CAPASSO

THE MECHANICAL RIGHTS HUB



CAPASSO'S FIRST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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A YEAR OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Welcome to the CAPASSO Annual Newsletter!

We are thrilled to pull back the curtain on a year that has been anything but ordinary. This edition reflects our journey of holistic performance from ***July 2025 to June 2026***, capturing a year shaped by progress, collaboration, and meaningful impact. This edition offers a refreshed and comprehensive view of the work we do in service of our members and stakeholders, and we are so glad you are here to read it.

Think of this newsletter as your backstage pass to the past twelve months. Inside, we take you through the key milestones, governance highlights, remuneration updates, and the historical moments that defined our year.

From the boardroom to the studio, we are providing transparency and insight into our continued growth and operational excellence, ensuring you know exactly how we're working to keep the music playing.

Ready to dive into the highlights? We invite you to journey with us through this year's story, beginning with a strategic foreword from our CEO.

Enjoy catching up on our latest news and updates.

FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

Building the Architecture of African Creative Growth

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 financial year, I am proud to present our activities that support a transformative theme, **The African Song Hubs Milestones: Celebrating Growth, Creativity, and Impact**. Over the past twelve months, CAPASSO has firmly anchored its strategic mandate not only as a premier Collective Management Organisation (CMO) in Africa ensuring the rigorous, multiterritorial collection and distribution of music royalties but as a proactive builder of the continent's creative economy. The biggest drawback however remains the insufficient legislation in the creative sector.

The 2025–2026 financial cycle has been defined by a robust operational performance where royalty collection grew by a whooping 30% over prior year to reach R269 million reflecting an unyielding commitment to efficiency. Revenue collection growth is dominated by audio and video on demand (VOD) streaming in Africa and globally. Global collections are achieved through bilateral agreements with partners who are members and clients of the CMO global network, the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC). Through the optimisation our processing infrastructure, we have ensured that our members' repertoire spanning millions of musical works is accurately tracked and commercially safeguarded globally by distributing R235 million.

During an operations strategy session, management made a conclusion that a sustainable rights economy cannot exist in a vacuum, but requires a deliberate reinvestment into the foundational ecosystem. A prime example of this strategy in action was the rollout of our landmark Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Programme. By dispersing practical, targeted grants to 10 community-facing initiatives across South Africa, we began bridging the critical education deficit in music rights, empowering creators before their first royalty statements even arrive.



Our primary focus this year, however, cantered on a historic milestone that redefined cross-border creativity. We hosted the inaugural African Song Hubs, in Johannesburg in collaboration with the African Music Academy (AMA), Australasian Performing Rights Association and Australasian Mechanical rights Owners Society (APRA AMCOS) and the Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO). The event established a cross-cultural collaborative platform for our creators offering them an opportunity to core create globally viable songs with creators from the rest of Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Bringing this framework to African soil is a strategic win because historically song hubs are known to produce economically viable songs. CAPASSO is committed to make the event an annual occurrence as it provides our songwriters and producers with the commercial networks, professional studio acumen, and co-publishing pathways necessary to monetize their craft on a global scale.

Our milestones this financial year proved that not only do we need to protect the business underneath the music and make talent translate into sustainable careers, we are also committed to the sustainability of the music ecosystem. We remain focused on our dual mandate, maximizing music royalty returns for our members today, while aggressively funding the creative conditions needed for them to thrive tomorrow.

Lastly, I extend my deepest gratitude to members of board (past and present) for their vision and guidance, ours staff and our international partners To our members who have continued to entrust us with their business, your ambition remains our driving force as we march into the next era of Music and AI.

Jotam Matariro

Chief Executive Officer

Composers, Authors and Publishers Association



LERATO MATSOSO APPOINTED GENERAL MANAGER: OPERATIONS

The 2025–2026 financial year marked an important step in CAPASSO's leadership journey with the appointment of Lerato Matsoso as General Manager: Operations, effective **1 July 2025**.

Having joined CAPASSO in 2021 and previously serving as Head of Stakeholder Relations, Lerato brings extensive music industry experience and a strong understanding of CAPASSO's members and stakeholders to her new role.

As General Manager: Operations, she oversees the organisation's day-to-day operations, with a focus on strengthening licensing, royalty distribution, member services and industry partnerships.



Reflecting on her appointment, Lerato said she was "incredibly honoured and excited to take on the role and looks forward to working closely with the CAPASSO team and its members to strengthen the organisation's mission of protecting and promoting the rights of music creators."



