

# The Bel Canto and Folk Singing Education and Development in China

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## Abstracts

National vocal music is a common form of traditional culture. It is a multiple national and regional performance style and is popular. Under the unremitting research of the national language and regional art gimmick, many musicians promote national vocal music on the international stage. At the same time, under the background of international cultural integration, the bel canto of popular western countries, with its powerful expressive force and unique inner charm, won the appreciation of people worldwide. Bel canto and folk singing not only on the breath and resonance and impropriety and polishing have the bigger difference, but in words rhyme, voice smoothness, and artistic level exists significant differences, therefore, How to do a better job of bel canto in the application of national vocal music work, to promote the development of span of Chinese national vocal music art and has the vital role.

**Keywords:** The Bel Canto; Folk Singing Education; Development in China

## Introduction

Bel canto, just as its name implies, is to point to the performer's voice as beautiful and emotional. One of the characteristics of the bel canto is the "hybrid acoustic area style." True and false of the law of the bel canto is to sound scientific division of labor, and the resonance cavity all coordination function to produce a good sound effect. Therefore, bel canto was regarded as Europe's most scientific singing. The emergence and development of bel canto in Europe have experienced four stages (Li, 2006:3).

Bel canto opera originated in Europe and is in the process of development and social progress, inheriting the precious cultural heritage. Bel canto, according to the record, evolved from western opera. Before the 13th century, European vocal music and ancient Greek mainly or music were given priority, including various solo choruses, led and all sing, rap, or sing a variety of forms such as and produced great ancient Greek poet Homer, the Iliad of the great epic history culture. These works are typical of bel canto in a rap performance. The vocal music in the early, too. In the Roman empire, during the process of growing development, the most famous in the history of Europe into the "Middle Ages" period, the church ruling stage, Asia, Africa, and other regions of the outstanding cultural and artistic talent and music culture began to Italy together, so that the ancient Rome had become the world's largest music center. Curia Romana appeared in the first chorus performance form, namely, singing hymns and reading the bible, and other forms of music called "chant." In this historical period, the Pope revised the ordinances, "sing under the" ("Gerry whatever"). Chant has two kinds, namely, appropriate Syria and melodic tunes. In developing the single melody music, the performer added some gorgeous, fluid elements, making the singing style more novel, smooth and beautiful. At the same time, Europe has a secular and religious opposition between the people of the music. The music reflects the spirit of ordinary People's Daily life and thoughts, 2 it is by the minstrel, love poetry and folk singer singing crowd. Although not completely out of religious color in the

music, it was already broken through the limitation of religious music, and the music has outstanding achievements.

Eunuch singers were the product of western opera, were under strict Christian rule, and controlled the direct result of religious music rule., in the middle of the 13th century, European music gradually from or by music polyphonic music stage, mainly for more vocal music singing voice chorus, the performer for soprano and contralto, and tenor singing to chant melody after increasing the bass. Opera is usually performed by actors and actresses together; men's and women's styles are roughly similar. In the process of singing, men, and women of different parts and high and low phase, in order to guarantee the effect of singing, usually by the eunuch's singing voice, and singing male department by a mezzo-soprano. However, in the Christian bible, "women must keep quiet in the church." Therefore, western opera by the boy's voice singing with actions female roles. The boy in front of the mutation, the vocal approximation of a woman, in order to keep the boy slightly female "girl," Christian rulers to boys with an acting singing talent for castration, make its vocal cords stop the development and growth and always keep in female, to keep the boy's vocal performance timbre, naturally successfully issued a clear and beautiful girl, to make it "eunuch singers," Italy also specially set up for this training children's singing of specialized agencies. Eunuch singer's voice is soft and sweet, coupled with professional training, making it can deftly perform various difficult coloratura skills. Eunuch singer's average range to the normal female voice is broad, luxuriant, beautiful, and brilliant. The broad threshold can produce the audience singing the marked effects of passion, so boys in position in the pop world are gradually replaced by "eunuch singers," and later generations called "bel canto." European "eunuch singers" in the music world have lasted for more than two centuries, the famous Italian "Yan the singer," famous singer Ray and Nai Reilly singing skill and singing, Deng Feng and, when the world no one can match a few. With the development of vocal music art and the progress of society, especially after the Renaissance and the cultural revolution, western people advocated humanistic art performance, the pursuit of life and reality. From then on, eunuch singers gradually withdrew from opera history. In the 18th century, after the collapse of the European feudal system and collapse began to shake the status of "make people singer," the whole corrupt and did not conform to the humanitarian singing phenomenon also finally disappeared and gradually developed a singing plump, emotional, sound beautiful, and bright, and full of resonance and metallic opera singing, this is today's origins of bel canto (Chang, 2004: 1-62.).

