

From the Listeners of The Rick Spins Radio Show

The Hidden Danger in Your Recording Budget! Are You Paying for AI Without Knowing It?

August's "Session of The Month". I was told by a radio station that I had submitted to their rap music and flagged for AI and they won't play it. I wrote and recorded the song on my smart phone and then sent it to a Producer in Australia to finish. So I don't understand how it got flagged for AI.

The independent music landscape has never been more accessible. With today's technology, artists can write a song on their guitar or piano, send a rough smartphone recording to a producer across the country, and receive a fully produced track within days. It sounds like a dream come true—and for many, it has been.

But there's a shadow creeping into this modern workflow, and it's one that every independent artist needs to take seriously.

The Way It's Supposed to Work

Let's start with the standard process many independent artists follow when they don't have home studios:

1. You write your song on guitar or piano.
2. You connect to a recording studio or producer.
3. They ask for a rough draft recording (usually from your smartphone) along with chord charts.
4. They set you their studio musicians will record the instrumental tracks.
5. You come in to record your vocals (and possibly your instrumentals).
6. In some cases, they may offer a professional singer for the vocals.
7. A few days or a week later, you receive your finished product.

Variations exist, of course. Some artists have home studios and have recorded multiple parts themselves but believe a producer needs to add their "professional touch." Others build a studio in a day or two—sometimes travelling from out of state—and insist on live recording as a complete unit. For the purpose of this, Some producers even ask artists to record vocals at home and send the files digitally.

Your Song, Your Reputation

This is your song. Your baby. Your reputation.

Don't take shortcuts with your art. **If AI is involved without your knowledge, it will be detected.** And when it is, the consequences fall on you—not the producer who cut corners.

Be present. Ask questions. Protect your work.

Your music is too important to leave in the wrong hands.

Spotify has already removed over 75 million "spammy" tracks from its platform—many of them AI-generated. They've introduced new AI disclosure agreements forcing artists to disclose whether AI was used in the creation process. **iHeartRadio has issued a company-wide ban on AI-generated music** across its network of 850 stations worldwide. **Traxsource now labels tracks as either "Human-Made" or "AI-Assisted"** and removes fully AI-generated music. **Deezer excludes AI music from algorithmic and editorial recommendations**.

The industry is drawing a line. And if your song crosses it without your knowledge, **you're the one who pays the price**.

The Stakes Are Higher Than You Think

Having your song flagged as AI-generated doesn't just mean it won't get radio play. It could:

- **Kill sync licensing opportunities** — music supervisors want human-created work
- **Prevent you from selling songs to other artists** — buyers need clean provenance
- **Get your entire catalog removed from streaming services**
- **Damage your reputation as an artist** — once flagged, it's hard to rebuild trust

How to Protect Yourself

If you don't have a longstanding relationship with your producer—one where you can absolutely trust them—**take these steps**:

1. Be present when the "studio musicians" record your song
It's your song. Wouldn't you want to be there for the creative process? If the producer doesn't want you present for that session—**red flag**.

2. Be present during mixing and mastering
If the producer doesn't want you there—**red flag**.

3. Ask directly: "Are you using AI in any part of this process?"
Demand that they don't. **It's your song and your reputation on the line, not theirs.**

4. Trust your ears
If your finished song sounds totally different from what you recorded when you were there, **ask questions**. Remember the old adage: **if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

For years, this system has worked. It's been a win for studios adapting to changing technology and a win for independent artists who can essentially "phone in" their songs for production.

The Warning

But here's where the story takes a dark turn.

With every reputable studio following this model, there is now a new breed of producers using AI to finish your songs—and they're not telling you.

Instead of hiring studio musicians (which you paid for), they're using AI to create the instrumental track. In some cases, they're even plugging your vocals into an AI generator to "enhance" them. And they're pocketing the difference.

What We're Seeing at ISSA Radio

Over the past few weeks, **The Rick Spins Show** on ISSA Radio has received numerous tracks from reputable ISSA artists that were flagged by our AI detection software as "Hybrid AI"—meaning either the instrumental track was created by AI technology, or the vocals were augmented by AI, or both.

AI detection software has evolved significantly in recent months. New tools like Modulate's AI Music Detection API can now identify AI-generated vocals and instrumentals directly from audio. RTM Audio's UAI system runs separate measurements on production and vocals, flagging a recording as AI only when both agree. Deezer reports that **34% of all new music submitted to its platform is now AI-generated**—over 50,000 AI-made tracks uploaded every single day.

The technology is here, and it's getting harder to detect—but not impossible.

The Artist's Dilemma

Here's the conundrum: **has the artist done anything wrong?**

Technically, no. You wrote the song. You recorded your vocals. In your mind, the studio provided the backing instrumentation. You paid for studio musicians. You trusted the producer.

But now, because that producer took shortcuts without your knowledge, **your song won't be played on radio and could be flagged by streaming platforms as AI-generated content**.