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Technology in Indian Music in Trinidad: 1980 - 2020

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Abstract

Emerging from India, Indian music is acknowledged as an international and complex style of music, comprising various genres encompassing the Trinidadian musical ecosystem.

This project narrates the history and earliest influences of technology in traditional and contemporary Indian music in Trinidad, investigates the advantages and disadvantages of technology and social media on local Indian music, and strives to illuminate technology's impact upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, this project utilizes the collection and analysis of qualitative data acquired through both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data was accumulated through the process of conducting interviews both physically and online amongst twenty local musicians while the secondary sources of information were gathered from newspaper articles such as The Trinidad and Tobago Guardian and Loop News.

Throughout this project, which outlines the history and earliest influences of technology in traditional and contemporary Indian music in Trinidad. Additionally, the advantages and disadvantages of technology and social media on the local Indian music industry have also been identified. These advantages and disadvantages underscore the creation of job opportunities, facilitation of teaching and learning in music education, discouraging mediocrity and improving production along with the minimal need for traditional components, the strain on professional live performers and the brutal honesty from social media. Technology has also provided an avenue for performers to sustain themselves by having the opportunity to provide entertainment for the general public, display talents on social media and develop new skills beyond existing musical abilities. Hence, this project aims to explore the significant impact technology has established on the Indian music industry in Trinidad.

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Introduction

Originating in India, Indian music is an international and complex style of music that encompasses many genres such as: Classical (Carnatic, Hindustani and Local), Film, Bhajan and Ghazal etc, all of which are a part of the Trinidadian musical ecosystem. Its complexity stems from many different geographical, linguistic and cultural influences. Indian music's characteristic sound is established by using specific Indian musical instruments such as “the tabla, sitar, tanpura, sarangi, mizhavu, naal, dhol, pung and the double-flute sitara” (The Kennedy Center). Although around for approximately 3000 years, Indian music only reached the shores of Trinidad between the period of 1845 to 1917 via the introduction of East Indian Indentureship on the island's sugar estates. The diverse musical landscape in Trinidad is heavily influenced by Indian music and in addition to the genres previously outlined, Chutney and Chutney Soca are varieties particularly indigenous to the island.

Technology is one such element that has infiltrated every facet of life and from the period of 1980 - 2020, the Indian music industry in Trinidad has seen a metamorphosis by way of this. Technology can be defined as, “the application of scientific knowledge to the change and manipulation of the human environment” (Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopedia). From this definition, it comes as no surprise that the term “technology” is tremendously vast and may extend to immeasurable features of the present-day musical landscape in Trinidad. As such, this research paper will specifically address the influence of electronic and digital music technology. This involves the utilization of electronic and digital instruments, electronic devices and any computer hardware and software programs that are employed during performances. Additionally, digital audio equipment and electronic effects and elements like the playback, composition, recording, mixing and editing of music are included in this arm of technology.

As a young and aspiring musician, I have personally observed conversations with the elders of the industry that often emphasize the critical role that technology has played in the evolution of music into what we know it as today. For instance, amplification, via the use of microphones and PA systems, can now be readily applied to live musical performances. Prior to this form of technology, musicians would often have to shout or strain their voices to project long distances but now, a singer is able to impart a more mellow tone and relaxed throat. Moreover, technological development in the form of educational websites and mobile applications like ‘iTablapro’ allow for more accessible and affordable musical education than was previously available locally. In the aforementioned application, its software produces the sounds of “six instruments including two tanpuras, tabla, manjira, sur-mandal, sur-peti, plus the preset Ragas-base drones of around 105 ragas” (Das 4). This allows local musicians to utilize the sound of these instruments without having access to them physically.

However, in March of 2020, with the emergence of the COVID-19 virus within the shores of Trinidad, there was a major disruption in the entertainment and performance aspects of the local Indian music industry. Then, more than ever, musicians recognized the necessity of utilizing technology in their craft. Religious settings like satsangs, yagnas and mehefils or even concerts could have been performed live via social media or television coverage. As a result, it is during this time period that the usage of technology was most prevalent and popularized among the Indian musical fraternity and population at large. Technology has therefore served as the link which facilitates the survival and progression of Indian music from present into future times. Hence, a detailed account of technology’s effects, advantages and disadvantages, relative to Indian music in Trinidad, will be subsequently presented. Lastly, the final aim of the project is to

determine if technology will be able to facilitate a viable future for the Indian music industry within Trinidad.

Rationale

From its inception to present day, electronic technology has extensively progressed. The many rippling effects of its progression have ultimately shaped the global society into what we know it as today. Between the years of 1980-2020, the music industry in Trinidad has been greatly influenced by this technological advancement. In the 1980s, there was a crucial shift in the traditional nature of Indian music whereby sound systems and modern instruments like keyboards or bass guitars were becoming more prevalent. Since then, technology has infiltrated every component of the musical landscape. As an active member of the Indian music fraternity, it is of utmost importance to understand all facets and their impact on my craft. After considering technology's relevance to modern society, I decided that "Technology in Indian Music in Trinidad: 1980 – 2020" was an appropriate topic for this research paper.

Currently, amidst a global pandemic, technology now more than ever plays an integral role in the survival of the entertainment industry. Social distancing requirements have essentially halted all performing arts and thus, many bands and individual artistes have taken the liberty to utilize technology to satisfy the musical demand by the masses. Technology thereby provides an avenue for creative expression to continue in these unprecedented times. This information has hugely influenced my choice of topic. In addition to this, personal experience has highlighted the startling gaps in technological knowledge among young, middle-aged and older seasoned performers. My collaborations with traditional musicians were often made difficult due to a lack of understanding about the technologies used in the performances. The desire to improve my technological expertise was another reason I chose to investigate this topic.

Through my investigation, I will provide insight into the musical technological implements made in Trinidad. These insights may be especially useful to members of the Indian music community in Trinidad. This study will present a cohesive report on how technology has changed the musical landscape by utilizing the testimonials of both traditional and contemporary musicians. This topic has not yet been explored in a local context and as a result, I have decided to delve into its content.

The research presented in this study will serve to benefit learning institutions, current students of the Musical Arts certificate and degree programmes and current performers within the Indian music industry. Learning institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels will all gain knowledge relating to the effects of incorporating technology into music. This may then influence an inclusion of more technology related topics/courses into their musical curricula, thus, leading to more progressive and technological updated musical programs. The students of Musical Arts programmes will benefit by becoming more aware of what to expect, in terms of technology, before entering the industry. Consequently, they will better be able to prepare and structure their musical education. Finally, the current performers in the Indian music industry will benefit from this research by becoming more knowledgeable about the ways in which technology can be utilized to enhance their craft.

Thesis Statement

In Trinidad, technology has significantly influenced the Indian music industry between the years of 1980-2020, especially with the recent advent of Covid-19, by advancing professional equipment, promoting accessibility to online learning, improving marketing and providing live online platforms for performances via social media. However, it also facilitates demoralizing criticism on social media platforms and replaces traditional elements with technologically advanced instruments.

Parameters

The time period in which this research paper focuses is between December 1980 to December 2020, and it is relative only to the island of Trinidad. As such, all primary and secondary data will fall within the previously indicated time period. Additionally, only the viewpoints of members within the local Indian music fraternity will be considered.

Aims and Objectives

This research paper aims to:

- Describe the history and earliest influences of technology in traditional and contemporary Indian music in Trinidad.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of technology and social media to the local Indian musical landscape.
- Investigate technology's impact upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad, during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Chapter Outline

The information presented will consist of three chapters. Chapter one comprises a historical account on technologies earliest influence on Indian Music in Trinidad. Chapter two explores the advantages and disadvantages of social media usage and technology in the local Indian Music industry. Finally, chapter three investigates technology's influence on the industry in Trinidad specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methodology

In this study, predominantly qualitative methods were used. This qualitative data was obtained through both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was gathered through the process of conducting multiple interviews. All interviews consisted of the same thirty-four questions and the questions are listed in Appendix A of this document. Both open ended and close ended questions were incorporated to yield focused yet thoroughly explained responses. It was administered to a total of fourteen local musicians, eight of which were classified as contemporary while the other six were traditional. The choice to include the views of both contemporary and traditional musicians as well as both genders, ten of which were male and the other four females, was taken to achieve a more holistic insight into technology's role in the development of the local Indian music industry.

Due to the constraints of COVID-19, interviews were conducted in an asynchronous manner whereby all selected individuals were prompted to complete an online questionnaire via Google Forms and Email. Furthermore, the two major categories of Indian Music explored were contemporary and traditional. As such, perspectives in Bhajan, Film and Classical music, three popular genres of the Indian Music industry in Trinidad are explored. Careful thought was placed into choosing candidates who possess formal musical training and were specialized in any of the previously mentioned musical genres. Some chosen interviewees function not only as performers but as music educators as well. This enhanced the credibility and reliability of the collected information.

In addition to this primary research, secondary data was also instrumental in the collation of this research paper. This secondary information came in the form of previously published studies addressing the development of Indian music from the archives of The University of the

West Indies, newspaper articles from local media houses like The Trinidad and Tobago Guardian and Loop News and lastly, reliable websites with related information to the topic.

Literature Review

Throughout the secondary research process, substantial information relevant to the topic at hand could be sourced from ancient religious texts like the Natya Shastra, Sam Veda and Sangeet Ratnakar, which all describe the technique, sacred lyrics, architecture, and history of traditional Indian music. Additionally, applicable scholarly material was found within past dissertations and student theses in the archives of the University of the West Indies. Other notable sources include published local newspaper articles and credible online material. Such information from all sources were analyzed and collated to present the subsequent summary of relevant and previously published work.

Indian music in Trinidad can be divided into many genres such as Local Classical, Bhajan, Film, Chutney and Chutney Soca. It constitutes and exists within the already diverse, local music landscape. According to Rana Mohip, Indian music came to be in Trinidad 175 years ago with the arrival of the East Indian indentured labourers, (Mohip). He explained that the genre which was dominantly practiced was that of authentic Indian Classical music or Hindustani Classical music initially. However, since the majority of indentured East Indian labourers were not professionally trained in music, a unique variation of the authentic genre was derived. Over time, Indian Classical music morphed into the Local Classical music that is widely known and practiced today. Within Local Classical music, “elements of classical Indian music like murkhi¹,

¹ Murkhi- vocal technique of Indian Classical Music.

gamak², zamzama³ and even ragas⁴ are present. The form of the Taal⁵ which is used to accompany the local Thumree⁶ is not commonly heard in India,” (Patasar).

