



**A REFLECTION
ON AI, MUSIC
AND CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY**

A Reflection on AI, Music and Christian Ministry

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Introduction

In the blink of an eye, technology as we know it has completely changed. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized how we live, work, and learn. From writing assignments, generating content, and developing business ideas, AI has become part of everyday life. Some treat AI as a friend or even a life partner, while others look to it for life-or-death guidance.

With this reality in mind, we seek to inspire more thoughtful conversations around the use of AI in music — especially by Christian artists. In this article, we explore the different aspects of AI and the effect it can have on artists, consumers and the industry at large. We aim to challenge the notion that it is ‘just a tool’ and encourage deeper reflections into the opportunities and pitfalls it presents.

Our mission remains unchanged: to empower and equip believers for the Great Commission. We do this by providing resources that help our audience to engage meaningfully with scripture, so we can think and act in accordance with the word of God. With this article, we hope to do the same as we consider the use of AI in music.

With the help of industry leaders, we have put together this paper to support Christian artists as they navigate this era of AI. Through the RCV Music Awards, while we have no intention of policing the use of AI, we aim to point Christian artists toward foundational principles for ministry and highlight potential pitfalls they should be mindful of.

What is AI?

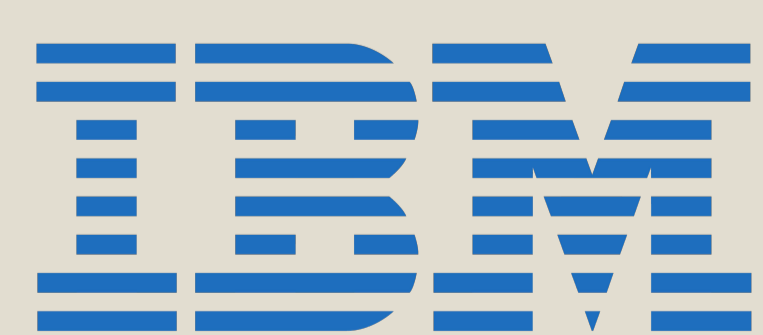
How leading technology organisations define Artificial Intelligence:

OxfordLanguages

*“The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks **normally requiring human intelligence.**”*

 **Microsoft**

“AI is the capability of a computer to imitate intelligent human behavior.”



Artificial intelligence (AI) is technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy.

Is AI just another tool?

A highly sophisticated, advanced tool, perhaps?

Below are tasks that AI is able to perform that were previously exclusive to humans:

- Have conversations
- Study and learn from experiences
- Sound human (mimic human mannerisms, voice, language, emotion etc)
- Create Content
- Make decisions

The above traits make AI fundamentally distinct to a tool. When used to create music, AI functions as a co-creator — and not a subservient one. As an intelligence, it shapes and guides the creative process. It influences. In fact, AI can study the patterns and behaviors of its user to influence his/her decisions.

This intelligence makes AI something much more than another iteration of technology as we know it.

A tool relies on its user's ingenuity, effort and creativity to result in a comparable output. While AI may rely on prompts from a human user, it outputs results beyond the direct control of its user. The substance and quality of its output are determined less by its user, and more by the data sources it's trained on — giving its user the work, semblance and ideas of others within its data set. Ultimately, the work becomes less of a reflection of the user and more a product of the AI itself.

Use of AI Tools

While it's more than just a tool, AI can be used as one. Unavoidably so.

All modern software, social media applications, search engines and daily tools we use are now integrated with AI. This means that anyone interacting with the digital world will engage with AI in one form or another. Artists and producers will not be able to avoid it, as the tools they use already contain AI-powered plugins. This is not inherently bad or wrong.

AI has many benefits. It can save time, improve output quality, increase efficiency, lower the barrier to entry for various industries, and greatly assist in research. It offers unmatched convenience in music creation and will continue to advance rapidly.

AI can improve productivity. However, if we do not appreciate the complexity of the concerns surrounding its use, dependence on AI may come at a great cost. Instead of controlling it, we risk being controlled by it.

It is crucial for artists—especially believers who see music as more than an art form, but as a vehicle for godly ministry—to reflect deeply on the impact of AI on music.

The question is not whether we should use AI, but how we can best faithfully minister through our music by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. How can we create music out of a place of total surrender to His divine guidance? How do we protect our craft, so it remains consecrated to God, and not influenced by worldly data sets that AI is trained on?

Can God speak through or use AI?

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”
— **Genesis 2:15**

From the very beginning of time, **God chose to partner with humans** to bring about His purposes on this earth. Psalm 115: 16 says, “The heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.” He created us to worship Him by stewarding His creation. **He gave the dominion mandate to man, the only creation He made in His image.** AI, by contrast, was made by humans, in their image – drawing from their intelligence.

