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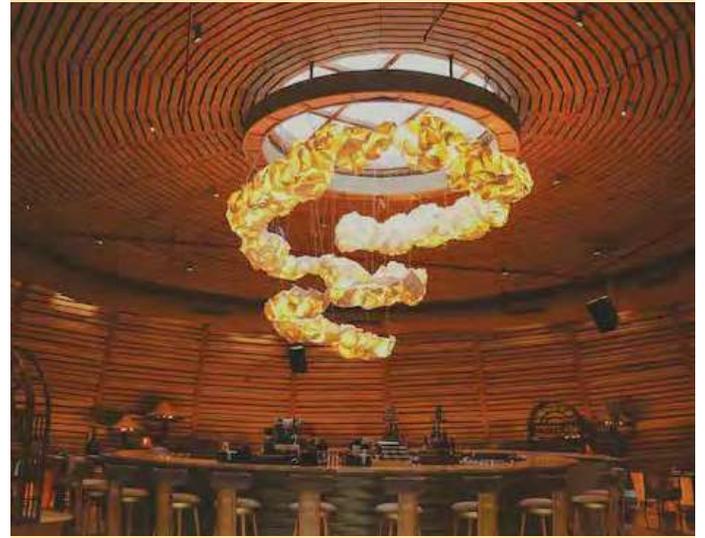
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## AI MUSIC CREATION: ALLY OR THREAT?



*Artificial Intelligence (AI) has come a long way, now playing an increasingly pivotal role in the music creation process. Tools that generate melodies, harmonies, and even entire songs are no longer just futuristic concepts but practical assets available today. Music creators, from composers to producers, are starting to embrace AI for inspiration, idea generation, and streamlining production workflows. However, as these technologies advance, they raise critical questions, particularly around ownership, creativity, and ethics. In this guest column, **Aditya Mehta** from **Sudeep Audio** weighs in on the implications of AI in the industry.*

### A Case Study: How AI Created a Hindi Song

To fully appreciate the capabilities of AI in music, let's look at a personal experiment with an AI app called **Saaz** (not yet associated with any major brands). This app generated an entire song in just 20 seconds, based on minimal human input:

1. I created a simple brief: a lover missing his ex and inviting her to share a meal of dosa, her favorite dish.
2. I wrote some quick lyrics to fit the theme.
3. Then, I pasted the lyrics into Saaz's input window and selected the genre "Pop."

In less than half a minute, the app delivered not only the melody and harmony but also a fully mixed and arranged track, including vocals sung with an accent. What's more impressive, Saaz offers features like prompt-based lyric generation (currently only in English) and allows users to commercially release the final track—all for a mere Rs. 20 per day.

Tools like Saaz are both exciting and terrifying, offering immense creative possibilities but also unsettling questions about Intellectual Property (IP) and creative ownership.

### Who Owns AI-Generated Music?

This brings us to the first major question: Who owns the rights to an AI-generated song?

Copyright law traditionally defines the "author" as the one who creates the content. But when a song is created using AI, determining the rightful author

becomes ambiguous. Is it the person who provided the input and initiated the process, or the AI system that produced the composition? If Saaz is responsible for the melody, arrangement, and even singing, does it, or the company behind it, own any part of the song?

According to existing copyright laws, the person who contributes original human input typically owns the work, but with AI handling so much of the creative load, this line is blurry. Copyright divides ownership between composers, lyricists, and producers, and royalty societies like ASCAP, PRS, and others exist to ensure rightful compensation. The rise of AI-generated music could force these societies to reconsider how they define and assign rights.

Could AI ever be registered as a co-author, much like how music producers and mixers earn credits? This remains an open question as legal systems worldwide haven't yet adapted to these technological shifts.

### Will AI Become a "Member" of Royalty Societies?

AI has introduced a fascinating dilemma for royalty societies. These organizations are designed to recognize human talent by tracking performances and distributions of royalties based on song plays, performances, and sales. Can we imagine a future where AI itself becomes a member of these societies?

For now, AI is considered a tool no different from a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) or VST plugin. But what happens when AI-generated compositions start flooding streaming platforms and climbing charts? Would the AI "author" receive a share of royalties? And what if the app users take all the credit, claiming the work as entirely their own?

If no explicit framework exists to monitor and assign rights for AI-generated content, the person operating the AI could claim full authorship without anyone knowing the difference. With services like Rebeat that allow creators to distribute music worldwide, this scenario isn't far-fetched. A song entirely generated by Saaz could very well be released under someone's name with no mention of AI involvement. But would that be ethical, or even legal?

### A Powerful Tool with Creative Potential and Ethical Pitfalls

AI in music isn't just a fleeting trend, it's a powerful tool that opens new doors for creativity, efficiency, and audience engagement. Musicians and composers can generate hundreds of ideas in minutes, sparking inspiration or even completing full songs when faced with tight deadlines. AI can also assist in breaking creative blocks, offering endless possibilities for melodic and harmonic variations.

However, there's a danger in over-reliance. As AI becomes a larger part of music production, it's crucial that artists retain creative control and ensure that automation complements their original input, rather than fully replacing it. Tools like **RipX DAW**, for instance, already allow users to extract and remix elements of songs from existing mp3 files, demonstrating the growing ease of AI-assisted production.

We've seen similar concerns in the past, when synthesizers, hard-disk recorders, and later DAWs revolutionized music-making. Back then, purists worried these innovations would replace human creativity. Instead, they became valuable allies, widely adopted by nearly every

modern musician. AI, too, should be viewed as a creative partner, not a gimmick or threat. But this time, the debate isn't just about workflow—it's about who gets credit for the final product.

### The Future: AI as a Creative Partner?

As AI tools become even more advanced over the next 1–2 years, we can expect expanded features such as language support for lyrics and translations, and an array of virtual voices that sound increasingly "Indian" or specific to other ethnic backgrounds. These AI-generated tracks will begin to feel more "authentically" human, further complicating the question of originality.

The critical question remains: Should we make use of AI as a creative partner, or should we shrug it off as a passing fad?

AI is already proving its value in assisting with monotonous or highly technical tasks, allowing human creators to focus on the artistic elements that matter most. Just like earlier technological advancements, AI will likely become an essential tool in the industry, transforming how music is made. However, it also introduces complex intellectual property concerns that will require legal frameworks to evolve.

For now, AI in music creation is an exciting, albeit controversial, frontier. The next few years will be crucial in determining how artists, technologists, and legal bodies respond to this seismic shift. One thing is certain - AI will continue to shape the future of music, whether as an ally, a tool, or an artist in its own right.