“The traditional Indian instruments brought by our forefathers such as the Harmonium and Dholak,” (Mohip) are at the forefront of the Local Classical genre of Indian music in Trinidad. Particularly, “in 1940, the Taal, or the rhythmic cycle, which was usually played on the dholak or the tabla and by raga notes, determined the form of the song.” (Patasar). Thus, the Indian musical instruments are essential to the characteristic sound of Indian music and any one of its derivative forms. “In the Natya Shastra, compiled by Bharat Muni dated 200 BC-200 AD, the musical instruments of India have been divided into four main categories on the basis of how sound is produced. Firstly, there is the tata vadya or chordophones or stringed instruments such as the sitar and veena. Then there is the sushira vadya or aerophones or wind instruments such as the bansuri (flute) and harmonium. Thirdly, there is the avanaddha vadya or membranophones or percussion instruments such as the tabla and dholak. Lastly, there is the ghana vadya or idiophones or solid instruments that do not require tuning such as the manjeera and jhal,” (S. Maharaj).

The East Indians learned to adapt to their environment and circumstances in Trinidad and by this process, many musical innovations were developed. One such invention was a percussion instrument, the Dhantal. “The Dhantal is a long steel rod that was adapted from the axle used to connect the yokes of the bullocks that transported the cane-filled carts on the estates. The metal

² Gamak- vocal technique of Indian Classical Music.

³ Zamzama- vocal technique of Indian Music.

⁴ Ragas- fixed notes in a special order with specific rules.

⁵ Taal- a rhythmic cycle of a fixed number of beats.

⁶ Thumree- genre of Indian Classical Music.

horseshoe used on the estate's horses and mules was used to strike the Dhantal. The Dhantal is closely related to the early indentured-worker instrument called the "dandatal," which was a wooden stick and had a rectangular shaped striker. The word "dana" means stick and "taal" means rhythm," (Satnarayan Maharaj). Another example of musical development and innovation came in the form of the tassa drum which was made from goat skin and the bark of the mango tree.

Adaptation and development were not restrictive only to musical instruments but to other aspects of Indian music as well. According to Mungal Patasar, from the 1940s there was a huge rise in the popularity of Indian films and by extension, a spike in the esteem of Indian film songs. Following this, Patasar indicated that during the period of 1940-1960 the first signs of an incorporation of English lyrics into the genre were observed as well as a shift in the population's taste of Indian music. "Singers like Sohan Gildharie, Haniff Mohammed and others maintained the form of the Thumree⁷ and the Ghazals⁸. The form of the film songs started to impinge on the Bhajans⁹ and other religious songs," (Patasar). He also stressed that between the years of 1960-1980, via the arrival of Professor H.S. Adesh to Trinidad, more education of Hindi and of Indian Classical music was readily available. However, "in the period 1980-1988, we witnessed a breakaway from the music traditions that existed between 1940 to 1960. The women's chuthi¹⁰ and Barahee¹¹ songs started to dominate the open stage, but with a new name 'chutney' which actually means hot and spicy," (Patasar).

⁷ Thumarie- genre of Local Classical Music.

⁸ Ghazal- genre of Local Classical Music.

⁹ Bhajans- sacred songs.

¹⁰ Chuthi- style of singing held in celebration for a newborn.

¹¹ Barahee- style of singing held in celebration for a newborn.

Apart from the influence of society on the progression of Indian music in Trinidad, technology has been another instrumental factor. The Oxford English Dictionary defines technology as “the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry.” Some examples of the technological advancements within the music industry include: “electric guitars, multitrack recording, effect pedals, synthesizers, MIDI controller, auto tune and music streaming sites,” (Alexander). According to industry experts, “social media, streaming, and augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have had a transformative impact on the way artists can share their work with the public and interact with their listeners. Thanks to social media platforms, artists are able to get real-time feedback from their fans to better inform their marketing strategies, creating a true brand partnership connection,” (Music First). From religious settings such as virtual satsangs¹², yagnas¹³ to Mehefils¹⁴, concerts and performing live via social media, in Trinidad, technology remains synonymous with local musical progression.

¹² Satsangs- religious gathering held on one night. Translates (from Hindi) to the company of the truth.

¹³ Yagnas- religious gathering held on multiple nights consecutively.

¹⁴ Mehefils- an in-house concert.

Chapter One

Within this chapter, the focus is on the historical evolution of Indian Music and its components. This will be done to give an account of the inception and initial phases of the local artform in order to fully understand the development and progress of Indian Music as it stands today.

It stands as no surprise that technology was an instrumental driving factor in the development of Indian Music in Trinidad. Existing literature and various music curricula have not placed emphasis on the full and direct impact that the progression of technology has had on the local performance and recording industry over the years, especially in Indian music. Consequently, one major difference in this account of Indian music will be the direct reference to technology's effects over the forty-year period of 1980-2020.

In the period of the 1980's, Indian music took a transformative shift in Trinidad via the introduction of technology. Initially, instruments were amplified using microphones, mixing boards and speaker boxes. This was then followed by using emerging musical instruments and devices such as Synthesizers¹⁵, Bass Guitars¹⁶, Octapads¹⁷ and Rhythm Machines¹⁸. Consequently, this facilitated a change in the dynamics of the instruments as previously,

¹⁵ Synthesizers- electronic musical instruments that produce audio signals with a piano layout. These are flagship instruments that produce high end audio signals that can further be edited to the user's likeness.

¹⁶ Bass Guitars- low pitched guitar that is played by plucking.

¹⁷ Octapads- electronic drumming machine with eight pads producing specific audio signals in real time.

¹⁸ Rhythm Machines- a drumming synthesizer used to produce rhythmic audio signals in patterns.

traditional instruments were employed such as the Dholak¹⁹, Harmonium²⁰ and Dhantal.²¹ These traditional instruments remain popular choices at local Mandirs²² to date. Notably, the majority of respondents within my field research reported that through religious gatherings, Mehefils and Mandir services gave them the start in their careers as musicians locally. In such circumstances, traditional instruments were fundamental aspects of performances. However, eventually, even the Mandirs started adapting to the technologically advancing times by utilizing sound systems. This later perpetuated a need for amplification in Local Classical events for vocalists and instrumentalists.

Additionally, Indian cinema also played a huge role in influencing the musical landscape of Trinidad. The first Indian film ever shown in Trinidad was entitled Bala Joban in 1935 which sparked a following into the many title songs in the movie. Local musicians were then on a path of replicating the music heard in the many films that followed and performing their renditions at Mehefils, cooking nights, bazaars and concerts. As a result of the public's taste in Indian music rapidly starting to change in the 1980's, the instruments that were being used adapted from traditional to modern. Keyboards,²³ Bass Guitars, Rhythm Machines and Octapads started to take their places next to the traditional instruments. Indian music bands also came to the forefront of entertainment in Trinidad. Even in present times, film music is a particularly sought-after genre in Trinidad. Another example of a film influencing the music locally was the release of the 1990 movie Aashiqui which brought an array of film songs that shaped the 90's in Trinidad with popular songs such as 'Tu Meri Zindagi Hai' and 'Nazar Ke Sanme.' These songs are still a

¹⁹ Dholak- Indian folk drum covered on both ends with goat skin.

²⁰ Harmonium- keyboard instrument in which sound is produced by bellows and reeds.

²¹ Dhantal- metal rod struck by a curved metal like horseshoe to produce a percussive sound.

²² Mandirs- place of worship for Hindu

²³ Keyboard- an electronic instrument with the layout of a piano. The audio signals found in this instrument cannot be edited as in depth as a synthesizer.

popular choice during performances as they are regarded as timeless by local listeners. In listening to these songs traditional instruments can be heard such as Dholak and the even rarer Sitar. Following the trend and becoming a movie series, the emergence of Aashiqui 2, released in 2012, also brought to the forefront film songs that are immortalized in the minds of local audiences. The instrumentation for these new songs contrasted that of the original Aashiqui and thus, phased out this use of traditional instruments and solidified electronic instruments in the local music market.

Further to this, the rationale behind these technologically advanced instruments is majorly related to the many alterations in the songs. These changes involve the incorporation of instrument families such as strings, brass and authentic Indian instruments which, at that time, were particularly rare in both the region and in the accessibility to musicians skilled to play them. Synthesizers possess the ability to toggle between these many instrument families and can sample the sounds needed to be performed in each specific song as well as the preloaded tones that match or come close to what is heard in the original song. As such, the replication process of the film songs became easier and more pleasing to audiences as they were able to hear their favourite songs played live, almost maintaining the same standard as was apparent in the movie or on tape.

Entering the period of the 2000's and into present times, the authenticity of the music started to become compromised as the method known as sequencing made its way into the performing arena. According to Sidrat Studios Music Production, "Sequencing is the programming of notes and sounds to play in melodic and rhythmic patterns and musical phrases, which are then arranged and/or performed, using a machine to execute the programmed information in order to play it back, instead of a person or group of people playing their

instrument(s) live.” This sparked a distrust between audiences and musicians which will be expanded upon in Chapter two of this research paper.

Furthermore, at present, a new narrative now presents itself in Indian music whereby the COVID-19 global pandemic and its effects still rage rampant in society. Due to such circumstances, musicians have now been forced to heavily rely and depend more upon technology for the continuation of their craft. In addition to this, this period has also presented musicians and performers with an opportunity to exploit technology to improve their craft by way of the provision of a creative space and freedom. Since the pandemic is a relatively new occurrence, research into its effects on the field of music has yet to be conducted extensively both on a local and international scale. Based on this information, a unique perspective on technological application during the COVID-19 global pandemic will be provided, contrasting any information within existing literature. A more detailed exploration into technology’s impact during the global pandemic will be supplied in Chapter three of this thesis.

To continue, the topic at hand has yet to be explored in a primarily local context and as such, relevant and local secondary sources proved extremely challenging to attain. Due to this, the methodology in data collection was focused upon collecting primary data via interviews with active members of the local Indian music industry. Main references, in the literature review, included an academic research paper written by Mungal Patasar in 1998 and newspaper articles by Rana Mohip and Satnarayan Maharaj in 2019 and 2011 respectively. In these secondary sources, although relevant to Indian music and its history in Trinidad, they did not present any information on the technological influence and did not incorporate research methodologies but rather provided historical accounts and facts. From this information, it was therefore important to

me to adopt an investigative and research centered approach to the collection of data to obtain different and unique information.



*Figure 1 **Dholak** Source: <https://www.jayadeviarts.com/dholak.html>. Image. 13th April 2021.*



*Figure 2 **Dhantaal** Source: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/Brass-Musical-Instrument-Dhantal-/184369051018>. Image. 13th April 2021.*



Figure 3 **Harmonium** Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Maharaja-Musicals-Harmonium-Standard-Instrument/dp/B00776H8WI>. Image. 13th April 2021.



Figure 4 **Octapad** Source: https://www.thomann.de/gb/roland_spd_20_pro_octapad.htm. Image. 13th April 2021.



Figure 5 **Synthesizer** Source: <https://dmaudio.co.uk/product/roland-fantom-x6-workstation-keyboard/>. Image. 13th April 2021



Figure 6 **Rhythm Machine** Source: <https://www.muziker.nu/akai-mpc-1000-bk>. Image. 13th April 2021

Chapter Two

Within this chapter, an exploration into the advantages and disadvantages of Social Media and Technology will be discussed. Social Media and Technology as aforementioned, play a crucial role in marketing, education and provide an open platform for feedback from target audiences. Research was conducted via an asynchronous means of data collection and the resultant responses delved into this subject. As with any active system, technology in Indian Music presents flaws and significant room for improvement. This chapter will thereby evaluate the impact of technological advancement by presenting various benefits and drawbacks of its usage in the local Indian music arena.

