

**SOUNDEXCHANGE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008  
PROVIDED PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 370.5(d)**

SoundExchange, Inc. (“SoundExchange”) is a 501(c)(6) tax exempt organization incorporated in Delaware and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It is controlled by an eighteen member board of directors comprised of equal numbers of representatives of sound recording copyright owners and featured and non-featured recording artists. SoundExchange was incorporated on September 22, 2003.

During Calendar Year 2008, SoundExchange employed 35 Full-Time Equivalent employees.

The presentation of financial information in this annual report is intended to comply with SoundExchange’s requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 370.5(d) and is not intended to be a presentation in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Royalty Collection**

During 2008, SoundExchange was the sole entity designated by the Librarian of Congress and the Copyright Royalty Board to collect royalties paid by services operating under the statutory licenses set forth in Sections 112 and 114 of the Copyright Act and the implementing regulations established thereunder. 17 U.S.C. §§ 112 & 114; 37 C.F.R. Parts 262, 380, 382, and 383. The services paying royalties to SoundExchange fall into the following statutorily defined categories:

- Preexisting Subscription Services
- Preexisting Satellite Digital Audio Radio Services
- Eligible Nonsubscription Transmission Services
- New Subscription Services (i.e., subscription webcasters; “CABSAT” services)
- Services exempt from liability for transmissions to business establishments under 17 U.S.C. § 114(d)(1)(C)(iv) but liable for ephemeral phonorecords made to facilitate such transmissions (“Business Establishment Services”)

During 2008, the Copyright Royalty Board completed rate adjustment proceedings adopting rates and terms for Business Establishment Services for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013. See 73 Fed. Reg. 16,199 (March 27, 2008).

In late 2008 Congress passed the Webcaster Settlement Act which gives SoundExchange the authority to enter into agreements with webcasting services at rates and terms different from those established by the Copyright Royalty Board. Under the legislation, these agreements can then be presented to the Copyright Office for publication in the Federal Register where they will be available industry-wide as alternatives to those rates set by the Copyright Royalty Board.

In February 2009, SoundExchange concluded agreements under the Webcaster Settlement Act with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, on behalf of certain

noncommercial webcasters, the National Association of Broadcasters, and a group of eighteen small commercial webcasters. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting Agreement covers the period January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2010. The National Association of Broadcasters and small commercial webcaster agreements cover the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2015. These agreements were published in the Federal Register on March 3, 2009 and became available to qualifying webcasters as alternative rates and terms on that date. See 74 Fed. Reg. 9293 (March 3, 2009).

SoundExchange collects royalties on a periodic basis. During 2008, services were required to pay royalties based upon either their revenues or their consumption of music, expressed as the number of Performances streamed to recipients. "Performance" is a term defined in Copyright Royalty Board regulations. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 380.2(i). During 2008, SoundExchange also collected royalties based on "Revenues" and "Gross Revenues," which are also defined terms. See e.g., 37 C.F.R. §§ 382.2(e)(1), 382.11, & 383.2(g). A service's liability is calculated on a Statement of Account, a form created by SoundExchange and made available on its web site. See [www.soundexchange.com](http://www.soundexchange.com) under the download forms page for digital music services.

Services paying royalties to SoundExchange are doing so under rates and terms established by the Librarian of Congress or Copyright Royalty Judges. In certain instances, SoundExchange has also negotiated separate rates and terms for certain groups of services on behalf of sound recording copyright owners who have granted SoundExchange the ability to do so on their behalf (i.e., SoundExchange "members"). Services availing themselves of the statutory license are able to do so by operation of law and are not "SoundExchange licensees" even though they are frequently referred to as such. Congress created a statutory regime under which any service complying with the statutory and regulatory conditions may obtain a license via federal statute. This license permits such services to reproduce or transmit sound recordings lawfully released to the public without having to negotiate directly with the copyright owner for the rights to those recordings.

In order for a service to avail itself of the statutory license, it must first file a Notice of Use of Sound Recordings (an "Initial Notice") with the U.S. Copyright Office. See <http://www.copyright.gov/forms/form112-114nou.pdf>. This Initial Notice must be filed before the service makes any ephemeral phonorecords or digital audio transmissions of sound recordings. Otherwise, the service may be subject to liability for copyright infringement. In addition, a service must also comply with the applicable conditions of the statutory license, pay royalties and provide reports of use as required in order to avoid liability for copyright infringement.

No Invoicing. SoundExchange does not invoice services for their monthly payments. Each service is separately responsible for calculating its own liability and remitting payment to SoundExchange along with a Statement of Account. Because services are obligated to self-report and pay royalties on an honor system, there may be many more services making digital audio transmission or ephemeral phonorecords of sound recordings than there are services paying appropriate royalties to SoundExchange.

SoundExchange monitors Initial Notices filed with the Copyright Office and reserves the right to demand payment from services that have failed to pay royalties.

SoundExchange also reserves the right to demand late fees from services that have failed to pay royalties when required. Federal regulations set forth the requirements for reporting and payment, as well as some of the penalties for failure to meet these requirements.

