

Research on Chinese Modern Art Songs

Qian Zheng^{1, a}

¹College of Music, Hengyang Normal University, Hengyang, 421002, China

^amusic34@126.com

Abstract

Chinese modern art songs produced at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, is an important theme of the early development of Chinese modern new music, has an important position in the history of the development of Chinese modern music. At that time, some composers who studied music in foreign countries began to try to use the combination of excellent traditional Chinese poetry and the accompaniment of western Musical Instruments, the piano, to create art songs with a strong Chinese flavor, which gradually began to spread. In the 1930s and 1940s, more and more musicians devoted themselves to the field of artistic song creation, and they created a considerable number of excellent artistic songs with different themes and forms. The creation of Chinese art songs not only embodies the spirit of The Times, but also opens up a new way of creation.

Keywords

Modern China; Art songs; Development.

1. INTRODUCTION

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, a very important musical genre -- art song appeared in the history of Chinese modern music. It was born during the "May 4th" New Culture Movement. Through the creation and exploration of Xiao Youmei, Huang Zi, Zhao Yuanren and other composers, it formed a prosperous period of artistic song creation in the history of modern Chinese music in the 1920s to 1940s. The artistic songs created in this period are fresh in style and meaningful in artistic conception, with exquisite structure, wonderful melody, vivid music image and music language and poetry language integrated into one, showing distinct national character and strong times character. Thus, Chinese modern music entered a new historical period.

2. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN CHINESE ART SONGS

In 1840, the Opium War broke the door of China that had been closed for a long time. The huge difference in the level of cultural development between China and the West inspired some Chinese intellectuals to advocate learning from the Western culture, advocate reform and promote new learning, so as to enrich the country and strengthen the army. With the change of the whole society and culture, modern Chinese music also has a new development trend.

In 1919, the New Culture Movement was launched in China due to the failure of the 1911 Revolution. The period of the New Culture Movement was a period when musical culture, literary poetry and other artistic activities were greatly active, and a variety of new poems with different contents and styles appeared. This provided the background conditions for the

prosperous development of Chinese modern and contemporary music culture and the birth of art songs.

First of all, some western musical culture gradually began to be introduced into China, such as the establishment of music classes in church schools, chants in Christian churches, the establishment of military bands, etc., which made western music continue to penetrate into the musical life of the Chinese people. Secondly, some progressive intellectuals gradually realized the importance of music education and demanded to imitate the Western educational system and set up music courses in schools. At the beginning of 1903, Shen Xingong, who returned from Japan, set up the first "singing class" in the Primary School Affiliated to Shanghai Nanyang Public School, from which the form of school music came into being. The formation of school music marks the formal establishment of modern Chinese art songs.

3. FAMOUS MUSICIANS WHO PROMOTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE MODERN ART SONGS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

3.1. The Earlier Pioneer to Stay in Japan Representative Figures

At that time, because the writers who were engaged in composing school music knew very few professional composition skills, some music songs could not accurately grasp the relationship between melody and lyrics, and the words and sentences were not very uniform. Some words and meanings do not match with the style and characteristics of the melody, and some feel like a hard match. Therefore, most of the music songs are filled with new words from existing tunes (mostly Japanese tunes at the beginning, and then gradually selected European and American tunes). But in addition to the above situation, there are still some lyric songs that pay attention to the smooth and beautiful melody, the vivid and beautiful text, as well as the perfect combination of lyrics and melody in the artistic image and tone and rhyme, with the nature of art songs. The advocators and promoters of school music were Shen Xingong, Li Shutong, Zeng Chi-min and other enlightenment music educators. Shen Xingong was the earliest music teacher in the early stage of music education in modern Chinese ordinary schools. He composed more than 180 music songs in his life. Most of them use the tunes of foreign songs, while a few use traditional Chinese folk songs to write lyrics or specially compose music. In choosing tunes, he pays more attention to the vividness and childlike characteristics of musical language. Such as his "gymnastics - soldier exercise", "boat racing", "bamboo horse blacksmith" and other music songs, widely circulated among students.

