

# Analysis of the Historical Origin of Ancient Chinese Poetry and Art Songs

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**Abstract:** The successful combination of poetry and dynamic beauty in poetry and dynamic beauty in music often brings vitality to people with transcendent aesthetic enjoyment. Classical poetry is an important cultural treasure in ancient Chinese literature, and it also has a relatively broad cultural value in the context of the current era, and is a brilliant pearl of Chinese culture. Ancient Chinese poetry and art songs refer to a relatively unique form of music genre produced by taking the poetry of Chinese literati and scholars as the singing content, adding scores and soundtracks by composers, and skillfully integrating poetry, rhyme and vocal emotion. After thousands of years of development, Chinese modern art songs combine literary art and musical art, precipitating thousands of years of cultural connotations of the Chinese nation; It embodies the spiritual feelings of thousands of people and is an important part of the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. It is not only a perfect combination of traditional culture and elegant art, but also the symbiotic link between poetry and music. It has been spread for thousands of years in the long river of literature and art of the Chinese nation for a long time, and has profound historical connotation and high research value.

**Keywords:** Ancient Poetry; Art Songs; Classical.

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## 1. Introduction

Ancient poetry art song is an indispensable treasure in China's musical treasury, which effectively fills the fault and gap between traditional culture and modern art, successfully connects artistic expressions under different time and space, and is a unique art form formed after thousands of years of precipitation and accumulation. Chinese ancient poetry art songs perfectly blend modern composing techniques with the characteristics of ancient poetry culture, so that the songs can be sung in a catchy way, but also express the magnificent mood and profound artistic connotation of classical poetry and show the color of intriguing stories.

## 2. Organization of the Text

### 2.1. The Origin of Art Songs

The music song "art song" was originally proposed in Europe. It was officially established in the 19th century. It is characterized by the use of excellent poets as lyrics, accompanied by beautiful piano accompaniment, so "art songs" have high literature and appreciation. In Europe, especially in Germany, Austria, France and other countries, the excellent art songs have achieved rich results. Representative composers include Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, etc. In China, the musical forms that match poetry with tunes have a long history. Throughout the history of Chinese music, the development path of ancient poetry ranges from the pre-Qin Dynasty to the Book of Songs to the Songs of the Folk songs of the Northern, Northern and Southern Dynasties to Jiang Baishi songs to the Ming and Qing Dynasties to the Yuan Dynasty and then to the modern ancient poetry. Although ancient poetry and cultural songs carry strong traditional cultural information, and are difficult to move forward in the inheritance of the current era, rich artistic resources have been formed after many generations of inheritance.

### 2.2. The Development of Chinese Poetry and Music

Chinese music art has been developed for many years. As a traditional Chinese literature and art, its development process can be called a "long history". From the perspective of artistic origin, poetry and dance and music are one, and they have a long homologous relationship. Ancient ballads are the collective oral creation of primitive people in the process of production and labor, which is the earliest literary style. When primitive people are engaged in collective labor, in order to coordinate labor, reduce fatigue, often unconsciously according to the rhythm of labor calls. It is the earliest poem in China.

The Book of Songs, the first collection of Chinese poems, is the earliest popular poetry collection in China, which appeared in the Western Zhou Dynasty. It collected 311 poems that were circulated at the time. Confucius and his disciples divided it into three parts: wind, elegance and song, and recorded the history and the lives of the working people from the Western Zhou Dynasty to the Spring and Autumn Period. It has a profound and rich cultural accumulation. It is the source of Chinese realism literature and leads the creation of poetry in later generations. Later, Qu Yuan inherited the four-sentence songs. While collecting and adapting the folk songs of the Chu state, he created a new poetic form, — Chu Ci, which is the source of Chinese romantic literature. Since the specific singing melody of the Book of Songs is taught through oral teaching, although the specific melody singing method is still unclear, the Book of Songs is still studying and writing songs in it because of its high literary and artistic value.