God created the world in a beautiful and intentional order, which was disrupted when humanity chose to trust a lie. Out of His great love, He devised a plan to redeem all of creation from the consequences of sin. He has chosen to carry out this plan of redemption in partnership with humanity, specifically with those who are found in Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.”
— **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

As a Christian artist, who is first and foremost a minister of God's word, it is important to acknowledge a clear distinction between the word of God coming through you, a human vessel, and one that may come through a machine.

While AI may have access to scripture, it is not able to draw revelation. It cannot understand it the way it is meant to be understood. It cannot draw out life from it. AI is not anointed, so we cannot outsource our ministry to it. Remember that Artificial Intelligence is just that - artificial.

The Bible is the living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12), fully inspired by His spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, only the Holy Spirit can interpret it and lead us into all truth (John 16:13).

1 Corinthians 2:10 - 16

"...these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

God, through Christ, has given us His spirit and calls us time and again to draw intelligence from Him - the only source of truth. AI, in some form, could replace humanity's source of truth - from the infinite God who created everything to the finite creation of human work.

While God is able to use anything, and anyone, we do not encourage believers to seek truth or guidance from anywhere besides scripture (which is the final authority for a believer's life) and their local church leadership, where they ought to be planted within a community of believers. Just because God can use anything doesn't mean we seek truth everywhere. God has spoken through a donkey before (Num. 22:28). This doesn't mean we look to donkeys for divine instruction.

The Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of human beings who have accepted Him, not in technological devices, tools or search engines.

As a Christian artist who has the mind of Christ, you have the responsibility to draw close to His word as your ultimate source of inspiration and guidance.

The Role of Collaboration in Creating

When God created, all three persons of the trinity were involved. "Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." Genesis 1:26.

He has set the example for creating. It is a collective effort. Music creation, like all other good ministry, should have a collaborative aspect. The basis of ministry is community and relationship.

"They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...everyday they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

— Acts 2:42-47

Scripture paints a clear picture of how ministry is to be done. There is power and safety when we come together in community. Proverbs 11:14 reminds us, "...but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

AI tools can make creatives feel self-sufficient. When you are stuck with an idea, AI can quickly help. It can finish off the lyrics, fix the rhymes. It can develop beats and give you a finished product within minutes. It can save you time, money and energy. But ultimately, it can also isolate you.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.” — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

Do not isolate yourself.

If your music is going to minister to people, invite other believers into the creative process. Invite them to give you input. Pray together. Go the extra mile to involve others, even if it costs you money, time and energy. God promises that where two or three are gathered in His name, there He will be (Matt 18:20).

Make every effort to create in community with others. Not only will this honor God, but it will also go a long way in preserving the industry.

Caution Regarding the Use of AI in Music

While you may not be able to escape the use of AI in one form or another, below are key realities you should be aware of and pay attention to.

1. Plagiarism

AI mimics human behavior by studying existing data. This means that it doesn't have original ideas and works.

- Your AI generated lyrics may be copied from a body of work you may not know about.
- The voice you generate may imitate that of an existing artist.
- Plagiarism may cause you legal complications. Regardless, it should be morally unacceptable for a believer.
- The use of AI may hinder your ability to discover your authentic voice, sound, and style, as it exposes you to undue influence from existing work.

We urge artists to seek inspiration and ideas from the Holy Spirit who can lead you to discover your unique gifting and identity. Guidance from the Holy Spirit can also come in the form of working with a godly producer or other Christian creatives who can help you explore your sound and direction.

2. Dilution from Ungodly Influence

It is important to be wary of the following:

- a. AI gets scripture wrong. Consistently. Be careful on how this could sip into your lyrical content. AI can lie to you about what the Bible teaches. It cannot draw out doctrine or derive correct interpretations. Where AI can assist you in research, it should never replace your time of prayerfully studying the bible.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” — John 14:26

- b. Music has a profound, direct influence on the subconscious mind, often bypassing conscious analytical filters to impact emotional states, memories, and even physiological functions. Sounds, even without lyrics, can have a major impact on the mental, spiritual and phycological well being of the listener. We see an example of this in 1 Samuel 16:23 “Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.” Music is a powerful medium.

Taking advantage of this, some worldly artists and producers create sounds, frequencies, beats and chants with the purpose of causing an altered state of consciousness in the listener. These sounds can cause listeners to enter a trance or dissociative state of the mind, leaving them vulnerable to dark spiritual forces. When you generate your music through AI, it can draw from these same sounds, frequencies or chants, potentially triggering the same, undesired but real, effect on your audience.

