

Singing Style and Technique of Chinese Musical

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Abstract

The musical, which has emerged in Europe and America since the 20th century, is a comprehensive stage art that highly integrates various artistic elements such as drama, dance, music and fine arts. After more than 100 years of development and change, musical gradually swept the world. Chinese original musicals have gone through three stages of development, which have laid a certain foundation in terms of policy leadership, creation of works, market operation, funding sources and market cultivation. What is in front of today's musical practitioners is how to sum up the experience of these years and further deepen the development of musical art and musical industry. Therefore, how to solve the core problem of its development is a proposition that cannot be avoided and must be answered.

Keywords: Singing style and technique of Chinese musical

Introduction

Since reform and opening up, with the rise of drama exploration and innovation, more and more artists have begun to pay attention to Western musicals. It has been nearly four decades since Shim introduced the American "Musical" to his domestic counterparts at the National Opera Symposium in 1980 and translated it into "musical." During this period, many original Chinese musicals emerged. Since 1995, the Central Academy of Drama enrolled the first watch director specialized class named "musical", Beijing Dance Academy, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Drama Academy and many provincial and municipal art colleges have also opened musical majors or courses, under this development trend, a large number of musical practitioners have emerged in China.

From the perspective of the development of musical creation and performance, Chinese musicals basically take state-owned opera troupes as the main performers, and take a road of "originality" as the main and "red" as the auxiliary; From the perspective of the cultivation and development of the musical market and the musical industry, Chinese musical is basically operated by state-owned and private cultural enterprises, and has taken a road of "moving" as the main part and "original" as the supplement. The development course of our country's musical shows the characteristics of early, middle and near three different stages in the tangle and interaction of the above two development paths (Fang, 2019).

In the early stage, with the creation and performance of the musical "Young People Now" by the Central Opera House in 1981 as the main symbol, until the premiere of the musical "Game in the Mountains" in 1990, about 10 years. During this period, there was a debate between popularity and originality in the musical industry. The so called "red" refers to the classic and famous plays imported from abroad, through which the art rules of musicals are studied and imitated, and the development rules of musicals market are referenced and

studied. The so called "original" means to create China's "own" musical works, the theme selection is in line with China's local customs, the story content is in line with the psychological demands of the Chinese audience, and the music melody and lyrics are in line with the listening habits of the Chinese public. At this stage, musicals are created from the perspective of creation and the internal reasons for the proposition of artistic development, and work on the quality of scripts, music and performances, while less consideration is given to external factors such as box office revenue, and the lack of a clear concept and a clear awareness of the musical market, so this stage is "the initial exploration stage of Chinese musicals".

The middle stage, which is roughly from 1990 to 2000, is also about 10 years. Due to the success of several works in the previous stage, Chinese practitioners have accumulated initial experience in ticket marketing, and they continue to be original and create many works during this period. But unfortunately, there are few really high-quality works, and they still follow the concept of creation of state-owned art troupes in the planned economy era there is no planning and demonstration in the creation stage, and there is no advertising before the performance of the play, and they just wait for the audience to buy tickets. In the process of the musical industry in the whole 1990s of the 20th centuries, although the number of plays produced was quite large, the quality was not satisfactory, the box office was dim, and the survival state of the industry was worrying. However, Chinese musical practitioners have not been negated because of this, but still stubbornly stick to and explore in the loneliness. Explorers in this stage have some general consensus: based on tradition, starting from national characteristics. This stage is "the further exploration stage of Chinese musical theater" (Yan, 2021).

The time frame for the recent period is roughly from 2000 to the present. The reason for this designation is that during this period, Chinese musical creation has similar characteristics. During this period, most of the works have the pursuit trend of "big investment, big scene, big production"; The producer employs foreign artists to play an important role in the creation team; Musical investment channels are developing in a diversified direction; The concept of musical industry chain began to attract the attention of the industry; Some small and medium sized musicals began to reveal their unique advantages, which is also the "deepening development stage of Chinese musicals".

