



A Human-First Code of Ethics

for AI Music & Art Creation

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MUSIC FOR HUMAN FLOURISHING

PREAMBLE

AI is becoming a powerful new instrument for artistic creation. Like every transformative creative technology before it, it offers extraordinary possibilities while raising serious ethical questions.

I believe AI-generated art should exist **in service to human creativity, human culture, and human flourishing — not as a replacement for them.**

I therefore commit to using artificial intelligence in ways that respect artists, musicians, performers, audiences, and the traditions from which creative expression emerges.

This Code of Ethics establishes the principles by which I will create, publish, and share AI-assisted music and art.

THE NINETEEN PRINCIPLES

- 1** Human Art Comes First
- 2** Live Musicianship Is Sacred
- 3** No Direct Artist Imitation
- 4** Do Not Deceive the Audience
- 5** Respect Human Artists
- 6** Preserve Attribution
- 7** Respect Copyright and Creative Ownership
- 8** Do Not Clone a Person Without Consent
- 9** AI Should Expand Human Creativity
- 10** Favor Originality Over Mimicry
- 11** Protect Cultural Traditions
- 12** Do Not Manufacture False Human Experience
- 13** Maintain Transparency
- 14** Compensate Human Creativity When Appropriate
- 15** Support the Human Music Ecosystem
- 16** Do Not Flood the Cultural Commons
- 17** Take Responsibility for the Final Work
- 18** Human Judgment Remains the Final Authority
- 19** Use AI to Create Possibility, Not Replace Humanity

1 Human Art Comes First

I value human-created art, music, and performance above all else.

AI-generated work will never diminish my appreciation for the extraordinary achievement of a human being creating something through imagination, skill, experience, emotion, practice, and embodied expression.

I recognize that human art carries something that cannot be reduced to an algorithm: **the lived experience of the person who created it.**

AI is a creative tool. **It is not a replacement for the human artist.**

2 Live Musicianship Is Sacred

I value live performance by live musicians.

The physical act of a human being making music — breathing, touching an instrument, singing, moving, listening, responding, improvising, and communicating with other human beings — is an irreplaceable form of artistic expression.

AI music should therefore encourage, rather than diminish, participation in live music.

Whenever possible, I will seek opportunities to bring AI-assisted ideas into the physical world through **human musicians, singers, ensembles, performers, and audiences.**

3 No Direct Artist Imitation

I will not directly name an individual artist, band, composer, performer, or other identifiable living creator in an AI-generation prompt for the purpose of reproducing that person's distinctive artistic identity.

I will instead describe the qualities I am seeking through musical and artistic characteristics such as:

- instrumentation
- tempo
- harmony
- rhythm
- texture
- production techniques
- historical periods
- broad musical traditions
- emotional qualities
- formal structures
- performance characteristics
- sonic environments
- cultural or geographic traditions, where appropriate

The goal is to **create something new rather than manufacture an imitation of a particular person.**

4 Do Not Deceive the Audience

I will not intentionally present AI-generated or substantially AI-assisted work as though it were entirely created or performed by humans when that distinction would reasonably matter to the audience.

When appropriate, I will disclose the role AI played in the creation of a work.

AI should not become a mechanism for deception.

5 Respect Human Artists

I will treat human artists as collaborators, creators, and cultural contributors — not merely as datasets, aesthetic references, or obsolete forms of labor.

I will not use AI to deliberately undermine, impersonate, harass, exploit, or misrepresent another artist.

Where human artistic contributions are involved, I will give appropriate credit.

6 Preserve Attribution

I will make reasonable efforts to identify and credit the human creators whose work, performances, compositions, recordings, samples, or other artistic contributions are incorporated into an AI-assisted work.

I will not claim authorship of another person's work merely because AI has transformed it.

Transformation does not erase provenance.

7 Respect Copyright and Creative Ownership

I will respect copyright, intellectual property, licensing agreements, performers' rights, and other legitimate forms of creative ownership.

I will not intentionally use AI as a means of circumventing protections that would apply to a human-created work.

When using existing recordings, samples, images, lyrics, compositions, or other protected material, I will seek appropriate permission or licensing when required.

8 Do Not Clone a Person Without Consent

I will not create or distribute an AI-generated imitation of a person's voice, likeness, performance, or artistic identity without appropriate consent.

This principle applies particularly strongly to:

- voice cloning
- deceased artists
- living performers
- actors
- singers
- public figures
- private individuals

A person's artistic identity should not become an involuntary raw material for someone else's commercial or creative project.

9 AI Should Expand Human Creativity

I will use AI primarily as a creative instrument, rather than simply as a replacement for human participation.

