Link to Text: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/music/2024/05/17/artificial-intelligence-impact-music-listeners/73509270007/>

The text makes some interesting notes on artists who have used AI:

* Drake released a freestyle that had AI generated vocals initiating Tupac’s voice, but the song was removed after Tupac’s estate took legal action
* The Beatles performed their final song “Now and Then” in November of 2023 and used AI to extract John Lennon’s voice from a 1970’s demo recording

The text also notes that the label Universal Music Group (UMG) removed their artists’ catalogs from TikTok. AI generated music was cited as a reason for this, but from my own knowledge of that situation I know that the big reason why UMG did this is because TikTok was not compensating UMG’s artists when their music was used on the platform; as such, I suspect that UMG also believed AI generated music used on TikTok using sounds from their artists or using their artists’ likeness entitled their artists to monetary compensation. Nevertheless, TikTok and UMG have reached a new license agreement, which allowed UMG’s artists’ music to be allowed back on TikTok.  
Music lovers are both interested in and confused by the use of AI in music.  
Aneesha Sheikh, a 21 year old singer and NYU student isn’t fazed by AI being used in music, saying, “Music is at the vein of everything in the world. And with Big Tech creating multiple avenues and changing the dynamic of social settings in how we interact with each other, music is of course going to be affected by that.”  
Spotify users can also use GenAI to create playlists (the AI prompt is used to put already existing songs into a playlist; the AI used in this feature does not generate its own songs); at the time this article was published, this feature was in its beta phase and was only available to Premium Users in the UK and Australia, but it is now available to users in the US (I am unsure if this is exclusive to Premium users; I can use it but I have Premium). On this feature, Sheikh says, “We can have customized playlisting much quicker than having to go and search for songs and create playlists. We live in a very quick-paced world, and so it takes less time to do that, so we’ll have what type of music we like.”  
Fellow NYU student Tyler Ponticiello, 20, says the following on this feature and Spotify’s AI DJ feature: “I don’t listen a ton to Taylor Swift, Dua Lipa, Olivia Rodrigo and all these huge artists right now. I listen to smaller, indie artists, so for me, that’s a really important method of discovering new artists.”  
A music professor at NYU Steinhardt, Jerry Del Colliano, says that even though AI’s long-term impact is uncertain, it has the potential to introduce listeners to new music through personalized recommendations, adding, “When AI can learn what works for us and feed it back to us, that can be good.”  
However, AI also has the potential to dehumanize music and distort listeners’ perceptions; for example, AI was used to generate vocals that replicated Drake and The Weeknd for a song called “Heart on My Sleeve,” which was submitted to the GRAMMYs.  
Ponticiello comments that blurring the lines between AI and humans like this is “kind of scary,” saying, “With Gen Alpha being so exposed to all these AI artists and songs, is that going to be their new normal? Are they not going to be able to identify a true musician versus an AI model or system?”  
GRAMMY winning songwriter Sheryl Crow shared a similar sentiment when reacting to an AI generated John Mayer demo, saying, “I’m an older artist, and I’m concerned about the evolution of humanity.”  
Sheikh says that AI’s ability to go unrecognized online can make it difficult for listeners to manage the presence of AI in their music: “It’s not like you’re getting a speeding ticket, and a police officer or camera can see you; there’s people behind screens that you don’t even know what they look like creating things with AI, producers and artists with stage names (and) we don’t know anything about them.”  
Professor Colliano warns, “Once it gets to the point where the automated nature of the presentation or the song is less human, and we’re certainly going to see more of that, I think that’s concerning because we just don’t know what the outcome of that may be.”  
AI may be the next step in the integration between music and tech innovation, with iPods, MP3 players and digital downloads booming in the late ‘90’s and early 2000’s and the 2010’s seeing the rise of music streaming platforms.The author of “Artificial Intelligence and Music Ecosystem” Martin Clancy says, “Music is always about pieces of technology being reimagined and repurposed and used for something other than they were invented for. What’s different now is the technology is happening really, really fast.”  
On AI being used as a production tool like with The Beatles’ “Now and Then,” Sheikh says, “That’s one of the best ways AI is being used, to kind of enhance the work that’s already there.” However, Ponticiello says that the technology hasn’t yet replicated the raw emotion formed between artists and fans in music, saying, “That’s one of the best ways AI is being used, to kind of enhance the work that’s already there. And so, to take that out of it no longer feels like music. It no longer feels like art.”

Questions:

* There are articles linked in the examples of AI use by artists; should I delve deeper into them?
* How come the singers/music students aren’t more scared/worried about AI? Many visual artists and even big musicians like Crow are concerned and scared about what GenAI will do to their industry of work, but the young students in the article don’t seem to have this same level of concern.