To commence, a myriad of benefits was revealed in the field research. The majority of respondents indicated that the utilization and development of technology has substantially increased the number of job opportunities available in the Indian Music Industry in Trinidad. For example, according to Yovindra Bridglal more job opportunities were created through the use of Social media and Technology as “Software such as logic and mainstage has made it possible for single musicians to sequence full songs giving one person the opportunity to perform the role of a full band of instruments making their cost of performing a lot more economical to clients,” (Bridglal). Likewise, as reported by Brandon Poonwassie, technology has certainly impacted upon the creation of job opportunities in the Indian music industry in Trinidad for “Ableton²⁴ users, sample operators, keyboard players, octapad players, audio engineers, radio announcers, television broadcasters and music producers,” (Poonwassie).

²⁴ Ableton- software associated with music production and recordings.

Additionally, technology has been a major influence in music over the years and has been exceptionally beneficial in the education of music. Presently, streaming technologies and social media have had a revolutionary impact in the way artists share their work and interact with others such as students through online platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams. According to Arista T Katwaroo, “these virtual online sessions and technologies have aided very well as it is similar to face-to-face public gatherings which makes continued progress and communication easier due to the current pandemic situation of the country,” (Katwaroo). In like manner, these online platforms influence the accessibility of music education from authentic Indian musicians/educators, also allowing for the teaching and learning of music to students and aspiring musicians. For instance, Rana Mohip states that these online platforms have influenced the accessibility of music education from authentic Indian musicians/educators “because in my case I teach students locally and internationally using such platforms,” (Mohip). Similarly, Sangeeta Subnaik expresses that online platforms “has made it so much more effective and efficient for learning as I can live here, in Trinidad, but study online from Bollywood singers and musicians such as Shankar Mahadevan,” (Subnaik).

Nevertheless, the music industry has been one of the most significantly affected industries by the revolution of technology over the past few years, influencing the way in which musicians’ market and sustain themselves now versus twenty years ago. Hence, in the modern-day music industry with the profusion of social media platforms, another major advantage of Social media and technology is its ability to make artists marketable. For instance, according to Vandana Tulsie, “Social Media has made the sustainability and marketing of musicians so much more convenient and effective over the last few years. It provides a medium for persons to reach a large number of households,” (Tulsie). Similarly, Shivannand Maharaj proclaims that, “It’s

much easier now for musicians to market themselves via platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube to name a few. These have facilitated not only marketing advantages but have also created important linkages between musicians and clients. This will of course positively impact on the sustainability of artistes,” (Shivannand Maharaj).

Moreover, technology is ubiquitous, thus, the intense influence it has had on the art of music is unsurprising. Hence, in the twentieth century, with the aim to discourage mediocrity and improve production, technology can be utilized to transform the ways in which music is transmitted, perceived, performed and composed. For example, in consonance with what technological modifications have been incorporated to enrich music and discourage mediocrity, Arista T Katwaroo states, “I would say certain items such as the mute for violins which have helped to cancel out harsh loud sounds allowing the smooth transition of notes. Effective PA systems such as using microphones which helps to project music for everyone locally and internationally to view on television. Having live streams online for people to view,” (Katwaroo). Vandana Tulsie also agrees, stating that “the enhancements in recording material, and devices or programs used to produce music has enriched the music tremendously,” (Tulsie) thus, discouraging mediocrity.

In addition, one of social media and technology's major advantages in the music industry is its capability to aid in music reaching the wider community. To illustrate one’s point, according to Brandon Poonwassie in terms of marketing, “The Indian music that is created here in Trinidad and Tobago can now be reached locally and worldwide via Social Media. Social Media is used as a tool for advertising, marketing and also creating a virtual space for live performances,” (Poonwassie).

In contrast, although technology has had a tremendous impact on musical performance in the twentieth century and a myriad of benefits of Social media and Technology were revealed by respondents in the field of research, few disadvantages were also acknowledged. Firstly, one of the major disadvantages of Social media and Technology were that traditional components became unnecessary, resulting in decreased authenticity and skills levels of musicians while also creating a mistrust in musicians and performers from audiences. Traditionally, musical artwork has flourished simply through performers. However, with the advancement of technology, electronic media can now replace human media, that is, performers. This is evident as Srishti Ramdass claims that one of the disadvantages technologies possesses is that, “By replacing live musicians, it can take away from the soul of the music,” (Ramdass). Correspondingly, respondents agree that sequencing of live music such as pre-recorded music on Ableton and Logic etc., have negatively affected the authenticity of music. For instance, Yovindra Bridglal asserts that “Sequencing has greatly relaxed the role of musicians since their role now is to play backing chords. Most of the interlude music is now being sequenced. There is a general perception amongst audiences now that most musicians especially for band music are only shadowing ²⁵which has made them lose trust in these musicians,” (Bridglal).

Furthermore, an additional disadvantage of Social media and Technology in the Indian music industry is the minimization of the need for traditional components and actual musicians. This ill effect of the recent technological genesis in Indian music was observed by respondents such as Brandon Poonwassie, stating that, “Ableton/Sample Machines: The use of prerecorded tracks, vocal and instruments or materials from the original track recording being used in live performances to create a "full" and "complete" sound with little effort, meaning less musicians

²⁵ Shadowing- Pretending to play an instrument over pre-recorded music.

and vocalists on stage,” (Poonwassie). Similarly, Yovindra Bridglal also agreed technology has diminished the need for actual musicians and instruments and expresses that although there are several advantages of using technology in Indian music, “a lot of the raw talent has been lost and will not be promoted to the younger upcoming generations as recording studios are heavily dependent on technology. An example of this would be using the logic program to generate a piece of music from a sitar as opposed to having an actual sitar player come in and record the piece,” (Bridglal).

Ultimately, to a greater extent, Brandon Poonwassie also demonstrates another disadvantage of Social media and Technology, identifying that a disadvantage technology poses is “The loss of jobs for live performing musicians,” (Poonwassie). Similarly, Vandana Tulsie also articulates that Social media and Technology “provides job opportunities for more individuals but has put a strain on professionals. Social media makes it easy for any aspiring musician to market themselves and give them the avenue to be hired. But at the same time, it makes it difficult for people who have been doing music professionally because the competition introduced causes them to have to reduce prices etc.” (Tulsie). In addition to the strain on live performers, Social media and Technology also serve as a disadvantage to those individuals who choose to exploit social media platforms to display their talents. This is apparent as feedback from online audiences and “social media communities can be brutally honest at times,” according to Anup Ramsundar. (Ramsundar)

In summary, within this chapter, an exploration into the advantages and disadvantages of Social Media and Technology were analyzed. These multiple advantages of Social Media and Technology in the Indian music industry included creating job opportunities, facilitating teaching and learning in musical education, marketing of musicians, discouraging mediocrity, improving

production and aiding local Indian musicians to reach a wider community. Nonetheless, although Social media and Technology prevails to comprise a myriad of benefits, disadvantages of Social Media and Technology such as the decrease in authenticity of music and the formation of mistrust from audiences were discussed. Additionally, other disadvantages mentioned were the minimal need for traditional components and actual musicians, the strain on professional live performers and the brutal honesty of comments from social media communities.

Chapter Three

Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic and significant impact upon the livelihoods of the global community. In Trinidad, the entertainment industry, inclusive of individuals within the Indian musical fraternity, was particularly affected by the introduction of this virus. Therefore, within this chapter, technology's impact upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad, during the COVID-19 global pandemic was investigated to determine technology's role in meeting the demands of the public in an entertainment and socially starved society.

Initially, given the novel essence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ease in which the virus is spread, live musical performances and festivals were one of the first events to be postponed by local authorities, following the virus' introduction. Hence, one of the major effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad is the loss of traditional live music and entertainment. This is an industry that relies heavily upon ticket sales, large gatherings and audience satisfaction in order to thrive. In the absence of such, the continuation of their services could no longer be a feasible option in these circumstances.

Nonetheless, although the COVID-19 pandemic has fashioned a loss of jobs for live performers, artists of the Indian music industry have attempted to discover innovative alternatives through the use of technology. Such events were conceptualized with the intention of sustaining an income for themselves while meeting the demand for entertainment by the general public. To illustrate, Sangeeta Subnaik expresses, "Technology has facilitated the survival of the performance industry as artistes have been promoting themselves online through concerts on social media platforms etc. Corporate entities have also been involved to sustain the industry," (Subnaik). Similarly, in accord, Devashish Ramdath indicates that technology has

“facilitated the survival of big artistes in the performance industry. Promoters have organized shows as we would have seen in the recent "Virtual Carnival",” with our current global restrictions due to Covid-19,” (Ramdath). In correspondence to these examples with relevance to the local Indian music industry, virtual events such as ‘Chutney Soca Monarch 2021’ were also presented via television coverage and virtual online platforms like YouTube.

Furthermore, the majority of respondents have stated that technology has also impacted upon the Indian music industry during the COVID-19 pandemic by granting aspiring and professional musicians and performers an opportunity to produce and post more creative content on online platforms such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. For instance, as illustrated by Anup Ramsundar, “Musicians have found many creative ways to collaborate with each other, even from across the world,” (Ramsundar). Moreover, according to Brandon Poonwassie, technology also “creates another avenue for musicians to display their talents,” (Poonwassie).

In addition, another positive impact that the utilization of technology has had on both traditional and contemporary musicians of the Indian music industry during the COVID-19 pandemic is concerned with the fact that technology has encouraged musicians to exploit technology’s features and fosters the “development of a greater appreciation for technology as this is the new norm,” (Poonwassie). Hence, in accordance with the sentiments of Anup Ramsundar, in taking full advantage of the technology which is available, many musicians awakened their creativity and innovation in music and “developed new skills beyond just [their] musical ability,” (Ramsundar).

In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the livelihoods of numerous musicians and performers in the music industry, particularly the traditional live performers of

the Indian music industry in Trinidad. However, within this chapter, by technique of an asynchronous method of research, technology's impact upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad, during the COVID-19 global pandemic was investigated and discussed. These impacts were proven to be technology's ability to provide a platform for musicians and performers to sustain themselves along with the provision of entertainment for the public audiences through virtual performances and online concerts. Additionally, it was apparent that technology also provides an avenue to produce and post more creative content online, displaying musical talents on platforms such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. Lastly, the utilization of technology on both traditional and contemporary musicians of the Indian music industry during the COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged musicians to build a greater inclination towards and appreciation for technology and enabled them to develop new skills beyond their musical abilities.

