The International Council Of Music Authors (CIAM) was founded in 1966 to promote their professional, cultural, economic and legal interests and provide a forum for cooperation and networking.
History

What began in 1966 as a European-centred group, quickly developed into a global organisation as CIAM pursued a successful program of international expansion. This was accelerated in 2010 with the formulation of the “Seville strategy” which pledged to bring the unified voice of music creators to WIPO, governments and the collective management community.

It also allowed CIAM to seek independent financing and encouraged the council to stimulate and support the formation of continental alliances based on the example of the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (now a permanent observer at the CIAM executive committee).

CIAM MISSION

1. Coordinate and represent the voices of music creators at a worldwide level
2. Identify common interests, exchange information and provide training when needed
3. Promote the protection and management of copyright to encourage creativity and contribution

History

2010: Pan-African Composers’ and Songwriters’ Alliance
Launched in Nairobi, Kenya during CIAM congress

2012: Latin American Alliance of Composers and Authors of Music
Launched in São Paulo, Brazil

2013: Music Creators North America
Formed by merging of creators’ guilds from USA and Canada

2016: Asia-Pacific Music Creators Alliance
Launched in Beijing, China at the World Creators Forum
A further step towards the achievement of a global alliance was taken during the CISAC Asia-Pacific committee meeting held in Tokyo in November 2014. CIAM president, Lorenzo Ferrero introduced the idea of creating an Asia-Pacific alliance to join the existing creator alliances in Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America.

18 months later at the Asia-Pacific Committee Meeting in Bangkok, a charter of principles and intentions was proposed to the participating creators. This was subsequently signed by Australia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Thailand, Korea, Japan and Vietnam.

Brendan Gallagher, writer and board member of the Australasian Performing Right Association Limited, declared:

“I’m very happy to endorse the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Music Creators’ Alliance and look forward to getting, as we say in Australia, ‘a fair shake’ for creative people in one of the fastest growing and most exciting regions on the planet.”

**Cooperation and Dialogue**

Since 2014, CIAM has strengthened its relationship with CISAC’s audiovisual council Writers & Directors Worldwide, particularly in support of their important “Audiovisual Campaign”.

From its 2015 congress, CIAM has also started a strategic relationship with artists’ and performers’ organisations such as the International Artist Organisation (IAO).

CIAM’s Work

CIAM operates with a president and an executive committee that are elected by creators at a bi-annual assembly. The current president is contemporary Italian composer, Lorenzo Ferrero and the executive committee is a geographically diverse group of creators from within collective management societies and independent creators’ alliances.

Lobbying on Behalf of Creators:

CIAM lobbies governments in collaboration with its partner alliances to protect and promote the rights of composers and songwriters. Recent activities include support of creators in Brazil, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Peru, Rwanda, Spain and the US.

Conducting Studies into Authors’ Rights:

These studies focus on moral rights, the copyright component that is vital to rightsholders. They are included in the Bern Convention but not respected everywhere and are even absent from some legislation (including in the USA).

CIAM also focuses on constitutional rights, patrimonial rights and fair remuneration. Its aim is to help identify and achieve the correct balance between the rights of creators of cultural works and the rights of society to access them.

Global Projects:

CIAM’s largest project today is “Fair Trade Music”. Proposed by MCNA and officially launched at the CISAC Creators’ Summit in June 2013, this campaign’s primary objective is to certify that all parties in the music business adhere to standards of transparency and fair compensation for music creators.

The project is based upon Pierre Lalonde’s 2014 “Study on Fair Compensation in the Digital Age”. In July 2016, the Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros album “PersonA” was launched as the first-ever digitally available Fair Trade Music-certified product.

Learn more about CIAM’s work at www.ciamcreators.org

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