

Artificial Intelligence in the Music Industry

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Introduction

Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing various industries nowadays. The introduction of text-based generative AI like Chat GPT is enhancing work efficiency and bringing significant changes in business areas. Now it is even contributing to creative domains like art, literature, and music. AI is writing novels and poems and achieving remarkable levels in arts like painting and music.

Back in 1877, when Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, people were astounded by this new technology that could play recorded sounds. The phonograph seemed magical, even eerie to some people. People predicted that it would cause musicians to lose their jobs. However, contrary to expectations, the music industry exploded as the phonograph became a commonplace device for music. The availability of recorded music led to the evolution of music genres, styles, and even the production of high quality musical and opera. In 1917, European Tenor Erino Caruso answered the question from a journalist in National Music Monthly, “Why was this great interest and enthusiasm for Opera so suddenly developed?” He said, “Almost every layman will answer with the two words, “the phonograph”.

Technology and music have a close relationship; advancements in technology have consistently given birth to new musical forms, facilitating cross-cultural music exchange and leading to the development of new types of instruments. The progression from radio to LP, MP3, and modern music streaming services like Apple Music and Spotify has made people consume and listen to a variety of types of music anywhere they want. Now in the 21st century, a new technological development has emerged that will reshape the music industry: Artificial Intelligence.

How is AI used in Music?

AI rapidly absorbs human knowledge and data in various areas. Even areas that require human creativity such as art and music are not exempt from AI's influence. Trained AI in music production is enabling beginners to create music with professional quality. Text-based AI like Chat GPT can generate chord progressions and lyrics based on user input. Users can even train the AI to generate lyrics in the style of famous artists like Jay-Z, Drake, or Justin Bieber.

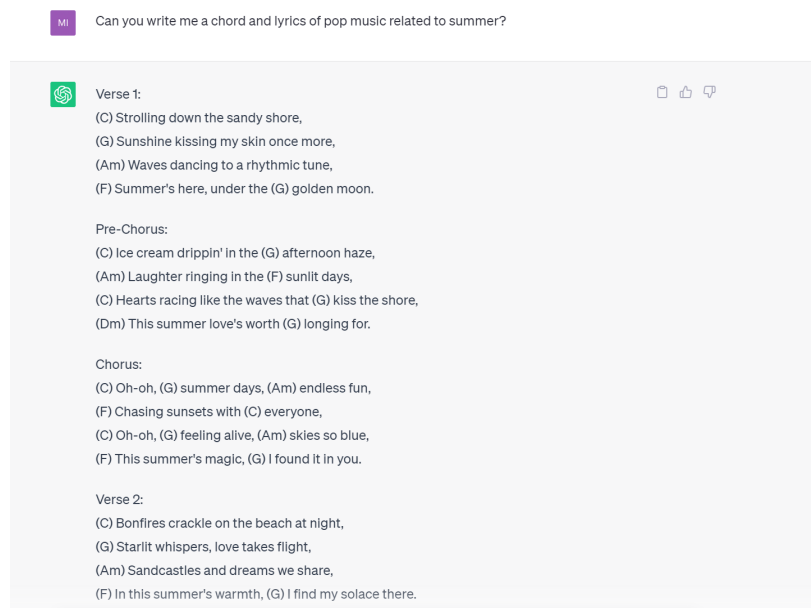


Figure 1, Chord Progression and Lyrics created by Chat GPT

Beyond Chat GPT, startup companies like Soundful and Soundraw have developed AI-based music production platforms. For instance, Soundraw allows users to just simply click the 'create music' and 'select genre' buttons to generate desired music. Users can customize aspects like tempo, and instruments and even adjust the energy of music to create different moods. They can also incorporate AI-generated vocals from artists into their creations. Imagine Kanye West singing "*Dynamite*" from BTS!

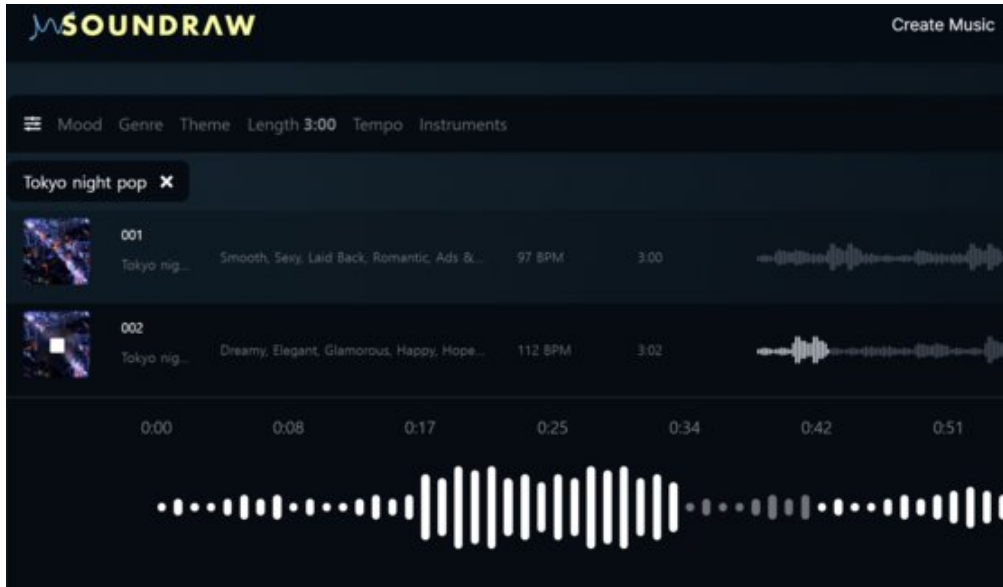


Figure 2, Making a City Pop music with one click. Soundraw

The connection between AI and music is not a minor interest that only a few people focus on. Big tech companies like Google, Amazon, and Apple are also venturing into AI-powered music production. For example, Google's experimental AI tool, MusicLM converts text into music. It has been trained with 280 thousand songs which is 3 million minutes of machine learning. Amazon's DeepComposer offers a physical MIDI Keyboard to generate original music based on the melody that the user made with the instrument. With DeepComposer users can customize genres, tempos, and instruments inside the song.



Figure 3, Amazon's DeepComposer

Copyright and AI Music

While AI music tools simplify music creation, they raise questions about authorship and copyright. If AI contributes 99% to a composition and a human only 1%, who should be created as the creator of the music? This quandary is a consequence of the ease of music production that AI offers. Also concerns arise over copyright issues, especially when AI-generated compositions sound like the existing songs.

Discussions on copyright and musicians' rights have surfaced in response to AI's impact on the Industry. According to Music Business Worldwide, RIAA and over 30 other groups launched an AI campaign to support human creativity. RIAA mentioned that this is the campaign to protect the unique value of human creativity. Not just a campaign but big music streaming service companies like Spotify already have started to contain AI dominating the music industry. In May 2023, Spotify removed tens of thousands of songs created by an AI produced by a startup company called DistroKid after receiving complaints from UMG. Also, according to the article from Techcrunch, Spotify CEO Daniel Ek described AI-generated music as having potential for creativity but cool and scary. He also mentioned that "the music industry has legitimate concerns. We are trying to establish a position to protect all of the creators that we have on our platform."

Conclusion

In conclusion, the influence of artificial intelligence in the music industry is creating a remarkable transformation than any other technology that has been developed recently. As it is making musicians easier to produce their music and create much more creative music than they imagine, it is raising questions like authorship and copyright.

Every technology contains pros and cons, like musicians back in the days adapted to change, we should also adapt and control AI's impact with foresight, and shape a well-harmonized future for the music industry and Artificial Intelligence.

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