

## Fans of pop star Ariana Grande accuse Chinese star of gaming iTunes rankings

Ariana Grande, the 25-year-old singer, is **embroiled in** a **transpacific spat** this week after a string of singles from Canadian Chinese newcomer Kris Wu suddenly topped the U.S. iTunes store rankings, briefly knocking Grande --- and Lady Gaga --- out of the Top 10 and **sparking allegation** of **foul play**.

be embroiled in 卷入

transpacific 横跨太平洋的

spat 口角

sparking 导致; 发出火星

allegation 主张; 指控

foul play 不正当行为

After tracks from Wu's new "Antares" album swept **the charts** on Monday, Scooter Braun --- agent to Grande --- accused Wu on Twitter of using automated "bots" to artificially inflate sales in the United States, where he is relatively unknown. Braun later claimed that he didn't write the tweet and deleted it, but "Chinese bots" **nonetheless** became a trending topic, and Grande not-so-**discreetly fanned the flames** by hitting "like" on a tweet that accused Wu of cheating.

sweep the charts 横扫榜单

nonetheless 尽管如此

discreetly 谨慎地

fan the flame 煽风点火

On the Chinese Internet, the **episode** has become one of the most hotly debated subjects, not just because **legions** of Wu's fans have sprung to his defense, but also because the fraud allegations appeared to touch a nerve in a country where faked **box office** receipts, faked e-commerce reviews and faked download numbers are recognized as tricks from an all-too-familiar playbook.

legion 军团

episode 事件

spring to 突然跳起

fraud 欺诈; 骗子

box office 票房

Hong Kong hip-hop artist Edison Chen chimed in in English: “Money can’t buy u love, money can’t buy u fame, money can’t buy u charts.”

Grande returned to the top of the U.S. iTunes chart on Wednesday with a seemingly fitting single she had **debuted** live on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.”

debut 初次登台

The title?

“Thank U, Next.”

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