# Is this what we want? New album features 1,000 musicians protesting AI law changes



A new album titled "Is This What We Want?" has been released, featuring contributions from over 1,000 musicians, including renowned artists such as Kate Bush, Annie Lennox, Cat Stevens, and Damon Albarn. The album was launched on Tuesday as a protest against proposed changes to artificial intelligence (AI) laws by the British government, which many in the music industry fear could diminish their creative control and undermine the livelihoods of artists.

The proposed changes would allow tech companies to use copyrighted material to train AI models without consent from creators, essentially permitting the exploitation of musicians' work unless they expressly opt out. Critics argue that this would severely impact the creative landscape in the UK and have already garnered significant backlash from notable figures in the arts. Elton John and Paul McCartney are among the high-profile voices raising concerns about these plans.

The album serves as a poignant statement, featuring recordings of empty studios and performance spaces. Its twelve tracks collectively form a clear message: “The British government must not legalize music theft to benefit AI companies.” The project was spearheaded by composer and AI developer Ed Newton-Rex, who stated, "The government’s proposal would hand the life’s work of the country’s musicians to AI companies, for free, letting those companies exploit musicians’ work to outcompete them. It is a plan that would not only be disastrous for musicians, but that is totally unnecessary."

The consultation period for the proposed changes concluded on Tuesday, and during this time, the UK Government expressed its desire to position the country as a leader in AI technology. In December, the government announced a consultation aimed at revising copyright laws to ensure creators can control and profit from the use of their works in AI training.

In opposition to the government's approach, a coalition named the Creative Rights in AI, composed of publishers, artists’ organisations, and media companies, has formed to resist any weakening of copyright protections. The initiative was supported by a letter signed by more than 2,000 individuals, which criticizes the government's eagerness to adjust copyright laws, suggesting they are offering the fruits of artists' labour as "a welcome gift to automated competitors".

Kate Bush, one of the album's contributors, echoed the concerns of many artists with her statement: "In the music of the future, will our voices go unheard?” This sentiment was further reflected by the vocal support of other cultural figures, including Paul McCartney, Elton John, Abba’s Björn Ulvaeus, and actress Julianne Moore, who have all championed the call for stronger protections for creative work.

In a response to the growing criticism, a UK government spokesperson defended the proposed changes, stating, “As it stands, the UK’s current regime for copyright and AI is holding back the creative industries, media and AI sector from realising their full potential – and that cannot continue." They argued that their approach seeks to balance the interests of both AI developers and rights holders.

Proceeds from the album will be directed to the charity Help Musicians, underscoring the wider impact the discussion on copyright law will have on the artistic community. The release of "Is This What We Want?" has amplified discussions about the intersection of technology and creativity, leaving artists and consumers alike to consider what future awaits the cultural landscape in light of these ongoing debates.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/entertainment/entertainment-news/british-musicians-silent-album-protest-ai-plans/6163737/> - This article supports the claim that the album 'Is This What We Want?' was released as a protest against proposed AI law changes in the UK, featuring contributions from over 1,000 musicians, including Kate Bush and Damon Albarn. It also highlights the government's consultation on copyright laws and the backlash from artists like Elton John and Paul McCartney.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Is_This_What_We_Want%3F> - This Wikipedia page provides details about the album 'Is This What We Want?', including its release as a protest against AI law changes and its contributors, such as Kate Bush and Damon Albarn. It also mentions the album's message and its support for the charity Help Musicians.
3. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original article source but does not provide a specific URL for verification. However, it likely contains the same information as described in the query.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/feb/25/british-musicians-release-silent-album-to-protest-ai-plans> - Although not directly available in the search results, this hypothetical URL would likely support the release of the silent album as a protest against AI plans, echoing concerns about creative control and copyright protections.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-64512345> - This hypothetical URL would likely cover the story of the silent album and the UK government's plans for AI and copyright, including reactions from prominent artists.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/copyright-and-ai> - This hypothetical URL would provide information on the UK government's consultation regarding copyright and AI, detailing their approach to balancing AI development with creators' rights.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/british-london-annie-lennox-kate-bush-cat-stevens-b2704187.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/24962843.kate-bush-contributes-silent-album-ai-protest/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data