Conclusion

This research project highlighted the history and earliest influences of technology in traditional and contemporary Indian music in Trinidad, the advantages and disadvantages of technology and social media in local Indian music and technology's impact upon the Indian music industry in Trinidad during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this project via participant's responses to administered questionnaires, it was apparent that the innovation of technology presented various benefits such as the creation of job opportunities for Ableton users, octapad players and music producers etc. It was also revealed that technology provides a facilitation of teaching and learning in music education, discouraged mediocrity and improved production. In addition, according to participants, technology has provided an avenue for performers to sustain themselves while providing entertainment for the general public, display talents on social media through applications such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook and aid in developing new skills beyond existing musical abilities.

However, respondents also revealed various disadvantages of technology and social media such as the minimal need for traditional components due to computer programs such as Logic and Ableton. The strain on the demand for professional live performers and the brutal honesty and criticism from social media were also indicated as significant challenges.

Subsequently, this project aimed to benefit learning institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels and performers within the Indian music industry. Essentially, the current students of the Musical Arts will benefit from this project as it provides an insight on what to expect in terms of technology within the industry and assists in preparing their musical education. Similarly, by its creation, performers can gain further knowledge about the ways in

which technology can be utilized to amplify their craft. Additions to this research can involve an update into the state of Technology in the Indian Music Industry in Trinidad in a five-to-ten-year period and perhaps, target and contrast technology's incidence and popularity in post-COVID-19 conditions.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Questionnaire

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. What is your profession?
4. Can you tell me about how you first became involved in music?
5. In which era of music do you categorize yourself? Traditional, Contemporary, a fusion of both or other?
6. How would you describe the Indian music industry in Trinidad?
7. From your understanding, in what way(s) does Indian music in Trinidad differ from Indian music originating from India?
8. In which genre(s) of Indian music are you actively involved?
9. From your personal experience, can you share some information about your first encounter with technology in music?
10. Are you still a performer?
11. Do you utilise technology in your performances or was it utilized previously when you were a performer? If so, can you tell me about the technology you used?
12. How has technology influenced the way that musicians market and sustain themselves now versus 20 years ago?
13. What technological modifications have been incorporated to enrich the music?
14. Do you think that technology has created more job opportunities in the Indian music industry in Trinidad? If yes , can you tell me more about the jobs?

15. Has accessibility to Indian instruments and trending software/hardware become easier or more difficult in current times? If yes, how?
16. What impact has technology, via mobile devices, had on the process of recording music for the average musician?
17. In your opinion, what aspect of technology has had the largest impact on the development of Indian Music in Trinidad and why?
18. Which local genre of Indian Music (Local Classical, Chutney, Chutney Soca etc.), if any, would you say technology has shaped most?
19. What are your views on the effect of technology on the involvement of the younger generation in Indian music?
20. How has technology impacted the education of local musicians in the authentic styles of Indian Classical music?
21. In your opinion, can you describe technology's effect on the traditional components of Indian music in Trinidad?
22. How has social media changed the local landscape for Indian music?
23. Do you think promoting an artiste on social media versus promoting an artiste by word of mouth/call card is more effective? If yes, why?
24. Do you think that social media has had any negative effect on local Indian artistes? Why do you think so?
25. How have online platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, influenced the accessibility of music education from authentic Indian musicians/educators?
26. From your experience, what are some disadvantages that technology poses?

27. Has sequencing (pre-recorded music on Ableton, Logic etc) of the live music negatively affected its authenticity? Decreased skill levels? Depleted respect/trust in the musicians from the audiences?
28. What are your thoughts on the effect of sequencing programs, if any, on a musician's integrity?
29. With our current global restrictions due to Covid-19, has technology facilitated the survival of the performance industry? In what way?
30. Do you think that this current global pandemic has inspired a lot of online content from local Indian musicians?
31. What positive effects would you say the global pandemic has had on both traditional and contemporary musicians in their utilization of technology?
32. After the global pandemic, do you see the Indian music industry in Trinidad becoming more in demand by the public?
33. Do you think that technology has had an overall positive impact on Indian music? If yes, in what way? If not, why?
34. What advice would you give to the young and upcoming artistes interested in utilizing technology?

Appendix B

Questionnaire Responses

1. What is your name?14 responses

Anup Ramsundar

Arista T Katwaroo

Kiran N. Sankar

Vandana Tulsie

Sangeeta Subnaik

Srishti

Devashish Ramdath

Brandon Poonwassie

Shivannand Maharaj

Sangeeta Harrypersad

Yovindra Bridglal

Kishore Ramdath

Anil Maharaj

Rana Mohip

2. How old are you?14 responses

Value	Count
-------	-------

22	1
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23	1
----	---

25	1
----	---

25	1
----	---

26	1
----	---

27	3
----	---

30	1
----	---

31	1
----	---

40	1
----	---

49	1
----	---

54	1
----	---

54	1
----	---

3. What is your profession?14 responses

Value	Count
-------	-------

Administrative Assistant	1
--------------------------	---

Civil Engineer	1
Event Specialist	1
Facilities Coordinator	1
Geomatics Engineer	1
Inventory Clerk at PTSC	1
Music Lecturer	1
Musician	2
Musician / teacher of music 	1
Musician/Music Educator	1
Senior Instructor of music UTT	1
Singer/entertainer/chutney spca artiste	1
Student	1

4, Can you tell me about how you first became involved in music?14 responses

Family influence

Through my uncle at the age of 4

I saw Dexter Raghunanan play tabla at a wake for my Aaja. I was hooked.

My family has always been involved in religious and cultural practices, they've been hosting weekly satsangs(musical prayer sessions) for over 40 years so I was basically born into it

Parents took me to prayers to sing

Going Concerts with my Grandad

At the age of 5 my parents sent me to learn Tabla.

4. My first involvement with music was through my mamo (Uncle), Doodnath Robin Khadou when I was approximately 5 years old. He was playing a song on his Casio keyboard and I was passing by and asked him to show me how to play it. He demonstrated how to play it a few times, then asked me to remember by the sound of it and to play it using my right hand. He then said that he will be back within a few minutes to check on me. When he returned, I was playing the song using both hands. He then discovered that I had a natural talent for music. He nurtured me for some time, then I made my debut in my hometown, La Fortune Woodland, performing in a Divali Celebration at the age of 6.

I was introduced to music firstly by way of attending regular Sunday morning service at my temple. I later on attended music classes at the BVS in vocal, harmonium and tabla. I was especially encouraged here by my parents.

I grew up singing at the temples,it all started from my childhood days

By listening to my dad and his brothers who play music for leisure

Through my dad at the Mandir (temple)

Having access the actual instruments at my home and with my mummy and grandma also in musical activities. My mother sings at our Mandir and my Grandma singing at weddings and religious activities After which I started the rudiments of Indian music at my Mandir through the BVS organisation

I first became involved in music by attending temple

5. In which era of music do you categorize yourself? Traditional, Contemporary, a fusion of both or other?14 responses

Value	Count
A fusion of both	2
Both	1
Fusion	1
Fusion	1
Fusion of both	2
Fusion of both	1
Fusion of both but more of the traditio...	1
Fusion of both/21st Century Music	1
I would say all of the above ,as I had ...	1
Traditional	2
Traditional East Indian and Contemporary	1

6. How would you describe the Indian music industry in Trinidad?14 responses

Limited in terms of musical technicality. It does not seem to operate on meritocracy as much as it does on nepotism.

The Indian music industry in Trinidad is doing great in terms of theory and practical music. Certain professors and teacher are very knowledgable and talented in this field. However, this would not have been possible without Professor Hari Shankar Adesh's arrival from India to Trinidad in 1966 where he planted a seed of Indian music and culture and created a beautiful garden of knowledge for generations to come and benefit from

Misrepresented. People think we are all about chutney and rum and infidelity

Misinterpreted- Chutney music is considered Indian music in Trinidad when it is in fact born out of trinidad so I would classify that as Trinidadian music. The Indian music industry consists of so much more.

The standard of Indian music in Trinidad is very low as there is no understanding and respect for the art form.

Mediocre

The Indian Music Industry in Trinidad is very talented and they keep striving to do better.

6. The Indian Music Industry (IMI), can be described using different angles as this is a broad question. I would like to discuss what comprises of the Industry. IMI: Chutney, Local Classical, Hindustani Classical, Musicians, Vocalists, Religious Events, Public Address System, Radio, Television, Competitions. 1. Chutney music is indefinitely a part of the IMI. Chutney Music is comprised of songs that are up-tempo, accompanied by dholak, dhantal, harmonium and it is sung typically using the Bhojpuri language. These songs are typically composed using traditional folk melodies and the lyrical content is usually based on comedy or everyday scenario type situations (eg. working in the cane field) 2. Local Classical Music is another significant part of the IMI. This is a tradition that is slowly on the decline, which eventually may become extinct, possibly due to the language barrier. Local Classical Music is an indigenous art form that is only significant in Trinidad. This music is comprised of different genres such as Dhrupad, Tillana, Thumri, Ghazal etc. Each has its own distinct characteristic and is unique to Trinidad. The Local

Classical Music is performed on the Dholak, Dhantal and Harmonium and is sung.³ Hindustani Classical Music is an art form that is not popular in Trinidad but it is present. For one to excel in music, one should study the foundation of the music which begins with Hindustani Classical Music (North India). Some persons opt to study music of South India - Carnatic Music, but the most prominent is the study of Hindustani Classical. Many musicians and vocalists opt to use this to further enhance their technique and build music skills. The University of Trinidad and Tobago offer a study of Hindustani Classical Music entitled - Sangeet Prathama. The University of the West Indies, via the Department of Creative and Festival Arts have courses in which you can study Hindustani Classical Music and have the avenue to apply what you learn practically through the medium of the UWI Indian Classical Ensemble. From time to time, promoters usually bring international artistes and musicians to Trinidad such as Anup Jalota, Sachin Sharma to name a few. 4. Being a musician myself, I would consider them to be an integral part of the IMI. Without musicians, you would just have persons singing a-cappella. Musicians provide the accompaniment and sometimes assists vocalists and music producers in the industry. Musicians are overlooked due to many reasons but the two most important reasons are technological advancement - the use of ableton or other pre-recording tools and financial constraints - persons are not able to afford.⁵ Vocalists are the persons who represent the IMI. They are who the world see and if poorly represented, there will be misconception of what the IMI promotes and produces. Vocalists, academically & practically trained or untrained, perform in religious, private, cooperate, chutney shows, competitions. Some sing using the traditional bhojpuri language or some use the english language. Most persons in the IMI are not trained/learnt in neither the language or trained musically. This can be heard on the outcome of what is produced or when a vocalist performs live without the use of their vocals being played while the vocalist is performing. 6. Religious events are another part of what comprises of the IMI. Religious events occur frequently as opposed to other events. Musicians, vocalists and P.A. Systems typically performs in religious events thus making it relevant. 7. Public Address Systems are what is needed for the vocalists and musicians to be heard. Like the musicians and vocalists, some Music Engineers are learnt and some are not. This can affect the performance in a negative or positive manner. 8. Radio and Television is another part of the IMI. Whatever is played on the airwaves, good or bad, becomes the norm and is accepted by the public. This is what is used to reach a wider audience not only locally but internationally. 9. Competitions are another integral part of the IMI. There are many things that can be discussed on this but I will keep it short in point form. Most of the competitions have unqualified judges, the criterion in

unjust and there is lack of transparency. However, competitions are an excellent way for the artistes and musicians to elevate themselves and should remain a part of the IMI.

