



SHARING A PLATF

Neil You
him and

Musician wants streaming platform to address "fake information" on vaccines.

ANNA NICOLAOU, FINANCIAL TIMES - 1/25/2022, 11:05 PM

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Enlarge / Neil Young performs on stage at Barclaycard Presents British Summer Time at Hyde Park on July 12, 2019, in London, England.

Neil Young has threatened to remove his music from Spotify because he believes the streaming company enables podcaster Joe Rogan to spread “fake information” about vaccines.

In an email to his record label, Warner Records, Young said Spotify “has a responsibility to mitigate the spread of misinformation on its platform.”

“I want you to let Spotify know immediately TODAY that I want all my music off their platform,” he wrote. “They can have Rogan or Young. Not both.”

Young, whose hits include “Heart of Gold” and “Harvest Moon” and counts 6 million monthly listeners on Spotify, is the first major artist to publicly threaten to leave the platform over its association with Rogan, who hosts the most popular podcast on the Spotify app.

Since spending \$100 million to bring Rogan to Spotify as it aggressively pushed to expand its podcast offerings, the company has repeatedly come under fire over the American commentator’s content.

Young’s letter was a response to a December podcast in which Rogan interviewed Robert Malone, a controversial virologist who researched messenger RNA vaccines and is now sceptical of them. On the podcast, Malone told Rogan that US hospitals are financially incentivised to falsely report deaths as being caused by coronavirus.

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Rogan has also on

This has put Spotify whose podcast is licensed programming, Spotify and other big tech platf

19 vaccine.

to keep Rogan, g its own YouTube and

A group of doctors and scientists earlier this month called on Spotify to “moderate misinformation” on its platform, arguing that Rogan has spread false claims about the coronavirus pandemic and vaccines. “Mass-misinformation events of this scale have extraordinarily dangerous ramifications,” the group wrote.

Spotify did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Warner Music declined to comment.

Young’s music was still available on Spotify as of Tuesday morning.

Young removed his music from Spotify in 2015 because he said the sound quality was too poor. It has since been restored.

When asked in 2020 about Rogan’s decision to invite conspiracy theorist Alex Jones to his podcast, Spotify’s chief executive Daniel Ek told the Financial Times: “We want creators to create. It’s what they do best. We’re not looking to play a role in what they should say.”

Rogan hosted Jones on his show, where he promoted unsubstantiated claims about the dangers of vaccines. Large tech groups including Spotify, Facebook, Apple, and Twitter have banned Jones, the far-right founder of InfoWars who has previously said the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting in Connecticut—where 26 people, including 20 schoolchildren were killed—was a hoax.

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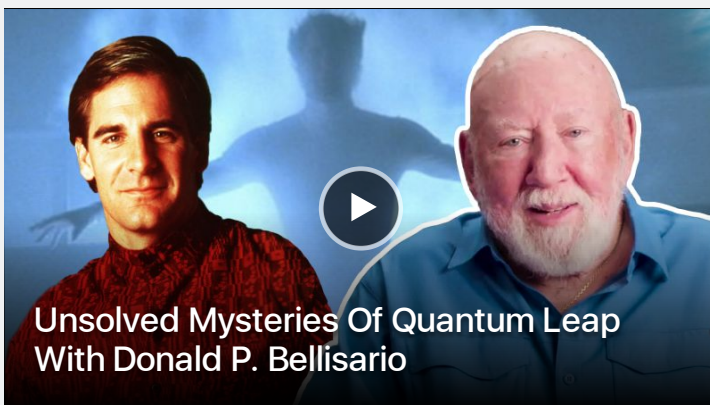
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Unsolved Mysteries Of Quantum Leap With Donald P. Bellisario

Today "Quantum Leap" series creator Donald P. Bellisario joins Ars Technica to answer once and for all the lingering questions we have about his enduringly popular show. Was Dr. Sam Beckett really leaping between all those time periods and people or did he simply imagine it all? What do people in the waiting room do while Sam is in their bodies? What happens to Sam's loyal ally AI? 30 years following the series finale, answers to these mysteries and more await.



Unsolved Mysteries Of Quantum Leap With Donald P. Bellisario



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