

Humanable: The New Industry Standard to Distinguish Human-Made Music

HUMANABLE® is a patent-pending, artist-driven platform that has built the world's first industry-wide standard distinguishing human songwriters' and artists' creations from generative artificial intelligence ("GenAI") works. Humanable certifies music made without using GenAI, which can be identified by Humanable's HPick certification mark. The HPick certification provides a material benefit to record companies, publishers, performing rights organizations, musicians, fans, and platforms by establishing that music was created by humans and is protectable, allowing them to rely on fraud-free royalty streams.

GenAI is an Existential Threat to the Entire Music Industry

Music created by GenAI poses an existential threat to the entire music industry.

Bad Actors are Using GenAI to Cheat

GenAI ghostwriters misled consumers and made headlines by impersonating famous artists like Drake, The Weeknd, Bad Bunny, and Rihanna. Identifying and fighting such fakes with lawsuits can take years and hundreds of thousands of dollars, and it distracts artists from their goal—making music.

Misuse of GenAI also facilitates fraud. In 2024, the Attorney General from the Southern District of New York charged a North Carolina man with streaming fraud for uploading hundreds of thousands of GenAI songs to Spotify, creating thousands of "bot accounts" to continuously stream them, and fraudulently taking more than \$10 million in streaming royalties out of the pool of money created for human artists.

GenAI is a Threat to Copyrights and Royalties

Copyrights require human authorship and originality. In January 2025, the United States Copyright Office issued a report determining that copyright "does not extend to purely AI-generated material, or material where there is insufficient human control over the expressive elements" (p. iii). Importantly, the Copyright Office also found that writing a GenAI prompt does not satisfy the human control requirement.

Only the human portion of a song or master is protectable and can therefore demand royalties. Any work that is not 100% human created is subject to claims that it should not bear royalties or that the royalties should be reduced by the percentage of the song that was manufactured by GenAI. Parsing out such percentages is certain to be a musical,

mathematical, and legal quagmire. To protect royalties in this new GenAI era, artists must be prepared and able to prove that their songs and masters are 100% human made.

Publishers, labels and platforms need a clean, protectable, royalty-bearing music supply chain to prevent accusations that they have obtained or paid fraudulent royalties. The safest way for royalty payers (and their shareholders) to know they are not defrauding or being defrauded is to identify and pay for 100% human music.

GenAI is a Threat to Human-Made Music

GenAI music is already flooding the marketplace. A report by the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (“CISAC”) predicts that by 2028 GenAI could devour 24% of music creators’ revenue, an annual loss of more than \$5 billion.

A *Forbes* analysis states that “without intervention, 2025 could mark the beginning of the end for independent artistry. AI-generated content will saturate the market, leaving most artists unable to compete for either visibility or income” (Berger, 2024). Recently, a fully generative AI song made the Tik Tok Viral 50 Chart (Robinson, 2025), evidencing that humans can be retrained to accept fake songs and that intervention is critical.

The number of listeners and the pool of royalties in the market are finite—the more royalties that songs generated with tools like Udio, Suno, or Boomy siphon off, the less human creators receive. Minimizing market erosion is beneficial not only to creators, but to all the downstream businesses such as publishers and distributors that rely on creator content.

Technological, Legislative, and Litigation Responses to GenAI are Inadequate

GenAI technologies are developing at a breakneck pace. Therefore, technological efforts to identify GenAI songs are modestly successful, at best. It is a constant algorithmic battle of whack-a-mole between rights holders and pretenders, and the battle will continue forever as technology improves on both sides. Additionally, detection software that is trained on human artists’ works without those artists’ permission poses ethical, and perhaps copyright infringement, problems.

Legislative responses to address issues caused by GenAI, like Tennessee’s ELVIS Act or California’s AI bill, are a good start, but may face court challenges and could be subject to a potential federal moratorium on state AI laws (Brown & O’Brien, 2025). Litigation against infringing works or fraudulent royalty collection is only available after the infringement or fraud has occurred and is unlikely to provide victims of GenAI infringement and fraud complete relief. Even then, very few human artists can afford to

bring such lawsuits, which means that litigation is not a real option for the majority of the music industry.

Humanable Protects Artists and the Music Industry

Humanable offers a simple, elegant solution to the complex problems caused by GenAI. HUMANABLE® is the first market solution that attacks the problems at their roots, allowing songwriters and artists to certify a song or master (“Work”) before it is released to the marketplace. Humanable has already certified more than 5 million songs.



By certifying that a Work is created by a human being, there is no question about the eligibility for full copyright protection and royalties.

For fans, it's like **certified organic**, but for music. For the industry, it is like **Underwriters Laboratories**—if you plug this song into your ecosystem, it won't burn your house down.

Humanable Certification Begins with Physical Human Verification

Any human can become a Humanable Member by creating an account at www.humanable.com. Members pay a nominal monthly membership fee, about the price of a can of beer. At that point, the Humanable Member can use a limited set of marks to show their support for the Humanable industry standard and for preserving a human music ecosystem.

