Perceptions of AI in Music Production: Challenges and Innovations Among Selected Music Producers in Lagos State

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Abstract

This study explores the evolving landscape of music production in the era of artificial intelligence (AI) using a quantitative research approach. It is informed by postmodernist theory and Human-Technology Interaction (HTI), with an emphasis on deconstruction and the decentralization of authorship, which provides a critical framework for examining the transformative impact of AI on the music industry. The study employed purposive sampling to select 50 music producers in Lagos State based on their active involvement in music production, familiarity with AI-driven tools, and professional experience. Participants represented a diverse range of genres, including Afrobeat, Hip-hop, Gospel, Afro-fusion, Highlife, and Electronic Dance Music (EDM), ensuring that findings capture a broad spectrum of creative practices within the Nigerian music scene. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire comprising Likert-scale items designed to assess perceptions of AI's influence on creativity, authorship, and production practices. The instrument consisted of multiple items across key variables and was subjected to reliability testing using Cronbach's alpha to ensure internal consistency. Descriptive statistical methods, including frequencies and percentages, were used to analyze the data. Findings revealed that AI challenges conventional notions of authorship while raising concerns about the potential erosion of human creativity and emotional depth in music. At the same time, respondents recognize AI's capacity to enhance creativity and democratize access to music production tools. The study concludes that although AI presents significant opportunities for innovation, it also raises critical questions about the future of human creativity and the evolving role of technology in artistic expression.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Music Production; Music Producer; Challenges and Innovation
Type of Article: Research Article

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Introduction

AI technologies are swiftly changing how music is created, produced, and experienced (Boden, 2016). In recent years, AI has transitioned from being a minor tool to a fundamental technology in music creation, assisting artists, producers, and organizations in optimizing procedures, boosting creativity, and discovering new soundscapes (Herremans, Chuan, & Chew, 2017). Machine learning algorithms, neural networks, and various AI applications are increasingly employed to examine large volumes of musical data, generate tunes, aid in sound engineering, and even replicate the styles of well-known artists. With this, it means that AI-driven applications now have the ability to autonomously compose music, provide personalized suggestions, and facilitate more effective workflows during production. For example, AI-powered programs can produce beats, melodies, harmonies, and lyrics, which may allow beginner musicians to craft complex pieces.

Moreover, AI technologies can also be utilized for mastering tracks, improving sound quality, or even forecasting musical trends, giving producers a strategic advantage in a constantly changing industry (Briot, Hadjeres, & Pachet, 2020). Nevertheless, as AI progresses in music production, it introduces a distinct array of challenges. These challenges include worries about copyright concerns, the possible replacement of human artistry, ethical questions, and the repercussions of AI on traditional roles in the music field, such as songwriters, producers, and audio engineers (McCormack, Gifford, & Hutchings, 2019). Additionally, debates continue regarding the authenticity of music produced by AI and its emotional impact on listeners.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this sought to:

i. identify the challenges faced by selected music producers in Lagos State in navigating AI-driven music production and

ii. explore the innovative uses of AI in music production among selected music producers in Lagos State.

Conceptual Framework

This study adopted a postmodernist approach, particularly as articulated by Jean-François Lyotard and Jean Baudrillard, to challenge traditional notions of truth, authorship, and originality. Lyotard's concept of the postmodern condition highlights the decline of grand narratives and the emergence of relativism in the arts, while Baudrillard's theory of hyperreality suggests that simulations; such as AI-generated music can appear more "real" or convincing than human-created originals. Empirical findings from this study support these theoretical positions: participants reported that AI-generated music often mimicked human creativity so closely that it was difficult to distinguish from human-composed works. This aligns with the notion of AI-generated music as Baudrillardian simulation, where the distinction between authentic and artificial becomes blurred, raising questions about originality, authorship, and emotional authenticity.

In addition, the study drew on Human-Technology Interaction (HTI) theory, which emphasizes the dynamic relationships between humans and technological systems. HTI guided the investigation into how producers interact with AI-powered tools as collaborative interfaces, rather than mere instruments. Empirical evidence showed that producers used AI to generate melodies, harmonies, and beats, complementing their

creative processes and enabling experimentation with genres they might not have otherwise explored. Some participants indicated that AI enhanced productivity and unlocked new creative possibilities, while others expressed concern about over-reliance on technology. This supports the HTI perspective that technological systems are not neutral; they shape human behavior, decision-making, and even emotional responses.