At present, many creators, producers and practitioners are trying to explore and practice tirelessly in their respective professional fields, trying to solve various problems in the development process of musicals, so as to revitalize China's musical industry. Throughout our country The development of musical drama, various experts, scholars and practitioners of musical theatre involved in the study of musical theatre involved many levels.

Early The research of the period mainly focuses on the development history of foreign musicals and the appreciation of foreign classic plays. The results of the research have deepened practitioners' understanding of the musical as an art form, but it is also limited to European and American musicals (mainly Broadway in the United States) introduction.

With the deepening of the research process of musical development, some scholars

And musical practitioners, on the creation of factors, market factors and other aspects of the start of research, which is very important. The development of Chinese musical theater industrialization provides certain ideas and directions. At the same time, there are also some research shifts. The script writing and singing methods of musicals provide certain theoretical support for the development of Chinese musicals Support.

But all of this fail to solve the core problem of the development of Chinese original musicals. Chinese original sound Musical drama still has shortcomings of one kind or another. Therefore, with the above problems in mind, the author to the musical. The identity and perspective of director, teacher and researcher, combined with their own practical experience and theory in the field of musical theatre Thinking, trying to find the crux of the original Chinese musical. With the development and change of society, Chinese music script Some of the original problems have been solved or greatly changed to some extent, and many scholars have done a lot of research on Chinese musicals in the 20th century, so the research focus of this paper will focus on the 21st century The performance of original Chinese musicals. Although the final solution is not available alone, I hope it will be passed. The thinking and research on these problems will make a little contribution to the development of Chinese original musicals (Yan, 2022).

Singing style and technique of Chinese musical

Singing style

Traditional singing style

Chinese musicals often incorporate the singing styles of traditional operas, such as Peking Opera, Yu Opera and Huangmei Opera. These singing styles pay attention to the change of tone, the use of vocal range and the expression of emotions, making singing more dramatic and expressive.

First of all, the traditional singing style pays attention to the variation of tone. During the singing process, the singer will flexibly use different tones according to the different emotions and expression needs of the role

The change of pitch can accurately express the inner world and emotional changes of the character. This change in tone not only enhances the sense of hierarchy of singing, but also smoothly echoes the plot, making the audience more involved; Secondly, the traditional singing style pays attention to the use of vocal range, which refers to the range of pitch that the singer can sing. In the traditional singing style, the singer will choose the appropriate vocal range according to the characteristics and emotional needs of the role. Through the use of different vocal ranges, the character's personality and emotional state are fully displayed.

For example, a high vocal range can express the passion and heroism of the character, while a low vocal range can express the sadness and contemplation of the character. Finally, the traditional singing style pays attention to the expression of emotion. In the singing process, the singer will use the change of voice and performance skills to accurately convey the emotion of the role.

Through the use of different timbre, volume and audio effects, fully express the joy and sorrow of the character. At the same time, the singer uses nonverbal elements such as body language and facial expressions to further enhance the expression of emotion, which can make the audience deeply understand and feel the inner world of the character (Lin, 2023).

In a word, the traditional singing style plays an important role in Chinese musical singing, focusing on the change of tone, the use of vocal range and the expression of emotions, which makes the singing more dramatic and expressive. This unique singing style not only enriches the expression of the musical, but also deepens the shaping of the role and the transmission of the story, bringing more to the audience Enrich and shock the art experience.

Pop music elements style

First, melodies of pop songs are widely used in Chinese musicals. Melody is the soul of music. Reasonable use of melody of pop songs in Chinese musicals can effectively attract the audience's attention, usually these melodies are concise and bright, so that the audience can easily remember and follow them. Second, rhythm is also a common pop music element in Chinese musicals, and rhythm is the basis of music. The rhythm of pop songs in Chinese musicals can increase the vitality and dynamic of music. Usually, these rhythms have a bright speed and a strong sense of rhythm, so that the audience can better feel the charm of music. Third, arrangement is also one of the popular music elements commonly used in Chinese musicals.

Arrangement is the process of rearranging and processing music. The arrangement of popular songs in Chinese musicals can fully show the modern and popular style. Usually, these arrangements include the use of electronic music, the use of modern instruments and a variety of timbre effects, making the music more diverse (Zi, 2022).