*“For He has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and **of a sound mind,**”
— 2 Timothy 1:7*

Anything that falls short of this standard is not from God. As a Christian artist, your role is to be a vessel, allowing the Holy Spirit to work and speak through your music so that people may gain freedom, truth, encouragement, life and hope through your music.

In Deuteronomy 31:19, we read about God ordering Moses to write a song and teach it to the Israelites so they wouldn't forget what God had done for them. God wants to use your music to speak to people.

3. The Trap of Quick Turnarounds

Flavor develops when food simmers on low heat. AI is marketed as a solution for speed and convenience but at what cost? Quick outputs and shortcuts can cause us to rush the process that God uses to mold and shape us. When seasons are rushed, we risk missing what God is trying to teach us.

“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life – to God – is vigorous and requires total attention.”
— **Matthew 7:13-14 (MSG)**

Writing a song from start to finish so quickly can result in losing the maturity that God wants to develop. In a world that is already so fast paced and full of distractions, scripture reminds us to be still and wait on Him (Psalm 37:7). We’re invited to a life of meditation and being rooted. A life of resting in Christ. Don’t be cheated out of this in the name of convenience and speed.

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”
— **Psalm 1:3**

Be wary of what is being replaced by immediate output from AI prompts. Wrestle with scripture. Take time to pray. Enjoy the process. Let God mold and shape you as you create work that will bless and shape others.

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Responsibilities of a Christian Artist

1. Seek Wisdom: Exercise Discernment

Discernment is the ability to judge well. This was what King Solomon asked of God in 1 Kings 3 – an ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

As many have said, AI is here to stay. Within the next few years, AI will completely reshape the way work and life are carried out daily. This will make it increasingly difficult to discern where we should draw the line on our use of AI.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” – James 1:5

You are not just creating for the sake of art but creating to minister God’s truth. Your work equips. It sets free. It restores. It uplifts. It teaches. This is why we must remain Spirit-led and grounded in Scripture in every stage of the creative process.

Ask God to give you wisdom as you interact with and use AI.

2. Steward Well the Talent You’ve Been Given

When God gives talents, He expects a return on them. He expects you to grow it and multiply it.

*“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property... To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one... He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.”
– Matthew 25:14–30*

We are not to simply receive gifts – we are called to develop, refine and multiply them.

The more you rely on AI, the less you will exercise your creative giftings. Unless you are careful, you may slowly end up letting AI take over your writing, your vocals and your production.

Imagine this scenario: although you are a gifted singer, you no longer need to sing because you have trained AI with your voice to generate songs on your behalf. Although you are gifted in songwriting, AI now handles the ideation and writing for you. Instead of growing in your craft, refining your skills, and being stretched creatively, you become accustomed to shortcuts. Convenience begins to take precedence over hard work.

Over time, this weakens both your artistry and your discipline. Before you realize it, you may have handed over your voice, your name, and your likeness to AI. The question then becomes: are you still using it, or is it using you?

Unlike other tools, AI can perform tasks that usually require a human being. Don't let it replace you.

It is important to steward the gift and the identity that God has given you by diligently and faithfully exercising it.

3. Prioritize Faithfulness, Character & Relationship Over Convenience

As a Christian, you must recognize that God is interested in you, before what you do for Him. He cares so much about who you are and who you're becoming. He is primarily after your heart, not your songs. He is invested in you. He wants a real and thriving relationship with you. Your work is only supposed to be an overflow of this intimate relationship you have with Him.

Just like any other relationship, a relationship with Christ requires time to cultivate. Quality time spent together could be replaced by quick solutions and instant results. Be intentional to prioritize Him. Be a faithful disciple first.

Prioritize community and growth. Growth will require for you to sacrifice comfort, convenience, time, effort and money. Growth requires failing and trying again. It requires collaboration and feedback from others.

Please don't be deceived into thinking that ministry is about releasing popular and viral songs. It is primarily about who you are – submitted to Christ as Lord, and who you become – Christ-like.

Creating over time and in community with other believers allows God to shape both the message and the messenger. Prioritize what matters over convenience.

4. Keep your eyes set on God

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” — Colossians 3:23-24

It may be disheartening to look around and see music generated by AI receive wide recognition and acceptance. It may be tempting to do what everyone else is doing. When AI music is topping the charts and people don't seem to care, it is hard to remain faithful to what you believe is right.

When you feel pressure to adopt what is trending and popular, remember that you are primarily serving God. It is in service to Him, that you serve His people.

God is faithful, and your hard work won't go in vain. Even if it may not be recognized by man, your father in heaven, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you (Matthew 6:4). Do not be swayed by the standards of this world.

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RCV

Music Awards

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