Her appointment reflects CAPASSO's continued commitment to strong leadership, operational excellence and advancing the rights of music creators.

A DECADE OF DEDICATION: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



As CAPASSO continues to grow and evolve, we take a moment to recognise the people whose expertise, dedication, and contributions have helped shape the organisation's journey. This year marks a significant milestone for our Head of Finance, Kelebogile Phehle, as she celebrates 10 years of service at CAPASSO.

Over the past decade, Kelebogile has played an essential role in strengthening the organisation's financial management and supporting its strategic objectives. Her expertise, dedication, and consistent approach have contributed to CAPASSO's continued development and its ability to fulfil its mandate of serving music creators and rights holders. Reaching ten years of service is an important achievement and reflects Kelebogile's professional growth, commitment, and sustained contribution to the organisation.

Reflections from Kelebogile Phehle:

"It was just two years ago that CAPASSO celebrated its 10th anniversary, and it is rare to have the opportunity to walk such an extensive journey with an organisation. I have been privileged to experience this journey firsthand, which bears testament to CAPASSO's conducive environment and an executive and non-executive leadership team that leaves no one behind. Our core values, centred around the spirit of service, Ubuntu, integrity, and transparency, made aligning with CAPASSO an easy choice for me. We continuously pull out all the stops to serve our members in the most cost-effective ways possible, labouring each day with love in service to them.

40% of my tenure was served as the Head of Finance and Distribution, heading distributions alongside distribution management. I can proudly highlight consistent double-digit, year-on-year growth in our distributions, the distribution of new services, and improvements in our distribution rates. In the past five financial years up to 2025, over R1 billion has been distributed to members accounting for 76% of revenues with the balance relating to royalties and reports which were still being processed for upcoming distributions. Furthermore, broadcast distributions moved from annual and bi-annual runs to quarterly schedules across all major broadcasters. None of this would have been achieved without the commitment of the distribution management, the distribution team, and all departments within CAPASSO.

In the midst of increased CMO scrutiny, CAPASSO's transparency, company vision, and three strategic focus areas have supported its unqualified external audit opinions from inception to date. As Head of Finance, I confirm this clean record results directly from management and the board protecting our control environment, the finance team's commitment to ethical conduct and compliance with accounting standards, as well as the entire staff's compliance with internal controls. Thank you, team CAPASSO.

I *would like to take this opportunity to thank the two CEOs under whom I have served in various finance and distribution roles: Ms. Nothando Migogo and currently, Mr. Jotam Matariro. My gratitude also goes to our board chairpersons — Mr. Nick Matzoukis, Mr. Leslie Sedibe, and currently Mrs. Meladi Mampane — as well as our operations leadership, Mr. Wiseman Ngubo and currently Miss Lerato Matsoso.*

In the words of the late Maya Angelou, 'I come as one, but I stand as ten thousand.' This perfectly sums up my ten years with CAPASSO there is a whole team of current and past staff members whose efforts are duly represented in this milestone.

We congratulate Kelebogile on this milestone and thank her for the role she has played over the past decade. We wish her continued success in the years ahead.



New Leadership on CAPASSO's Board

In March 2026, CAPASSO announced the appointment of Meladi Mampane as Independent Chairperson of the Board and Brenda Mtambo as Deputy Chairperson marking the first time in CAPASSO's history that two women lead the Board.

The appointments represent an important step forward in CAPASSO's commitment to inclusive leadership, strong governance and meaningful representation within the music rights sector.

Meladi Mampane is the co-founder of Maletchaba Human Capital. She joined the CAPASSO Board in 2021 and previously served as Chairperson of the Remuneration Committee. She succeeds Mr Leslie Sedibe, who served on the Board for six years.

"It is a privilege to step into the role of Independent Chairperson. My focus will be on ensuring that the organisation continues to operate with integrity and a commitment to delivering meaningful value to its members."



Meladi Mampane
Independent chairperson

Brenda Mtambo, a multi-award-winning singer, songwriter and entrepreneur, joined the Board in 2024 as a Composer Member. She succeeds Dr Yvonne Chaka Chaka, following her six-year tenure on the Board.

"Serving as Deputy Chairperson is both an honour and a responsibility. I am committed to building systems that genuinely serve creators and securing long-term value for composers and publisher."