Together, the postmodernist and HTI frameworks illuminate the dual role of AI in music production: as a simulative creator that challenges traditional authorship and as a collaborative tool that augments human creativity. These insights link theory directly with empirical observations, showing that AI both disrupts and enriches the contemporary music production landscape.

Methodology

The study adopted a quantitative survey design. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 50 music producers in Lagos State who met specific criteria, including active engagement in music production, familiarity with AI-assisted tools, and varying levels of professional experience across genres. Participants included both emerging and established producers, ensuring diversity in experience and practice. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire consisting of Likert-scale items measuring perceptions of AI's impact on creativity, authorship, and production. The instrument was validated through expert review, and reliability was tested using Cronbach's alpha to ensure internal consistency.

Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, to summarize responses and identify trends. This approach enabled a clear interpretation of producers' perceptions regarding the challenges and innovations associated with AI-driven music production.

Results

Opportunities and Challenges Integration of AI in Music Production

Computer technology has long enhanced the creative process for students and musicians alike by allowing them to play back their compositions and gain a more tangible sense of their work (Akande, 2020). Building on this foundation, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the music industry represents a significant leap forward, fundamentally transforming how music is composed, produced, and consumed. AI-driven tools such as OpenAI's MuseNet (OpenAI, 2019) and Google's Magenta (Roberts, Engel, Raffel, Hawthorne, & Eck, 2018) have expanded creative possibilities by generating original compositions, assisting musicians, and even autonomously creating background scores. The democratization of music creation, enabled by AI, has expanded the ability of a broader audience to engage in music production, regardless of technical expertise or access to expensive equipment (Briot, Hadjeres, & Pachet, 2019). However, as AI becomes increasingly embedded in the music industry, several ethical and economic concerns have emerged, raising questions about the implications of AI-generated works for traditional musicians, copyright laws, and fair compensation. This technological shift not only disrupts traditional workflows but also challenges long-standing assumptions about creativity, authorship, and artistic value. Scholars have begun to critically examine the role of AI as a co-creator, questioning whether machine-generated outputs can or should be considered truly "creative" or merely the result of complex pattern recognition and algorithmic mimicry.

AI in Music Composition and the Creative Process

One of the most significant ways AI is influencing the music industry is through its role in music composition. Historically, composing music required extensive technical skill and creativity, often involving collaboration among musicians, producers, and composers. Today, however, AI has transformed this process by offering new tools that allow for automated music creation. AI tools like OpenAI's MuseNet (OpenAI, 2019) and Google's Magenta (Roberts et al., 2018) have enabled AI to generate compositions across various genres, ranging from classical to contemporary, using machine learning algorithms that analyze large datasets of existing music.

These AI-driven tools function by learning patterns in melody, harmony, rhythm, and genre-specific characteristics. Through deep learning techniques, these models generate original compositions that can mimic the style of famous artists or create entirely novel music (Engel, Resnick, Roberts, Dieleman, Eck, Simonyan, & Norouzi, 2017). For example, MuseNet can produce complex compositions with multiple instruments, while Magenta can generate melodies based on user-defined parameters, such as mood or style. Such tools empower musicians to experiment with new ideas, offering endless possibilities for creative exploration (Briot et al., 2019). It means AI's role in music composition is both exciting and transformative. It lowers barriers to entry, enabling musicians of varying skill levels to experiment and innovate in ways that were previously difficult or impossible. While some may worry that AI could diminish the human element in music, I believe these tools serve best as collaborators—amplifying human creativity rather than replacing it. By providing fresh inspiration and speeding up the creative process, AI has the potential to expand the boundaries of musical expression and open new avenues for artistic discovery.

While these AI tools provide valuable resources for artists, it is important to recognize that they are complementary to human creativity rather than replacements for it. AI lacks the emotional depth, personal experience, and cultural context intrinsic to human-driven music creation (Suchman, 2007). Music is more than just an arrangement of notes; it is a form of personal expression and storytelling. These emotional and cultural dimensions are difficult, if not impossible, for AI to replicate. While AI can generate melodies, harmonies, and rhythms, it cannot imbue the same depth of meaning and resonance that human musicians inject into their work.