Zeng Chi-min is an indispensable figure in the history of modern Chinese music. He was one of the earliest enthusiastic young people who went to Japan to study at the beginning of the 20th century. He was a music activist in the period of "school music", the era of enlightenment of modern and modern music in China. He was also one of the earliest music theorists in the history of modern and modern music in China, the forerunner who tried to establish modern and modern music schools and the forerunner of youth music education. In 1903, he entered the Tokyo Music School, and began to carry out a wide range of music activities in Japan. In the same year, Zeng Chi-min published his lyrics and songs, such as training soldiers, traveling in spring, Yangtze river, sea battle, new, autumn insects, and so on.

Many of Li Shutong's early songs with lyrics were from ancient Chinese poems, such as Ouyang Xiu's Ruan Lang's Return, Cen Shen's Sending the Teacher to the West, and Li Bai's Qingping Diao. "Spring Outbreak", "Leave" and "Early Autumn" are among the few works in which he wrote lyrics and composed music. Although the number is not large, we can still feel the author's profound literary foundation and cultivation from them. Farewell, composed of lyrics and tunes created by American musician John P. Ordway, has become a well-known and beautiful work. It has been sung to this day and is even considered to be the most representative work of Li Shutong.

3.2. Linking the Past and the Future of the Western School

The early 1920s to the late 1930s was an important period for the development of Chinese art songs to maturity. In the early 20th century, the establishment of a new educational system provided favorable conditions for some intellectuals to go abroad to study western musical culture. Compared with the school musicians who studied in Japan a little later, a group of Chinese musicians in the early modern times went to Europe and America to study music.

3.2.1 Open up a new stage

In 1912, the young master was sent by the government of the Republic of China to study piano and composition in Germany. The first art song in the true sense of China is the baritone solo song "The Great River Goes East" composed by Qing Zhu when he was studying in Germany in 1920. The lyrics and music of this song are based on Su Dongpo's poem "Nianliao, Red Cliff Horging on the Ancient". The creation of this work has pushed China's artistic song creation to a new and higher stage.

With green after the main composers such as the high at hunan, Chen Xiao empty and others are also in the field of art song during 1920-1928 have a lot of achievements, the writer's works of art songs have 12 income in "picking flowers", 16 first income in the "golden dream" two lyric songs, such as Chen Xiao empty for guo moruo poetry anthology "goddess" in 1924, a poetic drama in the xiang tired compose the song of the same name, this work gives fully in a plaintive euphemism, deep remembrance, which also has a very strong national style and romantic color, have widely promoted in the youth intellectuals.

3.2.2 Outstanding contributions

Composers Xiao Youmei and Zhao Yuanren, who have made more outstanding contributions in the creation of artistic songs, are more influential and their achievements are also more outstanding.

Xiao Youmei went to Japan in 1901 and studied singing and piano at the Tokyo Conservatory of Music. In 1912, she was sent to the Leipzig Conservatory of Music in Germany to study theoretical composition. The composition techniques used in Xiao Youmei's art songs are all derived from Europe, with a very rigorous structure and simple texture. In particular, German classical music creation techniques are concentrated in his music. Such as lyrics are Yi Wei jai solo song "q", "language" fly south wild goose "Xiao Youmei masterpiece," q ", in particular, its music kind simple stretch freely, in rigorous structure, deep feelings of deductive contains the emotional feelings, thus it become the modern often singing and popular early solo works. However, in some of Xiao Youmei's works, there is a state of lack of originality and punctual mediocrity. However, in any case, his creation is of historic pioneering significance when he is at the stage of selecting the level of songs given by God.

Another linguist of the same period, composer Zhao Yuanren also had a wide influence on vocal music creation in the 1920s, and made great contributions to the creation and development of art songs. Zhao Yuanren went to the United States in 1910 to study vocal music, piano and composition. His representative works include Liu Dabai's "Sold Bu Ballad", Liu Bannong's "Teach Me How to Don't Think of Him", "Listen to the Rain", and Hu Shi's "The Mountain", all of which were written in the 1920s, and most of them were included in his "New Poetry Collection", "Children's Songs" and "People's Education Songs".

