

A Probe into the Nationalization of Violin Performance Art in China

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Abstract: The violin originated in Italy in the 17th century and has a history of more than 300 years. It is a very popular instrument in the world as well as the piano. At present, the violin has been fully recognized by the public, and has become the first choice of many musicians. Therefore, it is worth thinking about how to nationalize the violin as a western instrument, better integrate Chinese and western culture into the violin, and apply Chinese playing skills and music theory to the violin, so as to create more magnificent chapters, which are welcomed by both Chinese and western audiences. These are the focuses of this paper.

Keywords: Violin; Performing Arts; Nationalization

1. Introduction

Earlier violins are thought to have originated in Milan and Venice in Italy in the 16th and 18th centuries, and were developed in an unprecedented way. Compared with other musical instruments, the violin has a beautiful and graceful tone and a wide range of tones. When the violin was first introduced to China, it did not attract much attention and popularity. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, people have gradually developed an interest in exploring western music with the promotion of internationalization. Some world famous violinists came to China to play, which attracted many young musicians and gave birth to a group of excellent Chinese violinists. They adapted traditional Chinese music for the violin and won many international awards and praises, so people are increasingly keen to explore the combination of Chinese culture and violin.

2. Expression of Chinese violin art nationalization

The nationalization of violin is a multi-level fusion between Chinese and western cultures.

2.1 Nationalization of innovation themes

Subject matter is the cornerstone of the art of music. In the process of the nationalization of violin, there are many excellent Chinese folk themes for reference. In the long history of China and the profound national culture, a lot of classic themes have been produced. The performance of these themes in the form of violin gives a new expressive force to the traditional Chinese culture and also breaks through the scope of violin performance. Take playing Chinese classical songs such as butterfly lovers on the violin as an example, they are welcomed by many people at home and abroad.

2.2 Nationalization of work style

Different musical instruments have different playing characteristics and styles due to the differences in timbre, range and playing technique. Chinese traditional musical instruments are often played in conjunction with poems, songs, etc., to convey a kind of artistic conception. The violin, on the other hand, conveys the player's emotion with its beautiful melody. The

combination of violin and Chinese traditional music is the collision and innovation of two performance styles. After certain coordination and adjustment, the artistic conception of Chinese traditional music can be described more incisively and vividly.

2.3 Nationalization of performance skills

In terms of playing skills, traditional Chinese instruments are also very different from western instruments. Under the influence of Chinese traditional culture, Chinese music focuses on the technique of moderation and calmness, and depicts the artistic conception through the melody of priority and urgency. In order to blend into the Chinese characteristics, violin performance draws lessons from the playing skills of Chinese music, carries out music layout through the grasp and control of rhythm and melody, and enhances the national characteristics of violin playing skills by strengthening the expression of violin performance to the unique Chinese culture.

3. Milestone significance of Chinese violin performance art nationalization

The nationalization of the violin is not simply to use the violin, a western instrument, to play the national music. However, on the basis of fully learning and inheriting the advanced performance techniques of the west, and then integrating the elements and characteristics of the Chinese and western music, we can create more classical and excellent music works. To promote the development of violin performance is to promote the progress of Chinese folk music and even the whole music field.

3.1 Promote the popularization of violin

The violin was born in Milan in the 16th century. Since its birth, it has been widely spread in the upper class of western society. Therefore, it is regarded as a symbol of high art by most people. Since then, the violin was introduced to China. At the beginning, it was slow and difficult to spread. Even though it accumulated a large number of excellent repertoire in the west, it was hard to strike a chord with Chinese people. It was not until later that a large number of local Chinese works were processed, improved and played on the violin that the public gradually accepted them and began to appreciate and learn them until they were integrated into life and used to express their inner thoughts and emotions.

