Research on the Mutual Reference and Integration of Bel Canto and National Singing in Vocal Music Teaching

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Abstract: With the fast development of China’s economy, China’s culture is also in the stage of diversified development, and the exchange of music culture between China and the west is becoming more and more frequent, which also promotes the level of vocal music education in China. With the internationalization and modernization of educational ideas and concepts, the commonness of music has built a broad platform for vocal music teaching, and built a bridge of reference and integration between modern bel canto singing and traditional national singing. This paper mainly compares bel canto with national singing, and according to the existing problems in vocal music teaching, puts forward the vocal music teaching strategy of realizing the mutual reference and integration of bel canto and national singing.

1. Introduction

Under the influence of cultural globalization, music culture is also in a period of rapid development, putting forward higher requirements for students’ music comprehensive quality. Therefore, as an important part of music teaching, vocal music course must constantly promote the reform of teaching methods. At present, China’s vocal music teaching has gradually formed a scale, and the teaching quality of colleges and universities has been significantly improved. In China’s vocal music teaching, both bel canto and national singing are very important teaching contents. Only by making use of the similarities and differences between bel canto and national singing, and looking for the way of integration and development of the two, can the quality of vocal music teaching be greatly improved, so as to greatly promote the innovation of vocal music teaching.

2. Differences and Similarities between Bel Canto and National Singing

2.1 Characteristics of Bel Canto Singing

Bel canto originated in Italy after the Renaissance. It is highly scientific and is the first choice for many singers and vocal music teaching. Bel canto also has the characteristics of beautiful timbre and changeable singing method. While strictly dividing each part, it also attaches great importance to the unity of vocal regions, so that it has mature vocal methods, which is one of professional singing ways at present. The strict learning standard and singing mode of bel canto make it have strong volume plasticity. The main characteristic of bel canto is the singing method of its mixed voice area. Bel canto requires that all resonating cavities should be mobilized, and the open resonating cavities can be fully and evenly resonated, showing the unique sound quality characteristics of bel canto. In the long-term development, bel canto has been combined with the characteristics of various regions, which has promoted the emergence of new vocal music schools in various countries. Therefore, bel canto has a strong integration.

2.2 Characteristics of National Singing

China’s music development has a long history and folk songs can be traced back to the Yuefu period in Han Dynasty. The birth and development of national singing has very obvious nationality,
which makes it have the singing method of multinational traditional styles. The different national traditional styles and performing methods of different ethnic groups make the national singing method have a variety of national and melody characteristics, spiritual and language characteristics, which is the artistic crystallization of the development of Chinese national culture for thousands of years. National singing has a variety of singing forms, but also has unified characteristics. The main characteristics is high pitched tone, particular use of breath, long-lasting charm of tunes, mutual affection of the tune and words, vivid singing content, natural and beautiful tone. National singing, with its distinctive national characteristics, has long been deeply rooted in the lives of the people in China, and is indispensable spiritual food for people.

2.3 Common Points of the Two

There are many similarities between national singing and bel canto singing. First of all, they all take language expression as the key point of singing expression. The traditional language of all ethnic groups in China is the core pillar of national singing method. Through the integration of language and music, the singer’s rich emotion and song connotation are expressed, so as to vividly show self-consciousness. Similarly, in bel canto, the lyrics are also the inner core of songs, which requires the singer to pronounce clearly and standardly. Secondly, national singing and bel canto attach great importance to the use of breath in singing. They both think that only when the breath is adjusted with the support of the waist and abdomen, can beautiful voice be produced. The national singing method and bel canto singing method have the same cognition on the significance and role of resonance in singing, and have a relatively close view on the use of voice.

3. Problems in Vocal Music Teaching

3.1 Only One Singing Method Taught in Vocal Music Teaching

At present, the national singing method and bel canto singing method occupy a dominant position in the teaching of vocal music, which has been a hot topic of dispute among teachers, so that in the process of vocal music teaching, national singing and bel canto teaching are isolated from each other. At the beginning of learning, students have to choose one of bel canto and national singing, and passively accept the learning of single singing mode. Even many students have difficulty in mastering other singing methods, let alone singing other songs, which seriously hinders students’ interest in vocal music learning, resulting in students’ resistance to learning. This kind of teaching method has seriously restricted students’ learning space and creation space, seriously hindered the reform and innovation of vocal music teaching on the integration of vocal music singing methods, and also created obstacles for the development of vocal music culture and art in China.

