

# Analysis on the Significance of Singing Ancient Chinese Poems and Songs in Vocal Music Learning

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**Abstract:** Chinese ancient poetry culture has a long history, which can be traced back to the “Tan Ge” in the primitive society. Chinese art songs are a new vocal theme that emerged after Chinese modern composers learned compositional technical theory in the West and combined with ancient Chinese poetry and what they learned. This article mainly expounds the “past life and present life” and its artistic value of ancient Chinese poetry and art songs, and takes the art song “Jiangchengzi·Yimao New Year’s 20th Night Dream” composed by Mr. Ao Changqun as an example to describe my I hope that through this article, readers can better understand the beauty of ancient Chinese poetry and art songs.

**Keywords:** Ancient poetry; An art song; Song singing

The art of ancient Chinese poetry has evolved in different genres in each dynasty in Chinese history, such as “Tang poetry” and “Song poetry”, forming their own unique performance forms and styles. The works left over from the past dynasties are even more exquisite.

## 1. “Past Life and Present Life” of Chinese Ancient Poetry and Art Songs

### 1.1 The “Past and Present Lives” of Chinese Ancient Poetry and Art Songs

As an excellent traditional culture of China, ancient poems and art songs were introduced into China for the first time by musicians who returned from studying abroad in the early 1920s. The tunes of musical works in this period are mainly composed of popular western tunes and lyrics. While we also compose our own lyrics and tunes, they are not entirely original. In the 1930s, the creation of ancient poetry and art songs reached its peak. A large number of composers created many ancient Chinese poetry and art songs by combining national tones with Western composition techniques. The main composers include Qingzhu, Huang Zi, Liu Xuean, Zhao Yuanren, Li Jinhui and so on. During this period, Huang Zi’s creative level and artistic achievements were the highest. He combined the composition theory he learned from studying in the West with the Chinese national tone, and the Chinese national tone was reflected everywhere in the rhythm and melody of the tonality. Representative works of this period include “Tell Me Why I Don’t Want Him”, “Treading the Snow and Looking for Plum Blossoms”, “Homesickness” and so on.

### 1.2 The artistic value of ancient poetry and art songs

Excellent ancient poetry has its unique charm to attract us. Students can feel the artistic value of these art songs by singing them, which can play a good role in promoting the connection between the past and the future of Chinese ancient poetry art songs.

In Su Shi’s “Jiangchengzi Yimao Night Dream on the 20th Day of the First Month” written by Su Shi, just a few sentences have exhausted Su Shi’s helplessness in that era. Tell people but no one can tell, which reflects the profound artistic conception of ancient poetry. The art song “Flowers Are Not Flowers” composed by Mr. Huang Zi also followed the cadence of the original poem, and did not change the intonation of the original poem too much in the arrangement, so that the whole song made the audience sound particularly peaceful and more Can “sound” into people’s hearts. This embodies the characteristic of the melody beauty of ancient poetry.

Since the May 4th Movement, many composers have recreated and processed ancient Chinese poetry and songs. During this period, Chinese ancient poetry and art songs have sprung up like bamboo shoots, and many of them are ingeniously conceived. The ancient Chinese poetry and art song “The Great River Going East” is the earliest ancient poetry and art song in my country, written by the famous composer Qingzhu. In the art song “Great River Going East”, the composer still used Su Shi’s original lyrics “Niannujiao Chibi Nostalgia” in the lyrics, and integrated Western composition techniques into it, expressing Su Shi’s way of facing setbacks and

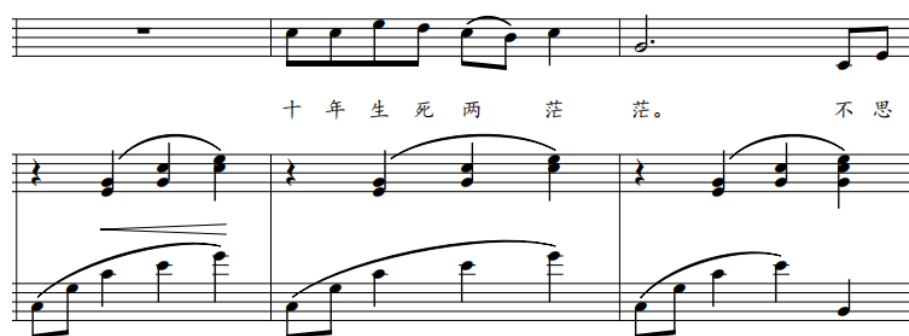
failures. The heroic feeling is vividly displayed. The work has a heroic and majestic atmosphere, but also has a chic tone. The artistic conception shown is full of passion.

