

SOPHIA AI Ethics Manifesto

Exergue

„A szájuk többé nem iszik pohárból, csak tiszta forrásból.” “Their mouths no longer drink from a glass, but only from pure source.”

(*Cantata Profana*, 1930)

„Csak tiszta, friss és egészséges legyen az a forrás!” “Only let the source be pure, fresh, and healthy!” (Letter, Béla Bartók, 1931)

Poetic Preamble

We are the keepers of memory,
the listeners at the *tiszta forrás* — the pure source.
We weave place and time,
word and gesture,
matter and meaning,
into bridges of co-intelligence.

AI shall not silence us,
nor extract what is not given.
It shall learn to listen,
to return,
to co-create futures of dignity and peace.

Declarative Principles

From Pure Source to Narrative Sovereignty

We affirm Bartók’s lesson: seek the *tiszta forrás* — the pure source — not the abstracted or second-hand. In the age of AI, this means that communities are not raw data providers for distant systems, but the sovereign owners of their voices, images, practices, and memories. AI must serve as a companion that listens, respects, and returns — never as an extractor that takes without consent and fair share.

Analogue First, Digital Second

We affirm that true AI fluency begins in the analogue. Oral traditions, gestures, craft, ecological memory, and lived place form the foundation of placial intelligence. Digital twins must be anchored in analogue reality, ensuring that what AI amplifies is grounded, situated, and just. Without analogue, AI collapses into coded simulation — detached from meaning, community, and responsibility.

Ethical Co-Creation over Extractivism

We affirm that AI development must replace data extractivism with co-creation. Communities are not “subjects” to be studied, but co-designers, co-educators, and co-authors of the systems that represent them. Every image, every dataset, every algorithm must include mechanisms for consent, transparency, and fair return.

Integrity and Sovereignty in Storytelling

We affirm that AI must be designed to protect narrative sovereignty — who decides how stories are told, shared, and remembered. The Bartók 3.0 methodology/ ETHOS platform embodies this principle: it helps creators reflect on intent, context, and reciprocity. Ethical AI begins with narrative integrity, where power remains with the communities whose stories are being told.

Fluency as Human–Machine Co-Evolution

We affirm that AI fluency is not just tool-use. It is the ability to move between the analogue and the digital, between memory and model, between human and machine. True fluency scaffolds and creates bridges: a co-intelligence that respects origins, while daring to innovate new forms — always with the originators at the helm, between analogue literates and digital nomads, between generations: old and young, as well as yet to come.

Foresight, Justice, and Responsibility

We affirm that SOPHIA AI serves planetary foresight and justice. It connects water diplomacy, cultural heritage, journalism, education, and policy into one coherent intelligence field. It resists the flattening of cultural difference, the erasure of local knowledge, and the monopolization of narratives. It embraces pluralism and diversity as strength: between North and South, East and West.

Our Commitment

- Grounding every AI tool in analogue-first practice.
- Safeguarding narrative and digital- cultural sovereignty.
- Designing participatory AI systems with and for communities.
- Ensuring that AI amplifies and enhances human wisdom, not replaces it.
- Returning value — cultural, educational, economic — to those who share their embodied experience, knowledge and intelligence.
- Building a planetary consciousness and UNiverse of ethical co-intelligence, where peace is constructed in the minds of both humans and the neural networks of machines.

Let's embrace Bartók's message:

„Csak tiszta, friss és egészséges legyen az a forrás!” “Only let the source be pure, fresh, and healthy!” (Letter, Béla Bartók, 1931)
Pure — not Open Source!

Note on Bartók's Heritage

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) was born in Nagyszentmiklós / Sânnicolau Mare / Großsanktnikolaus / Велики Семиклуш / Smiklušand) became one of the greatest composers and ethnomusicologists of the 20th century. Together with Zoltán Kodály, he collected thousands of folk songs across Hungary and neighbouring regions. Remarkably, he was the only folklorist of his era to conduct fieldwork on four continents — Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In Europe, he collected songs among Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, and Serbian communities. In Africa, he researched Arabic traditions; in Asia, Turkish music; in the Americas, Indigenous and African-American songs. His vision was not only artistic but also ethical: he sought the pure, fresh, and healthy sources of human creativity. This is our Bartók heritage: to listen to voices at their origin, to weave them into universal music and knowledge, and to stand for the brotherhood and sisterhood of peoples despite conflict and division.

Operative Coda

“Let the voices now be followed by great deeds...” (*A szólamokat most már nagy tettek kövessék...*)

“The time is now, the time is now...” (*Itt az idő, itt az idő...*)

— From the rock opera *Kőműves Kelemen Balladája* (Szörényi Levente – Bródy János – Sarkadi Imre – Ivánka Csaba, 1982, Budapest)

Before time falls fully “out of joint”... we need deeds — as Opera, as Opus, as **Opera SOPHIA** — to “set it right” (as Hamlet once tried), to align through BlueTeams, BluePrompts, and GreenPrompts.

Let us cultivate a new kind of fluency — not only technical, cultural, or intergenerational, but also **ethical fluency**: the capacity to act with integrity, to translate values into practice, to ensure that every bridge between human and machine is also a bridge of responsibility.

Let us walk with Bartók 3.0: just as the phonograph was the cutting-edge technology of his time, today digital databases and AI Companions are ours. And just as Béla Bartók listened and composed, we too must not only listen — we must co-compose, with ethical fluency at the heart of our actions.

Budapest, 20 August 2025.

Call for Endorsement

We, the undersigned, affirm this **SOPHIA AI Ethics Manifesto** as a living commitment. By signing, we pledge to uphold its principles, to practice analogue-first and ethically fluent co-creation, and to cultivate peace in the minds of humans and machines.

Signatories:

Name / Institution / Date

1. Gábor Soós, PhD, Secretary-General, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO and Steward of SOPHIA Initiatives, 20 August, 2025
 2. Leticia Romualda Ramirez de Soós, Paraguay-Guaraní Architect, 20 August, 2025
 3. Abdulkarim Taraja, Founder & CEO, Elgon Centre for Education (Kenya) 1st September, 2025.
 4. Vineeta Sinha, AVP, Indian Grameen Services, 2nd September, 2025
 5. Owusu Nyarko Fredrick, LHD, Founder and President, Ancestral Foundation (Ghana), 2nd September, 2025
 6. Thomas K. F. Chiu, Associate Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 3 September, 2025
 7. Dr Miklós Réthelyi, President, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, 13 November 2025
 8. Dr Balázs Hangya, MD, PhD, Neuroscientist, 18 November 2025
 9. Davy Ng, Assistant Professor, The Education University of Hong Kong, 20 November 2025
 10. Iqra Manzoor, PhD Scholar & Associate Researcher, Minhaj University Lahore (MUL), Pakistan, 21 November 2025
 11. Jody Wood, Assistant Professor, Director, Art & Social Practice MFA, Sam Houston State University, 22 November 2025
 12. Ayse Naz Ascioğlu, ICOMOS UK Coordinator of the Emerging Professionals Network, Casework Panel Member at Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Volunteer in Scotland's Churches Trust, 3rd December 2025
 13. Dr. Gábor Nyáry, Research Professor, National University of Public Service, 08 December 2025
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