3.2 Extremely Single Content of Vocal Music Teaching

Restricted by vocal music teachers’ clear division of singing methods, students’ singing direction, style and skills are restricted by teaching, so that students are seriously constrained in music art creation. In addition, the content of vocal music teaching is not rich and the teaching level is single, which seriously affects the students’ vocal music learning effect and hinders the improvement of students’ overall vocal music skills and music literacy. Even this kind of one-sided vocal music knowledge teaching will spread through the current vocal music students and produce a long-term adverse impact on the overall vocal music education in China.

3.3 Loose System of Whole Vocal Music Teaching

At present, art teaching is in the early stage of rapid development. The overall teaching system of vocal music teaching in various schools is relatively loose and lacks a perfect training system,
which is far from meeting the needs of contemporary vocal music teaching. Compared with the national singing teaching, bel canto teaching has a longer development time and a relatively mature teaching system. Bel canto teaching methods, teaching content and assessment indicators are relatively complete. The teaching system of national singing method is relatively backward and has obvious defects because of its relatively free singing characteristics and rich national styles. The vocal music teaching of national singing is determined by students’ interests and hobbies, which restricts the development of national singing vocal music teaching.

4. Integration of Bel Canto and National Singing in Vocal Music Teaching

With the development and progress of Chinese music history, the national singing method has been influenced by other singing methods. In the process of the integration of new elements, the national singing method has also been reborn in the inheritance. At the same time, bel canto also integrates the regional characteristics of different countries in the process of communication, which promotes the birth of new vocal music schools in various countries. All of these have become the basis for the integration and development of bel canto and national singing.

4.1 Establish a Correct View of Music

In the process of vocal music teaching reform and innovation, only help students to establish the correct view of vocal music is the basis to promote the integration of national singing and bel canto singing. Vocal music teachers should first abandon the opposition between different singing methods, so as to have a positive impact on students’ vocal music values and expand their vocal vision. Only when students have the correct view of vocal music, can vocal music teachers make better use of scientific vocal music teaching methods in combination with the current social demand for vocal music graduates, so that students can learn how to show the personality and characteristics of different singing methods on the basis of mastering the basic vocal skills.

4.2 Optimize Teaching Structure and Increase the Proportion of Integrated Courses

To promote the reference and integration of bel canto and national singing, it is a must to change the original vocal music teaching curriculum structure, increase the proportion of another singing method in the current curriculum, and then improve the vocal music teaching phenomenon of the original single singing method. Through the study of bel canto and national singing, students can expand their knowledge level of vocal music, then improve their comprehensive music level and diversified innovative thinking mode of vocal music. The mastery and integration of various singing methods can not only strengthen the students’ ability of model singing in class, but also improve their singing ability on the stage and the basic organizing ability of vocal music activities.

4.3 Key Points of Reference and Integration of Bel Canto and National Singing

The reference and integration of bel canto and national singing can be achieved through breath skills, resonance singing skills, articulation skills, true and false mixed voice singing, and the research theory of physiological structure of singing organs. Through learning specific vocal skills, students can understand that although there are relatively independent sound concepts and style characteristics between bel canto and national singing, they can influence each other, learn from each other and integrate with each other. Although there are relatively independent sound concepts and style characteristics, they can also influence each other, learn from each other, and integrate with each other. Students can use the coloratura skills in bel canto, and comprehensively use the breath support and resonance in the national singing method, so as to make the performance more natural and smoother. In addition, students can also integrate the diversified processing methods of language and tune in national singing into bel canto singing, so as to reduce the situation that the voice is not smooth and the words are not clear enough in bel canto songs. The integration of
national singing and bel canto singing not only carries forward the national singing method, promotes our traditional national culture in the international community, but also makes our people better accept bel canto music and enriches people’s artistic life.

5. Conclusion

Each country and nation have its own vocal music culture. Under the impact of international music culture, the introduction of bel canto in vocal music teaching in China has brought new ideas to the traditional national vocal music teaching. While promoting our traditional singing method, it is necessary to learn from the essence of bel canto and promote the mutual reference and integration between the two, so as to complement and perfect the traditional vocal music teaching. The new vocal music teaching method not only improves the students’ comprehensive quality of vocal music, but also meets the development trend of contemporary vocal music. Therefore, only constantly exploring the conjunction between national singing and bel canto, and combining them organically in teaching and singing, are the main development direction of vocal music teaching.

References