In order to certify songs or masters, the Humanable Member must additionally verify that they are a physical human. Humanable uses Plaid, the fintech giant, to confirm that the user is a human and is the specific human that they say they are (down to the address and social security or driver's license number). Humanable does not retain verification information once the human has been verified, just account information for customer service, user enhancement, and audit purposes. Each verified human is assigned a unique ID number.

Humanable Artists Sign a Declaration Under Oath to Certify Songs or Masters as 100% Human

Only Humanable Members who have gone through the Plaid verification process can apply to certify their Works. Once at least one Work is certified, the Humanable Member becomes a Humanable Artist and can then use the Humanable and HPick certification marks to promote their certified Works.

Humanable Artists can certify any song or master for a minimal fee. The artist uploads the Work to Humanable's website, provides some information about the work, and then signs a declaration certifying under oath that the Work was created without using GenAI.

Certifiable Works can be songs or masters, new or previously written/recorded, partial or complete, uncut or cut, demos or released. As long as a composition's music and lyrics are created by a human and a master performance is recorded and performed by humans and free from GenAI (non-generative AI tools are OK), Humanable can certify it.

Each certified Work is assigned a unique Humanable number, which will be part of the metadata and will follow the work like ISRC and ISWC numbers, and a license for the member to use the Humanable and HPick certification marks. Humanable Artists can use the Humanable and HPick marks on social media, songs, websites, and DSP sites to promote and sell certified songs and master recordings.



The Humanable and HPick marks signal to the marketplace that the Work is capable of full copyright protection and can bear full royalties. The Humanable and HPick marks signal to fans that the Work is 100% human-created music.

Humanable Audits Certified Works

The Humanable certification process involves both technological and human analysis. Humanable's audit system uses the IRCAM AI detection software to flag suspicious Works. IRCAM does not retain Works or use them for its own training. Because of the potential challenges inherent in any AI detection software, Works flagged by IRCAM are then examined by a musicologist and/or music technologist.

If a Work is determined to include GenAI, the Work's Humanable certification will be revoked, and the owner's Humanable membership may be terminated. Because memberships are tied to actual humans, the terminated member will be unable to create another Humanable membership. Humanable will determine the consequences for a member seeking to certify a non-100% human Work on a case-by-case basis. If an artist makes an innocent mistake, Humanable might offer a second chance along with

mandatory education. However, if the false certification is malicious or cavalier, Humanable will consider taking legal action against the former member.

Because Humanable Artists certify *under oath* that a song or master is free from GenAI, a false certification is an act of perjury, and Humanable may report the act to the appropriate authorities and directly litigate against the bad actor with a lawsuit involving trademark infringement, fraud, and breach of contract. Because Humanable will be defending its own certification marks, publishers, labels, aggregators, and platforms derisk their own processes and preserve their legal budgets and reputations.

Humanable Certification Empowers Stakeholders Throughout the Music Industry

Artists. The certification process establishes that the creator of a song or master is human and that the Work is 100% human made and capable of receiving full royalties.

Labels, Publishers, Aggregators, Performing Rights Organizations. Humanable certifications derisk song and master acquisitions by ensuring Works are capable of full copyright protection and can produce full royalties. This guarantees a clean revenue stream, providing music purchasers confidence that they are not being defrauded or defrauding others and enhancing their ability to safely release music from authentic artists.

Digital Streaming Platforms. Humanable certifications help DSPs identify royalty-bearing streams, ensuring that those payments go only to the humans who created the art. Adopting the HPick mark next to Humanable-certified songs and a “Humanable toggle” to allow users to filter in only Humanable-certified music increases consumer choice and signals DSPs’ commitment to human artists. It also protects distributors and DSPs from claims by rightsholders and shareholders that they knowingly paid, or turned a blind eye while paying, royalties for music that deserved no royalties (fully GenAI) or reduced royalties (hybrid, part-human/part GenAI).

Fans. Humanable certification allows fans who care about human-created art to filter out GenAI music and to provide a feedback loop (and royalty support) to the humans creating music. Since GenAI also consumes significant energy resources (Zewe, 2025), choosing Humanable certified music also allows fans to take action to preserve the environment and send the message that they prefer that GenAI should be focused on solving problems like cancer.

Parents. GenAI platforms create whatever is prompted, without visibility into the identity of the prompter and without concern for the content or its effects on children. Sound files are thus created with no accountability for what they teach our kids. Since those sound files can then be streamed by children, the impact of anonymous GenAI sound files on the mental and spiritual wellbeing of children is incalculable. Parents must insist on the adoption of the Humanable certification standard and insist that streaming platforms and social media platforms use the standard to provide parental controls and

choice, allowing parents to screen in the human-made, and therefore accountable, music and screen out the anonymous and potentially dangerous GenAI sound files.

Humanable launched in September of 2024 and can be accessed at www.humanable.com.

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