

# Exploring the Art of Folk Music Class in Northern Anhui Province by Taking "Zhoujiaban and Spinelim Horn" as an Example Cultural Value

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**Abstract:** The spinach horn has been inherited by the Zhou family class until now, and the Zhou family class has played a vital role in spreading the folk music culture of the spinach horn in northern Anhui. This paper explores the musical and cultural values and characteristics of the spinach horn through the investigation of the historical origin and development of the Zhou family class, so as to lay the foundation for the future inheritance and development of the spinach horn. In the past hundred years, the spinach horn has gradually changed from a single performance form to a diversified performance form under the inheritance of the Zhou family class, and nowadays the spinach horn is closely related to folklore and the society of the times; from a single fixed arrangement of musical instruments to the integration of modern instruments such as western instruments as auxiliary performance. The spinach forest horn is being understood, accepted and loved by more and more people. The spinach forest horn is the inheritance of regional music culture and the crystallization of national music culture, which contains infinite cultural values.

**Keywords:** Cultural characteristics; Musical culture; Spinach Forest Horn; Zhou family class.

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## 1. Introduction

The Zhou family class has a long history, and since its inception, it has maintained its original style of drumming and blowing. In fact, the origin of the Zhou family class is not from Lingbi County, but followed the migration of the victims to Lingbi County. As the first generation of the Zhou family class master, Zhou culture learned suona blowing from childhood and led his clan to create the Zhou family class in order to support his family, which laid a solid foundation for the later development of the spinach forest horn. At the beginning of the Zhou family class, the scope of its activities was rural areas, where farmers lived a simple farming life and did not know much about music and cultural performances, which led to a very difficult environment for the development of the Zhou family class in the beginning. In the course of continuous development, the Zhou Clan gradually developed more diversified forms of performance, and adhered to the essence of close to life, the Zhou Clan's performance made the boring farming life a little more cheerful, and also aroused the working people's deepest desire for life. Zhou Zhengyu, the owner of the third generation of the Zhou family class, who carried forward the Zhou family class, has been passing on the skill of playing the spinach forest horn to his descendants, which has greatly enriched the life of the rural people and laid a solid foundation for the later development and transmission of the spinach forest horn. The fourth generation of Zhou's drumming artists have incorporated more music culture close to the times based on the performance of the former Zhou's class, which has played a key role in enriching the performance form and style of the spinach trumpet, while the spinach trumpet has gradually gone to the whole country and even to the world with the footsteps of the fourth generation, fully demonstrating the style of the folk music class in northern Anhui Province of China and the charm of Chinese traditional music culture.

Nowadays, the spinach forest horn as one of the essence of China has gained the support of relevant departments, and the state is also vigorously promoting the development and inheritance of traditional culture, the spinach forest horn is one of the important representatives of the development of folk music culture in northern Anhui, with the support of social resources, the Zhou family class began to constantly standardize itself, drawing on the basic knowledge of simple folk life elements also into the knowledge of modern music system to improve its own music theory. The Zhou family class has been handed down for more than a hundred years, and is the core force of the folk music culture inheritance in Spinelim horn and even in northern Anhui, with seven generations of its own surname. The folk music art of northern Anhui is also getting more attention and inheritance because of the development of the spinach forest horn. The development and inheritance of the folk music culture and art and even other intangible cultural heritages have been promoted by the spinach horn, which cannot be ignored.

## 2. The musical and cultural characteristics of Spinach Forest Horn

The instruments used in the performance of the spinach forest horn include suona, pipe, sheng, flute and other wind instruments and traditional percussion instruments such as drums and gongs, generally in combinations of seven to eight people, and sometimes in combinations of ten or more people according to the needs of the performance occasion. Some of the bands also add western instruments such as electronic piano and western zither and pipe to assist in the performance, which has a rich repertoire and unique music while showing the etiquette. The volume of the spinach forest horn is high but not irritating, soft but not greasy, which makes people enjoyable.

The origin of the Zhou family class is rural, and the founders were also farmers, who did not know how to arrange music and change the combination of the music class performance. They made the spinach forest horn the most important form of performance. The simple performance form of the Zhou Clan has never been far from the essence of working people's life, which makes the Zhou Clan's performance in rural areas become very popular because of its closeness to life. In the beginning, the Zhou family class was not very large in number, and the performance forms and combinations were relatively simple, and the instruments they used were mostly various blowing and playing instruments, and they were often active in various occasions of red and white festivals in rural areas. Under the background of rapid development of modern music culture, complex music system and many musical instruments, the Zhou family class is also absorbing modern music elements and adding the modern music culture's sense of the times while maintaining its own simple and simple performance form. Its repertoire is also constantly adding modern pop music and music from different ethnic groups and regions. Nowadays, with the growing team of performing talents of the Zhou family class, the cultural diversification and development of the Zhou family class have been driven, and the spinach forest horn has been continuously inherited and developed, while its musical and cultural characteristics have become more diversified and have distinctive characteristics of the times.