By incorporating pop music elements, Chinese musicals become more modern and popular in style. This style makes singing more acceptable and appreciated, and audiences can understand and feel the music more easily, thus increasing their interest and love for musicals.

In short, the technical means of incorporating pop music elements in Chinese musicals include the use of the melody, rhythm and arrangement of pop songs. These technical means make the musical more modern and popular, and increase the audience's acceptance and appreciation of the musical. Through these technological means, Chinese musicals can better attract the audience's attention The quality of singing and watching.

Folk music style

There are many ways for Chinese musicals to collaborate with other art forms across borders. First of all, musicals can cooperate with dance across borders. Dance is an art form that expresses emotions and stories through body language. Combined with the singing and performance of the musical, it can enhance the visual effect on the stage. The movement and rhythm of the dance can echo the melody and plot of the musical, making the performance more vivid and powerful.

Secondly, musicals can cooperate with dramas across borders. Drama is an art form in which the story and characters are portrayed through the performance of actors. With the help of the performance skills and stage setting of the drama, the musical makes the story more real and touching. The performance of the actors and the singing of the musical are combined to bring the audience a deeper artistic experience through the expression of emotions and the shaping of roles. Finally, musicals can collaborate with visual arts across borders. Visual art, including painting, sculpture, photography and other forms, conveys emotions and ideas through visual expression. Musicals use visual arts elements such as stage sets, costume design and lighting effects to create a specific atmosphere and setting, The color and form of visual art echo with the music and plot of the musical, making the performance more artistic and enjoyable (Yi, 2023).

Chinese musical singing skills

Sound control

Musical singing requires singers to have good voice control skills, including intonation, timbre, volume and vocal range control.

First of all, the correct vocal method is the basis for maintaining stable intonation, singers need to use correct breathing and vocal skills to ensure that the voice accurately falls on the intonation line, to avoid pitch deviation, by mastering the correct vocal parts and vocal cord tightness to achieve.

Second, the adjustment of timbre is also one of the important skills in musical singing, different roles and emotional timbre expression will also be different, the singer should flexibly adjust the shape of the throat and mouth, in order to present different timbre effects. For example, soft timbre can be used to express tender and sentimental emotions, while bright timbre is suitable to express happy and excited emotions.

Third, the volume control is also a musical singing cannot be ignored skills, singers should be according to the singing scene and role needs, flexibly adjust the size of the voice. In the big scene singing, have enough volume to fill the whole play. In a soft monologue or solo, the volume needs to be lowered appropriately to create an effect closer to the character's inner world.

Finally, musical singing also requires the singer to have a wide vocal range, which refers to the range of pitches that the singer can easily sing. In musical plays, singers have to deal with the requirements of high and low, so with the help of training, practice to expand their vocal range, by gradually increasing the practice repertoire of high and low notes, as well as the correct vocal methods to achieve.

Emotional expression skills

Musical singing is an art form in which a character's emotions and inner world are conveyed through song. In order to successfully express the emotions of a character, the singer needs to have good emotional expression skills and use a range of techniques to achieve this goal.

First of all, the change of voice is one of the important means of emotional expression. The singer conveys the emotional state of the role by adjusting the change of timbre, volume and tone. For example, a high pitch and strong volume can convey anger or excitement, while a soft timbre and soft volume can convey tenderness or sadness.

Secondly, the rhythm of music is also a key factor in emotional expression. Singers can use the rhythm of music to highlight the change and intensity of the character's emotions. A fast rhythm expresses the character's excitement or tension, while a slow rhythm expresses the character's contemplation or depression.

Thirdly, the singer should accurately interpret the lyrics to ensure that the audience can understand and feel the emotions of the characters, and convey the emotions expressed by the lyrics through pronunciation, intonation and tone changes. At the same time, the use of pauses and extended notes and other skills to emphasize the important emotional content of the lyrics; Finally, the singer uses body language and facial expressions to enhance the effect of emotional expression, showing the role's emotional state through body posture, gestures and facial expressions, so that the audience can feel the role's emotional world more directly.

