In hip-hop, beat makers are the driving force behind every major and local artist who entertains the genre. There would be no groove, bounce, or genre for that matter, without the aid of the beat maker. In a world that is dominated by advancing technologies, music is progressing rapidly. My research aim was to evaluate if our definitions of what it means to be a musician and or a composer have progressed as well.

In understanding the process by which beat makers create their works, one can see that the differences between the two mainly lies between the acquiring of distinguished but similar skill sets. For those who used strictly live instrumentation and traditional instruments, the skill set acquired was the result of a traditional route, which entailed the process of mastering music theory along with mastering the techniques of an instrument. In the case of the beat maker, the skill set required to truly thrive derives from the mastery of your technology. Whereas the live instrumentalist becomes one with their respective instrument, the beat maker has the ability to access a wide array of instruments through their technology. Although this is ideal in most cases, this presents a situation where the beat maker grasps the concepts of multiple instruments but does not master them individually. Through the process of qualitative research, I will look into the perception and process of beat makers as the composers of hip-hop. I will also investigate and compare the contemporary creative processes of live instrumentalists to that of beat makers.

**CONCLUSIONS**

After conducting numerous interviews I was able to culminate an idea of what music professionals truly believe defines a musician, a composer, and a digital musician. When speaking with producers, both on an amateur and a professional level, I found that they all followed a similar notion. Although some of these producers began their musical journeys with little to no serious training, they all felt as though becoming more fluent in music theory was a necessary step towards becoming a better beat maker. Even those who had started out making music solely through technology had felt that mastering an instrument would better their musical ability as a producer. Surprisingly enough, these beat makers with no formal training did not shy away from the title of musician, as they easily believed they fell under that umbrella. They did however, tend to shy away from the titles of composer and digital musician. For some, the title of Composer was reserved for those who could create music through any medium, whether it is through sheet music or a Digital Audio Workstation. Conversely, those who did not produce, in example engineers, instrumentalist, choir directors etc. welcomed the idea of the beat maker being consider as a new age composer. Amongst the varying opinions, what I have found is that these two aspects of creation differ yes, but at their core live instrumentation and beat making share a common level of musicianship that is often overlooked.

**REFERENCES**

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