China's emergence and development of Chinese folk history are very long, but the real mature period mainly in the last century, 30, 40 s. During this period, our country appeared in the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia border region represented by folk performing artist Guo Lanying Yangge, a new method for singing tunes. This tune combines traditional Yangge opera, a folk song singing form known as the "drama comprehensive folk songs singing." Its performance characteristic is when the singer singing is given priority to with true voice, sweet singing. The sound is ringing. The singing method has a unique style. Due to the "play singing method," drama of the reference of the audible and its personality and style formed a guileless, sweet voice location. Through the word improperness, clear pronunciation, and mellow voice to a singing form of Yun cavity processing, at the same time, song singing also plays with the feelings of anger and diction skills and full of lasting drama appeal from performance rich folk singing performance type formed its unique singing style.

## **The common and difference of bel canto and folk singing**

Bel canto, how to apply to folk singing, to improve Chinese folk singing level, has become a focus in the study of Sheng Le Jie for years. In bel canto and folk singing, the singer is generally through scientific training to master the principle and technical standards of singing, constantly raising the level of singing skills. Folk singing originated from the culture of the ancient art of the Chinese nation. The evolution of the bel canto is derived from European opera because the origin of these two styles is different, so singing breathing, diction, and singing style also has many similarities and differences. Here are two styles in such aspects as breathing, style, and work style, to the nation and bel canto interlinked with the differences between the two kinds of style of preliminary research and analysis (Wei, 2010: 1-71).

### **Common bel canto and folk singing**

#### **1) Two singing to the requirement of breathing**

It plays an important role in singing and breathing in ancient Chinese music. The ancient book also emphasizes the importance of singing breath. Modern Chen Yanheng, in the said tan, said: "Atmosphere, the sound of the handsome also, pockets are floating, weak air is thin, air turbidity is stagnant, gas static sound dragon's" (Du, 2014; 156-158). Famous Italian vocal music education expert Lan Peier said: "singing learning is learning (Wu, 2011: 271-272) breathing." think of bel canto and folk singing all the attention while singing to the use of "breath," all think of breathing is the key to the success of the singing. Bel canto pays attention to the connection of sound, and coherent bel canto performance everywhere embodies a kind of "coherence"; and folk singing focuses on "flavor," two words, key in any level of singing folk songs, sing the "taste" (Yao, 2013:3) when bel canto singing voice and airflow no coherent unobstructed and vigorous round, are and can correctly use breathing has a direct and important relationship. Bel canto is the main application of natural breathing. We said today, "chest type joint breathing," fully using the chest, the diaphragm, and the abdominal muscle coordination to control breathing and breath. Chinese folk also requires using "chest type joint breathing." Inhale uses the "sense of smell of flowers," the "breath" suction, and remains in the lower abdomen, namely "abdomen." Moreover, the following abdominal breath finished singing for focus. Therefore, bel canto and folk singing breathing, the techniques and methods of training as the fundamentals, and breath support is prioritized with waist and abdomen, the breath, as an important factor of singing level.