Brenda Mtambo
Deputy chairperson

This leadership transition forms part of a broader renewal of the Board. At CAPASSO's December 2025 AGM, members also elected two new Board members, who now join Mampane and Mtambo in guiding the organisation forward:

- **Adv. Nkateko Maluleke** — Publisher Board Member, representing Gallo Music
- **Tlou Cleopas Monyepao (DJ Cleo)** — Composer Board Member, representing Independent

Together, this newly strengthened Board reflects CAPASSO's ongoing commitment to protecting creators' rights, strengthening the music rights ecosystem, and creating lasting value for composers and publishers across the continent.



Adv. Nkateko Maluleke
(Gallo Music) - Publisher Board Member



Tlou Cleopas Monyepao
(DJ Cleo) - Composer Board Member

CAPASSO CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT (CSI) PROGRAMME: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC



In 2025, CAPASSO launched its inaugural Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Programme to support initiatives that contribute to the growth and development of South Africa's music industry.

The programme focuses on **four pillars**: Educational, Events, Women in Music, and Community-benefiting Projects. Following a competitive application process, 10 projects were selected for funding, supporting a range of initiatives including songwriting camps, entrepreneurship programmes, artist development, creative hubs, festivals and music industry workshops.

The 2026 recipients represent the diverse talent and ideas driving the creative sector forward. Through this programme, CAPASSO is helping to create opportunities, develop skills and strengthen communities across the music industry.

The strong response to the inaugural programme highlighted the need for continued investment in the sector. CAPASSO remains committed to growing the CSI Programme and supporting initiatives that contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive and thriving South African music industry.

By investing in our creators and communities, we are investing in the future of South African music.

Looking ahead, CAPASSO will open its CSI call for entries on an annual basis, with funding of up to R200 000 available per project. Keep an eye on our social media pages for further details.

FROM SUPPORT TO IMPACT: CAPASSO'S CSI PROGRAMME IN ACTION

What happens when music creators are given the right knowledge, the right platforms and a little extra support? Opportunities start to take shape.

Over the past few months, the CAPASSO team attended a number of events supported through the CAPASSO CSI Programme, engaging with music creators, creatives and industry stakeholders across KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Mpumalanga.

Music Industry Capacity Building Workshop | Durban | 3 July 2026

The CSI journey got off to a great start in Durban at Max's Lifestyle Village, where the CAPASSO team attended the inaugural Music Industry Capacity Building Workshop, the first project funded through the CAPASSO CSI Programme.

The workshop brought together music creators and industry stakeholders to explore the business of music and equip township-based creators with practical knowledge to navigate the industry.









Jozi Entertainment Music Workshop | Germiston | 4 July 2026

Held at the Dumisani Masilela Theatre, the Jozi Entertainment Music Workshop brought emerging artists together with experienced industry professionals for mentorship, knowledge sharing and conversations about building sustainable careers in the music industry.

Hosted in partnership with the City of Ekurhuleni and the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the workshop showed the value of bringing communities, government and industry together to create opportunities for artists.









The Creative Pulse Africa | Secunda | 25 July 2026

The CAPASSO team made its way to Lake Umuzi Upstairs in Secunda for The Creative Pulse Africa.

The event brought creatives, entrepreneurs and industry professionals together to exchange ideas, share experiences and explore opportunities within South Africa's growing creative economy.









Ukukhula Komculo Workshop Series: The Maskandi Artist Incubator | Nyosha, Kwamhlabuyalingana Durban | 15 July 2026

The Ukukhula Komculo Workshop Series: Maskandi Artist Incubator brought together emerging Maskandi artists for an opportunity to learn, connect and grow.

The programme equipped artists with practical industry knowledge, expert perspectives and tools to help them build sustainable careers, while celebrating and strengthening the rich Maskandi tradition.









YeahWeLink Music Festival & Industry Workshop | Maboneng | 1 August 2026

From the workshop to the stage!

The YeahWeLink Music Festival & Industry Workshop at The Bridge Creative Hub in Maboneng combined industry learning with a live music showcase, giving upcoming artists both knowledge and a platform to be seen and heard.

The workshop covered practical topics including branding, marketing, radio plugging, content creation and professional networking, while the showcase gave independent artists an opportunity to perform, gain exposure and connect with the broader creative community.















Musiconomy Music Workshop | Soweto | 1 August 2026

The Musiconomy Workshops was held at Maponya Mall, where independent artists and creatives got to grips with the business side of music.