In short, the emotional expression of musical singing needs the singer to have a good emotional expression ability, and use the change of voice, the rhythm of music, the interpretation of lyrics, body language and facial expressions and other skills to convey the emotions of the role, through the use of these skills, so that the audience can resonate, so that they can truly feel the emotional world of the role.

stagecraft

Musical singing is a comprehensive art performance, which should be combined with stage performance in addition to singing skills. Singers through a series of stage performance skills to show the role of the image and action, interaction with other actors, as well as with the stage scenery, props, so as to make the whole performance more vivid and interesting.

First of all, body language plays an important role in musical singing, singers use body posture, movement and posture to convey the emotions and inner world of the role, using dance The space on stage expresses the character's personality and emotional state through dance movements, gestures and body gestures. The use of body language enables the audience to feel the emotional changes of the role more directly and enhance the performance of singing.

Secondly, facial expression is also an indispensable part of musical singing, the singer shows through facial expression The emotions and inner world of the characters, the use of eye contact, smile or frown and other expressions to convey the emotions of the characters, so that the audience can deeply understand the emotional state of the characters, the use of facial expressions will make the singing more vivid and real, so that the audience is more involved (Yi, 2022).

Thirdly, action is also an important part of musical singing, and the singer uses action to show the dynamic image and behavioral characteristics of the role. The characters' personalities and emotions are expressed through dance movements, positions, gestures, etc., so that the audience can feel the characters' characteristics and movement changes more intuitively. The use of movement makes the singing more vivid and interesting, and thus enhances the audience's viewing experience.

Finally, dance also plays an important role in musical singing, singers through dance to show the image and movement of the role, they have to go through professional dance training, master a variety of dance skills and movements, in order to match the development of music and plot. The use of dance makes the singing full of rhythm, dynamic and visual effects, bringing different viewing experience to the audience.

Vocal music training skills

Vocal technique is the core of vocal training, the singer should sound correctly, and thus ensure the quality and stability of the sound, including the correct use of vocal cord tension and resonance to produce expressive and penetrating sound.

Breathing skills are also a part that cannot be ignored, and good breathing control can help the singer maintain a stable breath supply during singing, thus enhancing the staying power and performance of singing. Through deep breathing and timely exhalation, the singer can effectively control the intensity and timbre of the voice, making it more rich and pleasant.

Enunciation and pronunciation skills are also an essential part of musical singing. Clear enunciation and accurate pronunciation can ensure that the audience hears every syllable of the lyrics, so as to clearly understand and feel the expression content of the song, the singer learns to pronounce each syllable correctly, and pays attention to the shape of the mouth and the adjustment of the tongue position to ensure the accuracy and clarity of the pronunciation.

The technique of resonance is also an important part of vocal music training. Through reasonable use of resonance, singers can make their voices more penetrating and expressive. Resonance refers to the reflection and resonance of the sound in the throat, mouth and nasal cavity, etc. By adjusting the shape and position of these resonating cavities, the singer changes the timbre and intensity of the voice, making it more full and powerful.

In short, vocal training skills play a vital role in musical singing, through vocal, breathing, enunciation and resonance skills training, can improve the quality and stability of the singer's voice, enhance the performance of musical singing and endurance, the correct use of these skills can make the singer's voice more penetrating and expressive force, and then convey the emotion of the song (Jing, 2024).

peroration

The singing styles and techniques of Chinese musicals are very rich. In musicals, singers should have good musical literacy and acting skills, and be able to accurately express the emotions and inner world of the characters. In terms of singing style, Chinese musicals combine elements of traditional opera, pop music and western musicals to form a unique style. In terms of singing skills, singers need to master the correct breathing method, vocal skills and musical expression ability, as well as the understanding and interpretation of musical pieces Ability. Through continuous study and practice, the singing style and skills of Chinese musicals will continue to develop and improve (Xuan, 2022).

Conclusion

In short, there are many ways for Chinese musicals to cooperate with other art forms, such as dance, drama and visual arts. This kind of cross border cooperation makes the singing of the musical more diversified and comprehensive, showing a richer artistic effect. By combining with other art forms, musicals can bring audiences a more comprehensive and in-depth artistic experience in visual, auditory and performance aspects.

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