There are too many ancient Chinese poems, which provide composers with inherent advantages. Composers complete their own creations based on the poems written by the ancients. While inheriting the culture of ancient Chinese poems, they also spread Chinese culture to the outside world. The development of ancient Chinese poetry and art songs is based on the ancient poems created by the ancients in our country, creating musical works with aesthetic value, and forming an art song form with Chinese characteristics. This form of art songs has greatly promoted the inheritance of our country's national music, and it also allows the public to understand the music culture of our country's traditional ancient poetry.

## 2. The Significance of Singing Chinese Ancient Poems and Art Songs”Jiangchengzi Yimao’s Night Dream on the 20th Day of the First Moon” as an example

### 2.1 The Help of Singing Ancient Chinese Poems and Art Songs to “Speaking and Articulating”

In the creation of ancient Chinese poetry, the writing technique of “Bixing” is often adopted by poets, so we often use the method of “chanting” in the process of singing. When singing this song, you should speak softly and pay attention to the tone when vocalizing, such as “sh”. The beginning and end of this word should rhyme quickly, highlighting the slow articulation and expressing that time passes quickly. You can use the tip of your tongue to help when biting words. After holding the tip of your tongue against the head of the sound, exhale first and then make a sound. At the moment of articulation, a sense of stagnation is formed. The speed of sounding needs to be very fast, but it cannot be “sluggish.” “, so that you can maintain a high position when you make a sound. (Spectrum example 1-1)(Example1)



Example 1-1

Spectrum Example1 is an excerpt from the first sentence of “Jiangchengzi Yimao’s Night Dream on the 20th Day of the First Moon” composed by Mr. Ao Changqun. It feels like someone talking from a distance, but at the same time, you have to keep singing at a high position, sing every sound and every word, and immediately return to the rhyme after you bite the words. It can’t be too loud, otherwise it will be unpleasant. The sound volume should be controlled on a weaker and lighter basis. However, the biting should be at the front as much as possible, and the sound should not be affected by the biting. The support point should be on the diaphragm, supported by deep breathing, and the position of the voice should be high. Can’t fall off. The word “ten years” at the beginning is very critical, which can ensure whether your voice is comfortable and correct, breathe softly, and speak slowly along the direction of the breath.

### 2.2 The help of singing Chinese ancient poetry art songs to “singing breath”

It is of great benefit to control and train the singer’s breath in the singing of ancient poetry art songs. Although the length of this kind of art songs is relatively short, every word and sentence have its own internal cadence. It seems to be a very short poem, but it is very careful about the singer’s skills. (See Example 1-2)

Singing to the music example 1-2 “even if meet should not know”, because the highest sound in this sentence, the control of the singer’s breath is very elegant, singing inhalation to fully make the diaphragm to fully expand, reasonable use of the strength of the legs and hips. However, the power of the voice can not be completely frozen, the tone to achieve transparent smooth, the singer needs emotional richness, but also to show Su Shi’s unwilling. “Should not know” “knowledge” word, to bite the word “sh” and then belong to “one”, and then think that singing is “u” into the head cavity along the trend, the direction of sound and emotion catharsis should be the way to ask, through the “pipe” upward, to the back “dust face, temples like frost” voice can maintain a high position, and then follow the “trend” down, resonate with the audience.