The practical masterclasses covered everything from music rights and mechanical royalties to distribution, licensing, PR, music marketing and AI in music production.

For creators, understanding the business behind the music can be just as important as the music itself. The workshop equipped participants with knowledge to protect their intellectual property, understand their rights and identify opportunities to generate income.









X Hub: building Africa's Next Tech & creative leading | Wits University | 22 August 2026

The Culture Architecture Programme by XY Hub brought creatives and industry leaders together for conversations on building sustainable careers in the creative industry.

Inspired by Khuli Chana's 20-year journey in music, the programme gave the next generation an opportunity to learn from his experiences and gain practical insights into music, business, career development and networking.

20 years of experience. A new generation ready to shape what comes next.





















CAPASSO on the Move

Our team has been busy making waves across the industry! Here is a look at some of the key moments and events where we have represented CAPASSO over the past year.

Celebrating local Languages Through Songwriting

In partnership with Ukhozi FM, CAPASSO hosted a Songwriting Workshop in Durban aimed at highlighting the importance and value of creating music in local languages.

Held at the SABC's Ukhozi FM Studios, the workshop brought together songwriters, music creators, and industry stakeholders for insightful discussions on the evolving music landscape.



The programme explored topics including the growth and significance of language in the music sector, mechanical royalties, and the roles of both Ukhozi FM and CAPASSO in supporting and empowering songwriters. Participants also benefited from engaging panel discussions featuring celebrated and multi-award winning South African artists Sjava and Professor, alongside Ukhozi FM Music Compiler Zanda Mthembu and CAPASSO General Manager: Operations, Lerato Matsoso.







The workshop showcased CAPASSO's commitment to educating creators and preserving the rich tradition of storytelling and expression in South Africa's indigenous languages while equipping songwriters with the knowledge required to thrive in an increasingly digital and rapidly evolving music industry.

A Historic Milestone: CAPASSO Hosts CIAM General Assembly in South Africa

CAPASSO proudly marked a historic milestone by hosting the CIAM General Assembly in Johannesburg, a first for South Africa. The landmark event was centred on the theme "Building African and Global Unity Through Ubuntu." by the theme "Building African and Global Unity Through Ubuntu," this landmark gathering united creators, collective management leaders, and industry experts from across the continent and the globe to shape the future of the creative sector.



Distinguished leaders in attendance included CIAM President Arriën Molema, CISAC Vice President and CAPASSO Deputy Chair Yvonne Chaka Chaka, CAPASSO Chair Leslie Sedibe, CAPASSO CEO Jotam Matariro, CIAM Executive Committee member and CAPASSO representative Thando Nyameni, and CISAC Regional Director for Africa Samuel Sangwa.

The Assembly facilitated deep discussions on critical industry topics, including the growth of the African music sector, broadcasting, AI and digitalisation, streaming, and the live music industry. A key takeaway was the urgency of accurate metadata and the vital role of collective management organisations (CMOs) in protecting rights and ensuring fair royalties for African creators.







We were honoured to welcome esteemed creators such as Sjava, Cleo IceQueen, Hitboss, Raspy, Lawrence Khwisa (LuLu), and Tawaroa Kawana, who added invaluable perspectives to the dialogue.

By hosting the Assembly, CAPASSO reinforced its commitment to supporting African creators, encouraging global collaboration, and building a united music industry guided by the spirit of Ubuntu.

Bringing Global Collaboration to Africa: African SongHubs 2025

In a landmark achievement for the African music industry, CAPASSO and the Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) partnered with the Australasian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (APRA AMCOS) and the African Music Academy (AMA) to bring the internationally acclaimed SongHubs programme to Africa for the first time.



Held in Johannesburg from 20–23 October 2025, African SongHubs brought together 12 accomplished songwriters and producers from Africa, Australia, and Aotearoa New Zealand for an immersive three-day collaborative songwriting experience. The programme was designed to foster cultural exchange, encourage creative collaboration, and create meaningful opportunities for participants to expand their professional networks and careers.







CAPASSO was proudly represented by Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Brenden Praise, acclaimed vocalist Raspy, and multi-talented musician Mnqobi Yazo. They were joined by representatives from SAMRO, including Drumetic Boyz, Moneoa Moshesh, and Liyema Pantsi, as well as distinguished international participants from Zambia, Malawi, Australia, and New Zealand. The inaugural African SongHubs programme marked a significant milestone in positioning Africa as a vibrant hub for global music collaboration and innovation.

Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Music Rights

In response to the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence on the global creative landscape, CAPASSO, in collaboration with the Academy of Sound Engineering (ASE), presented its first AI Workshop on Oct 24, 2025. The event was held at Johannesburg's M1 Studios within SABC Radio Park.



This landmark initiative provided a vital forum for exploring the various advantages and obstacles AI introduces to Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) and music authors. The session featured a distinguished panel of domestic and global specialists from prominent bodies, including SAMPRA, GEMA, RiSA, and CIAM.







Key discussions focused on the unauthorised use of copyrighted content, the need for fair payment for creators, and the importance of protecting intellectual property rights in the growing AI environment.

By encouraging knowledge sharing and open discussion between countries, the workshop reinforced CAPASSO's commitment to supporting innovation while protecting the rights and livelihoods of music creators across Africa.

CAPASSO MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Our membership base, which includes composers, authors and publishers, is at the core of CAPASSO's operations. Supporting their creative and financial well-being remains one of our highest priorities.

CAPASSO's membership has reached an important point of growth, with a total of 13,702 members. This growth reflects the continued confidence of music creators and rights holders in CAPASSO.

As at the end of 2025/26FY, our membership composition was as follows:

13,702	11,534	2,168
TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPASSO MEMBERS	COMPOSERS	PUBLISHERS

CAPASSO has established a strong international presence through **28 bilateral** agreements, strengthening our ability to represent our members' rights beyond South Africa.

The map below highlights the African territories covered through these partnerships, demonstrating the reach of CAPASSO's international collaborations and our commitment to ensuring that our members' royalties are collected across borders.



OUR PERFORMANCE IN NUMBERS

Our distribution journey reflects continued growth, consistency and CAPASSO's commitment to ensuring that music creators receive the royalties they have earned.

The figures below provide an overview of our distribution performance across recent periods, highlighting our progress and the growth achieved over the years.

Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026
R254.3M	**R322.9M**	**R356.8M**

ROYALTY DISTRIBUTIONS

At CAPASSO, we are committed to ensuring that our members receive the royalties they are entitled to. Royalty distributions are made quarterly, providing members with regular payments for the use of their musical works.

Each distribution reflects royalties received and processed during the relevant period, with payments made once the necessary data has been received, matched and processed.

Our quarterly distribution cycle forms part of our commitment to transparent and efficient royalty administration, ensuring that members can track and receive the value generated from the use of their works.

DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

The CAPASSO distribution schedule is available on our website under the [Distribution Calendar]. This schedule will always keep members informed as to what is being distributed in the upcoming distribution.

Distribution	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Broadcast												
Digital												
Transactional												



OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

BIEM -[BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES SOCIÉTÉS GÉRANT LES DROITS D'ENREGISTREMENT ET DE REPRODUCTION MÉCANIQUE]

BIEM is an international organisation representing mechanical rights societies.

Mechanical rights societies exist in most countries. They license the reproduction of songs (including in musical, literary and dramatic works). Their members are composers, authors and publishers, and their clients are record companies, production companies, and other users of recorded music. They also license the mechanical aspects of online music exploitation including streaming and downloads.

CISAC -(INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF AUTHORS AND COMPOSERS)

CISAC (International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers) is the world's leading network of authors' societies. With 228 member societies in 111 countries, CISAC represents more than 5 million creators from all geographic areas and all artistic repertoires: music, audiovisual, drama, literature and visual arts.

IMPF

IMPF is the global trade and advocacy body for independent music publishers. IMPF helps to stimulate a more favourable business environment in different territories and jurisdictions for artistic, cultural, and commercial diversity for its music publisher members and the songwriters and composers they represent.

ICMP

ICMP represents national trade associations, companies & multinational music organisations worldwide.

Some are among the longest established companies in the world — delivering music since the 1700s.



LET'S GET IN TOUCH



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Licensing	licensing@capasso.co.za

Stay Connected

To stay informed about the latest industry news, operational updates, and our various community engagement initiatives, we encourage all our members and partners to follow CAPASSO across our social media platforms. Join our growing digital community and be part of the conversation.

Platform	Handle/Account
Facebook	CAPASSO
Instagram	@CapassoHub
LinkedIn	CAPASSO (Composers Authors and Publishers Association)
Twitter (X)	@CapassoHub


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