During the time of Emperor Wudi of the Western Han Dynasty, a music organization called — Yuefu was established. Its duty was to collect folk ballads or literati poems with music in prepare for court sacrifice or banquet music. The establishment of Yuefu not only collected many

excellent folk poems, but also promoted the creation of new poems. These excellent poems are collectively known as "Yuefu poems". It reflects the social life of the time with its fresh art form and wonderful narrative techniques. This simple and natural language is a new style of poetry after the Book of Songs and Chu Ci. It is yet another great collection of ancient Chinese folk songs. Yuefu poetry has created a new style of poetic realism.

During the Three Kingdoms and Jin Dynasties, it gradually turned to poetry creation. Due to the long-term confrontation between the Southern and Northern Dynasties, there were obvious differences in politics, economy, culture, nationality, customs, natural environment and other aspects. Therefore, the folk songs of the Southern and Northern Dynasties also showed obvious differences. The folk songs of the Southern Dynasties were clear and beautiful, most of which reflected the sincere and pure love life of the people, while the folk songs of the Northern Dynasties were strong and bold, which widely reflected the turbulent social reality in the north and the people's living habits. Folk songs of the Southern and Northern Dynasties are another group of poems written by the people after the folk songs of the Han Yuefu. It has created a new art form and style.

During the Sui and Tang dynasties, poetry and literature were highly developed, and the imperial examinations since the Tang Dynasty prompted everyone reading to be able to write poetry. During this period, the economy was highly prosperous, so the literati had more leisure time to write poetry, so a large number of poets appeared in the Tang Dynasty, and they created a large number of intelligent masterpieces, and these works are collectively known as Tang poetry. The form and style of Tang Dynasty poetry are rich and colorful, and they are innovative in the previous form. It not only inherited the folk songs and Yuefu poems of Han and Wei, but also greatly developed the style of poetry; it not only inherited the ancient poetic forms of the five elements and seven lines, but also developed into a long narrative and emotional poetry; it not only expanded the use of the five elements and seven lines, but also created a particularly beautiful and neat modern poetic style. The creation and maturity of the poetry in the Tang Dynasty have pushed the artistic characteristics of ancient Chinese poetry to an unprecedented height.

In the Song Dynasty, the prosperity of "Song Ci" was the prosperity period of ancient Chinese poetry and art songs. The Song Dynasty songs basically had the form of artistic songs. After entering the Song Dynasty, the creation of characters is a literary form of singing with music. It inherited the innovation and development of ancient poetry, and its emergence, development, creation and widespread spread are directly related to music. Each sentence of Song Ci has long and short, which is easy to sing with music. The Song Dynasty is the peak of the development of Ci. Therefore, later people regarded Song Ci as the most representative literature of the Song Dynasty, along with the poems of the Tang Dynasty, so the name "Tang poetry and Song Ci" appeared. Since then, a large number of lyricists appeared, and formed a new poetic style, namely Song Ci.

In the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, the musical forms gradually turned to Chinese opera, and many opera music works appeared, but the creation of ancient poems and songs gradually slowed down or even stagnated. The poets of this period focused on collecting and integrating ancient poetry and lyrics from previous generations. In addition, the art of

guzheng "Qin Song" developed from the Qin period can be regarded as the "living fossil" of the ancient poetry art. After entering the Yuan Dynasty, scattered and ju began to be popular, collectively known as Yuan Song. It not only has lyrics and narration, but also the overall genre is still based on Song ci. At the same time, it integrates the essence of poetry and fugue, forming a unique literary characteristic. Yuan Qu inherits the beauty and elegance of poetry, and at the same time provides a new and pleasant art form for the Yuan Dynasty with its profound realistic exposure, extensive themes, popular language, vivid forms and various skills. The major literary achievements of the Ming and Qing dynasties were novels, especially those appearing under the mixture of ideological and cultural changes in the Qing Dynasty, which had complex ideological struggles and life aspirations. By the late period of the Qing Dynasty, new ideas began to sprout and new cultures began to wake up. After the Reform movement of 1898, some poems full of ideals and yearning for a better life in the future appeared. In this period, there is the prototype of modern poetry in place. Compared with ancient poetry, it is more moving, more impromptu, and freer. It does not pursue rhythm, which is a direct strike to the mind.

