members are members in the sense of the German laws on associations.

This distinction does, however, not affect the management of rights. Associate and full members are treated equally in this respect. In the case of comparable work usages, an associate member receives the same amount of royalties as a full member. Cultural support measures under the auspices of what is known as „Wertung“ (rating) are equally open to all.

How do I become an associate member?

The simplest way to join GEMA is to become an associate member. A comprehensive administration of rights can thus be guaranteed. More than 80,000 associate members currently make up the biggest group within GEMA.

Creators do not have to fulfil specific requirements in order to become associate GEMA members. For creators, GEMA membership only makes economic sense if their works have been performed in public, broadcast on the radio or on TV or released by third parties on commercially published sound/audiovisual recordings to a certain extent during the current calendar year, or if such commercial exploitations are imminent.

Once the membership application form for copyright and/or music publishers has been submitted and the admission fee and annual membership fee have been paid, and if all prerequisites have been met, the Deed of Assignment will be sent to the applicants. Once GEMA has countersigned the Deed of Assignment, applicants will have acquired membership status.

There are specific requirements music publishers need to fulfil as they have to provide evidence

- Copies of a valid publishing agreement where the participation of the publisher in the pay-outs of GEMA is agreed pursuant to the provisions of the GEMA distribution plan.
- An extract from the trade register showing that the purpose of the company is to run a music publishing business, or, should the publisher not be entered in the trade register, a copy of the registration documents for the business by the owner and/or all partners which reflect that the registered activities are those of a music publisher.

So how do I become a full member?

In order to become a full member, you have to meet time-specific and financial requirements: You can become a full member if you have been an associate member for five years and you have also reached a defined minimum income level in the respective professional category:

Creators, i.e. composers, arrangers or lyricists must have received a minimum income of €30,000.00 from GEMA over a period of five consecutive years, and, additionally, they must have had an annual minimum income €1,800.00 in four consecutive years within said five-year period.**

Music publishers must have received a minimum income of €75,000.00 over a period of five consecutive years, and, additionally, they must have had an annual income from GEMA of at least €4,500 in four consecutive years within said five-year period.**

The above-mentioned minimum amounts are reduced for creators and music publishers of serious music by a third in each case.

An creator can only be a full member in one professional category, i.e. either as a composer or as a lyricist. If the requirements for both professional categories are met, the creator must choose one professional category.

The admission of creators as full members also depends on the following conditions:

1. Membership applications filed by composers must be accompanied by 5 musical works created by the applicants themselves or co-created by them in the form of sheet music/music scores or other suitable documentation. (Other suitable documentation can be commercially available sound recordings or sheet music created by means of a music notation software program. The Admissions Committee decides on whether or not the submitted documentation is suitable and sufficient in each individual case).

Membership applications of lyricists must contain 5 lyrics set to music created by the applicants alone or in co-creatorship, as well as sound recordings with the music to these lyrics.

2. In case of doubt, the creators among the applicants can be required to provide proof of creatorship by passing an examination.

The admission of music publishers as full members also depends on the following conditions:

1. In their membership application, the applying music publishers must enclose print editions, published sound recordings or other suitable documents proving that publishing services have been provided for 5 of the works they have published.
2. Together with the application, they need to submit the current extract from the trade register as well as the documents showing the business partners (e.g. associates/shareholders), their participation/shares and their representative authority (e.g. In the case of a limited liability company [GmbH]).

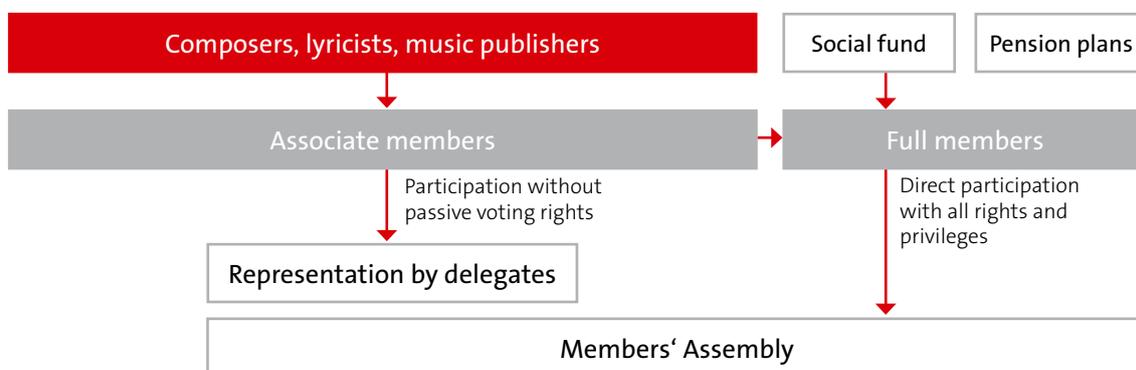
The Managing Committee decides on the admission of a full member in mutual agreement with the Supervisory Board based on the provisions of the Statutes. Those who wish to apply for full membership, should contact our *Members & Partners* department.

What does full membership entail?

By reaching full membership status, you obtain full membership rights in the sense of the German laws on associations: Full members have the active, and under specific conditions, the passive voting right at the Annual General Meeting and can submit motions to the Annual General Meeting. Once you have obtained full membership status, you can get fully involved in GEMA.

Besides, only full members can, under certain conditions, claim benefits from the GEMA Social Funds.

Membership structure overview



Furthermore, only full members participate in the pension funds of GEMA; it is only full members, however, that contribute to the pension funds. Publishers and creators are subject to different conditions and requirements.

More than 4,700 members have currently reached full member status.

How do other members participate in GEMA's decision making process?

Around the time of each Members' Assembly of full members, a meeting for associate members is held. At that meeting, the Managing Committee presents the annual report and is available to the Assembly for questions.

Moreover, associate members and legal successors elect up to 64 delegates among themselves for the Ordinary Members' Assembly every three years. These delegates hold the same rights in the Ordinary Members' Assembly as full members, with the exception of the passive voting right.

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* Due to the resolution of the General Assembly on 30/9 and 1/10/2020 regarding agenda item 16 („Revision on the membership categories/forms“), the previous three-tier membership structure was modified into a two-tier membership structure.

** In view of the loss of royalty income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following special provision shall apply to applications to be considered on the basis of the minimum royalty amounts specified at Para.14 (1) lit. a) to c) GEMA statutes above if the period under consideration includes calendar year 2021 or 2022:

1. The required minimum total amount of royalties is reduced one time only to €24,000.00 for composers and lyricists and €60,000.00 for publishers.
2. The required minimum amount of €1,800.00 or €4,500.00 respectively per year must be generated in three years within the period under consideration.

The following special provision shall apply to applications to be considered on the basis of the minimum royalty amounts specified at Para.14 (1) lit.a) to c) GEMA statutes above if the period under consideration includes calendar years 2021 and 2022:

1. The required minimum total amount of royalties is reduced one time only to €21,000.00 for composers and lyricists whose total amount of royalties was less than €1,800.00 in at least one of the calendar years 2021 or 2022, and to €52,500.00 for publishers whose total amount of royalties was less than €4,500.00 in at least one of the calendar years 2021 or 2022.
2. The required minimum amount of €1,800.00 or €4,500.00 respectively per year must be generated in three years within the period under consideration. These three years must generally be consecutive. However, an interruption by the years 2021 and/or 2022 shall not be of detriment for the purposes of this provision.