# Social network analysis of the music industry: from barrel organ To Youtube

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#### Abstract

The music recording industry exhibited minimal, slow, gradual change in the first century. The last fifty years has shown a more rapid acceleration paralleling the quickening technological change. The music recording industry exhibited minimal, slow, gradual change in the first century. The last fifty years has shown a more rapid acceleration paralleling the quickening technological change. This paper will employ traditional historical analysis amplified and and enhanced by Social Network Analysis (SNA) to identify and highlight the important linkages among technological developments in the global music industry. All Social Network Analysis graphics have been derived using the SNA open source software ORA designed by Kathleen M. Carley , copyright 2001-2009, Center for Computational Analysis of Social and Organizational Systems (COPAS), School of Computer Science, Carnegie-Mellon University.

Keywords: Social Network Analysis, Music, Recording Industry, Music Technology, Digital Technology

### Introduction

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#### Music Reproduction Technology Development: 1877 TO 2010

For the past 133 years, there has been a constant technological development of music reproduction. Technology has shifted from analog to digital sound recording. Over the past century, music recording and playback has developed from Thomas Edison's 1877 tin cylinder speaking-recording tubular phonograph, Emil Berliner's 1887 flat disk playback-only gramophone, the Victrola, 33 1/3, 45, 78 shellac then vinyl records, reel-to-reel, 8-track, and cassette tapes, compact disk, DAT, and MP3. (Coleman, 2005, p. *xix*)

The technological changes also coincided with a battle between artists, record companies, and consumers over the payment distribution for listening to recorded sound. Paul Israel stated that Edison failed to capitalize on his invention in the long run because he did not recognize how vitally important the quality of the artists and not just the technology were. (Coleman, 2005, p. 10)

This growth of technology is not necessarily an improvement in sound quality The "good-enough" consumer principle overrules excellence if ease of use is also considered.

Let us consider the approaches of several musicians as a response to the emerging technological changes in music recording and distribution.

In the past two decades, computer technology has shifted the knowledge capital from the major music producers first to smaller independent producers and finally to the artists themselves. No longer does the culture require artists to be beholden to the larger music studios and distribution networks. Internal costs shifts in high quality CD recording has made it possible for individual musicians to record their own CDs and distribute them via the world wide web. This cost shifting has placed great strain on the "music industry" (major record labels). Large music producers have had to recognize the competition from smaller firms and individual artists. As a result, many contractual concessions have had to be made to artists which were unthinkable thirty years ago when major record producers monopolized music production and distribution. This paper will dissect these cost changes over the past half century and provide illustration of changing contracts and record deals. It will also examine the changing culture of musicians who no longer feel the urgent need to sign a contract under duress with onerous provisions deleterious to their interests.

#### **Social Network Analysis**

We have compiled the major changes in the music industry over the past 150 years and incorporated them in the social network analysis model derived from ORA. (Carney 2001-2009) The data for the

model is included in Table 1.

## Table 1. Technological Developments Since the Fifteenth Century

- ID. TECHNOLOGY DATE
- 1 Barrel Organs 15th century
- 2 Musical Clocks 1598
- 3 Barrel Pianos 1805
- 4 Musical Boxes 1815
- 5 Telegraph 1832
- 6 Scott Phonautograph 1856
- 7 Reis loudspeaker 1861
- 8 Bell Telephone 1876
- 9 Berliner Microphone 1876
- 10 Player Piano 1876
- 11 Edison Carbon Microphone 1877
- 12 Edison Cylinder Phonograph 1877
- 13 Edison Electrostatic Coupling 1885
- 14 Berliner Lateral-cut disc records 1888
- 15 Gramophone Disc 1889
- 16 Popov Radio Receiver 1895
- 17 Marconi Radio in England 1897
- 18 Shellac Records Production in Germany 1898
- 19 Celluloid Records Production 1904
- 20 De Forest Invents triode making electrical amplification possible 1906
- 21 Armstrong regenerative circuit in 1914
- 22 Armstrong superheterodyne receiver 1918
- 23 Radio Broadcasting 1920
- 24 Armstrong super-regenrative circuit 1922
- 25 Marsh pioneered electrical recording 1923
- 26 Lilienfield First Transistor 1925
- 27 Standardized LP Value 78 rpm 1925
- 28 Television Broadcasting 1925
- 29 Talking Movies 1927

