



The Ivors Academy  
Copyright House  
Pembroke Row  
Lower Baggot Street  
Dublin 2  
D02 HW59, Ireland

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD  
Department of the Taoiseach  
Government Buildings  
Merrion Street Upper  
Dublin 2  
D02 R583  
[taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie)

1 July 2026

### **The Presidency of the Council of the EU and standing up for Irish songwriters and composers**

Dear Taoiseach,

I am writing on behalf of The Ivors Academy and the nearly 15,000 composers and songwriters we represent to call on you and your government to ensure that you use the opportunity offered by Ireland holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) to push for solutions that protect Irish and European creators from the negative impacts of generative AI.

The Ivors Academy is an independent association representing professional songwriters and composers across the island of Ireland.

For over 80 years we have championed the rights of songwriters and composers and earlier this year we established a formal presence in Ireland. This is our first international presence outside of the UK in more than eight decades of championing songwriters and composers. This milestone creates a new, dedicated home for music writers across the whole island of Ireland, supporting all genres, disciplines and career stages and is being led by Catherine Martin, former Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Through our internationally recognised awards we have celebrated and championed Irish songwriters and composers. Recent Irish recipients include Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr, who received our Fellowship, the highest honour we bestow, Orla Gartland who received the Ivor Novello for Best Song Musically and Lyrically, and CMAT who received Best Album. Other Irish winners and nominees have included Hozier, Fontaines DC, Lankum, Jazzy, Shane MacGowan and more.

The impact of generative AI is of increasing concern to songwriters and composers across Ireland, the EU and globally. Music creators could see their revenues drop by almost a quarter by 2028 due to generative AI, according to research by the International Confederation of Societies

The British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors trading as The Ivors Academy

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of Authors and Composers (CISAC). This could amount to cumulative losses of €10 billion over five years.

According to the music streaming service Deezer, 44% of the tracks uploaded to its service are now AI generated. That is over 75,000 AI generated tracks uploaded each day. A 650% increase since they first started reporting AI content on their platform at the start of 2025.

With the Irish government taking over the Presidency of the Council of the EU you have an opportunity to stand up for Irish songwriters, composers and creators. The Irish creative community is calling on you to set the agenda, call for stronger protections for copyright across the bloc and protect our cultural heritage.

In addition, we call on you to:

1. Introduce legislation that supports a framework for the proper authorisation, remuneration and transparency for songwriters and composers if they opt-in their work for AI licensing. Consent cannot be imposed through default opt-ins and it should not be a condition of signing a new deal. Artists and songwriters must be able to say no without fear of penalisation.
2. Protect songwriters and composers from deep fakes and unauthorised digital replicas by introducing new personality rights for creators. This would protect creators, their voice, lyrics, image, likeness and style from unauthorised copying and mimicry by generative AI tools
3. Require AI services to introduce transparency over the works they train their models on and properly label AI music to ensure consumers know what they are listening to.

We look forward to working with and supporting you and your government over the next six months to ensure that this opportunity delivers for the needs of Irish and European songwriters and composers.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto Neri, Chief Executive of The Ivors Academy

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