

The Legal Beat

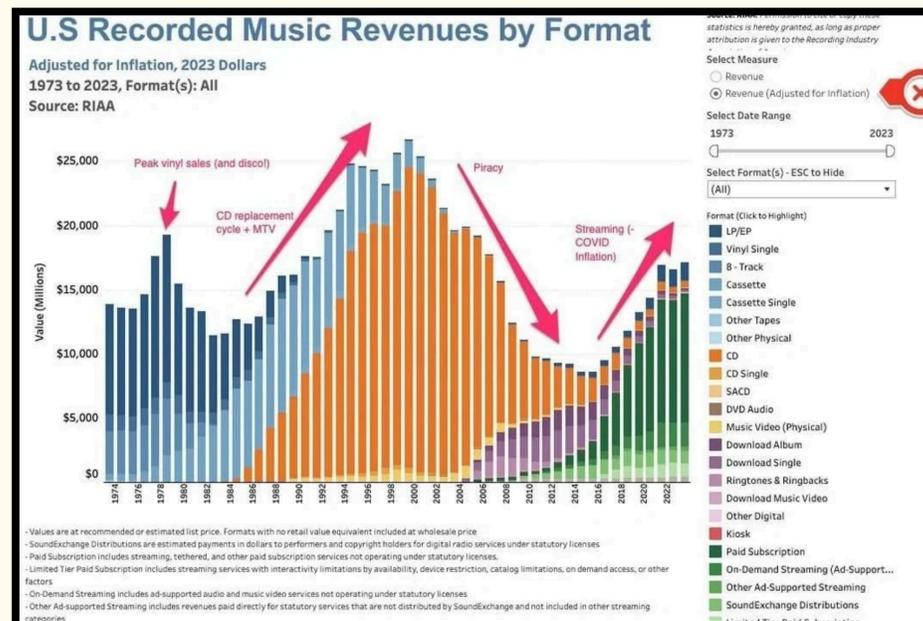
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01 - Introduction

A copyright is a tangible creation that expresses an idea. When filed, the owner of a copyright gains exclusive rights to their expression (right to reproduce, distribute, create derivative works, publicly perform, and publicly display). Although there are many opportunities for artistic expression and financial success in the music industry, there are also intricate legal issues that have a strong impact on artists. These issues range from copyright infringement and licensing disputes to contract negotiations, and each effects artists financial outcomes, participation in the industry, and artistic freedom. Due to its dynamic and evolving nature, new legal issues arise in the music industry regularly, one example is A.I. This project will explore the key legal issues that impact musicians, examining how these issues affect their ability to secure compensation, thrive creatively, and navigate changes in the music industry, while also emphasizing the importance of legal awareness to create a more equitable and fair industry.

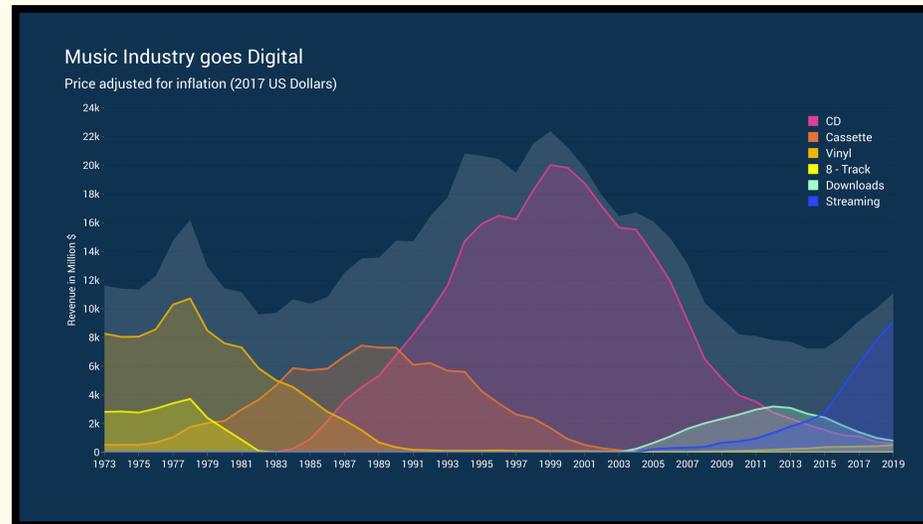


03 - Results

- With the popularity of A.I., there have been recent debates on whether A.I should have access to copyrighted material, because it would be able to reproduce, create derivative works from, and people may publicly display A.I generated works, which are all specific copyrights designated to the copyright owner alone. OpenAI has been sued multiple times over their A.I algorithms, which are supposed to disengage with copyrighted material, but has been tested and does not.
- As A.I develops, the debate around whether artists should be allowed to use it to enhance their art has also risen. In recent lawsuits about the involvement of A.I in musical creation, legal decisions have been made favoring “human authorship,” which is defined by humans being the author throughout the entire creative process. This eliminates artists from copyrighting any A.I generated material, no matter how detailed their instruction was.

02 - Methods

- Gathered information from major national and international newspapers, music-focused websites, and legal news platforms such as The Hollywood Reporter, Billboard, and New York times, and recent court cases published from 2014-present.
- Selected data was analyzed to identify recurring themes, patterns, and trends in the coverage of the effects copyright infringement in the music industry. Key themes such as types of infringement, legal responses, impact on artists, and role of digital platforms were categorized and analyzed for their prevalence across different articles.
- Inferred implications for the future regarding artists creativity, careers, and compensation through the understanding of the role of digital platforms in the evolution of infringement, landmark court cases on the interpretation of copyright law, and economic impact on artists financial compensation.



04 - Discussion

Legal trends are increasingly shaping the way artists navigate the music industry, especially with the rise of A.I, digital streaming platforms, and evolving copyright law. Artists have always faced issues with copyright infringement, from music piracy to A.I. algorithms, but with legal changes aiming to protect artists and their work, a more equitable industry is slowly being created. In terms of compensation, with digital streaming services dominating music distribution, artists face challenges with low royalty payouts and the difficulty of enforcing their rights over unauthorized content. Additionally, issues like sampling and the use of AI in music production raise concerns about ownership and copyright infringement, but legal action is slowly bringing a stop to these worries. As the music and legal industry are both dynamic, it's imperative for them to continue to evolve together so musicians can continue to thrive creatively, receive financial compensation, and maintain their rights under the protection of the law.

05- References