Although SoundExchange collects royalties from individual services pursuant to Copyright Office regulations, SoundExchange does not make determinations as to whether each of the many services that rely on the statutory licenses under Sections 112 and 114 of the Copyright Act are eligible for statutory licensing. Similarly, SoundExchange does not continuously verify that such services are in full compliance with all applicable requirements. To avoid any confusion in the marketplace, SoundExchange has posted on its web site the following notification:

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE: NO WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

Services that have filed with the Copyright Office a Notice of Use of Sound Recordings under Statutory License are obligated to comply with all requirements of the statutory licenses under Sections 112 and 114 of the Copyright Act. It is the responsibility of each such service to ensure that it is in full compliance with the requirements of the statutory licenses under 17 U.S.C. §§ 112 & 114. SoundExchange is not in a position to determine whether each of the many services that rely on the statutory licenses is eligible for statutory licensing and does not in fact make any such determination. Nor does SoundExchange verify that such services are in full compliance with all applicable requirements of the two statutory licenses. Accordingly, SoundExchange's acceptance of a service's payment does not express or imply any acknowledgment that a service is in compliance with the requirements of the statutory licenses. SoundExchange, its members and other copyright owners reserve all their rights to take enforcement action against a service that is not in compliance with those requirements, regardless of any royalty payments such service may have made to SoundExchange.

### **Royalty Allocation**

When a service pays royalties to SoundExchange, those royalties are allocated on a *pro rata* basis among the sound recordings transmitted by that service. By this we mean that if the net royalties (after deducting costs) paid by Service A total \$100 for period X and Service A reported 10,000 discrete sound recordings during that period, then each distinct sound recording would be valued at one cent (\$0.01) ( $\$100 \div 10,000$ ).

Certain licensees, such as webcasters and simulcasters transmitting over the internet, are not required under the statutory regulations to provide census reporting. Rather, they are only required to submit the sound recordings used for a two week period each calendar quarter. When a service only reports a sample, artists and copyright owners may not be compensated for sound recording transmitted in the weeks missed by the sample. SoundExchange continues to advocate for full census reporting and works with licensees otherwise not obligated to report on a census basis, to provide full reporting.

Royalties may remain undistributed when there is an ongoing legal proceeding, including appeals, which may alter a previously established rate. Royalties may also remain undistributed if SoundExchange has not received reports of use information and the Copyright Office has not approved a proxy in lieu of actual report of use data.

The royalties paid by a service are allocated on a nondiscriminatory basis. Each sound recording is valued equally, regardless of whether the sound recording copyright owner of, or featured performer on, the sound recording has specifically authorized SoundExchange to collect and distribute royalties on their behalf. SoundExchange allocates all royalties received for domestic performances equally among **all** performers, regardless of whether or not they have executed appropriate membership documents with SoundExchange.

The royalties collected by SoundExchange are allocated according to the percentages set forth in Sections 114(g)(2)(A)-(D) of the Copyright Act. 17 U.S.C. §§ 114(g)(2)(A)-(D). The statute requires that:

- (A) 50 percent of the receipts shall be paid to the copyright owner of the exclusive right under section 106(6) of [the Copyright Act] to publicly perform a sound recording by means of a digital audio transmission.
- (B) 2½ percent of the receipts shall be deposited in an escrow account managed by an independent administrator jointly appointed by copyright owners of sound recordings and the American Federation of Musicians or any successor entity) to be distributed to nonfeatured musicians (whether or not members of the American Federation of Musicians) who have performed on sound recordings.
- (C) 2½ percent of the receipts shall be deposited in an escrow account managed by an independent administrator jointly appointed by copyright owners of sound recordings and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (or any successor entity) to be distributed to nonfeatured vocalists (whether or not members of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) who have performed on sound recordings.
- (D) 45 percent of the receipts shall be paid, on a per sound recording basis, to the recording artist or artists featured on such sound recordings (or the persons conveying rights in the artists' performance on sound recordings). 17 U.S.C. §§ 114(g)(2)(A)-(D).

Royalties among a featured artist are generally allocated on a pro rata basis unless all of the members of a featured artist instruct SoundExchange as to an alternative allocation. By this we mean that where the featured artist is a band with four members, each member shall be entitled to 25% of the featured artist's share. When the members of a featured artist disagree as to the appropriate allocation of royalties, the amount of royalties in dispute are held pending resolution of the dispute.

### **Royalty Distribution**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 114(g)(3) of the Copyright Act, SoundExchange deducts from its receipts, prior to their distribution, the reasonable costs incurred in:

- (A) the administration of the collection, distribution, and calculation of the royalties;
- (B) the settlement of disputes relating to the collection and calculation of the royalties; and
- (C) the licensing and enforcement of rights with respect to the making of ephemeral recordings and performances subject to licensing under section 112 and [section 114], including those [costs] incurred in participating in negotiations or arbitration proceedings under section 112 and [section 114], except that all costs incurred relating to the section 112 ephemeral recordings right [are] only . . . deducted from the royalties received pursuant to section 112. 17 U.S.C. § 114(g)(3).

