Chapter 1
Balancing Human Creativity and Technological Innovation in AI Music Production

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the landscape of music production by introducing automated composition systems, digital performers, and hybrid creative workflows. This chapter examines the evolving relationship between AI and human creativity by exploring artist perceptions, authenticity preservation strategies, and listener acceptance of AI-generated music. Through interdisciplinary analysis combining empirical listener studies, artist-centered reflections, and industry discourse, this chapter presents a examination of AI's impact on music production. The findings reveal that while artists increasingly adopt AI as a creative support tool, concerns remain regarding artistic ownership, emotional authenticity, and economic sustain-

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ability. Listener studies demonstrate growing acceptance of AI-generated music, particularly when technical quality is achieved; however, emotional authenticity remains a key determinant of audience trust.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence in Music Production

Artificial intelligence (AI) has moved from being a niche research topic to a mainstream production force across creative industries, and music is one of the most visibly disrupted domains. Modern generative systems can now support (and sometimes automate) core production tasks—melodic idea generation, arrangement drafting, timbre design, and even vocal simulation—reshaping how music is created, distributed, and evaluated. From a research perspective, AI music generation has evolved from earlier algorithmic or rule-based approaches toward data-driven models capable of producing stylistically coherent outputs at scale (Sturm & Maruri-Aguilar, 2021).

This shift is not simply technical; it changes the meaning of "who creates music." AI systems can synthesize patterns learned from large corpora and generate outputs that approximate human musical conventions. That capability accelerates production and lowers barriers for non-specialists, but it also intensifies debates about authorship, originality, and cultural value—especially once AI outputs enter real commercial distribution environments. In artist-centered discussions, AI's mainstream presence is increasingly framed as a "paradigm shift" that challenges long-standing assumptions about creative labor and identity.

In parallel, the music ecosystem has become platform-driven: attention, recommendation systems, and release volume strongly influence success. When AI-generated tracks scale quickly, concerns arise that the market may become saturated with high-volume outputs optimized for platform performance rather than meaning. This phenomenon has been discussed in industry and research discourse as "AI music slop," where volume and polish may outpace artistic intention or emotional grounding. Whether one agrees with that label or not, the underlying issue is serious: AI changes competitive dynamics by making production speed and stylistic imitation cheap.

AI as Creative Collaboration, Not Just Automation

A more realistic view is that AI is not a single replacement tool but a spectrum of production supports—ranging from idea generation to audio manipulation—often