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 modern 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.

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
and lyrics from previous generations. In addition, the art of
large number of lyricists appeared, and formed a new poetic
style, namely Song 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 ji 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 expression, 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 Zhi 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.

References