- 30 TV Broadcast in Germany 1929
- 31 Edison Ends Production 1929
- 32 Beauchamp Electric Guitar 1931
- 33 Armstrong FM Radio 1935
- 34 Magnetophon 1935
- 35 Reeves Pulse code modulation 1937
- 36 Bell Two-Channel Stereo 1937
- 37 Vynil Records Production 1939
- 38 Surround Sound for movie Fantasia 1940
- 39 Bell digital scrambled speech transmission system SIGSALY 1943
- 40 Hi-Fi 1946
- 41 Fender solid-body electric guitar 1946
- 42 Les Paul Multi-Track Recorder 1948
- 43 Goldmark/Columbia Records released 12-inch LP album 1948
- 44 RCA Victor released the 7 inches 45 rpm single 1949
- 45 Robert Fine single microphone monaural recording technique 1951
- 46 Audio Engineering Society standard playback Hi-fi curve 1951
- 47 Standard RIAA equalization 1952
- 48 Mercury first three-channel stereo recordings 1955
- 49 VCR 1956
- 50 Mattews/Bell digital recording via computer 1957
- 51 First commercial stereo two-channel records 1957
- 52 RCA Tape Cartridge 1958
- 53 Sony first transistorized radio 1960
- 54 Sessler & West electret condenser microphone 1962
- 55 Philips Compact Cassette 1962
- 56 Norelco Carry-Corder 150 recorder/player 1964
- 57 Dolby A noise reduction system 1966
- 58 Digital tape recorder 1967
- 59 Russell first digital-to-optical record-playback system 1970
- 60 Development of quadraphonic records 1971
- 61 Microprocessor 1971
- 62 Denon first 8-track reel to reel digital recorder 1972
- 63 Personal Computers 1975

VHS Cassette 1976
Sony Walkman 1978
Laserdisc 1978
Compact Disc 1979
Kramer Earliest Digital Audio Player 1979
Masuoka Flash Memory 1980
Sony First CD Player 1982
Yamaha Digital Keyboard 1983
Commercial Internet 1988
Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web 1989
Digital Radio L-Band 1990
Sony Minidisc 1992
Webcasting 1993
Internet Radio 1994
USB 1995
MP3 Player 1996
DVD and DVD Players 1996
iPod 2001
Mp3 Player installed in mobile phone 2001
Introduction of iTunes 2001
Podcasting 2004
Youtube 2005

86 Youtube/Vevo 2009

The Social Network Analysis findings are in Figure 1(names) and Figure 2 (numbers).

# Figure 1. Social Network Analysis for Music Technology Changes(names)

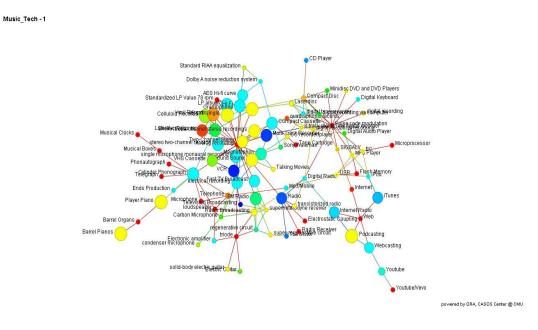
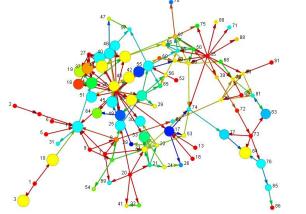


Figure 2. Social Network Analysis for Music Technology Changes (numbers)



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These eight-six items represent technological developments *per se*. The development of the music industry entails more than technology but how that technology has been used and adapted.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Thomas Edison invented the cylindrical recording machine which was eminently suited to the reproduction of Enrico Caruso's tenor voice. The Carter Family took advantage of enhanced recording capabilities to produce a series of phonograph records which used high power AM radio located just over the U. S. border in Mexico to blanket the USA and Canada between the Rockies and the Apalachians in the evenings during the 1920s and 1930s.

After World War II, Les Paul and Mary Ford produced the first multi-track recordings for which Paul was admitted into the Inventors Hall of Fame. These techniques were further developed in the 1960s with digital recorded Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound". Roger McGuinn started to use the internet and home music recording capabilities in the early 1990s. The Icelandic star, Björk, took these techniques a step further with avant-garde music composition using digitized artificial instruments. The future of these technologies will be analyzed using sophisticated computer Social Network Analysis to predict the role of the major music recording companies vis-a-vis internet piracy and the increasing importance of Apple Itunes.

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