The Indian music industry in Trinidad is very diverse. There mainly exist areas including classical, semi classical, folk, religious and Bollywood forms of music in relation to Indian music.

We are seeing a drastic improvement

and recognitioin this industry.

Heavily declining due to demand and emphasis being placed on chutney and soca genres

It's a huge market with a lot of talented artistes . There are some that are professionally trained and some that are self taught, both being very talented . There are still work to do for it to reach international standards.

Over the past 30 years of trying by many promoters , it has now become accepted by the national community through the Sokha Chutney artform.other

The Indian music industry in Trinidad is quite active in the the different genres of Indian music as a whole

7. From your understanding, in what way(s) does Indian music in Trinidad differ from Indian music originating from India?14 responses

Contemporary local "Indian" music involves primarily poorly-executed covers of Bollywood songs.

Local classical music is more of a true artform - one that we can take pride in owning. Perhaps even traditional chutney.

New-age "chutney" is not true to anything "Indian" except perhaps stereotypes regarding the local Indian diaspora (alcoholism, adultery, etc.).

In my opinion, there isn't much of a difference but only in technique wise and ways of presentation.

Sometimes we have very little regard for the melodic structure and we vary from the raagas a lot. We also allow people to perform without the proper training and glorify mediocrity.

Indo music in Trinidad is basically a reproduced version of music from India, at least those out of Bollywood, therefore one can say there is no difference really except that they recreate the music and change the voice or BPM. Or one can say there's a huge difference because in India music is actually composed and produced whilst we piggy back off their creations.

Indian music in Trinidad lacks creativity and understanding of the language.

Quality Musicians stay in the background while the others dominate the forefront

Local Classical singing would have originated from Indian Classical Singing and it can be clearly noted that the styles in LCS is different to those in ICS. The style of dholak playing is unique and the dhantal was also created in Trinidad which makes the Trinidad music different.

Rhythmic Concept (Taal), Melodic Structure (Raga based songs), Language.

Differences exist in Language, genres, vocal and instrumental music techniques.

Trinidad music has more vibes, lyrics are different, beat and style all carries a different more caribbean vibes.

Sung over or either change in lyrical content both using beats and rhythms influenced by soca and chutney

Our music has a touch of different genres eg , dancehall, chutney, soca , american pop. Our rhythm are bit different with our local influence.

We have taken the musical genre handed down by our ancestors and fused that with the other styles already existing but in some cases still keeping the traditional art form alive. The event to persons learning the rudiments of both English and Indian music has given us a rise in the standard of music . As India is such a vast country they will have much more variety of musical cultures of which in Trinidad we only had just one small part of it.

It depends from which angle you take this from, The traditional classical indian music which we have here is different from India, it is more like the folk traditions of India. Although some of the names of the different forms of classical music is the same like Thumri, Dadra, Dhrupad etc., the style of singling and the rhythmic patterns are different.

8. In which genre(s) of Indian music are you actively involved?14 responses

Classical, Bhajan, Ghazal, Film

Indian Classical Music

devotional and classical (hindustani and carnatic)

Indian Classical Music, Film and Folk Music

Hindustani classical / Bollywood / Devotional

Spiritual

Local Classical Singing

Indian Classical, Religious, Chutney, Local Classical as a musician and vocalist.

Classical, semi classical, Bollywood, bhajans, qaseedas, folk, gats and dhuns.

Bollywood,bhajans,chutney,traditional, chutney spca and now now exploring other genres.

Local Classical, bollywood (new and old)and ocassional traditional chutney

Chutney soca , soca , dancehall, religious and pop .

As a performing artiste I am always involved with all styles and performance with many different instruments as will take to do the job. Therefore classical, folk, dance and fusion

Indian Classical, folk, bollywood and traditional local indian music

9. From your personal experience, can you share some information about your first encounter with technology in music? 14 responses

First time I had the opportunity to play on a sound system changed my approach vastly. Eliminating the need to play loudly allowed for far more nuanced and technical playing.

About a few years now, I have been using my cellular phone to download an app that mimics the traditional tanpura which is a background melody used to beautiful one's performance while singing or playing an instrument. Also it is used to tune instruments. I also use other technologies such as my laptop to listen to classical music on youtube and to research information pertaining to music

A shruti box. It was amazing to see as a teen.

Technology in its self is a broad term so I'll identify an instance where modern technology was encountered. I remember going to a concert and hearing the sound of a tanpura drone but none was visible on the stage, only to learn afterwards that's there is a machine that produces the same sound.

About 10 years ago I recorded my first cover song and was introduced to the new ways that music can be produced through one program. I also learnt about Autotune which I don't believe in.

Using logic to layers tracks

I have learnt a lot using technology. For example the internet provides a load of information and videos to learn from.

9. My first encounter with technology was when I first began performing in crossover chutney bands. They incorporated the use of sample machines which sampled part of songs or popular rhythms. This was strange for me because I always believed in live music but music is ever evolving as time passes.

These would include a Casio synthesizer, a raideel tanpura machine and a raideel taal mala machine. These were all used to enhance my music practice and presented opportunities to experiment with non Indian music melodies, harmonies and rhythms.

Since i started professionally in 2010.

Being able to use a chromatic tuner downloaded to my smart phone for easy tuning of string instruments

My first experience would be getting involved in music production. Using computer and music software.

Approximately my father had bought a programmable keyboard for me where you have sequence the music and compose beats and also accompaniment.

Being involved in music at a tender age, I began recording music and playing band music in my teens and in those days, the was only analog recordings. Using technology to record and now even teach music.

10. Are you still a performer?14 responses

Value	Count
Rarely	1
Will perform on occasional gigs with my...	1
Yes	7
Yes	1
Yes I am	1
Yes I am.	1

Yes, all 1
over
Trinidad TT

Yes. 1

11. Do you utilise technology in your performances or was it utilized previously when you were a performer? If so, can you tell me about the technology you used?14 responses

Yes. The need for production (sound, video and audio) equipment is of paramount importance to effectively perform, and reach the widest audience possible.

Most times, I use an electronic tanpura or my phone with the iTablapro app for performances on iPhone.

Only in terms of tuning or preparing for a performance but I don't utilize anything more than mics and mixing boards for a performance.

Definitely, the tanpura drone or application is a must. Sometimes I use karaoke tracks to perform film songs and I always use either a phone or ipad to store my lyrics.

Yes musical instruments are now becoming more updated and there are now programs such as Ableton which are giving performances a more mastered finish. I also use mastered tracks for Karaoke tracks.

No

I have been using either my smart phone or laptop to load my lyrics for my songs to perform and since the pandemic started, live sessions have been done to build an "online" audience. Other than that I have been posting videos to my Instagram and Youtube pages since 2015.

11. The technology that I use currently is the use of a software called MainStage 3 where tones are in the Macbook and it can be controlled by a Midi Keyboard Controller. The sound is passed through a music interface and then received by the audio engineer. Another source of technology that I use is an Electronic Tanpura. This is used when I perform vocally, mostly religious

performances. Another technology I use is the Keyboard/Synthesiser. This instrument can create tones of various ethnic instruments such as the Banbury/Flute, Sitar, Bulbul Tarang, Sarod, and also western instruments such as piano, pads, instruments from the brass family.

I use technology as a performer and its use has increased due to more technological advancements now available. These include but are not limited to digital tuners, smart phone apps and sound system equipment.

Microphones, tv tracks, live bands keyboards.

I will sometimes use youtube and other websites to learn and dissect songs which I need to learn to perform

I use my computer with a software called Ableton on stage while performing. It's a software that always you to add additional tracks , both instruments and vocals that full up and enhance the music .

Yes I still use the technology. Whenever I will have to perform on stage alone or record a piece of music  I can use the keyboard accompaniment FEATURE OR PROGRAM IT TO ACCOMPANY MYSELF. My cell video gives a most high quality and sound recording facility.

Yes I do. Especially now that most of our performances are virtual, we pre-record the audio tracks using the technology such as logic, protools etc. and and also use programmes such as Final cut pro and Adobe premiere for editing video.

12. How has technology influenced the way that musicians market and sustain themselves now versus 20 years ago? 14 responses

Social media is revolutionary. It has created a platform for many diligent musicians to share their abilities. You can both market yourself as a performer and a teacher. You can do both of those things for people anywhere in the world.

In my opinion, it has helped in terms of projecting knowledge and information to a students in school and can be easily carried around when performing.

Now the public has easier access to them. You had to know someone who knew the musician to get in contact with them before. This means more jobs

Social Media has made the sustainable and marketing of musicians so much more convenient and effective over the last few years. It provides a medium for persons to reach a large number of households.

Technology and music has evolved together and now if musicians are not able to keep up with technology, their music and form of income is at stake.

Virtual Presence is more powerful than physical presence

You can basically share your music with the world by just a few clicks.

12. To be honest, technology made musicians lazy. They use the technology to do the work for them and then they "shadow" or mime when performing live. Even vocalists does this. Musicians and Vocalists use the technology to generate a revenue and create a false sound that is accepted by the general public. With this being said, said general public then hires musicians and vocalists based on the technological sound generated thus generating revenue to sustain musicians and vocalists.

Its much easier now for musicians to market themselves via platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube to name a few. These have facilitated not only marketing advantages but have also created important linkages between musicians and clients. This will of course positively impact on the sustainability of artistes.

Technology has definitely improved. There are now more technology available to market and sustain our music.

The internet has given musicians social media platforms to self advertise and make themselves more marketable.

It has improved the way you get mileage and also free advertising through social media.

With variety of social media available, marketing becomes easier and free. The music can be downloaded at a reasonable cost to the buyer at anytime he will choose.

Technology has definitely influenced the way that musicians market and sustain themselves now that there is so much opportunities to market oneself on so many online platforms compared to 20 years ago when most performances would be face to face. You can also do virtual performances and classes etc..

13. What technological modifications have been incorporated to enrich the music?14 responses

Minimal in my field.

I would say certain items such as the mute for violins which have helped to cancel out harsh loud sounds allowing the smooth transition of notes. Effective PA systems such as using microphones which helps to project music for everyone locally and internationally to view on television. Having livestreams online for people to view.

Better quality mics and processing. Better video quality and editing.

The enhancements in recording material, and devices or programs used to produce music has enriched the music tremendously

Different tones on a keyboard and a wide array of musical apps to enhance different instruments.

Sequencing has made solo performances possible without sacrificing quality

I'd leave this one blank.

13. The layering of music to make it sound "full". The use of technology in music producing to evolve the sound of chutney music or other genres in the IMI. The use of machines to mimic the sound of musicians. Although this is a positive, it is also a negative because musicians are then out of jobs.