#### **2) The requirement of diction**

Bel canto and folk singing, on vocalization methods, require clear articulation. Voice is an important premise for deciding whether to be clear or not. The Italian bel canto originated in Europe, is very strict about sounding, and must follow the regular pronunciation pattern. The language is characterized by letters from western countries and pronounced with the requirement that the singer's voice must be clear, smooth, and round, requirement "by the vocal words," and pay attention to the "circular cavity" of the word. Because the vowel position in bel canto is in the oropharynx, consonant pronunciation focuses on the nozzle's strength and speed. In pronunciation, bite consonants strength is relatively relaxed, and time is a little short. In addition, the vowels in bel canto are pitch vibrations of the vocal tract with harmonic resonance organ formation. A vowel is a key to singing skill level, "bad vowel can make a song affected by the larger."

Folk singing with particular emphasis on pronunciation clear and accuracy, paying attention to words' head and abdomen, pronunciation is clear, paying attention to intonation of improperness, and unique national flavor. Folk singing to the enunciation of the requirement is very strict, must be clear and accurate, and true is rigorous, be sure to pronounce with clear pronunciation and mellow voice ". This shows that "word is" is the foundation of pronunciation, word, the sound will not behave as good as it gets.

Folk singing diction is in a very important position, but contrary to bel canto "by the vocal words," emphasizes the acoustic band " word, the word" is "because the" cavity "circle is fruit, highlighted the" word is "to" circular cavity. "When singing folk singing "must be accurate and concise, words must be vigorously round, abdominal suffix must be clear and accurate, and from the other side reiterated its claim to" clear pronunciation and mellow voice. "

### 3) Two styles for the use of singing style

Bel canto won the masses' love with elegant, luxuriant, pure singing, a loud singing style of art, and a solemn atmosphere. Folk singing is mainly with sincere singing arts, the essence of singing style, and lasting national appeal. However, in bel canto and folk singing in performing all sorts of different types of music, the singing method still has different characteristics to adapt to different vocal music works in unique style.

Bel canto and folk singing though each has its unique style, in the singing of cognition and grasp of the work's style is consistent, the singer needs to different styles of music works based on sensory awareness and feelings, apply for the show this kind of style characteristic form of singing skills, according to its own practical experience and perfect performance work style and features. At the same time, bel canto and folk singing can perfect out of the style of the vocal music works, must be completed by its inherent in the original style. , in other words, in both bel canto and folk singing, the singer cannot only depend on their feeling and understanding of the work surface but cool and free to take any form, content, and style of the vocal music works are performed in a mode, charm, and style. Please keep in that the original singer's vocal music works must follow the principle that only in this way can make every country and every nation in the world all kinds of different styles of vocal music can perfectly show their style and character, thus vividly reappearing throughout the ages, the various periods of the artistic features of vocal music works (Zou, 2013: 292-292).

## **The difference between bel canto and folk singing**

Folk singing and bel canto, respectively produced in different era backgrounds and historical and cultural atmospheres. Thus, the two singing methods also represent the respective performance art style and national cultural features. In Chinese vocal music performance, the two kinds of style of influence and mutual fusion and mutual infiltration promote each other and jointly improve, vigorously promoting the development of the vocal art in China and raising the level of vocal music performance. Although these two styles have a lot in common in singing, there are still many differences in breathing and singing, resonance, and singing style.

### 1) breath use differences

In the vocal music system, the breath of singing breath refers to the singer's voice, that is, to accept special vocal music training in the voice of the singer at the time of talking and singing voice with the combined method of the breath. Generalized breath refers to the singer's breath

voice. The special smell is in the singing process in the application of the air. From the aspects of singing methods and techniques, bel canto is more strict with the breath than folk singing.

Folk singing and bel canto singing are very concerned about the breath applied. The correct use of breath is an important factor of success for singing. The use of folk singing in the air, speaking the "gas" of the abdomen, and taking this as the key to the singer can breathe correctly. Chinese folk sing strictly, inhale nature and like to smell flowers and air to ensure bottom-up penetration, and the lower abdomen (abdomen) is the key point in the breath. Its scope is "navel as the center. Open rib stretched the stomach, shrink abdomen," mainly to emphasize the aid of the accumulation of lower abdominal strength to support sound, the sound organ of the voice. Chinese folk scientific breathing method mainly has stolen gas, take a breath, and Xie Qi three methods.

