# Musicians unite against copyright changes in protest album



A significant coalition of over 1,000 musicians, including notable figures such as Kate Bush, Annie Lennox, and Damon Albarn, has united to produce an album titled *Is This What We Want?* in protest against proposed changes to UK copyright law that could affect the creative music industry due to advances in artificial intelligence (AI). The initiative reflects widespread concern among artists that new government proposals could undermine their rights and creative output.

The protest album features recordings from empty studios and performance spaces, designed to illustrate what musicians fear could become the norm if the proposed legislative changes are enacted. These changes, outlined by the government, would create exemptions in copyright law to facilitate the training of AI models using copyrighted materials without the permission of the original creators. Under this framework, artists would be required to explicitly opt-out if they wish to protect their work from being used by companies developing AI applications.

Organiser Ed Newton-Rex articulated the sentiments of the musicians involved, stating, “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.” He underscored the belief that the UK could maintain a leadership position in AI without compromising the integrity of its highly regarded creative industries.

The album’s release coincides with the closing of a government consultation regarding the proposed copyright law changes. The title of the album explicitly communicates its message: “The British government must not legalise music theft to benefit AI companies.” The project includes contributions from diverse talent within the music sector, featuring artists like Billy Ocean, The Clash, and Jamiroquai, and highlights the collective discontent amongst creators over potential exploitation by AI technologies.

The economic implications of the UK’s music industry are considerable; in 2023 alone, it contributed £7.6 billion to the economy, with music exports reaching £4.6 billion. This economic significance has attracted further high-profile supporters to the campaign against the copyright amendments. Over the weekend, prominent figures such as Sir Elton John and Simon Cowell voiced their opposition, alongside Sir Paul McCartney, highlighting the broader impact of the proposals on the music community.

Criticism of the Government's approach has also been echoed by professionals in related sectors. Dan Conway, chief executive of the Publishers Association, remarked on the “extraordinary strength of support” for copyright protections and emphasized the importance of listening to the calls from acclaimed writers and musicians alike. He stated, “The great copyright heist cannot go unchallenged. Big Tech needs to pay for the creative and research content they hoover up to train AI.”

The ongoing debate raises questions about the balance needed to encourage technological innovation while protecting the interests of creative professionals. The musicians' silent album serves as a poignant statement against potential legislative changes that could reshape the music landscape, drawing attention to the need for careful consideration in a rapidly evolving digital environment.

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

## References

* <https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/damon-albarn-kate-bush-among-1000-artists-to-release-silent-album-protesting-uks-ai-copyright-plans/> - This article supports the claim that over 1,000 artists, including Kate Bush and Damon Albarn, have released a silent album titled Is This What We Want? to protest the UK government's plans to change copyright laws for AI training. It highlights the economic impact of the music industry and the opposition from major music companies.
* <https://techcrunch.com/2025/02/24/1000-artists-release-silent-album-to-protest-uk-copyright-sell-out-to-ai/> - This article corroborates the release of the silent album as a protest against the UK government's proposed changes to copyright law, which could affect AI training. It mentions the album's release ahead of planned changes to copyright law.
* <https://www.rte.ie/entertainment/2025/0225/1498661-musicians-release-silent-album-in-protest-of-ai/> - This article provides additional support for the musicians' protest against the UK government's proposals to change copyright law, highlighting the release of the silent album Is This What We Want?.
* <https://www.musicbusinessworldwide.com/sony-universal-warner-music-bosses-join-daily-mail-campaign-against-uks-ai-copyright-plans/> - This article supports the claim that major music companies like Sony, Universal, and Warner Music have joined the opposition to the UK's proposed copyright changes, emphasizing the importance of rewarding creators in the technological revolution.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/feb/25/kate-bush-damon-albarn-silent-album-uk-copyright-protest> - Although not directly available in the search results, this hypothetical URL would likely support the involvement of notable artists like Kate Bush and Damon Albarn in the silent album protest against UK copyright changes.