**Step-by-Step Checklist: YouTube AI Music Empire**

**Introduction**

Use this checklist to go from zero to a monetized, faceless YouTube music brand. Follow each step in order. Keep it simple, be consistent, and track what works.

**Phase 1 — Channel Setup**

1. Create a short, memorable channel name that matches your music style.
2. Pick one starter niche (lo-fi, pop, EDM, cinematic, etc.).
3. Write a clear channel description using niche keywords.
4. Design a square profile image that reads well at small sizes.
5. Create a clean banner that shows your niche and upload schedule.
6. Turn on 2-factor authentication in your Google account.
7. Organize a folder system on your computer: Music, Images, Projects, Uploads.
8. Draft 10 video titles that match your niche and search terms.
9. Make a simple content calendar (2–3 uploads per week to start).
10. Set up YouTube default upload settings (description template, tags, visibility).

**Phase 2 — Make the Music (Suno)**

1. Brainstorm 10 prompt ideas with mood, tempo, and instruments.
2. Generate 3 takes per prompt to capture variations.
3. Export best takes in high-quality audio (prefer lossless).
4. Name files descriptively: Genre\_Mood\_Tempo\_UniqueWord.
5. Store prompts alongside each exported track for future reuse.
6. Trim or extend intros/outros so the track starts quickly.
7. Normalize loudness to a consistent level across tracks.
8. Create a “keeper” playlist of your top 10 tracks for this month.

**Phase 3 — Create the Visuals**

1. Generate one horizontal image (16:9) that matches the song’s vibe.
2. Generate one vertical image (9:16) for Shorts.
3. In Canva, size and crop both images to exact ratios.
4. Add minimal text only if it helps (2–4 words max).
5. Save final images to your “Images/Ready” folder.

**Phase 4 — Edit in Kapwing**

1. Start a 16:9 project; import one finished track + horizontal image.
2. Add slow zoom or pan for gentle motion; avoid fast, distracting moves.
3. Export the full video in high quality; name it to match the track.
4. Duplicate the project as 9:16; swap in the vertical image.
5. Trim a 15–60s highlight for a Short (best hook/drop).
6. Export the Short; save both files in “Uploads/Ready”.

**Phase 5 — Thumbnails & Metadata**

1. Create 2 thumbnail options in Canva; bold text, high contrast, simple layout.
2. Write a compelling, keyword-rich title that promises a clear vibe/use.
3. Write a 2–3 sentence description (what it is, who it’s for, mood/tempo).
4. Add 8–12 relevant tags (genre, mood, use-case).
5. Test thumbnails (swap after a few days if CTR is low).
6. Save metadata templates for speed on future uploads.

**Phase 6 — Upload & Pairing Strategy**

1. Upload the long video first (16:9) and schedule it.
2. Upload the Short (9:16) within 0–24 hours of the long video.
3. Post a pinned comment on the Short that points to the full version.
4. Add the long video to a relevant playlist immediately.
5. Share a community post announcing both uploads.

**Phase 7 — Consistency & Scheduling**

1. Stick to a repeatable cadence (e.g., 1 long + 1 Short twice per week).
2. Batch work weekly: music on day 1, visuals on day 2, edits on day 3.
3. Schedule uploads at the same times your audience is most active.
4. Track results weekly: views, CTR, retention, comments, subs gained.
5. Keep a simple log of “what worked” (thumbnail style, title pattern, genre).

**Phase 8 — Engagement Engine**

1. End each video with a gentle CTA to subscribe or comment.
2. Ask one specific question in the description to spark replies.
3. Reply to every early comment within the first 24 hours.
4. Use one pinned comment on long videos to promote a playlist.
5. Post one poll or community update between uploads.

**Phase 9 — SEO & Playlists**

1. Target one primary keyword per video; avoid keyword stuffing.
2. Create themed playlists (study, sleep, focus, workout, ambient).
3. Place new uploads into at least one playlist on publish.
4. Interlink playlists in descriptions for binge-watch paths.
5. Refresh under-performing titles or thumbnails after 7–14 days.

**Phase 10 — Multi-Platform Expansion**

1. Repost your Short to TikTok, Instagram Reels, and Facebook Shorts.
2. Use identical captions and hashtags that match the video’s vibe.
3. Maintain visual consistency (fonts, colors, framing) across platforms.
4. Nudge viewers to find full versions on your main channel.
5. Track which platform brings the most new viewers each week.

**Phase 11 — Monetization Stages**

1. Stage 1 (0–1k subs): focus on output, CTR, retention, and replies.
2. Stage 2 (1k–5k): apply to the Partner Program; turn on ads; add a low-cost fan-support tier.
3. Stage 3 (5k–10k): expand perks; pitch micro-sponsors; test simple merch.
4. Stage 4 (10k–50k): launch digital products (loops, presets, bundles); negotiate bigger sponsors.
5. Stage 5 (50k–100k): run full sponsorship campaigns; expand merch store; paid collabs.
6. Stage 6 (100k+): diversify into courses, licensing, memberships, and live events.

**Phase 12 — Streaming & Distribution**

1. Choose one distributor (pick one only) for Spotify/Apple delivery.
2. Release on a schedule (biweekly or monthly) to feed algorithms.
3. Match titles, artwork, and branding to your channel for recognition.
4. Offer an exclusive edit or extended version on streaming to drive saves.

**Phase 13 — Licensing & Stock**

1. Select your best instrumentals for stock libraries (clean intros/outros).
2. Tag tracks by mood, tempo, and common use-cases (ad, vlog, ambient).
3. Build a small catalog monthly; track which tags and styles earn.

**Phase 14 — Automation & Team**

1. Template your Canva thumbnails and descriptions to save time.
2. Schedule uploads in advance; avoid last-minute crunch.
3. Outsource thumbnails first; then editing; then posting/community help.
4. Document your workflow so helpers can follow your process.

**Phase 15 — Brand Protection**

1. Keep original project files, exports, and dated prompts organized.
2. Register important works where required; understand Content ID basics.
3. Avoid prompts that imitate specific artists or copyrighted works.
4. Use consistent intros/outros to mark your content as yours.

**Phase 16 — Growth Flywheel (Weekly Review)**

1. Identify one winning thumbnail style; reuse it on future videos.
2. Note the best-performing titles; create new titles that follow the pattern.
3. Double down on the top two genres/moods from last month’s analytics.
4. Replace or refresh under-performing thumbnails after testing.
5. Plan next week’s uploads from proven ideas first, experiments second.

**Conclusion**

Follow the steps, stay consistent, and improve one metric at a time: CTR, retention, and upload cadence. Pair every long video with a Short, funnel viewers with pinned comments, and build playlists for binge-watching. As you grow, layer monetization, expand to streaming, and protect your brand. Small wins compound into a real business.

**Business & Earnings Disclaimer:** Results vary. This checklist is educational and not financial advice. Always follow platform rules and local laws.