In the 19th century, the Opium War forced the door of China, and western music knowledge flooded into China. This created the pioneer of the combination of modern western music melody and Chinese poetry. Many intellectuals who study abroad, such as Huang Zi and Xiao Youmei, also actively learn western creative skills, and actively explore and think about how to combine them with excellent Chinese poetry in the process of creation. After decades of development and exploration, more and more composers are proficient in Western creative skills, and gradually produced a large number of excellent art songs.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, New China can be divided into two periods before and after the reform and opening up. Before the reform and opening up, more attention was paid to the creation of poems written by MAO Zedong and other leaders. For example, the word "Qinyuan Spring • Snow" has several different versions. After the reform and opening up, with the further prosperity of the country, the communication channels between China and the West were opened, and new creative technologies, such as "12-tone creative technology", were introduced into China and applied to the creation of ancient poetry and art works.

After the May 4th Movement in the 1920s, the basic theories and techniques of Western music began to spread in China. In the early days of art song writing, some musicians who had studied music abroad, such as Xiao Youmei and Zhao Yuanren, etc. He began to create art songs with Chinese characteristics to match the development of China at that time. After the 20th century, the music genre of art song gradually began to develop in China. In 1920, the composer Qing Zhu wrote the first art song of modern China, "The Great River goes East". The art song has been developed in China for about a century. After the 1950s, with the establishment of new China, in order to meet the aesthetic needs of different audiences, the number of Chinese art songs created has increased greatly, and they constantly develop and innovate, and the expression of musical styles has become more diversified.

In the 21st century, the creation of Chinese art songs is more diversified with different styles. Composers in the new era are creating art songs with their own musical style to add new colors to their content and form. Chinese modern art

songs have a strong traditional color, which integrates traditional culture with modern art, promotes the inheritance and innovation of Chinese excellent culture, and also innovates the artistic expression of modern art songs. The development and prosperity of popular songs in Hong Kong and Taiwan also prompted some popular music composers to write and sing ancient poetry, and further influenced popular music on the mainland. In recent years, due to Chinese emphasis to traditional Chinese culture, composers and singers pay more and more attention to the creation and singing of ancient poems and artistic songs.

It can be seen that the art form of combining poetry and song has appeared in China since ancient times. Therefore, it can be said that China has a profound culture of 5,000 years and is a fertile ground for the development of artistic songs. The lyrics of thousands of years are the source of the creation of ancient poetry and artistic songs. In the continuous development and innovation of art songs, contemporary composers have skillfully combined Chinese classical poetry with Chinese traditional music, and created many art songs with Chinese characteristics.

### 3. Conclusion

Ancient poetry art song is an indispensable treasure in China's musical treasury, which effectively fills the fault and gap between traditional culture and modern art, successfully connects artistic expressions under different time and space, and is a unique art form formed after thousands of years of precipitation and accumulation. Chinese ancient poetry art songs perfectly blend modern composing techniques with the characteristics of ancient poetry culture, so that the songs can be sung in a catchy way, but also express the magnificent mood and profound artistic connotation of classical poetry and show the color of intriguing stories. The creation of art songs has great significance in the development and inheritance of both music art and literary art. Chinese art songs incorporate cultural elements of classical poems and songs, so that traditional culture can be inherited while promoting the innovation of modern Chinese art songs, which is an artistic expression form in line with China's cultural inheritance as well as the concept of cultural development. By exploring the inheritance and development of China's excellent traditional culture in modern Chinese art songs, we hope that more and more people will understand and enjoy singing Chinese art songs, so that China's excellent traditional culture will grow far and wide.

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