



MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE | DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND ARTISTS' RIGHTS

ATHENS, OCTOBER 22-24, STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CULTURAL CENTER

OPENING SPEECHES

Music in the Digital Age: Streaming & Artificial Intelligence has been a three-day international forum organized by APOLLON (Greek CMO for musicians' neighboring rights) and FIM (International Federation of Musicians). Against the backdrop of **AI-generated content and the dominance of streaming platforms**, the conference examined how **revenue models, legal frameworks and artistic labor are being reshaped** in a digital economy that prioritizes scale over sustainability.

Bringing together artists, journalists, industry professionals, legal experts, academics, policy makers and technologists, the event focused on three core questions:

- How to build **sustainable and equitable compensation** models in a saturated streaming market?
- How to protect creators' rights when **AI is trained on and competes with their work?**
- What role should legislation play in **securing ethical AI and fairer digital markets** without stifling innovation?

Mr John Smith, President of FIM, outlined the conference's agenda, positioning streaming as an established issue focused on fair remuneration for performers, while AI has surged to the forefront as a disruptive force presenting both profound threats and potential benefits.



APOLLON
GREEK MUSICIANS'
COLLECTING SOCIETY



OPENING SPEECHES | JOHN SMITH

Athens, October 22, 2025
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

Thank you, Grigoris. Thank you for that, and welcome again to everybody.

It's really good to be here. This is the first formal collaboration between FIM and APOLLON, and it's been a delight working on this conference all of this year. We started thinking about it in January, and we've had regular meetings with the working group - and thank you to the members of the working group: very inventive thinking, and we've put together, I think, a very good program for you, which should be extremely interesting. I also welcome the online participants. I believe we got a thousand online participants registered for this conference, which is incredible. So, you're all welcome, and I hope you can see me.

So, we discussed two very important issues for our sector in these next three days. Streaming, which is not a new technology anymore, is it? It's been around for a long while, and we've been talking about it for a long while. There's a well-established method now for the public to access their favorite music, and it seems to be the most prominent form of people accessing music these days. And AI, which has surged to the top of the agenda. Just two years ago, we weren't really talking about it. It was something from science fiction. It was a Terminator movie, and suddenly it's confronting us in our everyday lives, and particularly in our sector, and how it affects our sector for good and maybe for bad, we'll talk about during the course of this conference. So, it's a very exciting prospect. So, today we deal with streaming, and in particular the remuneration of performers, both featured and non-featured.

This is the latest in the series of conferences on streaming that FIM has held. We began in Budapest a number of years ago. We had a conference in Burbank, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Mumbai to discuss various aspects of streaming. So, I look forward to listening to the two panel discussions today and the experts who give their opinions and hopefully evidence, and that we can evaluate how we feel about it at the moment and where it's going for us.

Thursday and Friday are devoted to AI, looking at all aspects, not just the threats to our sector but what it might bring to our profession. And we got some



APOLLON
GREEK MUSICIANS'
COLLECTING SOCIETY



demonstrations which should actually show how it can be used to a very positive way. So, it's not all bad - I hope we find that out anyway.

As you'll see on the agenda, the last session today and the last session on Friday are general discussions. Now this is because we probably gonna run out of time on the panels, and I know that people will have points to make and questions to ask. This is the time to do it, so don't worry if you don't get to ask a question. We'll do it on the end of today. We'll have about an hour for that, and I'll moderate that, make sure everybody can make their point. Those of you online, please put your questions or points into the chat, and I'm assured that somebody's gonna tell me what you say, I hope - we'll see if the technology works. And we do the same on Friday after the discussion, the two-day discussion on AI. We'll have a session when everybody can reflect on what's been said and come forward their points. I think this is sometimes better than spur-of-the-moment questions after the panelists have spoken, so you can actually reflect and think about it.

Let me close by asking all of the moderators of the panels to keep an eye on the clock. It's gonna be quite difficult to keep this conference moving. We've got a lot of ground to cover, so please stick to the time limits that we've set.

That's all from me for now. You'll hear from me during the course of the conference. So, now it's a great honor and a great pleasure to invite to the stage to address you the Deputy Minister of Culture, Jason Fotilas. Minister, you're welcome.

**John Smith,
President Of Musicians' International Federation (FIM)**

