

Australia bans AI songs from music charts

7th September 2026



The fight against the intrusion of artificial intelligence (AI) into music continues. The Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) has banned songs that have been "wholly" created with AI from entering the

country's official music charts. There has been a recent controversy over an AI version of the 1989 Madonna hit "Like a Prayer". The cover version of the tune made considerable use of AI technology. The song spent 16 weeks in the Australian top 20. It also created a backlash among music purists and the general public. ARIA declared that "wholly AI-generated" music will be banned from the charts, while "AI-assisted" music will still be eligible for inclusion.

ARIA CEO Annabelle Herd said the music charts must protect artists and their livelihoods. She said there should be a legitimate use of AI, but not to the extent that it excludes human creativity. She commented on the new rules, saying: "These changes reflect our intent to remain dynamic and promote the human nature of artistry in what is, to say the least, a rapidly developing space." Josh Fawaz, the artist who created the AI Madonna cover, acknowledged his use of AI on his version of the track. He defended his use of AI as a "tool" in creating music. He also called ARIA's new rules "a great move". He wrote: "I understand that AI in music isn't for everyone and that's fine."

Sources: aria.com / apnews.com / aljazeera.com

Writing

AI music will be the most listened to in the future. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fight / artificial intelligence / songs / music charts / controversy / backlash / purists / livelihoods / human creativity / new rules / human nature / artistry / space / tool

True / False

- 1) Australia has banned all songs that use AI from the official music charts. T / F
- 2) There was a controversy over the cover of a Madonna song. T / F
- 3) The cover song spent 16 weeks in the Australian top 20. T / F
- 4) There was a backlash against people who opposed the use of AI. T / F
- 5) The recording industry CEO said artists' livelihoods must be protected. T / F
- 6) The CEO said there was no legitimate use of AI in creating music. T / F
- 7) The creator of the Madonna cover denied using AI. T / F
- 8) The creator called the new rules for AI "a great move". T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. fight | a. perfectionists |
| 2. banned | b. aim |
| 3. considerable | c. insertion |
| 4. purists | d. leaves out |
| 5. inclusion | e. prohibited |
| 6. livelihoods | f. action |
| 7. excludes | g. battle |
| 8. intent | h. recognized |
| 9. acknowledged | i. substantial |
| 10. move | j. income |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of AI being used to create music?
- b) Will songs written by AI ever be better than those written by humans?
- c) Should there be a separate chart for AI songs?
- d) Would you be a fan of an AI pop star?
- e) Isn't a synthesizer as controversial as AI?
- f) What do you think of AI making songs that exactly fit your mood?
- g) Will there ever be an AI Beatles or an AI Mozart?
- h) What songs do you like that are in your country's music charts?

Phrase Match

1. There has been a recent controversy
 2. The cover version of the tune made
 3. It also created a backlash among
 4. wholly AI-generated music will be
 5. AI-assisted music will still be eligible
 6. the music charts must protect artists
 7. She said there should be a legitimate
 8. not to the extent that it excludes human
 9. He also called ARIA's new rules "
 10. AI in music isn't for everyone and
- a. music purists
 - b. creativity
 - c. for inclusion
 - d. use of AI
 - e. that's fine
 - f. considerable use of AI
 - g. over an AI version
 - h. a great move"
 - i. banned from the charts
 - j. and their livelihoods

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What danger is AI posing to musicians' livelihoods?
- c) What legitimate use is there for AI in music?
- d) What is "the human nature of artistry"?
- e) How musical are you?
- f) Would you like to use AI to write your own songs?
- g) What advice do you have for music purists regarding AI?
- h) What questions would you like to ask musicians who use AI?

Spelling

1. the suiitnron of artificial intelligence
2. recent enyvroctros
3. made ebeoclsdinar use of AI technology
4. It also created a ahbasklc
5. music pitssur
6. still be eligible for ioisunlnc
7. protect artists and their helodlvisio
8. there should be a eitgaetlim use of AI
9. reflect our intent to remain dacimny
10. the human nature of ittrsrya
11. ncalwkeedodg his use of AI
12. his vroseni of the track

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. f

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What level of AI use will get songs banned from Australia's music charts?
2.	In what year was the original Madonna song released?
3.	For how long did the song spend in the Australian top 20?
4.	Who did the cover song create a backlash among besides the public?
5.	What music will still be eligible for inclusion in the Australian charts?
6.	What position does Annabelle Herd hold in Australia's recording industry?
7.	What did Ms Herd say the music charts should protect?
8.	What did Ms Herd say should not be excluded from music?
9.	What did Josh Fawaz defend?
10.	Who did Josh Fawaz call the new AI music rules?

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best kinds of music at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Rock
- Classical
- Jazz
- Country
- Techno
- Hip-hop
- Opera
- Blues

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 T	6 F	7 F	8 T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.