SoundExchange distributes royalties directly to copyright owners and featured artists when provided with the information necessary to effectuate payment. SoundExchange may also distribute royalties to featured artists pursuant to reciprocal payment agreements with foreign collecting societies when those artists have appropriately authorized SoundExchange to undertake this activity. For example, SoundExchange may pay the Dutch collecting organization all of the royalties due the featured artists who have designated the Dutch organization to collect U.S. statutory royalties on their behalf. SoundExchange may also consider paying a featured artist's royalties to a third party under a letter of direction received from a featured artist as an accommodation to such featured artist; provided the featured artist has executed SoundExchange's Designation and Authorization form and the third-party is: 1) considered creative personnel credited or recognized publicly for the commercially released sound recording on which the featured artist performs, or 2) is a usual and customary royalty participant in such sound recording.

When SoundExchange is unable to distribute allocated royalties to either a copyright owner or featured artist, those royalties are held for the copyright owner or featured artist pending further attempts to effectuate payment.

SoundExchange expends significant resources to reduce the amount of allocated but undistributed royalties. Under Copyright Office regulations, SoundExchange retains all such undistributed royalties for not less than three years from the date of payment, and thereafter may release those funds for the benefit of all other copyright owners, featured artists and nonfeatured performers entitled to royalties. During 2008, there were no releases.

SoundExchange distributes royalties on a periodic basis. In 2008, SoundExchange distributed \$100,024,779 in royalties.

### **Royalties Collected**

Pursuant to Copyright Office regulations, SoundExchange is permitted to disclose its royalty receipts to copyright owners and performers pursuant to an appropriate confidentiality agreement. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 380.5(d)(3), 382.4(d)(3), 382.14(d)(3), and 383.4(a). SoundExchange is not permitted, however, to disclose the information for individual statutory licensees to the general public.

In 2008, SoundExchange collected statutory royalties from all statutory classes of services in the amount of \$167,170,099. Non-statutory royalties collected amounted to \$2,265,720. This represents an increase in statutory royalty collections of 19% percent. In 2007, SoundExchange collected statutory royalties in the amount of \$140,412,226.

SoundExchange maintains royalties in money market funds, discounted notes, corporate bonds and government bonds. SoundExchange net earned interest on its cash accounts totaling \$4,022,365 during 2008.

### **Administrative Expenses**

SoundExchange incurs expenses to operate as the sole entity designated by the Librarian of Congress to collect and distribute royalties. Its expenses are divided into the following broad categories: Personnel, Operations, External Affairs, Legal & Licensing, and Royalty Systems.

SoundExchange incurs current, capital, and amortized expenses. Current expenses include, by way of example and not limitation, salaries, benefits, payroll taxes, office administration, occupancy, accounting, travel, conferences, outreach, information systems and technology, and legal and licensing. Capital expenses include royalty systems' extensions and modifications, computers and equipment, furniture and fixtures, and organizational costs. Amortized expenses are expenses that are amortized over a period of years for which the expense applies. For example, if SoundExchange incurred \$1 million in legal expenses to establish royalty rates for a five-year term, those legal expenses would be amortized over the five-year term of the license for which the expense was incurred.

In 2008, SoundExchange incurred the following expenses:

Personnel	\$ 3,639,592
Operating Expenses	\$ 2,431,326
External Affairs	\$ 803,398
Legal & Licensing	\$ 4,966,007
Royalty Systems	\$ 803,297
Unrealized (gain)loss on investments	\$ (231,515)
Total Expenses	\$ 12,412,105

### **Administrative Rate**

The administrative expenses of SoundExchange are paid first with interest income earned and then through an administrative charge applied to royalties available for distribution in the form of an Administrative Rate. SoundExchange expresses its

administrative rate as a fraction, the numerator of which is the total annual expenses less annual net interest income and the denominator of which is total annual royalties received.

SoundExchange expresses its administrative rate for 2008 as 5.0 percent (5.0%).

**Summary**

The following table summarizes SoundExchange's collections, allocations and distributions:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Y/E 12/31/08</b>	<b>Y/E 12/31/07</b>	<b>Y/E 12/31/06</b>
Royalty Receipts <sup>1</sup>	\$169,435,819	\$142,986,355	\$63,080,179
Interest Earned	\$4,022,365	\$4,484,731	\$3,497,537
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$173,458,184</b>	<b>\$147,471,086</b>	<b>\$66,577,716</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Personnel	\$3,639,592	\$2,848,813	\$2,411,311
Operating Expenses	\$2,431,326	\$1,530,266	\$1,493,665
External Affairs	\$803,398	\$1,027,719	\$324,959
Legal and Licensing	\$4,966,007	\$4,387,558	\$2,168,520
Royalty Systems	\$803,297	\$719,646	\$913,047
Unrealized (gain) loss on investment	\$(231,515)	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,412,105</b>	<b>\$10,514,002</b>	<b>\$7,311,502</b>
<b>Blended Administrative Rate</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Statutory royalties are typically paid 45 days following the end of the month for the month in which the liability accrued. "Royalty Receipts" means that royalties were collected and allocated according to the period for which the service reported the liability.