AI-generated music also holds considerable potential for music education. AI-powered platforms provide students with personalized learning experiences, adapting to their individual progress and needs. These tools enable students to explore music theory and composition in new ways, democratizing access to music education (Kelty, 2008). By offering real-time feedback and personalized lessons, AI can make learning music more accessible to a diverse audience, particularly those who may not have access to formal training or expensive equipment. This shift could empower a new generation of musicians, fostering creativity and innovation among aspiring artists from all backgrounds (Pasquinelli & Joler, 2021).

Nevertheless, AI's role in music composition should be viewed as a tool for human collaboration, not an independent creator. Artists continue to play a crucial role in refining AI-generated content, adding layers of personal expression and cultural relevance that AI cannot provide on its own (Briot et al., 2019).

Ethical and Economic Implications of AI in Music Production

The widespread use of AI in music production brings significant ethical and economic implications. One pressing ethical concern is authorship and ownership of AI-generated music. When AI produces a musical

composition, the question arises as to who owns the rights to that work. Is the developer who created the AI algorithm the rightful owner? Or should the person who provided the input and guided the AI's composition process be credited as the creator? Current copyright laws are ill-equipped to handle these new realities, as they primarily protect human creators (Ziewitz, 2016). As AI technology advances, legal frameworks must adapt to address these issues and ensure fair compensation for human artists, even when AI tools are involved in the creation process. It shows that these ethical and economic challenges highlight the need for a thoughtful and balanced approach to AI in music. While AI opens up incredible creative possibilities, it is crucial to protect the rights and livelihoods of human artists who bring emotion, context, and cultural meaning to their work. Without clear guidelines and updated legal frameworks, there is a risk that AI-generated music could undermine traditional artistic contributions and create unfair disparities in compensation. I believe that collaboration between technologists, legal experts, and artists is essential to create policies that recognize the unique role of human creativity while embracing the benefits of AI innovation.

Additionally, AI's ability to replicate the style of established musicians raises concerns about the potential for plagiarism. AI tools like Amper Music and Jukedeck can analyze vast amounts of music data and generate compositions resembling the styles of famous artists. While this can be a powerful tool for inspiration, it also presents the risk of unintentional mimicry, where AI-generated music closely resembles the sound of an established artist without their consent or compensation (Roberts et al., 2018). This blurring of lines between original and derivative works raises questions about the protection of intellectual property and the ethical implications of using AI to "borrow" elements from existing compositions (Ziewitz, 2016).

Economically, the rise of AI in music production has both positive and negative consequences. On the one hand, AI makes it easier for independent musicians to produce high-quality music without the need for expensive studio equipment or extensive technical knowledge (Pasquinelli & Joler, 2021). Platforms like Amper Music and Aiva allow creators to generate royalty-free music for use in various commercial contexts, opening up new opportunities for emerging artists to enter the music business with less financial investment. AI democratizes music creation, making it more accessible to a global pool of artists.

On the other hand, AI presents the potential for job displacement within the music industry. AI-generated background scores are already being used in advertising, television, and film, reducing the demand for human composers and producers in these areas. While AI may offer efficiencies and cost reductions, it could lead to a reduction in traditional music production jobs (Suchman, 2007). AI-generated stock music may replace human-composed music for certain types of commercial projects, threatening employment for musicians, sound engineers, and composers. As AI advances, jobs that require repetitive or formulaic tasks such as creating music for advertisements or video games will increasingly be automated, leading to economic disruptions for human workers (Roberts et al., 2018).

At the same time, the rise of AI creates new revenue streams. As the demand for AI-generated music grows, new markets for AI-powered tools and music licensing are emerging. Tech companies that develop these AI systems stand to benefit from the increased use of their products, while artists who leverage AI to enhance their creative output can explore new ways to monetize their music (Kelty, 2008). However, this shift could require a restructuring of existing economic models within the music industry, such as how royalties are distributed and how

intellectual property is valued in a landscape where AI is increasingly involved in the creative process (Pasquinelli & Joler, 2021).