### **3. The musical and cultural value of Spinach Forest Horn**

The initial performance of Zhou Jia Ban always revolves around the red and white festivals of the region, and the local folk culture plays a vital role in the development of Zhou Jia Ban. The development of the performance form of spinach forest horn is also inseparable from the local folk culture, and the appearance of spinach forest horn is indispensable for all kinds of local red and white festivals [1]. In fact, many folk music classes exist because of red and white festivals, and so does the Zhou family class, which is recognized by people and accepted by the society, and the social and cultural values generated by its existence are immeasurable. In the local area of Lingbi County, the spinach forest trumpet runs between all kinds of red and white festivals, and it has become the first choice of local folk music classes for red and white festivals. According to different occasions, the Zhou family class will play different repertoire. Although the way of performing the spinach horn is simple, but adding some other musical elements will create different musical effects, which is the fundamental reason why the spinach horn can become the main instrument in many performance repertoire [2]. The effect and cultural value of the music produced by the spinach horn varies according to the emotions of the players and the atmosphere of different occasions. It brings out the folklore of the region and provides a great reference value for the study of folklore. It is necessary and inevitable for the existence of the spinach trumpet to carry the people's spirit and spread to all directions as a medium. It is the representative of folk music, which carries the social value of living culture, regional culture and national culture, and it gradually develops its own value of existence by integrating national culture, living culture and folk culture [3].

Compared with other non-foreign heritage in China, the spinach horn seems to have gone farther, as it entered several

European countries around 2017 and held several concerts and received unanimous recognition from foreign media and the public, and even the British Library has collected its performance recordings. This has undoubtedly played a positive role in the development of Spinelhorn and Chinese traditional music culture, and also helped to build national self-confidence. While enriching its own cultural connotation, the spinach horn is also spreading its rich cultural connotation to all over the world, integrating and enriching with different nationalities, but no matter how the spinach horn develops, the cultural roots it contains will never change.

### **4. Embodiment of the cultural value of the spinach forest horn**

The initial performance of Zhoujiaban always revolves around the red and white festivals of the region, and the local folk culture plays a vital role in the development of Zhoujiaban. The development of the performance form of spinach forest horn is also inseparable from the local folk culture, and the appearance of spinach forest horn is indispensable for all kinds of local red and white festivals. Most of the music classes survive because of the red and white festivals, and the Zhou family class is no exception. This kind of universal folklore performance is socially recognized and accepted, and it is indispensable, and its social and cultural value is immeasurable. As the gatekeeper of the Zhou family class, the performance of the spinach trumpet has appeared in the red and white ceremonies in various areas of Lingbi County as the Zhou family class travels around, and the Zhou family class is the creator and promoter of the performance skills of the spinach trumpet, and their performance skills have been sublimated through many performances. It is because of their skillful performance that the Zhou Clan has become the first choice among the musical groups invited for local red and white ceremonies. Depending on the occasion, the Zhou family class will play different repertoire. Although the performance style of the spinach horn is simple, the addition of some other instrumental elements creates a different musical effect, which is the fundamental reason why the spinach horn can become the main instrument in many performance repertoires. The music represented by the horn does not have any actual meaning, but the performer gives the music itself human emotion, and under the promotion of different occasions and atmospheres, the music itself will show its emotional effect according to the performer's will.

The existence of Zhoujiaban is closely related to regional folklore, and their existence is also due to people's emotional attachment to life. The existence of Zhoujiaban makes us yearn for life more, which is also a reflection of the value of traditional folk music culture. Whether it is the traditional farming life or the modern life, we need for this kind of spiritual attachment, this kind of folk music is able to always exist, and this is the reason why folk music can transition from the traditional music culture to the modern music culture. It is the representative of folk music, which carries the social value of living culture, regional culture and national culture, and gradually develops the value of its own existence by continuously integrating national culture, living culture and folk culture. As one of the representatives of traditional music culture and modern music culture, the spinach forest horn constantly absorbs various cultural elements to enrich its own cultural value, and at the same time spreads its own regional cultural contents to all over the world and fuses with the

cultures of various nationalities and regions. Folk culture is the foundation of the development of spinach forest horn, and without it, the development of spinach forest horn is like a rootless floating weed. No matter how to change the cultural value represented by the spinach horn itself, its own folk culture roots always exist.

## 5. Conclusion

Folk music culture has always been an important support point in the development of northern Anhui music culture. Like most arts, folk music culture has developed from human life and is not separated from the human environment, and it represents a long history of cultural development in northern Anhui. The development of folk music culture in northern Anhui has not only relied on the development of folk life, but is also the product of the fusion of different forms of culture in northern Anhui. Drawing different cultures from different times in different cultural histories is at the same time the reason for the formation of folk music class.

As one of the most outstanding musical groups in Lingbi and even in Northern Anhui, Zhou Jia Ban, as the representative of spinach trumpet in Northern Anhui, has been continuously inheriting the skills of spinach trumpet, and through the continuous innovation of Zhou Jia Ban, spinach trumpet has become a household name of folk music culture in Northern Anhui. At the same time, spinach trumpet stands on a broader stage and gradually moves from the countryside to the big cities, which makes more people understand this folk music form in northern Anhui and the related government also starts to pay attention to the inheritance and development

of this performing art. Nowadays, the spinach forest horn has been listed as the provincial cultural heritage, which is a confirmation of the spinach forest horn and the Zhou family class who inherits this skill. It can be seen that the Zhou family class has played a pivotal role in inheriting the folk music culture of northern Anhui.

Born in the folk culture, the Zhou family class has carried forward the spinach trumpet and made more people feel the charm of this folk music performance form in northern Anhui. It can be said that the Zhou family class is the representative of the spinach forest horn, and the relationship between them and the spinach forest horn has been inseparable, and the spinach forest horn has been writing new legends in the development of a hundred years, and it has been integrating the elements of the new era while inheriting the simple feelings of rural life. The spinach forest horn has given a new light to the life of rural people and brought a unique musical culture to urban people. Even though the society and times are changing rapidly, the aspiration for a better life that people put in the spinach horn will never change.

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