Modifications in live sound equipment, studio sound equipment, improvements in manufacturing musical instruments and educational programs built for devices in order to facilitate education.

Tv tracks, vocal enhancements. some artistes even singers even pre record voices, new computers and software at studios., vocal effects on mics

Recording software and hardware has enabled producers and performers to add stems of various instruments to make them sound more stable and remove human deficiencies to enrich the overall sound.

Technology to help make vocalists sounds more professional.

The digital technology had made recording music much easier and easily available to all. The music  quality is preserved and much more songs are stored by small devices. The voice and instruments can be recorded separately and stored on tracks to be used as the needs for recording a song.

I have modified my way of teaching and producing music by using the programmes available especially now that most things are virtual using zoom mainly.

14. Do you think that technology has created more job opportunities in the Indian music industry in Trinidad? If yes , can you tell me more about the jobs?14 responses

Yes. Local playback artistes seem to rely heavily on autotune or similar features to compensate for sub-par vocal ability.

yes but only in terms of teaching/tutoring and performer in my opinion.

Yes, live streaming, recording, video editing etc.

Yes and no, because it provides job opportunities for more individuals but has put a strain on professionals. Social media makes it easy for any aspiring musician to market themselves and give them the Avenue to be hired. But at the same time, it makes it difficult for persons who have been doing music professionally because the competition introduced causes them to have to reduce prices etc.

Yes it has because now technology has allowed for creativity to be endless and to reach a wider market instead of just one niche market.

No, it has made the need for actual musicians less.

I am not sure about this.

14. Yes and no. Yes: Ableton users, Sample operator, Keyboard players, Octopad players, Audio Engineers, Radio Announcers, Television broadcasters, Music Producers. No: With the advent of technology, persons who performs live are sometimes substituted with technology.

Yes. Jobs in terms of weddings, receptions, anniversaries, birthdays and religious events have been created due to these technologies.

Yes. Technology has helped us artiste sound and look more professionally, therefore creating more opportunities.

Yes, Softwares such as logic and mainstage has made it possible for single musicians to sequence full songs given one person the opportunity to perform the role of a full band of instruments making their cost of performing alot more economical to clients.

Yes , one way is that you can cut down your entire production cost so it can be affordable to the audience. Also advertising through social media helps you get gigs.

Yes, it has made jobs for persons in recording studios, DJ, sound mixing for live  lighting for stage and also persons who sell instruments and equipment for artiste

Yes to certain extent due to social media and media as a whole. Artiste are able to produce their work and show it to a wider audience hoping that they can benefit from this in the future.

15. Has accessibility to Indian instruments and trending software/hardware become easier or more difficult in current times? If yes, how?14 responses

Very recently, due to covid, yes. However, social media and online stores have made tools relatively easy to access.

Certain instruments are difficult to get currently due to the pandemic which prevents shipping online. But normally, it can be easily sourced and bought in Trinidad or online.

Easier. You can just do a quick search and it's there.

Definitely easier, because we have the convenience of online shopping.

Indian instruments have become easier to access due to Indian expos etc. Software has become more accessible also because of hundreds of online apps.

It has become easier due to globalization

To access Indian Instruments is easier via online order and software wise, we can purchase for example the electronic tabla.

15. Yes to Indian instruments and trending hardware. The country we are living in makes it difficult to acquire indian instruments and some equipment that are used in first world countries, however software is easier to obtain because it can be purchased and downloaded from the WorldWideWeb.

It has become easier because these can be obtained very easily via online websites such as ebay and amazon.

More difficult.

Yes it has become alot easier since everything can be purchased remotely using online transactions once the relevant hardware is already in possession.

Yes it's much easier . There are a lot of software available online and there are virtual authentic Indian instruments that you can get online.

Yes much easier. Online sales where u get the product at your door step or u pick it up close to where you live.

Or download the software

It definitely has. Due to the easily available online platforms such as Amazon and online stores such as Sweetwater, one can easily order and purchase instruments to compliment their art form.

16. What impact has technology, via mobile devices, had on the process of recording music for the average musician?14 responses

It's a tool everyone has. You may not be able to put out world-class content with it, but it can give you a solid start to content-creation and recording.

A good impact as it allows for one to listen and fix mistakes if made to better oneself.

Great impact. Easier to hear yourself and observe your body language when playing.

It has made it easier and cheaper because one doesn't have to spend exorbitant amounts of money on recording equipment but at the same time it affects the quality of material being put out.

It has had a positive impact as now, musicians can record themselves and self-criticize, they can share music easily via social media, they can also conference call without being in the same place and also record music.

It's simplified and now easier for musicians to share their skill globally

This is very important for the promoting on an average musician. I have been using mobile devices which is now giving video in 4k quality. Better quality attracts the audience.

It has a great impact. Now the average musician can now record themselves or create music simply using one's mobile device. There are pros and cons to this.

Pros for the average musician:

Can record on-the-go using mobile devices

Can share recording files with others to collaborate

Can make work faster, thus creating more

Cons for the average musician:

Anyone can jump on the wagon and create, meaning, everyone can now be a musician because there are prerecorded samples that one can use to create a song

Quality of work being produced would not be great

Jobs for full-time musicians/producers will slowly be on the decline

A positive impact has been created because of the use of mobile device apps like Garage Band and itablapro just to name a few.

It can help with marketing your music to some extent.

The ability to listen, practice and start mini projects using various mobile applications which would have graduated to a full recorded production at a later stage.

It saves money and most of all time . You can record not just at your home but anywhere on the go .

The devices like the smaller cellular multimedia phones record the video and audio at a high quality production. I use this slot for my performances

The average musician can now record his live performance using recording devices on a computer and the mix, add and master his tracks and then later on sync it with the video to produce a much better recording

17. In your opinion, what aspect of technology has had the largest impact on the development of Indian Music in Trinidad and why?14 responses

Definitely the provision of sound equipment and editing software that allows mixing and mastering of recorded audio.

I would say the internet such as social media which helps to spread the music in Trinidad.

Live streaming and video posting

I would say social media, again because it provides a forum to showcase the music instead of having to go through screening proceedings to go over tv or radio.

I would say that Autotune has had the greatest impact as it turns a nobody into somebody. Someone who doesn't have a clue about music or even holding a note can now become a singer, become popular and earn alot of money. I believe this is unfair to the truly talented ones.

Social Media

I would say Youtube, cause musicians are able to watch, listen and learn from all over the world.

There are a few aspects that have a large impact, all intertwining with each other. The use of Ableton, Rhythm machine, Keyboard/Synthesiser, Recording equipment, Live performance equipment, Internet.

Ableton/Sample Machines: The use of prerecorded tracks, vocal and instruments or materials from the original track recording being used in live performances to create a "full" and "complete" sound with little effort, meaning less musicians and vocalists on stage.

Rhythm machine: The use of rhythm machine to recreate rhythms reflected that of a percussionist - dhantal, dholak, manjeera, drum kit, iron, triangle - basically, any percussion instrument and sometimes melodic. This is used to enhance what is being performed live or substitute an instrumentalist.

Keyboard/Synthesiser: As previously mentioned, this instrument can create tones that are replica of instruments of different instrument families. The advantage is, one can create an orchestra of sound, be it brass or strings or woodwinds etc, however, the disadvantage is, one only has ten fingers, so there are limitations of the sound that can be created by one keyboardist.

Recording equipment: This has made a tremendous headway in the industry, allowing music producers to use technology to create music and published on the airwaves/online.

Live performance equipment: The use of a Loud Speaker System, microphones, amps, cables, processors, mixing consoles etc allows for musicians and artistes to have live performances. This generates income for many and sometimes persons in the IMI depends on this to survive.

Internet: With the use of the internet and the downside of live performances for a physical audience due to the Covid-19 situation we are currently living in, virtual performances are created. This has now become the new trend and has changed the landscape of live performances.

The largest impact is due to the creation of the many platforms mentioned above because these directly enable members of the society to look, listen and to appreciate what artistes are producing and capable of nowadays. This in turn establishes the artiste to a greater degree and in many instances creates employment opportunities.

Live bands

Digital audio workstation programs such as Ableton and Logic has given persons the ability to compose, record, arrange, mix and master from their own personal studios giving anyone the possibility of recording and producing music. This has made it easier for Indian artists to ability to create and distribute content at their free will

I would say being able to access information through social media. YouTube a major part of our improvement by us being able to hear and see international artiste and learn.

The programmable keyboards that can perform as a whole orchestra to accompany a singer or instrumentalist.

The recording industry since the cost of doing your recordings in home studios at a reduced rate has become easily available to artistes. More artistes are doing recordings and producing music.

18. Which local genre of Indian Music (Local Classical, Chutney, Chutney Soca etc.) if any, would you say technology has shaped most?14 responses

Chutney soca

Chutney Soca or Contemporary ("Pop") Bollywood Music

I know local classical is very popular in Trinidad but I am not sure.

Definitely chutney soca.

Chutney Soca

None... it hasn't shaped it but rather make it more synthetic it hasn't been used to enhance but rather to facilitate for faster production.

I am a part of the Local Classical and Chutney Industry and technology plays an important role.

Chutney & Chutney Soca

Chutney Soca because of the wide variety of instruments currently used in the electrophone category of instruments e.g. Ableton, MPC and studio software like Logic Pro and Cakewalk.

Chutney Soca has been used the most with technology as now even on stage performances are heavily dependent on the use of technological applications.

I would say the Sokha chutney and Bollywood songs where the bands would use the technology of the keyboard accompaniment as the main instrument with other supporting like guitar and drum kits. Also laptops with songs on tracts are also widely used.

Chutney music industry and Local Bollywood music.

19. What are your views on the effect of technology on the involvement of the younger generation in Indian music?14 responses

Classical music (my field) is not readily available on most prominent media channels. By using social media we can reach a much broader community and influence young people to walk this path.

Additionally, I have found that young adults are becoming increasingly aware of the crude nature of alternative local Indian genres (aside from classical). Hence, showing them what raw, nuanced Indian music could be shapes their opinions in a more positive light and they find more interest in that sort of thing.

It is both a good thing and a bad thing

Good thing meaning that it aids in making progress easier and information available

Bad thing in terms of addiction

Definitely got them more interested and involved.

I would say there are negatives and positives, because it has made accessibility to the music so easy but at the same time other forms of music are just as easy to access.

I think the technology can be used wisely in the right hands but if it continues along the path it's on right now, Indian music will lose its beauty.

It if abused takes away from the soul of the music

Blank.

The younger generation are born into technology hence, they will adapt easily. Music is ever-evolving, maybe the youths will use the technology to for the greater good of the IMI or they can decline it.

Technology has created more awareness and involvement of the younger generation as it pertains to Indian music. More youths are now becoming part of music classes, groups and bands due to the positive effects of technology.

The younger generation are more advanced due to modernization, so they are more aware of all the new technologies and it is definitely going to help them a lot.