The bel canto mainly involves natural breathing in singing. So compared with folk singing, there are big differences in applications of the breath. Bel canto requirement abdomen natural expansion, inhale. The diaphragm is affected by inhalation of breath and falling fast when singing the voice. The abdomen keeps breathing in shape to support the laryngeal cavity. At this point, the diaphragm is affected by exhaled breath slowly rising. The diaphragm in the atmosphere, influenced by rapid decline and a slow rise, was a process known as breathing. Therefore, the diaphragm movement is the breath of the source of power. At the same time, this kind of abdominal breathing method focuses on expanding the body itself, breathing when singing during suction. Lungs and waist gradually become a full state, forming a gas channel with good elasticity, making the air become cloud thickens and rich. Full of tension and vitality, it relieves smooth and natural breath and keeps the sound of a coherent and smooth voice from the start pouring out of the upper cavity loud and colorful. "Accordingly, bel canto pays attention to breathing smooth, penetrating, and freely flowing. It is also an important guarantee that a bel canto voice is smooth and natural.

## 2) The difference between singing resonance

When singing sound, air impact the vocal cords and the sound. The sound waves produced by sound are caused by the chest and throat, oral and nasal cavity, and the head cavity resonance body vibration and the resonance phenomenon (Xu,2010: 145-148). Sing the resonance is an important, indispensable component in singing art. They were singing resonance relations to the singing sound, volume, and expression. It can make the vocal sound tone beautiful, volume expansion, and expression richer (Li, 2010: 196). Bel canto and folk singing, there are differences in the use of resonance.

of all, the resonance of the folk singing emphasizes high position is given priority to, with nasal resonance, the voice comparison. If struck with a chord with concentration, it will affect the singer's sound out of articulation, as "the mouth with a stone" give a person the sense that not being happy is unclear. Concentration can make clear manner, and breath voice soft. Qing Li is thick and solid, full of magnetic and metal feeling.

Second, Chinese folk comparison pays attention to skills such as pronunciation and embellishment chamber, resonance tube adopts comparative fine short, Adam's apple is in a stable position. Sound waves in front of the hard palate and oral upper case of vibration, so the voice also gives a person with the sound "on" and "bright" feeling. At the same time, the throat opens moderately. The jaw is relaxed, and resonance is concentrated in the cavity so that the voice becomes well-versed in a simple and beautiful, which is advantageous to the singer's articulation of impropriety. Such as, "Nanniwan" is a picture of the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia border region, and in the production of self-reliance, singing the song of language kind, sweet

voice, and voice is ringing, songs such as flowing. If this work is mainly on nasal resonance, the letters in the oral cavity are processing beautification, pinyin for unity. This style is not only lyrics bite to vomit, but the song is bright and round. The sound, pure, fresh, and smooth song "Nanniwan" fit the performance songs and pure and fresh style. Suppose singing "Nanniwan" select the whole resonance method. In that case, it will greatly weaken the power of the resonance cavity, articulation, and organs in the overall state of resonance, which will greatly limit mobility. Although the sound of a loud round, with enough momentum, but in a less clear manner, will reduce the expression of the song, it has violated the works of pure and fresh and smooth kind natural style.

Third, Chinese folk do not pay attention to the resonance of the chest. By contrast, the sympathetic chord of the mouth and throat cavity is far greater than the chest-throat mouth cavity resonance can increase the breadth of sound, making the sound pure and bright. Bel canto in on the selection and application of resonance is contrary to the folk singing, the main emphasis on the head and abdominal cavity through unity. First, pay attention to the high position of sound bel canto, namely the head cavity resonance. It is the key to the application of bel canto resonance. All voice ranges are loud and infectious when the head cavity resonance with bel canto singing. It is the precondition of the acoustic area unified voice. Secondly, on the regulation of resonance cavity, bel canto with the nasopharyngeal cavity, throat position is low, only after acoustic vibration parts, sounded more fruity, full; Third, bel canto pay attention to the expansion and adjustment of the resonance cavity space, including the laryngeal cavity, pharynx, and adjustment of the oral cavity, and focus on using the resonance of the pharyngeal technology, make the oropharyngeal cavity resonant harmonic voice to coordinate each other, but avoid dumb, scattered and shatter internal dissonance voices, namely can effectively reduce the vibration of vocal cords load, and can make the sound more loud and clear, flexible, clear and full.

