



Be a Better Songwriter

IHSC Community AI Guidelines

Why this exists

I Heart Songwriting Club is about becoming a better songwriter. The Club is dedicated to developing songwriters' creative instincts and authentic voice. Our community thrives on learning through creative effort, vulnerability, play, and honest reflection. These AI guidelines exist to protect that shared purpose.

AI tools can support parts of the songwriting process, but generative AI can also create entire songs. Many AI systems are trained on existing artists' works, meaning creative output may draw on other people's intellectual property, often without consent. As a songwriting community, this raises important questions around copyright, artistic integrity, authorship, and respect for the creative work of others.

AI can produce polished results very quickly. When this kind of output is shared alongside raw, in-progress human work, it can unintentionally shift comparison, confidence, and participation - particularly for writers who are experimenting, learning, or showing up vulnerably.

IHSC aims to maintain a learning environment where growth happens at a human pace and everyone feels safe sharing work that reflects where they truly are. These guidelines, shaped by community feedback and consensus, limit AI use to safeguard learning, trust, vulnerability, and respect for artists' work - ensuring IHSC remains a human, growth-oriented space for developing songwriters.

Our Position

The songwriting process within IHSC - from initial idea to final submission - must be human-driven. The IHSC community supports **minimal to no use of AI** in songwriting submissions. Any AI use should support learning, not replace the human act of writing songs.

What's OK

AI may be used in limited, assistive ways, such as:

- Researching the provided Club theme to build understanding of the song's subject matter
- Basic spelling and grammar checks
- Simple AI drum tracks or rhythm guides to demonstrate intended genre, timing, or feel

In all cases, you are the songwriter. The lyrics, melody, and meaning must come from you. Submitted audio files should be worktapes only, reflecting where the song currently is in early draft form — not what it could sound like fully produced.

What's Not OK

Any AI use that replaces or bypasses human effort in composition is not permitted. This includes:

- AI-generated lyrics
- AI-generated melodies or topline
- AI-generated production or performances
- Using AI as a co-writer in any way

These uses shortcut learning and negatively impact the experience of other members.

Transparency Matters

If you use AI in any way, please disclose how when submitting your song.

This helps:

- Feedback remain relevant and fair
- Trust within the group
- The learning environment stay honest and supportive

AI Use in Peer Feedback

IHSC is a human, peer-based learning community. Feedback and reflections are a core part of how we learn together. For this reason, AI should not be used to write feedback, reflections, or responses to other members' songs.

Feedback within IHSC is based on direct, personal listening. Song submissions are shared in confidence for the purpose of learning, and are intended to be listened to only by IHSC

members. Submissions must not be uploaded to, processed by, or analysed through any AI systems or external tools.

We value genuine listening, and personal, thoughtful human responses. Feedback based on your own listening experience, even if it's simple, unsure, or unfinished, is far more valuable than polished AI-generated responses. Feedback is not about saying the “right” thing - it's about showing up honestly and respectfully for each other's work.

When Something Feels Out of Alignment

IHSC operates on trust and shared values, not approval or policing. These guidelines rely on honesty, self-reflection, and care for the wider community.

If a submission or feedback doesn't feel aligned with these guidelines, we encourage:

- Personal reflection on how AI is being used
- Respectful, private conversations rather than public call-outs
- Re-centering on the purpose of the Club: learning, growth, and human connection

From time to time, the IHSC team may reach out privately to check in or offer guidance. This isn't about enforcement - it's about supporting alignment and maintaining a healthy learning environment.

If AI use continues in a way that doesn't align with IHSC's values, we'll have a supportive conversation about whether the Club is the right fit at this time.

Our Commitment

I Heart Songwriting Club is committed to review and evolve these guidelines as needed. Thank you for helping keep IHSC a place for real songs, real effort, and real growth.
