

Music and technology: a difficult relation

Although in different ways and degrees, all branches of music-making have entertained and do entertain a strong dialogue with technological developments and innovations, up to the point of being artistically and socially defined by them. Examples include such diverse situations as the impact and subsequent iconic status of the electrification of guitars in popular music; the way the invention of pianos have forged romanticism; the mechanisms of distribution and economy of the music industry, in relation to the technological devices employed, and so forth.

In addition, the more recent impact of digital technologies on society has multiplied the extent of musical (both scholarly and everyday) discourses, by creating a significant amount of new platforms (Spotify, iTunes, YouTube, SoundCloud...), and by changing completely the status of music-making (including do-it-yourself music productions, and digital simulators of entire and expensive gear).