I understand the advantages and benefits of the use of technology in Indian music, however a lot of the raw talent has been lost and will not be promoted to the younger upcoming generations as recording studios are heavily dependent on technology. An example of this would be using the logic program to generate a piece of music from a sitar as opposed to having an actual sitar player come in and record the piece.

It makes things much more easier for them, they can learn online and any information needed is easily accessible to them.

I think they should use the technology to enhance their performance as is needed but they should have the strong knowledge and experience of the traditional and acoustic way of music 🎵

The younger generation has definitely gravitated towards technology in music because they realize that this is where the industry is heading but as far as teaching and learning is concerned face to face in front of your Guru or teacher can never be replaced.

20. How has technology impacted the education of local musicians in the authentic styles of Indian Classical music? 14 responses

Immensely. Youtube has singlehandedly revolutionised the dissemination of content, completely free. I have learned so much from listening to the masters, without ever having needed to meet them.

A very good impact as it allows students to easily access information and learn better.

For those who are willing to learn it has helped them improve

Again it has made access to information very easy.

It has made Indian Classical music more readily available to us so that we can learn to become more creative.

It has made learning more accessible

Blank.

Local Musicians are now able to learn virtually via the internet through research or looking at videos from YouTube from persons throughout the world. Now, musicians can learn even from India, the birth of Indian Classical Music from Ustaads and Pandits (learnt persons).

It has brought knowledge and musical techniques much closer than before because online resources for both theory and practical easily available in terms of the authentic styles of Indian classical music.

It has helped them to produce better music.

There has been a relaxation of knowledge of Indian Classical music since more emphasis is now placed on using technology which decreases the technical knowledge required.

They are more open minded about fusing indian classical music with other genres.

It has made the teaching of the art, more available where students can go on YouTube, though the instructions of the teacher to view examples of the various genere of music they are learning. Sometimes there are tutorials and also one on one online teaching though the Internet.

The authentic Indian or Hindusthani classical music believes in the Guru-shishya Parampara or teacher-student relationship. Online classes do some justice to the education of this art but does not replace the face to face teaching.

21. In your opinion can you describe technology's effect on the traditional components of Indian music in Trinidad?14 responses

Both positive and negative. The creation of more modern styles of music has marginalised the diminishing community of traditional artistes.

However, recording has allowed us to retain snippets of this artform for future generations which they might not otherwise be privy to.

It has a good effect as it can allow for online teaching from tutors in various countries to help students in learning how they would have studied and learn music.

Promoted it.

It basically makes the traditional components unnecessary, with respect to instruments, because there are apps that can generate the sounds.

Traditional Indian music has more or less remained the same without technology. It only helps the recording production to sound clearer.

It has made it less emotional in some cases

Blank.

Local musicians incorporated the use of the Electronic Tanpura, Electronic Swarmandal, Electronic tabla (pre-recorded: YouTube or other), Keyboard/Synthesiser (substitute other live instruments such as the sitar, sarod, sarangi, flute, strings, harmonium).

Technology has greatly impacted upon the traditional styles unique to Trinidad in terms of sound enhancement and musical instruments in relation to local classical music. It has also impacted on the chutney and folk styles by significantly adding body to the rhythmic structures of these styles.

Years ago traditional chutney used to be basically dholak, dhantal, harmonium. Now having all these new technologies it is enhancing our music and it is becoming popular world wide.

Technology has taken away some traditional roots of Indian music for example, traditionally for chutney music, singers would use both dholak and dhantal, however with the use of technology, singers now use rhythm machines with a dholak player in a more relaxed role without the use of dhantal.

Because of keeping up with technology and the market of the music, it has caused some of the elements of the traditional to be compromised by also fusing our music for the bigger audience.

With the technology of the sample sounds of the acoustic instruments ,they can be played easily on a simple keyboard or programmed on a computer to be play as the real instrument.

The traditional components of Indian music has not used technology to its advantage to promote these forms of Indian music.

22. How has social media changed the local landscape for Indian music?14 responses

It amplifies. It seems that social media communities can be brutally honest at times. The response of the community favours quality and discourages mediocrity.

I would say it has done a great job in terms of allowing international views.

Improved it and made it more accessible.

It has widened the reach of Indian Music

It has made the good aspects more popular which is wonderful but it has also made the degrading parts more popular. This allows us to be ridiculed.

It has enabled a greater reach

Social Media has both positive and negatives but on the positive side, it changed alot for indian music in the aspect that we could connect and share our music, build the audience and learn from constructive criticism.

Marketing. The Indian music that is created here in Trinidad and Tobago can now be reached locally and worldwide via Social Media. Social Media is used as a tool for advertising, marketing and also creating a virtual space for live performances.

This is so because it allows musicians to present their work both locally and internationally at an extremely low cost. It has also created many opportunities for music performers in Trinidad and Tobago.

It has helped with our music reaching further globally.

Social media has given audiences the ability to listen and watch indian music from a world wide perspective as opposed to being limited to a local stage as would previously be broadcasted by local media houses. As a result, there has been more influences in Indian music from other parts of the world. An example of this would be the increased use of western elements such as drum kits in the indian music industry which in turn has influenced our local indian music industry.

By being to showcase your talent more and by free advertising. Reaching faster and reaching out more to your audience by building a bigger fan base .

It has made it more accessible to the national community and also globally. So new artists gat their share of air play

People has more access to all forms of Indian music through youtube and Facebook etc..

23. Do you think promoting an artiste on social media versus promoting an artiste by word of mouth/call card is more effective? If yes, why?14 responses

They're different. Social media might reach more people but word-of-mouth might seem more personal and genuine and hence more likely to translate to actual bookings.

No

Social media has more reach in a shorter space of time.

Yes ofc, because they can actually have access to view or hear the material

Promoting an artiste on social media is more effective as it is faster and the way of the world. Most people are on social media.

Yes because you can reach more people but word of mouth carries a greater weight as SM can be seen as superficial and commercial

Yes it is more effective. Who in this day and age would prefer walk around to share call cards? Its easier to make a post and keep sharing it over and over.

Yes, as an avid user of technology myself, I think technology is taking over the landscape and is more effective for promoting an artiste. I think more persons are prone to using social media frequent as opposed to speaking to each other about an artiste.

It is more effective because the entire process can be achieved in a much shorter period of time.

Social media is more effective because it can reach a larger scale of people globally.

Yes this has proven to be more effective due to the amount of time spent per day on social media by the population. Upcoming artists have found great success in promoting their content for practically free on these various social media platforms.

Yes it is more effective through social media because you get to reach out to a bigger audience. Everyone is on social media.

Social media promotion best, as you can get most views locally and globally

Definitely social media because your can reach a greater audience

24. Do you think that social media has had any negative effect on local Indian artistes? Why do you think so?14 responses

I don't believe so.

Yes, as students can compare themselves and can create a bad atmosphere in terms of their progress in music as some may feel intimidated and drop out. Also, addiction to their technologies which is not good health wise.

No, because they can get peers to see and comment on their work.

Definitely, it opens them up to criticism as well

I believe it's 50/50. Some artistes receive good feedback whereas others are criticized.

No, unless you are not ready for that platform then you may face negativity. Everyone is not an artiste by simply producing and releasing a track

Yes, views and comments from everybody may not be healthy for an artiste.

Not really. Some artistes may make things bad for themselves by answering negatively to negative comments. Some persons may not share their work thus not making them seen by more persons on social media which would result in a decline of advertising for that artiste. However, I think that if the quality of the work is to a professional standard, persons will share.

There may exist a certain degree of misrepresentation where individuals may share music that may not be theirs and not properly acknowledge where it was sourced, and may also share music that has been adjusted to reflect musical accuracy. This can be looked at as a form of misrepresentation towards the local community. There are also instances where fake profiles may be created to misrepresent artistes as well as hacked profiles which can have significant negative repercussions.

Yes, lots of bashing from the public.

Yes, in my opinion, social media influence from dancehall and reggae artists have pushed greater demand on these genres of music, as a result, a lot of the local artists have used this to create fusion music between these genres which has been successful due to listener demand, once again diverting from the pure elements of Indian music.

In a way yes, there are negative effects. One major one is some artistes get carried away by the attention that they believe that's all to their music. They now lack the passion to learn and improve their craft.

Well if someone doesn't like the music of just want to degrade an artiste they can easily do so without having to backup their claims.

Only if people post negative things or comments about the artistes.

25. How have online platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams, influenced the accessibility of music education from authentic Indian musicians/educators?¹⁴
responses

Well they're particularly useful now because of Covid. But I generally prefer in-person classes and I believe that to be the case for most people. Perhaps when we return to normalcy their prominence shall reduce significantly.

(They're definitely valuable though.)

These virtual online sessions and technologies have aided very well as it is similar to face-to-face public gatherings which makes continued progress and communication easier due to the current pandemic situation of the country.

Positively influenced. We have access to some of the best teachers in the world without leaving our home.

In a very positive manner, we can now access classes with persons internationally who have earned great recognition in the artform

It has made it so much more effective and efficient for learning as I can live here, in Trinidad, but study online from bollywood singers and musicians such as Shankar Mahadevan.

Greatly, masters from overseas can now be accessed by anyone

The pandemic has changed how some artistes go about learning, so classes are online. But personally, I don't think the online sessions would be as effective as face to face interaction.

I am unsure because I haven't used these technologies to access music education. But I am sure with the current situation we are living in, teachers will use these platforms to create an avenue for students for example: U.W.I. D.C.F.A.

It has greatly enhanced all mentioned above towards making the music easily accessible to all interested parties.

Because of covid most of us as artistes have turned to these platforms to do only be training etc,have meeting etc.

These platforms have given a wider audience the chance to learn and further music education from an increased market pool of tutors especially during the pandemic period where physical classes have been halted.

It's easier to learn and now you get teachers from all over the world.

Most greatly influenced and more teaching to the students from anywhere in the world and they can also the students choose who they may wish to learn from.

It has definitely because in my case i teach students locally and internationally using such platforms.

26. From your experience, what are some disadvantages that technology poses?14 responses

It might disproportionately reward higher socio-economical classed artistes regardless of actual musical ability.

Cost, addiction, health problems, level of education in understanding how to use certain devices may be difficult for some.

Dependency and complacency.

It may cause us to lose the essence of the instruments and its music, causes persons to choose the shorter way therefore diminishing the quality of the music.

Technology sometimes can have glitches, where you can lose your work but it can also hinder creativity as you get accustomed to technology being at your fingertips. It can also be unfair to truly talented people if used wrongly.

By replacing live musicians, it can take away from the soul of the music

From my experience, I haven't really seen any disadvantages.

The loss of jobs for live performing musicians

The false advertising of what represents the culture of Trinidad and Tobago via Social Media and other technologically inclined platforms

Persons taking the easy way out, meaning not getting an education in their respective field

"I think I mentioned some previously as well."

Smart phones, devices and computers can malfunction and affect musicians stored work.

Bashing,negative comments,stalking,abuse etc.

