Will Artificial Intelligence render human music makers as useless?

We are finally seeing the rise of the machines, and with it develops a certain fear that all musicians become robots.

Vienna, Austria - October 13, 2014. Over the past months many discussions have been stirred by a number of media outlets, reporting on major breakthroughs in artificial intelligence. For example, such as its capability to understand emotions and feelings. To a certain group of music makers this represents the onset of Skynet, the machines which took control in *Terminator* - unsurprisingly then, much resistance can be felt from these individuals.

But what's the real deal about these discussions on AI making music makers useless? And why does it cause such a strong emotional reaction from some?

First of all, it is important to know that this 'perceptional battle' in music already started with the first digital wave in music that brought about digital music technology like synths and DAW's. And with that, everything changed. Sound synthesis and sampling made entirely new forms of expressiveness possible. Sequencers in combination with large databases of looping clips laid the foundation for electronic dance music which led to a multifaceted artistic and cultural revolution.

The second wave has been rolling along for a few years now, and it is washing up intelligent algorithms for processing audio and MIDI. As an example, AI's can already help control the finishing mastering process of music tracks like in Landr, as assistant tools, or even fully automated. In the not too distant future--and we're talking only years from now--we will be used to incredible music making automatons controlling most complex harmonic figures, flawlessly imitating the greatest artists.

All of us have been utilizing digital production tools for decades. It was just a matter of time for more complicated and intelligent code to emerge. However, computers will rather not generate music all by themselves. The art and craft of composing will prevail. There will always be human beings behind the actual output controlled by an AI.

Most importantly though, it is not only AI changing the music industry. Social changes are equally responsible for it, if they don't account for a larger part for it anyway. Here's an excellent article by Fast Company on this topic.

Will AI render human music makers as useless? As Andrew Watts, a composer and doctoral fellow at Stanford answered on Quora, "*The likelihood is extremely low*". It won't stop strong emotional reactions in those who clinge to their egos, having trotted down the same paths for decades. Making music always evolved, and so it does today.

An editorial on this topic was originally published on Medium - http://goo.gl/PeVrn7.

Videos & Screenshots:
Screenshots: http://www.re-compose.com/downloads/press/LN4live_1.0_screenshots.zip
Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0zqvr2shB4

About Re-Compose
Re-Compose develops pioneering methods and technologies for digital music production and an optimal experience of music. Our software makes music fully interactive, where all elements of a music composition can be recomposed or rearranged in real time through sensor or human input. This

leads to the development of intelligent tools for music composers and producers that help them get new and complex musical ideas (i.e. melodies, chords and harmony, accompaniments, etc.), deliver these ideas fast, and optimize the impact of music.

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