AI in Music Production: Creativity, Innovation, and New Possibilities

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into music production represents a significant shift in the creative processes within the music industry. AI-driven systems now enable the generation of music through the analysis of vast datasets of existing musical works, providing tools for the composition of original pieces (Briot et al., 2019). Platforms such as Amper Music, Aiva, and Jukedeck offer musicians the ability to create compositions from scratch or modify existing tracks with minimal human intervention (Roberts et al., 2018). These systems work by analyzing musical structures such as melody, harmony, and rhythm and using this information to produce new musical outputs that may not have been conceived through traditional compositional methods (Engel et al., 2017). Consequently, the emergence of AI in music production is both revolutionary and promising. It expands the creative toolkit available to musicians, allowing for experimentation beyond conventional boundaries. While some may fear that AI could diminish the role of human composers, I opine that it should be viewed as a complementary force; one that inspires innovation and offers new avenues for artistic expression. By integrating AI thoughtfully, artists can harness its capabilities to push the limits of creativity while maintaining the emotional depth and individuality that define impactful music.

AI's capacity to access and analyze a wide array of global musical data allows for the exploration of novel sounds and creative possibilities that may be outside the range of human musicians due to exposure or cultural constraints. This ability to synthesize diverse musical elements provides new opportunities for musical exploration. The creation of entirely new genres or stylistic hybrids, which human composers might not have envisioned, is a direct result of AI's expansive computational power. Technological advancements in AI thus democratize the creative process, enabling individuals with no formal music training to produce high-quality compositions (Pasquinelli & Joler, 2021).

However, alongside these creative advancements, AI in music production raises several ethical and legal concerns. One of the most pressing issues is that of authorship. When AI produces a composition, the question arises as to who should be credited with the creation. Should the authorship be attributed to the AI's developers, the users of the technology, or the artists whose musical styles the AI has learned to replicate (Ziewitz, 2016)? Furthermore, AI systems can imitate the styles of specific artists, leading to concerns about intellectual property infringement and the potential devaluation of original artistic work. This situation challenges traditional notions of authorship and creativity and calls for the re-examination of intellectual property laws to accommodate the realities of AI-driven creation.

In my view, these ethical and legal dilemmas are critical and demand urgent attention. While AI offers exciting creative possibilities, it must not come at the expense of the rights and recognition of human artists. The blurred lines of authorship created by AI-generated music risk undermining the value of original works and the livelihoods of creators. It is essential for policymakers, artists, and technologists to work collaboratively to develop frameworks that protect intellectual property while embracing innovation. Only through such balanced approaches can we ensure that AI enhances rather than diminishes the cultural richness and fairness in the music industry.

Table 1

Data Presentation

S/No	Research Statement	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Strongly Disagreed	Disagreed
1	AI has reshaped modern approaches to music production.	29%	46%	13%	12%
2	AI serves as a key technological asset in the evolution of modern music production	34%	42%	13%	15%
3	The integration of AI fosters enhanced creative potential in music production	26%	48%	10%	14%
4	AI tools streamline the music production process, enhancing both efficiency and speed.	37%	40%	15%	8%
5	Though AI can mimic musical patterns, it frequently fails to capture the emotional richness that defines human artistry.	19%	32%	33%	16%
6	The rise of AI raises concerns about the future role of human music producers.	21%	31%	25%	23%
7	While AI tools offer powerful features, their complexity can make them less accessible to novice users.	25%	41%	16%	16%
8	The use of AI in music production has sparked ongoing ethical concerns.	33%	29%	20%	18%
9	AI tools can simplify the process of producing music while maintaining high production quality.	29%	49%	11%	11%
10	AI aids in uncovering new sounds and expanding musical genres.	30%	45%	13%	12%
11	AI technologies allow non-professional musicians to engage in music production.	39%	41%	7%	13%
12	AI integration in music production has increased its accessibility worldwide	32%	46%	11%	11%
13	I am confident that AI will remain a key factor in the evolution of music production.	41%	39%	10%	10%
14	In the future, AI will enable more tailored music experiences for individual listeners	35%	47%	10%	8%
15	Over the coming decade, AI will contribute to the emergence of new musical styles and trends.	41%	42%	11%	6%

Discussion

The results of the study indicate that artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly perceived as a transformative force in music production by producers in Lagos. A majority of respondents (75%) either strongly agreed or agreed that AI has significantly changed the way music is produced, affirming the disruptive impact of technology on traditional production methods. This aligns with recent studies highlighting AI's ability to alter production workflows, from composition to mastering, through automation and machine learning (Sturm, Ben-Tal, Monaghan, Collins, Herremans, Chew, Hadjeres, Deruty, & Pachet, 2019).

