

News Item

Neil Young demands Spotify remove his music over Joe Rogan vaccine misinformation | The Guardian

By Sian Cain January 25, 2022

Neil Young has demanded that his music be removed from Spotify due to vaccine misinformation spread by podcaster Joe Rogan on the streaming service, saying: "They can have Rogan or Young. Not both."

In an open letter to his manager and record label that was posted to his website and later taken down, Young wrote: "I am doing this because Spotify is spreading fake information about vaccines – potentially causing death to those who believe the disinformation being spread by them. Please act on this immediately today and keep me informed of the time schedule."

Young specified that his decision was motivated by The Joe Rogan Experience, which is currently Spotify's most popular podcast and one of the biggest in the world. Rogan signed a US\$100m deal in 2020 giving Spotify exclusive rights to the show.

"With an estimated 11 million listeners per episode, JRE, which is hosted exclusively on Spotify, is the world's largest podcast and has tremendous influence. Spotify has a responsibility to mitigate the spread of misinformation on its platform, though the company presently has no misinformation policy," he wrote, adding: "I want you to let Spotify know immediately TODAY that I want all my music off their platform ... They can have Rogan or Young. Not both."

[...]

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