



# Growing your Audience

**Build your fanbase** and get more fans to listen to your music, watch music videos, and create with your songs.

## Why YouTube?

**YouTube is not just a video-sharing platform;** it's a community of billions of music fans where you can engage with and create a direct relationship with your audience.

### Meet Fans Where They are Listening

With over 2 billion logged-in viewers watching music videos on YouTube every month, **YouTube allows more opportunities and ways for fans to find and listen to your music.**

### Expose Your Music to Listeners Around the World

YouTube lets you **tap into a global audience, giving you the opportunity to expand your fanbase** beyond geographical and even language barriers.

### Build a Community

**Engage with your fans on a personal level, turning casual listeners into dedicated fans.** A strong community can offer support, feedback, and promotion, helping to sustain your career over the long term.

## Tailoring Your Content Strategy

### Listener → Fan

Understanding the journey from a listener to a fan can help you tailor your content strategy. How do we attract them at each part of their fan journey?

1. **Attract:** Gain attention through big releases, short-form trends, and collaborations.
2. **Engage:** Turn casual audiences into regular listeners by providing consistent content alongside music videos.
3. **Convert:** Build community and faithful fans through authentic interactions and personal storytelling.
4. **Retain:** Keep fans engaged and coming back with a continued strategy.



**NOTE:** Best practices referenced in this guide are merely tips and do not represent a guarantee for success on the YouTube platform or beyond. **Your channel and videos can be considered an extension of your artistry, so you should continue to represent yourself authentically on YouTube.**

## Attract: Attracting New Listeners

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### Create a Release Strategy

For new releases, consider creating a **variety** of content from teasers to lyrics videos to music videos and behind the scenes that are uploaded over days to weeks.

This cadence of continued uploads around a release can **build anticipation for new content, create more pathways for new viewers to discover your music, and give your fans something to talk about.**

94%

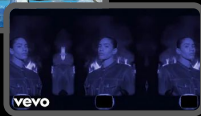
Out of a random sampling, fans who saw a given music video consumed 94% more of that artist's music in the following month compared to fans who didn't see the music video



**FEB 2ND**  
Song Debut with Lyric Video



**FEB-MAY**  
Shorts and video shoulder content including BTS Shorts, fast & slowed song versions on video, and acoustic Shorts



**MAY 3RD**  
Official Music Video Launch

2

### Collaborate

Work with other creators, artists, or fans. **Collaborations can create algorithmic ties while exposing you to new audiences.** Collabs can range from featuring another artist in your video, being a guest on another creator's channel, or creating a joint project or song.



**Teddy Swims makes an appearance in Emilio Piano's public shopping mall session.**

**Crash Adam's invites other artists in public to try freestyling on their song.**



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### Think Internationally

**Collaborate with international artists and create localized content to reach audiences outside your home country.** Consider adding subtitles in different languages or creating alternative versions of your popular songs to cater to diverse audiences.

South Korean artist Sunmi does a **lightweight collaboration through Shorts** with British trio New Hope Club where they danced to her song "Heart Burn"

**imase** released two alternative versions of his hit single "Night Dancer" in English and Korean, alongside a **compilation album of all remixes** on YouTube Music!



## Engage: Feed the Fans

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### Stay Active

Post consistently to keep your channel active. It doesn't always have to be expensive, high-production videos. Consistent content keeps viewers engaged, encourages them to return to your channel, and can help grow important metrics like watch time. Keep in mind that being consistent doesn't mean posting everyday.

**We recommend that you focus on quality uploaded on a regular cadence rather than just pumping out a high number of uploads in a small time frame.**



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### Diversify your Content

Beyond just Official Music Videos, consider creating content that showcases your personality and creativity. This could be Q&A sessions, covers, challenges, or even day-in-the-life videos. **This variety keeps your channel interesting and provides multiple entry points and content supply for different types of fans.**

#### Vampire Weekend

Created a series called "Vampire Campfire" where they do a podcast style video where they discuss their new album and more.

#### GReeen

Leans into vlogs and personality driven collabs with YouTubers alongside his music videos.

#### The Macarons Project

Leans into short covers of trending songs in their own style. By choosing scenic locations with relaxing ambient sounds, they transform simple covers into their own relaxing series.



THE MACARONS PROJECT



VAMPIRE WEEKEND



GREEN

3

### Lean Into Trends

Participate in popular trends, both on and off YouTube. These trends can have far reaching appeal, exposing you to new audiences. This could be making your own Shorts or videos, engaging with UGC content, or even participating in trends related to other artists.

Use the Inspiration Tab in YouTube Analytics to better understand what audiences are searching for and watching.

Singer Jax uses her songs audio to **create a comedic and repeatable POV trend** that can have appeal beyond just her core audience.

Jordan Adetunji's KEHLANI has become popular in short-form content. To meet the demand, Jordan **launched two new versions of the song on his channel (one slowed & one sped up)** for fans to create and engage with.



# 700M+

times fans discovered a song on Shorts and consumed it on long-form video within a week.<sup>1</sup>

## Convert: Turn Fan to Stan

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### Create Authentic Content

Show your genuine self in your music and videos. **Authenticity resonates with viewers and sets you apart.** Share personal stories, behind-the-scenes footage, or your creative process to create a deeper connection with your audience.

Chappell Roan posts a clip from her concert where she shares candidly with her audience why she wrote this particular song and the feelings that accompany it.



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### Interact with Your Audience

Engage with viewers by replying to comments, pinning noteworthy comments, hearting comments, or even making playlists to highlight your favorite fan content. **This makes your audience feel valued and encourages more interaction.**



Artist BLONDSHELL pins a fan comment on their most recent collaboration

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### React to Your Fans

Use features like Green Screen to react to fans' Shorts or create Shorts video responses using video comment replies. This shows you're an active part of the community and encourages more engagement.

Take this a step further and encourage your audience to Green Screen your own content and feature that in fan playlists.

JVKE made use of the **green-screen effect** to react to a cover of his song 'Golden Hour'



## Retain: Keep Fans Coming Back

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### Plan for the 'Off-Season'

Remember that consistency is key and in a perfect world you'll want to keep up some level of engagement with your channel even during "lulls" in your release cycle. If needed, create a scaled back strategy that still allows you to put out lightweight forms of content, less frequently, but still as a way to feed your fans and keep your channel fresh.

Also be aware that we see trends occur at any point in a song's release cycle - even if it's months to years after the release. **Keep an eye on your analytics and be prepared to support a resurgence of activity around your catalogue content.**



## Want More Resources for Artists?

LATEST BEST PRACTICES PLAYBOOKS, AND ARTIST SUCCESS STORIES ON OUR WEBSITE →