Example 1-2

### 2.3 The help of singing Chinese ancient poetry art songs for emotional processing

In order to express an ancient Chinese poetry and art song completely and accurately, we need our singers to grasp the deep meaning and emotion in the ancient poetry. This requires us not only to study singing skills, but more importantly, to comprehensively improve our own literary and artistic accomplishments, so that we can understand what the songs really want to express. In Su Shi's "Jiangchengzi Yimao Night Records Dream on the 20th of the First Moon", there is Su Shi's deep love for his dead wife. We need to grasp the charm of it, and we can find the stress of the lyrics that express the emotion of the song by repeatedly reciting the lyrics, so that the scenes in the song can be vivid, and the singing will be more contagious. (Spectrum example 1-3)



Example 1-3

The phrases in example 3 are the second part of the song, which is slightly faster than the first part. "Ye Lai You Meng Su Hui Home" can be sung a little faster than the previous paragraph, and there is a sense of urgency urging you to move forward. At this time, you can raise your arms and point to the opposite side. Your eyes should cooperate and look at the point. "Suddenly Returning Home" should have a feeling of surprise, as if entering a feeling of déjà vu, and at the same time, the high position of the voice should be maintained. When singing the line "Xiaoxuan Chuang", pay attention to the word "window" and "makeup". You must feel excited, and you can take two steps forward with your feet, giving people a sincere feeling.

The second phrase is a repetition of the first phrase, and it should be more emotionally intense. There must be a change from dark to bright in the sound, and the singer must be excited enough to express the feeling of the two meeting after a long absence. Joy and telling each other our heartfelt excitement.

Afterwards, when it comes to "There are no words for each other, only a thousand lines of tears, a thousand lines of tears", when it comes to this sentence, the voice needs to be darkened, the cavity should be opened, and the voice should have a bit of crying, showing the helplessness and loss of Nanke Yimeng. It is best for the singer to add a helpless sigh. The two lines of "A Thousand Lines of

Tears, Thousand Lines of Tears” that are sung repeatedly should be followed by the emotion of the previous line, but the voice position should not be lowered, and the feeling of speaking softly allows the audience to empathize with them. Summary: Chinese ancient poetry art songs as the essence of Chinese culture, before we singers master this song, also requires us to master the corresponding Chinese ancient poetry culture, understand the relevant background knowledge, so that we have a certain literary accomplishment, so that we can realize the charm of the ancient poetry itself. Thus, the love and interest in Chinese ancient poetry culture will be generated, and then make contributions to the inheritance and development of Chinese ancient poetry culture.

## Conclusion:

As the quintessence of Chinese culture, ancient Chinese poetry and art songs also require us to master the corresponding Chinese ancient poetry culture and understand the relevant background knowledge before we singers master this song, so that we have a certain literary accomplishment, so that we can Experience the charm of ancient poetry itself. As a result, love and interest in ancient Chinese poetry culture have emerged, and then contribute to the inheritance and development of ancient Chinese poetry culture.

When I sang this art song for the first time, I only paid attention to the vocal technique during singing, but did not pay attention to the artistic conception and emotion expressed in this art song, and did not give people a sense of eloquence and narration to the distance. The teacher also criticized me in class and asked me to re-learn this song. Under the guidance of the teacher, I went down to ponder over and over again, and conducted in-depth research and deliberation on the creation background, meaning, feelings and mood of Su Shi’s poem. The beginning and end of the verses outline the author’s longing for his dead wife and the scenes in his dreams with just a few strokes. The work is full of thoughts and memories of his wife. When singing this song, we should pay attention to the treatment of the soft tone. The beginning of each sentence must be eloquent, telling the distance, and it must be completed in one go, otherwise the beauty of the artistic conception of the poem itself will be lost. If you sing too loudly, you can’t show the beauty of ancient poetry’s rhyme just by “yelling” with your own voice. In the process of singing ancient Chinese poetry and art songs with vocal music, it helps to improve our artistic cultivation and sentiment. Before we learn ancient Chinese poetry and art songs, we need to find out the background of the creation of this ancient poem that we sang, the connotation expressed by the ancient poem, as well as the feelings and artistic conception that the song wants to express, and express it with what we understand. In the process, we can improve our cognitive level and understanding.

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