Furthermore, 72% of participants acknowledged that AI is an essential tool in modern music production, while 76% believed that AI enhances creativity. This suggests that "creativity" in this context is being interpreted more in terms of novelty, efficiency, and the ability to generate diverse musical ideas, rather than emotional expression. It means AI expands the technical and experimental dimensions of music production, offering new sounds, patterns, and possibilities without necessarily replicating the human capacity for emotional storytelling and lived experience. This distinction highlights a nuanced understanding among producers; AI is valued as a creative tool for innovation, yet its outputs are still seen as limited in conveying authentic emotional resonance. These results suggest a broad acceptance of AI's creative potential, supporting claims that AI can act not merely as a tool but as a collaborative agent in creative processes. These findings also resonate with postmodernist interpretations that celebrate hybridity, fragmentation, and the breakdown of traditional authorship; hallmarks of AI's influence in music (Lyotard, 1984; Jameson, 1991). In this view, the boundary between artist and machine blurs, reflecting the postmodern collapse of fixed identities and narratives.

In terms of production efficiency, 77% agreed that AI tools make music production faster and more efficient, underscoring their practical value in streamlining tasks such as sound design, mixing, and mastering (Herremans et al., 2017). However, a notable 51% agreed that AI-generated music lacks emotional depth, revealing ongoing skepticism about the authenticity and emotional resonance of machine-generated content. Scholars like Cope (2005) has also critiqued the emotional limitations of algorithmic composition, arguing that while AI can replicate structure, it struggles to convey nuanced human emotion.

Regarding job security and professional relevance, 52% of respondents expressed concern that AI might replace human producers, reflecting anxieties about automation and the shifting role of human creativity. Similar concerns have been raised in broader creative industries, where AI threatens to displace not only technical roles but also elements of artistic labor (McCormack et al., 2019). This concern is balanced by a more optimistic view of AI's democratizing potential, with 80% agreeing that AI tools enable non-professionals to create music, and 78% believing AI makes music more accessible to a global audience echoing claims that AI is lowering entry barriers in creative fields.

While 60% of respondents acknowledged ethical concerns surrounding AI in music, there remains strong confidence in its future: 80% believe AI will continue to play a significant role in music production, and 83% predict it will help develop new styles and personalized experiences. These expectations align with ongoing developments in AI music personalization and adaptive soundscapes, as well as with predictions that AI will drive genre evolution and listener-specific content (Briot et al., 2020). These findings suggest a dual narrative AI is both a catalyst for innovation and a source of concern regarding authenticity, ethics, and the human role in artistic expression. As

such, music production in the AI era reflects the complex interplay between technological advancement and philosophical questions of meaning, creativity, and identity.

Recommendations

The study concludes that artificial intelligence is reshaping the landscape of music production in Lagos, as evidenced by widespread recognition of its creative, technical, and democratizing capabilities. While most music producers view AI as a valuable and transformative tool, concerns persist regarding emotional depth, potential job displacement, and ethical implications. Grounded in postmodernist theory, these findings underscore how AI destabilizes traditional notions of authorship, originality, and ownership by introducing non-human contributors into the creative process. This challenges the long-held assumption within the Nigerian music industry that creativity is solely a human endeavor tied to individual authorship.

This theoretical shift has important implications for regulatory frameworks in Nigeria. Current copyright laws, largely governed by the Nigerian Copyright Commission under the Copyright Act, are primarily structured around human authorship and do not explicitly address AI-generated or AI-assisted works. As AI increasingly functions as a co-creator, ambiguities arise regarding ownership, rights attribution, and royalty distribution. This gap highlights the urgent need for policy reforms that recognize collaborative human–AI creativity while safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of human creators.

To fully harness the potential of AI in music production, a multi-faceted approach is essential. Institutions and music academies should implement targeted training programs to equip producers with the skills to use AI tools effectively and ethically. At the policy level, stakeholders in the Nigerian music industry should work with regulatory bodies to update copyright frameworks to clearly define authorship, ownership, and usage rights in AI-assisted productions. Emphasis should also be placed on human–AI collaboration, encouraging hybrid workflows that enhance rather than replace human creativity. Finally, supporting tech innovation and accessible AI tools will empower independent artists and foster a more inclusive and forward-looking music ecosystem in Nigeria.

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