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**Copyright Organisation  
of Trinidad and Tobago**

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## **BUMPER ROYALTIES FOR COTT MEMBERS**

Beginning Monday, the Copyright Organisation (COTT) will disburse its largest single royalty payment ever, some \$1,621, 805, to be shared among members, the sum representing Broadcasting and General licensing fees collected on their behalf for the year 2004.

The payment shows an overall increase of a whopping 73 percent, compared against disbursements made last year in this same category, a leap largely attributable to upgrades in computerized scrutiny by COTT and its affiliate organizations in the Caribbean but in no small measure the result of more astute personal monitoring by members.

Taken separately, the figures tell an even more compelling success story. Distribution in relation to Broadcasting royalties amounts to \$443,694.72 an increase of 239 percent when compared with \$130,905.40 paid last year to members. General royalties (collections from concerts, fetes, restaurants, bars, clubs, business places, DJs et al) accrued \$892,211.25 a 106 percent jump above last year's \$431,943.83.

To complete the tally, another \$285,900 will be disbursed under the heading Un-logged Performance Allocation (UPA), which allows for compensation of members for broadcast and performances of their music which were not logged. Payments are calculated on the basis of reasonable assessment and UPA is paid out of interest derived from income.

Remarking upon the exponential leap in collections, COTT CEO Allison Demas appointed equal credit to interventions on both the technological and personal levels. "Increased collaboration with umbrella agencies like the Caribbean Copyright Link (CCL) was streamlined through shared computer databases, yielding demonstrably improved results," Demas said.

"I would also like to acknowledge the work of our documentation and distribution team headed by David Bereaux, whose increased productivity and dedicated service contributed significantly to improvements all around but particularly in terms of keeping our timelines and ensuring all transactions were meticulously checked and recorded.

"We were also heartened by more timely responses from members who, in the past, have

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sometimes been remiss in completing administrative aspects of their business. This time around, presumably due to continuously reinforcing the importance and consequent value of punctually submitting play lists for live performances of their music, we were able to realize accruals that might have previously eluded us,” Demas said.

Even so, the figures quoted refer only to royalties due to COTT members. Foreign affiliates will be remitted in July with details of those calculations.

This is COTT’s second distribution to members in 2005. Already, members enjoyed disbursements last February amounting to \$143,070.93 in relation to foreign receipts and recording rights for the period July to December 2004. In all, COTT distributes royalties four times per year.

ENDS

For further information feel free to contact Ms. Vindra Bridgebassie, Communications Officer, [communications@cott.org.tt](mailto:communications@cott.org.tt).

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