1. **Find a generative AI music service that is currently on the Web. Try generating a musical example (most are either prompt-based "Taylor Swift meets Ada Lovelace and they create a song together" or push a few buttons and generate). Generate a short example using the service and download it, or come to class prepared to play it in class.**

When I entered the prompt "**relaxing heavy metal in the beat of Radiohead in slow temp in D#**," the AI-generated music output did not match my request. Instead, I received a fast tempo bass line rock music with ambient sound in the background. This output did not meet my expectations of a piece of music that would make me feel relaxed. I found it awkward because the resulting music hung in the middle of a metal song and ambient music, which made it even more bizarre.

1. **Do you agree with Tod Machover's assessment that current music AI systems sound "confused"? Explain why or why not with respect to your selected service.**

In my view, the perplexity I share with Tod regarding AI-generated music stems from a lack of coherence in both the musical concept and the instruments, which do not work together harmoniously. Even when I provide specific prompts, I have observed that the AI-generated music output does not always meet my expectations. For instance, if I request a song in a key of D# or slow tempo, the resulting output may not match what I had in mind. Instead, the model gives me a G# in fast tempo. Similarly, when I ask for a specific style of music, the AI may not be able to combine the requested elements cohesively, resulting in an unsatisfactory output.

Although the quality of the generated sound may not be poor, the disconnect between the music and the listeners detracts from the listening experience. This is particularly evident when the AI tries to merge disparate elements, such as heavy metal and soothing beats, resulting in a disjointed output. Consequently, the lack of coherence prevents me from enjoying the music fully. Therefore, I concur with Tod's viewpoint that the situation can be confusing.

This experience has brought to light the limitations of AI technology in comprehending and fulfilling complex requests. Although the AI may be capable of producing music that meets certain parameters like tempo and key, it may struggle to amalgamate different genres or create music with a consistent concept. This is why it’s confusing.

1. **Describe the cross-cultural factors that Yaboi Hanoi and other artists address in their works with AI for non-western music.**

In my opinion, Yaboi Hanoi's discovery of AI's potential for music creation does not involve asking the model to magically produce music. Instead, he employs AI as a synthesizer to map the 12-tone model to seven-tone equal temperament tuning. Furthermore, he modifies the scale and octave to suit his culture, resulting in a work that is distinct from the Western music world. By experimenting with various machine learning and digital editing techniques, he can create something that conventional composition cannot achieve. All of this raises the question of whether we should regard AI as a music composer or a supportive tool that empowers artists. Yaboi Hanoi clearly leans toward the latter, allowing him to focus on the cultural aspects of the art, uncovering symbols of his identity, background, and the music he listens to, ultimately leading to his victory in an AI-generated music competition.