

ABC's *Good Morning America*

01/31/22

7:01:51 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Signing off Spotify. Neil Young and Joni Mitchell pull their music from the streaming service over accusations podcaster Joe Rogan is spreading COVID vaccine misinformation. This morning, how Rogan and the company are responding.

(...)

7:31:53 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

T.J. HOLMES: We got a lot more ahead on *GMA*, including the Spotify backlash. You have artists like Joni Mitchell pulling their music because of podcasts — that guy Joe Rogan — his COVID vaccine stance. That's coming up in just a bit.

(...)

7:47:55 a.m. [TEASE]

9 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; 7:41; Spotify Firestorm]

STEPHANOPOULOS: Coming up top artists removing their work from Spotify to protest podcaster Joe Rogan spreading misinformation about COVID. We're going to tell you what Rogan and the streaming service are saying this morning.

(...)

7:41:41 a.m.

3 minutes and 26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Developments; Spotify Firestorm; Joe Rogan Responds After Artists Pull Music in Protest of Podcast]

STEPHANOPOULOS: We are back with the revolt at Spotify. Top artists including Neil Young and Joni Mitchell have pulled their music from the streaming service to protest the spreading of COVID misinformation by Joe Rogan on his Spotify podcast. Rogan and the company CEO responded overnight. Chris Connelly has the story. Good morning, Chris.

CHRIS CONNELLY: Hey, good morning, George. 381 million use Spotify and they're not just listening to We Don't Talk About Bruno. They're listening to Joe Rogan talk and some of what's been said on his podcast is compelling some revered recording artists to push back, hard. And,

now, Joe Rogan is responding. Overnight Joe Rogan defending his embattled Spotify podcast, trying to respond to the firestorm that has seen rocker Neil Young —

[NEIL YOUNG SIGNING *DOWN BY THE RIVER*]

CONNELLY: — and a growing number of musical allies pulling their recordings from the site in a battle over the star podcaster and his alleged spreading of COVID vaccine and treatment misinformation on *The Joe Rogan Experience*, including promoting the drug ivermectin, despite FDA warnings that it's not been shown to help with COVID-19 and may be dangerous. Rogan seeking to take issue with the misinformation label, despite the unsubstantiated statements made by some of his guests.

JOE ROGAN: I do not know if they're right. I don't know because I'm not a doctor. I'm not a scientist. I'm just a person who sits down and talks to people and has conversations with them. Do I get things wrong? Absolutely, I get things. but I try to correct them. Whenever I get something wrong —

CONNELLY: It began with the 76-year-old Young —

[NEIL YOUNG SINGING *OLDEN DAYS*]

CONNELLY: — declaring on his website that Spotify could have “Rogan or me. “Not both...because Spotify is spreading fake information about vaccines...potentially causing death,” echoing detailed objections made by 270 experts in an open letter to Spotify weeks ago.

[JONI MITCHELL SINGING *BOTH SIDES NOW*]

CONNELLY: Kennedy Center honoree Joni Mitchell saying she'll pull her music from Spotify, saying “irresponsible people are spreading lives costing people their lives.” Prince Harry and Meghan, recipients of a \$30 million Spotify podcast deal, “expressing concerns.”

[BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN SIGNING *IF I SHOULD FALL BEHIND*]

CONNELLY: Guitarist Nils Lofgren of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, pulling some 27 years worth of his solo work off the site.

NILS LOFGREN: I think, specifically, a lot of times on Joe's show, they encourage the wrong thing and it's disingenuous and dangerous at times and we felt like we had no choice but to stand with Neil.

[NEIL YOUNG SINGING *HEART OF GOLD*]

CONNELLY: Spotify losing billions in market value last week and the CEO saying the site will add a content advisory to COVID podcasts while directing listeners to a COVID-19 hub with facts and information on the virus. So, we'll see what happens next. One more possibly relevant

note, as young people growing up in Canada, both Joni Mitchell and Neil Young were stricken with polio before there was a vaccine. Guys?

ROBIN ROBERTS: Duly noted. Alright, Chris.