# AI Song contest - Process Document Template

Congratulations on taking part in the first AI Song contest!

This document is a suggestion to the format and types of questions to address. The goal of your document is to communicate to the judges on the AI Panel the process of creating your song, and to help everyone understand how you used AI and its impact on your creative process and your song. In addition to summaries from the team, we invite you to include comments and quotes from individual team members too to help relate to the process on a more personal level.

We encourage you to share both your struggles and successes, excitements and frustrations in using AI in different stages of your process. You are welcome to be creative! In addition to this document, this could also be through a video or web page, where you include sketches and sound examples to show your raw material, the inputs and outputs to your algorithms, your curations and modifications, both successful and failure intermediate results, and your final song! However, this document will be most important in the assessment of the AI panel.

## Consent

We plan to make an overview and analysis of the process documents from all of the teams for the public. The result may be a scientific paper to summarize how different teams approached the problem and to improve future AI song contests. Do you consent to having your process document included in this study?

## Team name

How did you come up with the team name?

## Team members

For each participant, include a short description of their creative and technical background.

# Program notes

TL;DR Anything you want the AI panel and audience to know about your song and the process of how it was created. Anything you want the listener to listen for?

# Motivation and Background

* Why did you decide to take part in the AI Song competition?
* How did you form your team?

# Approach and process

We invite you to share the twists and turns to help understand what happens behind-the-scenes. The questions below are just a sounding board. Feel free to answer any subset of them or add your own, or group them in any way that makes sense to you. As an overview, you could provide a timeline to show when major events happened in your process, and later go into more details.

We also invite you to highlight in detail a few instances of how you used AI in a particular musical/creative context, if there were points of contention, and the (creative) decisions you had to make. Did the use of AI extend or inhibit your creativity in some way?

## Initial Stages

* What was the inspiration for the song?
* What were your initial goals and proposals?
* How did the different backgrounds of teammates help you formulate your goals and plans of collaboration? Any previous experience that influenced how you approach your entry this time?
* How did you think about which AI techniques to develop or use and where and how to incorporate them into your creative process? What are some desirable properties?
* How did you decide which parts of the music you compose by hand and which using AI, and how to connect the two different kinds of process and iterate over them?
* What were some of the challenges you encountered early on or anticipated?
* What was your imagined outcome?

## Development Stages

* How did you develop your AI system (i.e. collection of techniques) and/or adapt, extend existing ones to move closer to your goals? If applicable, what are the different options you explored? What were the trade-offs?
* Was data needed? What were the sources? What kind of musical data was it (e.g. audio, midi etc)? What was the quantity? How did you prepare and use it?
* What was your actual workflow in (or specific examples of) interacting with your AI system, interacting with musicians, and iterating on different aspects of the song?
* How did you debug and evaluate intermediate outputs and work them into your piece?

## Intermediate reflections

* How has your answers for the above questions changed?
* Did something fail? Did something work surprisingly well? Was something unexpected? How did you iterate on them? How did it change your plan or direction?
* Are there specific moments you want to highlight?
* Did the use of AI extend or inhibit your creativity in some way?

Other questions regarding various aspects of the song, if applicable:

* How were the lyrics written?
* Any techniques used for audio synthesis used in your submission?
* How did you approach music production?

# Evaluation

* What were your criteria for success?
* Evaluation of overall process:
  + How did you prioritize? Where did you focus most of your creativity on?
  + Effectiveness in the division of roles among the team? How much time and effort was spent on different aspects?
* Evaluation of impact of using AI on your team’s creative process:
  + Did you feel more creative or more constrained in some way?
  + Did the use of AI enable new forms of collaboration?
  + To what extent did you feel you were able to use AI to achieve the goals you had in mind for this song? In retrospect, how would you evaluate the trade-offs you had to make?
* In what ways do you think your approach opens up new possibilities?
* Evaluation of the outcome:
  + What was the impact of using AI on the resulting song? Would you have been able to achieve it without the use of AI? Was the outcome novel in some way?
  + What is your expectation from the listeners?

# Discussion and Implications

* Discuss the impact of collaboration on your team’s creative process and outcome.
* How do you feel in terms of ownership and authorship of the song relative to the AI?
* Discuss how you felt (if applicable) in terms of trust, control, comprehension, and sense of collaboration with the AI system you used or developed. How did it affect your self-efficacy?
* What are some ethical considerations that came up in the process?
* Your request to researchers and developers, what are some tools you think would be helpful for writing an AI song?
* Given your experience this time, what might you do differently next time? What is your advice to others?

# Open Source / Data

We encourage participants to open source your code and data when possible. Please include any links to data or code that you can share.

# Other comments and feedback

We welcome any comments and feedback to help us improve the AI song contests in the future.

## Thank you for all your contributions and congratulations! The audience is eager to hear your song!