Troubleshooting AI Music

A quick-reference guide to the most common problems in AI music and how to fix them. Find your problem, try the suggested fix, and turn to the chapter listed for more detail.

THE FIRST THREE THINGS TO TRY
1. Generate again. Every generation is different. The same prompt often succeeds on the second or third try.
2. Change one thing at a time. If you change several things at once, you won't know what worked.
3. Simplify. Shorten the prompt to genre, mood, and one instrument, then add details back one at a time.

The Rescue Ladder (Chapter 10)

Start at the bottom rung and climb only if you need to.

Rung	Repair	Use it when
1	**Generate again**	One version has a problem the others don't
2	**Adjust the style**	Every version has the wrong sound, voice, or mood
3	**Adjust the lyrics**	Words, phrasing, structure, or ending are the problem
4	**Edit one section**	Most of the song is right except one part
5	**Cover in a new style**	The melody and words work, but the style doesn't
6	**Polish and remaster**	The song is nearly finished and needs final touches

How to read the tables: "Ch." is the chapter of *Making Music with AI* with more detail.

1. Lyrics and Vocals

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Words mumbled or hard to understand	Long lines; busy arrangement; processed vocal style	Shorten lines; fewer instruments; add vocals sung clearly and up front	4, 10
Singer skips or changes words	Lines too long; missing line breaks	Shorten the line; put each line on its own line; generate again	6
Singer sings the section labels aloud	Labels not in square brackets, or too long	Use [Verse 1] on its own line; keep descriptions to a few words	6, 9
Name mispronounced	Unusual spelling	Spell it as it sounds (Mar-REE-uh); test with a short generation	6, 12
Year or number sung awkwardly	Numbers written as digits	Write numbers as words, or rephrase (back in eighty-six)	12
Words rushed, stretched, or stressed wrongly	Lines of uneven length; too many syllables	Keep matching lines similar in length; read aloud and simplify	6, 10
Chorus melody changes each time	Chorus words differ slightly	Make every chorus identical, word for word	6
AI-written lyrics are generic	AI doesn't know your story	Write your own lyrics with real names, places, and details	6

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Song isn’t funny	AI wrote generic lyrics	Add a specific funny detail, or write the lyrics yourself	4, 6
Wrong singer gender or age	Vague or late voice description	Put the voice first: deep, mature male voice	8
Singer’s voice changes partway through	Conflicting style words; vague description	Make the voice description specific and early; remove conflicting words	10
Can’t keep the same singer across songs	Each song is created fresh	Reuse the exact voice description; use a saved Persona	8, 15
Voice sounds robotic	Variation between generations	Generate more versions; add natural, expressive, heartfelt	8
Duet partner disappears	AI interpretation	Label parts: [Verse 2: Female], [Chorus: Both]; generate again	8
Backing vocals missing	Not requested clearly	Put echo words in parentheses: (having a ball!)	9

2. Style, Genre, and Instruments

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Wrong overall style	Genre unclear or not first	Put the genre first; add an era (1950s Delta blues)	7, 11
Requested instrument missing	Named late in the prompt; too many instruments	Move it earlier; name fewer instruments; generate again	4, 7
Unwanted instrument appears	Genre implies it (rock means drums)	Choose a more specific genre; add no drums; use Exclude styles	7, 8
Music sounds muddy or crowded	Too many instruments	Name two or three instruments; add spacious and uncluttered	8, 10
Mood is wrong (“happy” came out frantic)	Single vague mood word	Describe with two or three building blocks: cheerful and relaxed, medium tempo	2, 5
Prompt seems ignored	Contradictions or overload	Look for clashes (calm and energetic); shorten; put key words first	7
Genre blend sounds like only one genre	Missing elements from the second genre	Name specific instruments or voices from it; put them earlier	11
Genre blend sounds chaotic	No clear foundation	Make one genre the base, the other a flavor; limit to two genres	11
Music sounds generic	Too broad a style	Add an era, a variation, or a production phrase (live in a small club)	5, 11
Tempo words ignored	BPM treated as a suggestion	Combine words and numbers: very slow, like a lullaby, around 60 BPM	5
Rhythm (waltz, shuffle) missing	Rhythm word doesn’t fit the style, or was ignored	Check it suits the genre; strengthen: in 3/4 waltz time	5, 7
Request refused or nothing created	Artist name or existing lyrics in the prompt; out of credits	Describe the style instead of naming an artist; use your own lyrics; wait for credits to refresh	3, 19

