

SOUND BETTER

UPDATE FOR CROWN LANE EDUCATION PARTNERS **SPRING 2025**



Is AI going to kill the
music industry?

**CROWN LANE
FESTIVAL: GET
INVOLVED**

The Process of
Recording Part I



CROWN LANE EDUCATION

Give your students first hand access to the music industry



CROWN LANE
EDUCATION

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Crown Lane Education Partner

2025



SCULPT
Mixing Sound

Speak to Lawrence today to see how your establishment can benefit from a year long education partnership with Crown Lane. Access training opportunities, workshops, 50% off online courses, studio visits, work experience, CPD sessions and so much more. CALL +44 (0)20 8540 5643

UPDATE SPRING 2025

Our Education Partnership model has been a huge success over 2024, and we're delighted to be bringing the things that you have asked for into 2025.

There are more opportunities to bring your students to the studio; more flexibility in the workshops on offer, and with more organisations, schools and colleges being a part, we've seen increased strength across the entire partnership.

We don't shy away from the fact that we're not a charity, trust or not-for-profit. We are clear from the outset that we are a small business, proud to employ people locally in the music industry. As such, with your free membership, we ask that you engage with us, signpost others to us, and use our services and paid workshops wherever you can. This model has proved successful, and we've seen hundreds of young people across 2024 experience life in the music industry - an experience they will never forget. How will you get involved?

John Merriman
Director



Crown Lane Productions Limited



CROWN LANE FESTIVAL

2nd - 5th April 2025

1 HOUR EXPRESS RECORDING



PACKAGE INCLUDES

1 hour recording session
Pro Engineer
20+ page industry support guide
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CROWN LANE
STUDIO

sound better

Is AI going to kill the music industry?

Sitting around a fire on a recent trip to Southern Africa, with a huge extended family singing a capella seems a distant echo from the immense amount of technology and power around me required to assist with, and generate today's music in the studio. But is it better - and what's next for music? Let's unpack it a little.

Firstly, what's the difference between Generative and Assistive AI?

Generative AI uses pre-existing sources and learned patterns to create at your prompts. For example [Splice Stacks](#) or [CassetteAI](#).

Assistive AI on the other hand speeds up and enhances tasks that a trained human would traditionally undertake. An established name in the audio world is [Landr](#) with new apps arriving all the time to assist with each part of the process.

Using technology to assist with human tasks has always been a part of music. The stops (control levers) of a pipe organ are all labelled to represent different instruments, to enable one person to be able to play all of them (including the use of their feet). So assistive AI, (bringing together technology, with the digital capacity to store and access patterns in data) is a very natural, and useful next step in the revolution.

Generative AI is something altogether different. The creation of new music from learnt patterns, data and prompts has never been possible before.

crownlanestudio.co.uk/education

How can I use AI in my music making?

Firstly, decide whether you are looking to use AI for assistive or generative purposes.

[Izotope](#) for a while now, includes some useful AI functionality within their suite of plug-ins. Within [Nectar](#), for example, it can 'listen' to your isolated vocal track, and, once given prompts, combine what it heard with what you ask for, and it'll help to select and modify the necessary elements of the plugin to create the desired sound. It's a great starting point when working quickly. The initial processing and learning time is completed in a matter of seconds, and then all the usual variables can still be altered to suit creative goals.

Are there down-sides to assistive AI?

Each occurrence of assistive AI in a mix (for example, creating the perfect vocal sound, or the amount of compression on a kick drum) works in isolation. As yet, each component cannot speak to another, to know how they hold together. I describe it as being like asking different artists to combine ideas on one canvas to create a single work of art. Each element will have its own character and desired outcome - but it will take a human to understand and pull these together into a complete piece. My biggest concern is that I love nature. I love the organic world around us - and how 'un-uniform' everything is.

Hearing a choir for example, in one region of a country will sound different to a choir in the next village - for many tiny nuanced reasons. As the global music world moves towards a reliance on the same suite of

Assistive AI plug-ins, there's a danger - like with car-design - that regional characteristics - and creative differences - the things that make us human, will decrease, meaning a steady disconnect with perfected mixes, without the listener or engineer really knowing why.

Is Generative AI really music?

Generative AI can absolutely take the place of music. For example, when used by a student film-maker needing music under a particular scene. Budgets don't allow for an orchestra, and copyright restricts the use of existing music. So to replace music, Generative AI can certainly be used as a place-holder for music.

However, look at many of the descriptions of Generative AI music tools. Here are some examples: "Never suffer from lack of inspiration again..." "The answer to writer's block..."

