# AI in music is reshaping creativity and raising ethical challenges



The ongoing dialogue surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) in the music industry raises significant questions about creativity, authenticity, and the future of musical production. According to a recent report by French streaming platform Deezer, approximately 18% of the songs uploaded today are entirely AI-generated, amounting to over 20,000 such tracks each day—double the amount from just a few months prior. This rapid increase has triggered a wave of concern within music circles and among major industry players.

Prominent record companies such as Universal, Sony, and Warner have initiated legal actions against AI music platforms including Suno and Udio. These lawsuits allege that these platforms unlawfully utilised copyrighted songs to train their AI systems, highlighting the legal and ethical complexities involved in AI-generated music.

Despite the apprehensions about AI potentially displacing human musicians, historical precedent suggests that new technologies in music often provoke similar debates. The introduction of the synthesizer, the rise of drum machines, and the widespread use of auto-tune each encountered resistance initially but eventually became integral tools in music production. Cher's famous hit demonstrated the creative possibilities enabled by auto-tune, dispelling fears that such technology would erode authenticity in music.

The current situation with AI mirrors these past transitions, with AI presenting itself as a novel tool rather than a wholesale substitute for human creativity. AI's capabilities can assist artists in overcoming creative hurdles, such as generating chord progressions, experimenting with unfamiliar genres, or translating poetry into melodies. These functions can democratise access to music-making, especially for individuals lacking traditional musical training or resources, such as a rural teenager with limited access to instruments or studios.

A key concern, however, is the potential for AI-generated music to be mistaken as a replacement for human artistry rather than a collaborator. While AI can produce technically proficient compositions, critics caution that such music may often feel hollow or imitative, akin to 'elevator music'—refined but lacking the emotive depth attributed to human performance.

Moreover, the proliferation of AI-generated tracks raises questions about the provenance and ownership of the music entering streaming platforms. Issues about who profits from these tracks and whether artists' works have been used without consent to train AI systems remain pivotal in ongoing debates.

It is worth noting that not all music produced by humans is entirely original, as many songs share common structures and motifs, and popular music often gravitates towards familiar patterns shaped by market trends and algorithms. AI might accelerate this trend, but it is not solely responsible for it.

Ultimately, the integration of AI in music production is viewed by many as an evolution in the creative process, with the potential to enhance artistic expression when used appropriately. The discussion now centres on establishing robust protections for artists and responsible frameworks for utilising AI, alongside recognising its role as a complementary tool in the ever-evolving landscape of music.

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

## References

* <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/generative-ai-in-music-market-report> - Corroborates the rapid growth of generative AI in music, driven by technological advancements that democratize music creation and streamline production processes.
* <https://simplebeen.com/ai-music-statistics/> - Supports concerns about AI-generated music displacing human creators, citing a projected $10.5 billion revenue loss for artists between 2024-2028, and highlights market growth projections.
* <https://rareconnections.io/ai-music-statistics/> - Demonstrates widespread AI adoption in music creation, with platforms like Mubert generating over 100 million AI tracks in 2023, and 60% of musicians already using AI tools.
* <https://www.masteringthemix.com/blogs/learn/the-rise-of-ai-in-music-production-creative-partner-or-composer-competitor> - Provides statistics on AI usage in music production, including 20.3% of artists using AI for production and 30.6% for mastering, reflecting industry integration trends.
* <https://artsmart.ai/blog/ai-in-music-industry-statistics/> - Confirms AI's financial impact, projecting a 17.2% revenue boost for the music industry due to AI-generated content, aligning with claims about AI's economic influence.