3. Structure and Endings

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Song ends abruptly	No outro or end label; lyrics too long	Add [Outro] with a few lines and [End]; add clear, deliberate ending; remove a verse	9
Ending fades awkwardly	AI's own choice	Request a specific ending: [Outro: big finish, final chord]; or Crop and Fade	9, 10
No solo or instrumental break	Solo label had words under it; instrument not in style	Leave the solo section empty; name the instrument in the Styles box	9
Chorus repeats too many times	AI improvisation	Generate again, or trim the extra chorus in an editor	9, 16
Sections collide abruptly	Missing labels; no pre-chorus	Label every section; add [Pre-Chorus] or [Build]	9, 10
Song never builds; sounds the same throughout	No contrast requested	Add section descriptions: [Verse: soft], [Chorus: full band]; add starts softly and builds	9, 10
Intro is missing or too long	AI interpretation	Describe it: [Intro: short guitar riff]; trim in an editor	9, 16

4. Instrumentals

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Humming or choir appears	Words suggesting voices (angelic, ethereal)	Add no vocals; remove voice-suggesting words	13
Drums appear in a gentle piece	Genre implies a beat	Add no drums; avoid pop or rock	13
Piece is boring	No development	Add a second instrument joins midway; a memorable melody that returns	13
Too busy for relaxing	Too many instruments; tempo too fast	Two instruments; slower tempo; spacious and uncluttered	13
Builds to a climax in sleep music	AI adding drama	Add even and unchanging mood throughout	13
Pieces in a collection don't match	Different production descriptions	Use the same production phrase in every prompt; keep tempos similar	13, 15
Too short for the purpose	Typical generation length	Extend it; create several similar pieces; loop in an editor	13

5. Sound Quality

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Warbling, swirling, or glitches (artifacts)	Long or complex generation	Generate again; replace the section; try Remaster	10
Harsh cymbals or piercing sound	Too much treble	Reduce treble slightly in an audio editor	16
Muddy or boomy sound	Too much bass	Reduce bass slightly	16
One track quieter than the others	Different generation levels	Normalize all tracks	16

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Sounds too modern for a nostalgic song	No era or production phrase	Add warm vintage analog recording	5

6. Editing and Recording

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Click or pop at an edit	Cut in the middle of a sound	Undo and move the cut slightly; add a tiny fade on each side	16
Watery sound after noise reduction	Reduction too strong	Undo; use a lower setting, or skip it	16
Crackling after making it louder	Clipping	Undo; use Normalize instead of Amplify	16
Exported file contains only part of the song	A section was selected when exporting	Clear the selection and export again	16
Backing music audible in your voice recording	Bleed from headphones	Use closed-back headphones; lower headphone volume; never use speakers	17
Voice sounds hollow or echoey	Hard, bare room	Record in a smaller room with soft surfaces, or a closet	17
Pops on “p” and “b”	Breath hitting the microphone	Use a pop filter; angle the microphone to the side	17
Your playing sounds late	Latency	Drag your clip slightly left; use the clap trick	17
Audacity records silence	Wrong input or blocked permission	Select your microphone as the input; allow microphone access in computer settings	17
Voice lost under the music	Music too loud	Lower the music track; normalize your voice	17

7. Soundtracks and Video

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Music shorter than the video	Generation length	Extend it, or add a second cue with a crossfade	14
Music longer than the video	Generation length	Trim at the end of a phrase; fade out over 2–4 seconds	14
Big musical moment in the wrong place	AI can’t hit exact seconds	Move your best shot to the music, or adjust clip lengths	14
Music overwhelms speech	Music too loud or too busy	Lower music under speech; regenerate with soft background, no vocals	14
Music never changes with the scenes	Labels ignored	Strengthen changes in the Styles box; use separate cues	14

8. Files, Sharing, and Publishing

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
Can’t download a song	Free plan or monthly limit reached	Song remains playable in your library; upgrade or wait for the next month	3, 18

Problem	Likely cause	Try this	Ch.
File won’t play on a device	Unusual format	Send an MP3	18
Email won’t send	Attachment too large	Send an MP3 instead of WAV, or share a cloud link	18
Cover art doesn’t show on a phone	Art not embedded, or not square	Add square artwork to the MP3’s metadata	18
Can’t find a song	Unclear name; left in Downloads	Search by title; rename and file it properly	18
QR code opens an error	Link changed or made private	Make the link viewable by anyone; don’t move the file	18
Song sounds strikingly like a famous song	AI resemblance	Don’t use it; generate again or change the style	19
Upload refused by the AI tool	Copyrighted material detected	Use only audio you own	19
Release rejected by a distributor	Artwork, metadata, or disclosure issue	Read the reason, correct it, and resubmit	20
Your music appears on another artist’s profile	Shared artist name	Contact the distributor; choose a more distinctive name	20
Almost no one is listening	Normal for most releases	Share personally; tell the song’s story; enjoy it for its own sake	20

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