

Inspiration for CollabTrack

Personal Stake/Connection

I was a Statistics and Data Science major at UCLA, but throughout my time as an undergrad I was also involved in music. I had played the clarinet (b-flat and e-flat) and saxophone in middle school and high school, and I continued to play the clarinet in college. I was involved with the Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Game Music Ensemble during my time at UCLA and took multiple courses in Musicology and Music Industry with the goal of pursuing a Musicology minor which did not ultimately pan out. However, I had a personal interest in the intersection of music and STEM given my background and even took coursework related to this where I could, such as UCLA's Music Industry 155, Music and Data Science course. My fourth year was also a time when AI started becoming more prominent, and I knew there were emerging issues with AI art in creative fields. I therefore looked into musician issues and pain points at the intersection of music and technology.

I found testimonials directly from musicians on the internet citing AI as a big issue nowadays as I'd expect. At the same time, I also found an idea about a version control system for musicians to collaborate on and keep their intellectual works/property secure on, kind of like GitHub for musicians (with the caveat that it must be kept easy to use for non-technical people and marketed properly in a non-tech way). Those comments can be observed below. My goal became to come up with a product that serve this version control function and also keep real human-made works confirmed/relevant by allowing for a human-made verification badge within the same system.

Pain Points: Reddit User Testimonials

The following are comments from Reddit users in r/musicians on a thread/post regarding common problems musicians face today

- “Fascists and capitalists are commodifying and criminalizing art and free expression.” - u/Oh_Hey_Kiri
 - [Comment](#)
- “Obligatory our biggest problem right now is AI” - u/Late_Ambassador7470
 - [Comment](#)
- “The biggest problems aren't related to technique or art. They're AI-made music taking away streams from musicians, or the extremely low royalty payments on streaming services.” - u/viczio
 - [Comment](#)
- “Real tech problem you could solve, though:

Give me a version control software that works for musical collaboration. It has to be shit

stupid simple for musicians to use, most musicians are not software developers. it has to be marketed intelligently, if you call it a version control software nobody will touch it. it has to work with project files for all the major DAWs, plus mp3, wav, and flac files. it should also still work well with text files, and optionally (but would tickle me personally) with .gp5s.

Remote collaboration is a huge hurdle for most bands to overcome and an easy to use, high quality version control software That Just Works(tm) would be huge. I would even be willing to work with you to write such a thing and put it to market.”

- u/exoclipse
 - o [Comment](#)