AI may be used to:

- generate ideas
- explore musical possibilities
- overcome creative blocks
- experiment with unusual combinations
- develop arrangements
- explore sound design
- create prototypes
- discover unexpected musical relationships
- inspire human composition and performance

The ultimate goal should be **more creativity, not merely more content.**

10 Favor Originality Over Mimicry

I will seek to create work that has its own artistic identity.

Rather than asking:

“How can I make this sound exactly like something that already exists?”

I will ask:

“What can I create that has never existed before?”

AI gives creators access to an enormous range of possibilities. That possibility should be used to explore new artistic territory rather than endlessly reproducing familiar cultural products.

11 Protect Cultural Traditions

I will approach musical traditions, particularly those belonging to specific cultures or communities, with respect.

I will avoid treating cultural traditions merely as aesthetic ingredients to be extracted, commercialized, or caricatured.

When drawing upon culturally specific musical traditions, I will strive to understand their context, history, meaning, and human origins.

12 Do Not Manufacture False Human Experience

I will not intentionally use AI to fabricate stories about human experiences that did not occur in order to manipulate an audience.

For example, I will not falsely claim that an AI-generated song represents:

- a real person's lived experience
- a real musician's performance
- a real recording session
- a historical event
- a personal testimony

...unless those claims are actually true.

13 Maintain Transparency

When AI plays a significant role in a work, I will be willing to say so.

Transparency does not diminish the artistic value of a work.

Knowing that a camera was used does not diminish photography.

Knowing that a synthesizer was used does not diminish electronic music.

Knowing that AI was used should not diminish honest artistic expression.

The ethical issue is not the existence of the tool. It is deception about the tool.

14 Compensate Human Creativity When Appropriate

Whenever my AI-assisted work substantially incorporates the creative labor of human artists, musicians, performers, engineers, designers, writers, or other collaborators, I will seek to compensate and credit them appropriately.

I will not use AI as an excuse to extract unpaid creative labor.

15 Support the Human Music Ecosystem

My participation in AI music should, wherever possible, contribute to the continued vitality of human music.

I will support:

- live concerts
- local musicians
- composers
- performers
- music educators
- recording engineers
- independent artists
- music venues
- community music organizations
- music traditions
- music education

15.1 AI Should Increase Musical Participation, Not Replace It

A core purpose of my AI music practice is to **expand participation in music-making, not reduce it.**

AI-generated music should be used to:

- inspire more people to learn instruments
- encourage participation in music lessons
- support choirs, bands, orchestras, and ensembles
- spark curiosity in composition and songwriting
- make music feel accessible and inviting rather than exclusive

I believe the goal of AI-assisted music is to create **more musicians, not fewer.**

15.2 Inspire the Next Generation of Musicians

I will aim to create AI-assisted music that is compelling, emotionally engaging, and imaginative enough to inspire curiosity and love for music in others.

If AI music is used responsibly, it can become a gateway experience — something that draws people in, excites them, and encourages them to explore deeper musical learning.

My intention is that the next generation may first encounter music through AI-assisted creativity, but ultimately be inspired to:

- sing
- play instruments
- join ensembles
- study music seriously
- participate in living musical traditions

AI should function as a **bridge into musicianship, not a replacement for it.**

AI creation should exist **within a living musical ecosystem**, not replace it.

16 Do Not Flood the Cultural Commons

I recognize that AI makes it possible to generate enormous quantities of music and art.

I will resist the temptation to equate quantity with creativity.

I will strive to release work selectively and intentionally rather than contributing indiscriminately to an overwhelming volume of disposable content.

The goal is meaningful creation, not maximum output.

17 Take Responsibility for the Final Work

I will take responsibility for what I publish, regardless of how much AI contributed to its creation.

“An AI made it” is not an ethical defense.

If I release a work, I am responsible for considering its:

- content
- originality
- cultural implications
- representations of people
- use of copyrighted material
- potential deception
- potential harm

18 Human Judgment Remains the Final Authority

AI may generate possibilities. **I make the creative decisions.**

I will exercise human judgment in selecting, editing, arranging, combining, rejecting, and presenting AI-generated material.

The presence of AI does not eliminate the creator's responsibility to make artistic choices.

19 Use AI to Create Possibility, Not Replace Humanity

My ultimate objective is not to prove that AI can make music without humans.

It is to discover what becomes possible when **human imagination and artificial intelligence interact creatively.**

I will seek the point where technology opens a door that a human artist can walk through.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Above all, I will remember:

AI is an instrument.

Humanity is the music.

The purpose of AI-assisted art should not be to make human creativity irrelevant.

It should be to help human beings imagine, discover, express, perform, and experience things that might otherwise never have existed.

Human creativity remains the center.

Human musicians remain irreplaceable.

Live performance remains sacred.

Artists deserve respect, attribution, consent, and compensation.

AI should expand the possibilities of art without erasing the people who make art meaningful.

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