For applications such as mobile phone tuning applications, the tuning of instruments is still not as precise as real tuners,

It can make a non singer sounds professional, it gets artistes a bit lazy to improve their craft .

The face to face interaction or personal learning is missed. With technology in performing arts u always get a delay in the practical sessions. More persons per teacher the delay is mich more

The latency in the sound of many programmes and different internet speeds poses problems for us, as artistes cannot practice or play together.

27. Has sequencing (pre-recorded music on Ableton, Logic etc.) of the live music negatively affected its authenticity? Decreased skill levels? Depleted respect/trust in the musicians from the audiences?14 responses

For sure.

yes

I think it has but it is also cost effective. I don't think it decreased the skill levels. The majority of the audience hearing a studio sound might not be able to tell the difference.

Definitely! 100%

Yes it has because now it's hard to distinguish who is really talented from those who aren't.

Yes, it has made performances more commercial

Yes it negatively affects the authenticity. Real music is when the musicians play and be innovative on the spot. The sequencing does not allow for that kind of innovation.

Definitely, all of the above.

Yes, there have been cases where these situations have occurred and have been met with great resentment from members of an audience as well as from members of the music fraternity. People enjoy seeing and listening to music that is actually played rather than shadowed.

No. As a matter of fact it has actually helped our music to become and sound more professional.

Sequencing has greatly relaxed the role of musicians since their role now are to play backing chords. Most of the interlude music are now being sequenced. There is a general perception amongst audiences now that most musicians especially for band music are only shadowing which has made them lost trust in these musicians.

Honestly no , it's being used worldwide and yes there would have a few that against technology.

Yes, It caused the real musician to be eliminated or seems as if they just shadowing not actually playing

Yes to a certain extent. The live feel is no longer in the music when artistes and musicians sequence music

28. What are your thoughts on the effect of sequencing programs, if any, on a musician's integrity?14 responses

Well I believe there's a difference between correcting minor inaccuracies and making significant changes to an extent that there's barely any raw music left. The usage of it to do the latter definitely compromises the integrity of any involved artiste. Then, when they have to perform live, they themselves will be unable to hide.

If not done properly, the music production may be unsuccessful affecting the musician

It depends on the application, is it a live performance or a studio release? If live then I would definitely say it affects the integrity, but for a studio release then no.

I believe it's taking shortcuts, and speaks a lot about a person if he/she rather sequence music than produce quality

I think that it makes them lack integrity if they rely on that solely.

It depends how m the situation but ultimately it makes musicians lazy

I think a musician should stay away from sequencing and stay true to themselves.

The use of sequencing programs are used as tool for musicians to become lazy thus tarnishing the names of musicians who are actually performing and studying this professionally and academically. I agree to use the sequencing programs but only to enhance the musician's skills, meaning musicians must also play live music together with sequencing. It is a very lazy approach and I, a professional and academically qualified in the field forbid this lazy practice.

This may pose a problem of trust and acceptance if done in live applications, for recording purposes it may be largely permissible.

Personality I do not like sequencing,i prefer live music.you can sing more freely and gives out a great vibes.

I believe that sequencing has greatly enabled single musicians to be able to take accompanying gigs making them sound like a full band at a much cheaper price which has made them more economical to clients, but this has adversely affected live bands and their desire to continue promoting live music.

It's a way forward because you don't have to rely on other musicians and an advantage is cutting cost . We don't have the availability of having 20 musicians in a band . Whilst we can have way less and sound full . We can either embrace it with our natural talent or get left back . There is a difference with real musicians using it and someone who uses it without any talent and pretends to play .

It should be used as for studio recording and live performances please give the musicians a chance to performance and get chance to work in order to earn money for themselves

A musician's integrity is key. Don't say you're 100% live and you're hearing other instruments that are not on the stage.

29. With our current global restrictions due to Covid-19, has technology facilitated the survival of the performance industry? In what way?14 responses

Definitely. Musicians have found many creative ways to collaborate with each other (even from across the world). Maybe pay wouldn't have been as much as usual, but it's better than nothing!

In terms of live performances online

It allowed people to still enjoy live music and allowed musicians to keep their head above water.

Definitely, we're able to still see or hear them via social media and have concerts via live streams

Technology has facilitated the survival of the performance industry as artistes have been promoting themselves online through concerts on social media platforms etc. Corporate entities have also been involved to sustain the industry.

Yes in many ways by providing an avenue for artists to still share their talent and make some revenue

It facilitated the survival of big artistes in the performance industry. Promoters have organised shows as we would have seen in the recent "Virtual Carnival"

In some ways yes but it made it a bit difficult. Some set up GoFundMe accounts or even WireTransfer to support artistes in live performances. However, it is not substantial yet because this is not a norm.

Technology has facilitated the music industry during the pandemic to some extent. Artistes have found many creative ways of having their recordings, concerts, lectures, seminars and classes to happen online.

Yes. We can use social media platforms to do live session, virtual events and use some of the technology to enhance our performance.

Yes, technology has enabled the push for online concerts during the pandemic period when everyone were restricted at home. This was able to be done through programs such as logic and main stage where individual band members could work remotely from their home studio to add in the tracks of their instruments to a project file.

Just a bit by doing virtually concerts , zoom music classes and still being able to produced music . We can still showcase our talent on social media.

Yes, through the virtual online performances. So artiste still get to performing

Yes it has presented some opportunities such as online performances but not helped financially in a meaningful way.

30. Do you think that this current global pandemic has inspired a lot of online content from local Indian musicians?14 responses

It definitely has inspired it. I haven't personally noticed enough of it to say it's a lot though.

yes

Definitely.

Definitely

Not necessarily. I think that it was always there but now that we are forced to slow down and be online directly, it has become more noticeable.

Definitely it has changed the game

Yes it has.

It has but it has also limit some musicians as well due to financial constraints and lack of amateur-professional equipment.

Yes it has, very much.

Yes

Yes. Because of the large number of persons being home especially during the peak of the pandemic, alot of our local indian musicians were able to launch covid online performances to keep audiences entertained in their homes.

Yes it has .

Yes

Some artistes was inspired to create online content but not too many artistes.

31. What positive effects would you say the global pandemic has had on both traditional and contemporary musicians in their utilization of technology?14 responses

Many of us have developed skills beyond just our musical ability. We've invested time and money to learn to record and produce, mix and master, maximise social media potential, etc.

It still allowed for musicians to perform and allow online teaching for students as we would normally do face-to-face.

It forced them to be innovative with their classes and even performances.

It has forced us to use the technology already available

I would say that it has awakened and displayed their creativity in music.

It has encouraged artists to become more innovative

It allowed the musicians to take time and learn some new stuff from others around the world.

1. Create another avenue for musicians to display their talent
2. Generate another source of income in having live performances through social media
3. Improve marketing and self-advertising
4. Keeping connected with persons despite the Covid-19 protocols
5. Becoming tech savvy

6. Development of a greater appreciation for technology as this is the new norm

Both groups, although were not able to physically entertain audiences as before, they were able to get their product out there due to technology.

It has encouraged us to do more live sessions.

The pandemic has given artists the time off from their regular work duties to invest and improve on their craft by practicing, and furthering their music knowledge.

I would say having virtually concerts to reach their audience and still being able to interact with their fans .

The positive effects are, that the artist can get their music and voice recordings out to all of the global world 🌐 as a greater listenership can be influenced.

It has given them the time to educate themselves in their art as well as using technology.

32. After the global pandemic, do you see the Indian music industry in Trinidad becoming more in demand by the public? 14 responses

The economy needs time to recover and I don't believe many people see music as a necessity/priority. Maybe in time. I am hopeful.

yes

Yes, the people will want entertainment.

Possibly, because persons would be craving the social interaction of it

Nope. I think it's going to be the same.

Nope... it truly lacks anything that sober people can enjoy. Melodies - not original & Lyrics - Poor etc.

This is unpredictable.

It is difficult to give a direct answer on this. To check on this, a study of the demand before and during the pandemic can be touched upon to give a inconclusive answer.

There is naturally going to be the impression that a resurgence of Indian music will happen. However, I believe it will continue to exist in the manner it had been before the pandemic, but this will take some time before any kind of normalcy returns.

I am not sure because our industry hasn't been the same since the pandemic.

I see a slight increase in demand as in my opinion there has been a general improvement in the lyrical content and melodies in the Indian music industry. Audiences have had a small change of heart to certain artists who they normally associate poor lyrical content and copying melodies,

Yes. Because the audience are being starved of being truly entertained.

Yes

Yes I do.

33. Do you think that technology has had an overall positive impact on Indian music? If yes, in what way? If not, why?14 responses

Yes. Everything previously discussed.

yes as it allowed for exposure through online performances and availability of information to students

Yes, better quality, more versatility in recordings and practice, ability to get content seen.

Yes especially with respect to accessibility of information but at the same time too many person choose to utilise the technology to replace a lot of the authenticity

It has. The overall sound has become better but the quality of entertainers has not.

Yes but not in Trinidad. As it's used here just to put content out without any focus on quality

Yes it has, allowed artistes and musicians to do their research and double check song meaning etc before putting it out in the public.

Yes.

The overall quality of the sound of recordings and live performances has improved, but not the talent of the vocalists (only a few has but not the majority).

Yes it has positively affect the Indian music industry in a general sense.

Yes.it brings about unity,love,togetherness.

I think there has been a negative impact in Indian music as technology has taken the focus away from some key original elements of the music.

Yes it has , show casing the music is reach out to more people and allowing your audience to have a better understanding about indian music .

Yes it has. As more artiste use the it can can be a tool for their success

Technology has had a positive impact on Indian music because you find more artistes are recording and putting they work out there.

34. What advice would you give to the young and upcoming artistes interested in utilizing technology?14 responses

Just start. Use whatever you have on hand to broaden your skillset. You never know where you might be able to take it.

Utilize well

Do your research and see what tech suits you best.

Use the opportunity to educate yourself about the origin and essence of the music and to market yourself as an artiste.

Ensure that the foundation in music is set and their is respect and morals behind the music and artform.

Look at coke studio. Use technology to enhance not make music.

Now is the time to get affiliated with the technology, do not wait for later.

Be educated in the particular field.

Be humble.

Take advice from learnt qualified persons.

Be creative and push and go beyond the typical boundaries.

I would encourage them fully in using the various technologies available as it relates to Indian music because I believe this is a step in the right environment towards the development towards the music industry.

Use it to the best of your ability to help build yourself because long ago artistes.wasmt lucky enough to have these advancements.

Do not take advice from the general public who think that technology has only negatively impacted Indian music, technology has given music in general plenty improvements and other benefits. The key is to understand these helpful benefits of technology and also to utilize technology in a good way while not taking away the originality and raw elements of whatever music genre you may associate with.

Never forget to improve your craft naturally whilst being into technology.

This must first learn the rudiments and traditional genre of the music 🎵 especially the acoustic music and knowing the value of that tradition. Then venture out into the contemporary style locally and globally

Firstly educate yourself in your chosen field of art, then use technology to enhance this art.

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