# The Wurzels debut AI-written single ‘Wurzel Me Up’ as folk pioneers embrace technology



Comic folk band The Wurzels, renowned for their humorous takes on West Country life, have made a surprising leap into the future of music creation with their latest single, "Wurzel Me Up," which was entirely written by artificial intelligence. This unexpected venture comes after a notable hiatus from new material, with singer Pete Budd, at 84, stating, “We realised that it was a long time since we had written a new pop tune. We needed some ‘cutting-edge’ technology.”

Formed in 1966, The Wurzels have a storied history, marked by playful songs like "The Combine Harvester (Brand New Key)," which hit the top of the UK singles chart in May 1976, and "I Am A Cider Drinker," which also found substantial chart success that year. The band’s current lineup, including long-serving member Tommy Banner, aged 85, along with bass player Sedge Moore, keyboard player Louie Gribble, and drummer Leigh Delamere, continues to embrace their comedic style rooted in regional identity.

In an era where discussions about plagiarism and copyright concerns surrounding AI are prevalent, Budd expressed an awareness of these issues, asserting the band’s commitment to originality. “Stars like them young’uns (Sir) Elton (John) and Macca (Sir Paul McCartney) are right to be concerned; we don’t agree with plagiarism in any form without some form of remuneration,” he stated. This highlights a broader hesitation within the music industry regarding the integration of AI in creative processes, which has sparked significant debate about ownership and the essence of artistic identity.

The Wurzels' foray into AI-written music follows a wave of similar trends in the industry; recently, other artists have begun utilising AI technologies to produce music that resonates with contemporary sentiments. This growing movement was underscored by the emergence of songs like "Verknallt in einen Talahon," an AI-generated track that recently made waves in the German music charts. Such developments are indicative of a shifting landscape where AI’s role in creative arts is increasingly debated, particularly concerning ethics and copyright laws.

As The Wurzels continue their legacy, the impact of this AI experiment remains to be seen. They are not only maintaining their place in the folk music scene but also engaging with modern technology in ways that invite commentary and critique from both fans and critics alike. Their blend of traditional folk values with innovative technology perhaps positions them as a bridge between the past and the future in a rapidly evolving industry.

In addition to their foray into AI, The Wurzels have a robust schedule of live performances lined up for 2025-2026, ensuring that their energetic presence continues to captivate audiences across the UK. Their ability to adapt, whether through AI or live shows, underscores the band's enduring relevance and connection to their fanbase, as they seek to pioneer new paths in the changing music landscape.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/paul-mccartney-john-west-country-b2758169.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/paul-mccartney-john-west-country-b2758169.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.thewurzels.com/history.htm), [[4]](https://www.wurzelmania.co.uk/wurzelsongs.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.veroneus.com/p/ai-song-explodes-top-50), [[7]](https://www.wuft.org/2024-07-12/the-music-industry-is-coming-for-ai)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.bandsintown.com/a/115366-the-wurzels)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/paul-mccartney-john-west-country-b2758169.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/paul-mccartney-john-west-country-b2758169.html> - The Wurzels, a comic folk band from Somerset, have released a new single titled 'Wurzel Me Up', written by artificial intelligence (AI). The band, known for hits like 'The Combine Harvester (Brand New Key)' and 'I Am A Cider Drinker', turned to AI after a period without new material. Singer Pete Budd, 84, stated, 'We realised that it was a long time since we had written a new pop tune. We needed some ‘cutting-edge’ technology.' The band's longest-serving member, Tommy Banner, 85, added, 'We decided to explore this new artificial world to see if it could help us analyse our catalogue of Wurzel songs and give us some lyrical inspiration for a new release.' Despite embracing AI, Budd acknowledged concerns about plagiarism and copyright, emphasising the band's commitment to originality. The Wurzels, formed in 1966, are renowned for their humorous take on West Country life and have had eight UK hit singles and three UK top 40 albums. Their 1976 hit 'The Combine Harvester (Brand New Key)' topped the UK singles chart, and 'I Am A Cider Drinker' reached number three in the same year. The current lineup includes Budd, Banner, bass player Sedge Moore, keyboard player Louie Gribble, and drummer Leigh Delamere.
3. <https://www.thewurzels.com/history.htm> - The Wurzels' official website provides a comprehensive history of the band, detailing their formation in 1966 and their rise to fame with hits like 'The Combine Harvester' and 'I Am A Cider Drinker'. The site chronicles their journey through various decades, highlighting key moments such as their 1995 collaboration with Eddie Stobart Ltd, which led to a resurgence in popularity. The band's commitment to performing and recording is evident, with numerous albums and singles released over the years. The website also features updates on recent activities, including live performances and special releases, reflecting the band's enduring presence in the music scene.
4. <https://www.wurzelmania.co.uk/wurzelsongs.html> - Wurzelmania's Ultimate Index lists all officially released Wurzels songs, providing fans with detailed information on each track. The index is organised alphabetically, offering insights into the band's extensive discography, including popular songs like 'The Combine Harvester' and 'I Am A Cider Drinker'. This resource serves as a valuable tool for enthusiasts seeking comprehensive knowledge about the Wurzels' music, showcasing the band's evolution and the breadth of their work over the years.
5. <https://www.bandsintown.com/a/115366-the-wurzels> - Bandsintown provides information on The Wurzels' upcoming concerts and live tour dates for 2025-2026. The page lists scheduled performances in venues such as EngineRooms in Southampton, The Garage in London, and Komedia Bath, offering fans opportunities to attend live shows. The Wurzels, known for their unique blend of comedy and folk music, continue to engage audiences with their energetic performances and classic hits, maintaining a strong presence in the live music scene.
6. <https://www.veroneus.com/p/ai-song-explodes-top-50> - Veroneus reports on the rise of AI-generated music, highlighting a song titled 'Verknallt in einen Talahon' by artist Butterbro, which reached the 48th position in Germany's music charts. Created using AI tools, the song humorously addresses stereotypes about immigrants and gained 3.5 million Spotify streams shortly after its release. The article discusses the implications of AI in music creation, sparking discussions about stereotypes and the acceptance of AI-generated content in mainstream media.
7. <https://www.wuft.org/2024-07-12/the-music-industry-is-coming-for-ai> - WUFT News discusses the music industry's response to AI-generated content, focusing on companies like Suno and Udio that create AI-generated songs. The article highlights concerns from industry leaders, such as Mitch Glazier, CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America, who views these services as copyright infringement. The piece delves into the legal and ethical challenges posed by AI in music production, reflecting the industry's efforts to address the rapid advancement of AI technologies.