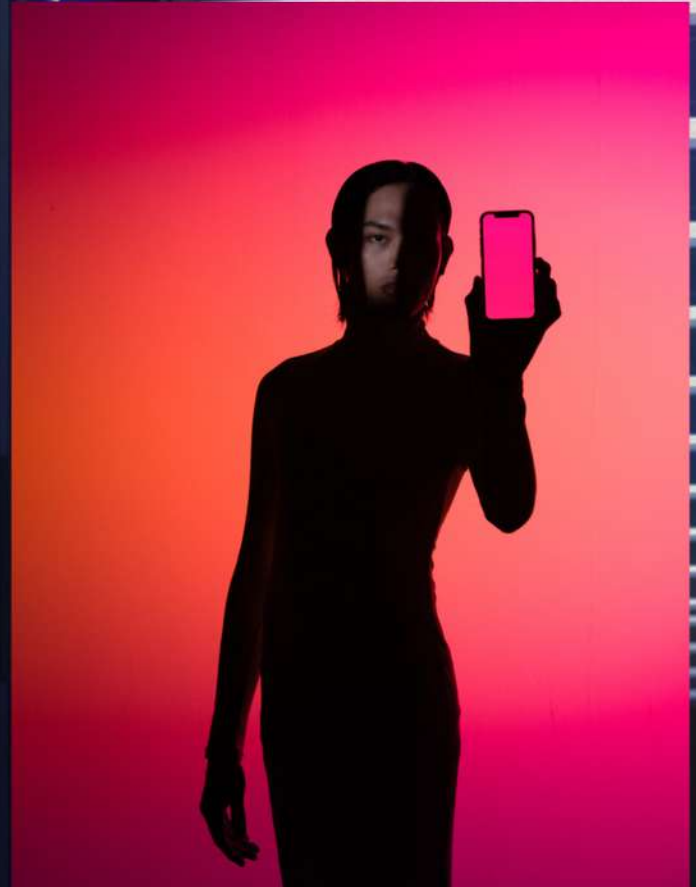
The worrying promise is that these tools will allow progress, where there was none. Which, to a degree, can be helpful - if there's little care for human-connection with the end result.

True music creation however often comes through blood, sweat and tears. Patiently waiting out those periods of writer's block and frustratingly starting a mix again from scratch. True creativity comes from seeking inspiration - and knowing when it's not the right time. To stop - wait and reflect.

And sometimes the ideas that we first had (which would have shaped the 'prompts' that we were giving Generative AI) turn out not to be the best natural and organic direction after all.

If I had to look to the future, I imagine a trend towards un-plugging. A move towards

a world where perfection isn't celebrated (because it can be artificially created anyway - and turns out to be not all we thought it would be) but a wholesome move towards celebrating human creativity in all its imperfection and vulnerability.



In conclusion...

AI brings so much speed and efficiency which gives more time for creatives to do what they do best - create. It won't be long until we'll be able to see the true effects of AI on music creation. Whether it brings better music, enriching our lives and financially supporting the creators - or whether it brings mundanity and takes from the creators more than it gives. We will see.

As a side-note - AI was not used at any point in the creation of this blog post. Which, after running pretty much everything I put out through ChatGPT (to ensure I'm speaking to the right audience), feels a little scary.

 **CROWN LANE** PODCAST



PART 1

The Process of Recording in 2025



PART I The Process of Recording in 2025

After leading Crown Lane Studio here in South London for almost 2 decades, I have witnessed and been a part of so much change. Lawrence Bradshaw and I decided to document today's process - and how our music is created to meet the demands of both the listener and the creator.

The best format for a discussion is in a room with friends, but second best - eavesdropping on a conversation taking place on a podcast. Join the episode now.



Crown Lane - On The Record: [Episode 8] The Process of Recording - Part 1 - CAPTURE
Crown Lane Podcast

In our first ever 3 part (possibly 4), John (Joe Marman) and Lawrence start the mini series "The Process of Recording" with CAPTURE. Thinking about how to set ...

2 Dec 2024 • 33 min 53 sec left



Part I: Capture

One of the highlights of the first episode, is discussing the Golden Channel. We stretched the term to consider EVERYTHING that makes up a stunning recording - from the recording room to the listening environment and everything in between.

How do you ensure you have the best possible 'golden channel' from start to finish - within the constraints of your working environment? Do you consider all of these aspects when you make recordings? Are there other factors you would add?

Check out the Crown lane Podcast, episodes 8, 9 and 10 for our three part mini-series on the process of recording in 2025.

Recording Environment

Mic stand & Pop shield

Microphone

Cables

Outboard

Interface

DAW

Plugins

Monitors

Listening Environment

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INCLUDES



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Videography multi-cam
£950 inc VAT



CROWN LANE
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CROWN LANE FESTIVAL

2nd - 5th April 2025

Tickets: www.metronome.life

EDUCATION PARTNER DISCOUNT CODE: CLFEP25

Over 2023 and 2024 we piloted a very exciting venture. Live studio recordings, broadcast to a live audience watching on a huge screen next door.

This year, rather than the monthly sessions, we're holding a Crown Lane Festival, with different acts EVERY night. The full programme is available now on Metronome's website (the coffee and wine bar at the front of the studio). www.metronome.life

How can I get involved?

Firstly, if you're reading this before the beginning of April, make sure you get tickets to some of the events. The evenings are great as an educator - or even to bring your young people along. We're offering discounted ticket prices using the code above.

Second, check out Crown Lane Live on Youtube for recordings and interviews from our pilot series - and shortly, we'll be drip-releasing the content from this festival too.



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