3.2.3 Entering into a more standardized, independent and characteristic creation

20 s are the works of art song creation is mostly inherited and developed the school of music style, and from the 30 s to make the development of art song into a more professional education system, at the same time, the emergence of some solo talents also provides for the development of vocal music songs than necessary conditions, in the 30 s of art song creation with yellow Chen Tian crane and the most representative.

Huang was sent to the United States to study music in 1924, where he studied music concurrently at Oberlin College. Later, he majored in music at Oberlin Conservatory and Yale Conservatory of Music in 1926 and 1928 respectively, and received his bachelor's degree. Huang Zi is one of the important representatives of this period in the history of modern Chinese music. He made indelible contributions to the development of professional music in China in his 34 years of short life, especially in his music activities of only about 10 years after returning to China. Yellow from the art song obviously affected by Europe's tradition of classical and romantic music, some even absorb modern impressionism harmony technique, such as "terrorist operator" (su shi), work pay attention to play skills, singing the lyrics and melody highly integrated, vocal music accompanied with highly integrated, music change colorful, creation idea careful, concentrated, music structure and concise, rigorous, at the same time, some work for the national style of music creative exploration, bai juyi's "the flower is not flower", xin qiji of the south north township, child's, Beijing solid pavilion has conceived ", su dongpo's poetry, however, were passionate of this style, The momentum is magnificent, and among the lyrics of modern poets, such as "Spring Si Song" by Wei Hanzhang and "Three Vows on Roses" by Long Qi, all have his own unique characteristics under his careful treatment. His rigorous, delicate and elegant style of music had a profound influence on the creation of new music circles at that time and thereafter, especially those who had been taught by him.

Chen Tianhe's works show his study of Schubert and Schumann's artistic songs, such as Full Moon, Mountain, Wild Goes, Dreams of Autumn, Lotus Gathering, Love for the Soldiers of National Liberation and so on.

Apart from the above two composers and Zhou Shuan Liu Xuean, summer autumn and others works, these works are attaches great importance to the melody combined with the characteristics of Chinese language, combined with a piece of word meaning, but also to the performance of tonal combined with music to shape the role of, and most JieGuYuJin to express personal feelings or rebuke of national disaster and pursuit of bright future, it is about art songs gives positive social significance.

3.3. Art Songs During the Difficult Period of the Anti-Japanese War

In the 1940s, due to the further deepening of Japan's aggression against China, the Chinese nation came to the moment of thinking about its survival. People needed more war songs with the spirit of common hostility and resistance against Japan and national salvation. Therefore, the artistic songs of this period were inferior to those with propaganda, encouraging and mass songs.

Chen Tian the crane, "jiang son" Lin Sheng recess "sacred" and so on, there are also some other works of a beautiful melody, deep emotions, popular among intellectuals, and of such as Liu Xuean since as a songwriter, "fell out of the" Tan Xiaolin composers such as and so on, but due to the creation of regional limitation, also in the process that makes the audience by certain restrictions and influence.

Another famous composer of the same period, Tan Xiaolin's artistic song creation was also widely circulated in the 1940s. His works are mostly during the period of study in the United States, including his patriotic and thoughts of love, in the lyrics of his works are mostly taken from Chinese ancient, today the poetry works of poetry and poets in the west, such as "wang zhaojun fill (doug Zhang Jiuling word), the drum wave los (song Zhu Xizhen word)" separation "(guo moruo word)" hang red light oh Liu Dabai poem (translation) "the drummer hodge" (Thomas hardy). Author will arrange clever his elaborate music into the work, have delicate harmony.

4. CONCLUSION

The creation and development of Chinese art songs are moving forward step by step with the development of Chinese history. It is an indispensable part of Chinese history, especially Chinese music history. It can be said that Chinese art songs are inevitable, but they also come into being. Though its creation and development is not perfect, and art song creation and development of western music is a big gap, but it has the characteristics of China's own art song creation and development is in line with the development of China's own history the need for the development of the modern period of the creation and development of Chinese music has made an contribution.

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