

MUSIC IN THE FUTURE- Pamela Azzi

The ultimate question is where will music be in the future? As today's society is vastly growing with new advances in technology it's hard to depict where music is headed in the future. From the past to the present it's substantial to say that we have already come a long way since Gregorian chants and church modes. However it seems as though technology has in other word become the 'figured bass' that structures most 21st century compositions.

The concept of music technology is intertwined with the concept of being both musically and technologically creative. As people are always constantly striving to find ways to derive new forms of expression through music, they therefore mechanically create new devices to enable them to do so. For example such genres of music such as House, Electronic and Dance are all derived purely on the fundamental grounds of mechanical software. Without technology there wouldn't be the invention of the Keyboard or the Electric Guitar (which is used as a core instrument for 'Heavy Metal' and 'Rock' genres. Therefore technology is creating new expressions for music that will continue to expand in the future by the exploration and strive for creating new genres of music, therefore as long as people are interested in the expansion of music it will continue to grow in the future.

A positive feature of technology is that it has built a new foundation for a way to express music universally and making music available for everyone to use and share ideas globally. Compared to the 1980's where making a record consisted of going into a 24 track studio and spending around \$20 000, and even then you weren't really guaranteed acknowledgement. However nowadays, people can make backing tracks at home where it doesn't have to cost them any money at all. Such as simply purchasing a desktop such as an 'Apple' Laptop which already has a build in 'Garage Band' which is a system that can enable the usage of creating tunes and backing tracks to songs, which enables people to create records. An example of the use of Garage Band is shown in the Grammy Award winner T-Pain's song Bartender. Luckily in today's society it has become vastly available to sell your records instantly through companies such as CDBaby and iTunes stores, therefore saving money by not having to use a record studio. ^[1]

Due to this revolutionary change there has been a significant drop of recording prices and the distribution of music, as it's not necessary any more to manufacture as many units that you had to during the 80's. E.g. instead of doing 1000 units, they can do it at home with a couple of 100 units and then make up the remainder of the units using a recording studio, this therefore doesn't cost as much. However the problem with the exceeding amount of musicians making their own records so easily is that it presents an enormous amount of competition, as there are now millions of records that a consumer can buy. Therefore there's always going to be a need to push and influence consumers to purchase records through the use of personal advertisement of websites such as MySpace and YouTube. Although it is an amazing change that music can now be available to everyone, the question remains that if the next Mozart is soon to be discovered, would he just be lost in the crowd with the other million composers?

The downfall of technology is that people take it for granted by the use of illegal music downloads which causes piracy and doesn't give the composer/musician their

credibility for their compositions. Some of the main reasons why people use illegal music downloads are because they want an MP3 format without any copy protection. Some people find that it's convenient to listen to what you want when you want and also find that buying the CD's (Compact Disc) are too expensive. Websites such as LimeWire allow people to rip-off tunes by not paying for the music they use, therefore this problem only defers people's interest in studying in music due to the lack of money and acknowledgement involved, hence the future isn't looking bright for musicians.

The creation of new software such as pitch correctors also plays a significant role in the future of music. A software systems such as Autotune, can correct the pitch of a singer's vocals in real time, another new software system that changes the pitch, tempo and makes your harmonies adapt to any new song is Melodyne which was created by Peter Neubäcker, this software system separates harmonies of each note in a chord, allow notes to be manipulate at will.^[2] Although these new developments of software are impressive and revolutionary they do tend to creates lazier musicians because if they play/sing a notes incorrectly instead of replaying the piece until they get it correct they could just alter the sound using the technological software available. It creates a lack of motivation, why would they learn to play/sing correctly if they can get a machine to do it for them? Therefore these new forms of technology don't leave room for advanced musicians for the future.

It is incredibly easy to just download backing tracks and chord progressions from the Internet, therefore people find it irrelevant to learn how to play the compositions themselves as everything is already done for them. It seems that technology has played a role in creating a lethargic and lazy society. Due to the role of new technology it as though in order for someone to be a musician they are better of being a computer technician. It is a question to ask, is a Disk-Jockey (DJ) also considered to be a musician? A DJ's career is build around the technological aspect of mixing recorded music together to create electronic tunes at parties in today's society. The Baroque Dance suites have all be disregarded at parties and replaced by DJ's who mix together popular tunes. The term musician has been altered and compositions have been changed into technological sounds disregarding major and minor keys and moving into a society built around the ideology of electronically tunes.

Overall it seems that technology has already played a significant role in music for today's society. In order to evaluate where the future in music is headed, it is important to recall the history of music. Throughout the history of music from the Ancient era to today's society it is evident that music was always gradually growing because new infrastructure and the technology available. Music has always been developing due to new ideologies presented in each period of the past, such as Medieval (450-1450) church modes to 20th Century minimalism, to possible 21st Century electronic tunes. Therefore it is clearly evident to say that as long as people have a passion and drive for music there will continue to expand due to the influences of technology.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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