Fourthly, bel canto pays attention to the role of thoracic cavity resonance, especially in singing bass, key points in the chest cavity resonance as support voice. The role of the thoracic cavity resonance is the basis for applying integral resonance, with the thoracic cavity resonance in the whole range. Anyhow, bel canto and folk singing in resonance cavity using difference, pay attention to integral resonance is the bel canto, not to separate the role of each resonance cavity, especially the resonance cannot choose an area, more emphasis on the combination of breath and resonance. Moreover, Chinese folk focuses on local resonance to make the sound brighter. At the same time, the vocal skills, mainly the local resonance cavity, are used to contrast with other local resonance, the sympathetic with harmonious and unified. "Accordingly, bel canto and folk singing at the site of the resonance, focus, and voice register coordination, both in theory and practice, are quite different.

### 3) singing language differences

Singing music language is mainly used to infect the audience, receiving the purpose of encouraging and stimulating. There is a larger difference in language use in vocal music singing, as the origin of the bel canto and folk singing, background, and the development direction of different. First, the Han nationality language has the word righteous sounds time. The characteristics of this special tone and rhyme in singing, voice, and diction are pronunciation, rhyme, and radio close cooperation. Folk singing language characteristics, therefore, are to perfectly express "word, cavity, sound, feeling, and taste" five factors such as flavor, striving to "word to light round and all into sound," paying attention to how to correctly in the singing, words clear, smell its already know its meaning.

Moreover, the sound rhyme pronunciation stipulates strict standards. "And the suffix" echoes are quiet, listen to or have their sound without the words, also known as the best use of their head to tail " (Zhao, 2006:1). Secondly, in singing, Chinese folk focus on pronunciation, accuracy, and vivid words. They must strictly grasp the singing language when impropriety enunciation connotation and emotional tone, the words and the emotion of organic integration. Singing can also have the key to strengthening the language accent, Tuo Qiang, such as nozzle effect processing and handling of voice, also has diversity. Third, folk singing clear articulation, stressing impropriety in words and words are unified, paying attention to "clear pronunciation and mellow voice" sound, with beautiful sound melody performance subtle language change. Conveyed by the singing language "is" to show the beauty of the impropriety and reach the aesthetic effects of "round." "The word is" and "circular cavity" are perfect organic combinations, making the singing more aesthetic and appealing.

## Conclusion

The inheritance of traditional singing art is the foundation of the development of Chinese vocal music. In the history of Chinese vocal music singing, there is not only a clear view of singing theory but also a description of the characteristics and relationships of various elements of singing techniques, as well as solutions to existing problems. The singing of the past dynasties, because of the clever integration of characters and feelings, the intonation, tone, singing, and other processing aspects, fully express the emotions in the songs. Among them, the root of the sound is the word, and the root of the voice is feeling. A series of singing arts and skills in singing in the past dynasties, such as the right five tones, the clear four calls, the sound, the modulation, the sound, including the breathing skills, the control, and control of the height, the weight, the strength, in the singing process, are all developed based on singing characters and singing mood. Unlike western vocal music theory, Chinese music theory has a profound cultural origin, historical basis, and characteristics. A systematic review of the ancient singing theory shows that its clear, unified systematization and continuity constitute a characteristic, complete, and effective singing system, which can be summed up as a singing sound system and singing mood system. This is the historical inheritance of Chinese vocal music and should also become the foundation of the construction of the current Chinese vocal music singing system.

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