3.2 Promote the national culture with Chinese characteristics to face the world

China has thousands of years of cultural accumulation, rich history also accumulated gorgeous Chinese traditional music culture. Ancient Chinese literati pay attention to “musical instrument, chess, calligraphy and painting”. Musical instrument is the first, which shows the status and importance of traditional music in national culture. In modern society, the country is also vigorously in promoting and developing traditional culture, so it has laid a foundation for the combination and development of violin and traditional Chinese national culture. By integrating the violin into the national culture with Chinese characteristics, and then interpreting it on the world stage, the whole world can appreciate the moving national melody and learn more about the traditional culture with Chinese national characteristics.

3.3 Promote the development of Chinese folk music

With the popularity of pop music in modern society and various foreign trend music, young people’s interest in music is gradually attracted by it. Traditional folk music is seldom paid attention to, and its development and inheritance are increasingly difficult. However, as an exotic western instrument, the violin has become more and more popular among Chinese. Therefore, many composers combine the violin with traditional folk music, which seems to be the staggered collision of different space and time, but instead it burst out many works with superb artistic value and cultural characteristics. This wonderful combination of tradition and modernity, local and foreign has also attracted the appreciation and love of countless people, and has become an indispensable force to promote the development of traditional folk music.

3.4 Promote the development of violin performance in China

Violin has been used to express foreigners’ thoughts, feelings, customs and cultures for many years. For most Chinese listeners, there is still a sense of strangeness and distance. Chinese people’s impression of violin is mostly on the elegant gentleman culture, so it is difficult to arouse their thoughts and emotions. However, as more and more musicians combine it with local music to absorb more Chinese national culture, the violin has gradually become known and loved by the Chinese public. In addition, the violin also integrates the “sliding” technique of traditional Chinese instruments such as bamboo flute

and the playing technique of changing the string instruments handle. This development mode of seeking common ground while reserving differences and compatibility makes the violin more localized and enriched, which will inevitably promote the development of violin performance in China.

4. The realistic significance of violin performance art in Chinese nationalization

In the era of global economic integration, China, as a world power, accepts all kinds of foreign trade and cultural exchanges in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness. As an exotic western instrument, violin not only brings western music culture, but also can convey Chinese traditional music and characteristic national culture to the world in a friendly way, promoting the development of violin performance art in China. Therefore, it also has the following practical significance:

4.1 Promote the popularization of violin art in China

Since the introduction of violin into China in Qing dynasty, its development has not been smooth sailing. Over the past 100 years, in order to make it more localized and popular and can be more recognized by Chinese audiences, many Chinese musicians have made repeated attempts and innovations, integrating various cultural elements with national characteristics and traditional musical performance skills, and creating excellent musical works with Chinese characteristics. Chinese violin pioneer Ma Sicong's creation of homesickness music and spring dance music opened a new door to the art of violin performance, creating the first Chinese violin music. It lets the Chinese common audience gradually understand the violin, this musical instrument with beautiful tone, laid a foundation for the popularization and development of violin art in China.

4.2 Develop the road of Chinese folk music

As mentioned above, with the impact of pop music and foreign trend music, more and more young people are no longer exposed to traditional folk music, making it increasingly difficult to inherit and develop. But if we want to carry forward the traditional folk music and let more young people know and love folk music, it is a good way to combine it with the foreign instrument violin. On the one hand, the development of national music cannot abandon the spirit and connotation of traditional culture; On the other hand, we should learn to absorb the advantages of modern music and foreign music and make bold innovations on the basis of traditional folk music. The development of folk music in the future will be open and inclusive as China's reform and opening up.

5. Conclusion

Although the violin originated from the west, but it has a very high performance for some Chinese traditional music and is even better than the traditional instrument which can highlight the artistic music conception. The nationalization of violin is the fusion of Chinese and western cultures in music, which is bound to require a long process of exploration. Exploring the combination of Chinese and western musical elements is very necessary to promote China's position in the world music field, and the nationalization of violin playing art is a very important way. Therefore, accelerating the nationalization of violin is of great significance for the internationalization of Chinese music.

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