

The Importance and Methods of Emotional Expression in Vocal Music Performance

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Abstract: As an art with a long history, vocal music has been extending from the primitive and simple songs of its ancestors to this day. Whether it is instrumental or musical, every development of vocal music has a distinct and full emotional imprint of humanity. The emotional process of human life is closely linked to the development of vocal music art. Each performance practice of vocal music art is not only the presentation and interpretation of works, but also an emotional exchange and distillation. As the soul of vocal music performance, emotional expression has many influencing factors. Only by clearly grasping these influencing factors can we grasp the specific methods of emotional expression in vocal music performance and enhance the interactive effect of performance. Therefore, based on the analysis of the importance of emotional expression in vocal music performance and the factors that affect emotional expression in vocal music performance practice, this article explores specific methods of regulating, controlling, and expressing emotions.

1. Introduction

Emotional expression is a very important display content in vocal music art performance. Only with abundant emotional output can vocal music performance have flesh and blood and be recognized by the audience. It is out of this consideration that the article analyzes the importance of emotional expression in vocal music performance, and accordingly explores methods of expression.

2. The Importance of Emotional Expression in Vocal Music Performance

2.1. Highlighting the Plot of the Work

The rich content of personalized emotional vocal stage performances can not only deeply affect the audience, but also closely integrate the audience's emotions with vocal performance. If vocal music performance focuses only on the application of performance techniques, but does not highlight the importance of sound color and personalized emotional expression, it will inevitably lead to the loss of its due charm in vocal music works. For example, during the performance of the opera *Yang Bailao*, the performer not only needs to handle the singing skills of the song melody well, but also needs to permeate personalized emotions into it. Once the performers fail to express their personalized emotions during the performance process, the audience will naturally not be able to experience the emotional changes of characters in the play such as Xier and the father of Xier, and the song will also lose its soul.

2.2. Effectively Conveying Information of Work

Generally, during the performance process, vocal music performers will adopt a method of integrating their emotions into the theme and plot of the work, and then use language to convey relevant information about the work to the audience on stage, guiding the audience to understand the content of the performance and resonating with it. For example, during the creation of the artistic song *Hometown*, the author expressed his grief for the loss of loved ones and hometown, while also expressing his resentment towards the invaders. Therefore, in the actual singing process, performers should not only fully reflect their hatred for the aggressors, their yearning for their hometown, and their feelings for their loved ones, but also use different emotional expressions to

infect the audience below the stage. If the performer simply expresses hatred for the invaders or yearning for their relatives and hometown during the singing process, it will not only mislead the audience, but also distort the original intention of the author's creation. These also further illustrate that personalized emotional expression plays an irreplaceable role in the process of vocal music performance. During the performance process, performers not only need to express their inner feelings through personalized emotional expression methods, but also should reflect the author's creative intention. In addition, during the performance of vocal music works, performers must put the expression of personalized emotions at the forefront, highlight the soul of the work, and achieve the goal of creating spiritual resonance with the audience through good interaction and communication.

3. Factors Affecting Emotional Expression in Vocal Music Performance

3.1. Technical Factors

Usually, technical factors are also considered as internal and key factors that affect the expression of artistic emotions in vocal music performances. Therefore, the saying "one minute on stage, ten years off stage" has emerged, with the aim of minimizing the impact of technical factors as much as possible. Specifically, technical factors include a wide range of aspects, from pronunciation to intonation to emotional expression. Technical factors affect the entire process of vocal art performance. Regardless of which singing technique is not firmly mastered, it can affect the overall effect of emotional expression in performance practice. Therefore, classifying and clarifying the logic of technical factors affecting emotional expression in vocal music performance is a prerequisite for improving and enhancing the effect of emotional expression in vocal music performance. For vocal music art performers, the technical factors that affect emotional expression make it necessary to firmly grasp the basic skills. If a vocal music art performer cannot pronounce accurately and enunciate clearly, it will lead to unclear expression of the lyrics as a carrier of emotional expression, giving the audience a confused audio-visual experience, ultimately interfering with the accurate expression of emotions.

The Ming Dynasty's *Qulv* emphasized the importance of language skills such as pronunciation and enunciation for vocal music artistic performance. Articulation and pronunciation can affect emotional expression at the beginning of a vocal performance, while voice processing, singing method conversion, and emotional manipulation can affect the process and results of vocal performance. In vocal music performances, in order to provide the audience with the best sound sensation, the singer will change the tone, strength, and even the singing method to achieve the most incisive expression of emotions. Along with the change of tone, strength, and singing method, emotional fluctuations occur. Finally, the emotions stimulate the audience's eardrums with the beating notes, allowing the audience to receive the emotions contained in the fluctuations. However, if a vocal singer does not have sufficient ability to experience the emotions in vocal music works, nor does he have the ability to achieve accurate pitch ups and downs, and arbitrary switching of singing methods, it is difficult to achieve accurate and perfect expression of emotions in singing practice. In addition to articulation, voice processing, singing method conversion, and emotional manipulation, technical factors also include the singer's aesthetic perception, which potentially affects the way and style the singer chooses to interpret vocal music and achieve the purpose of emotional expression. The singer's aesthetic perception is closely linked to the audience's emotional experience. In summary, technical factors affect the process and results of emotional expression in vocal art performance through three links, that is auditory perception, emotional experience, and aesthetic perception.

3.2. Decorative Factors

Corresponding to technical factors are decorative factors, which mainly refer to the three aspects of vocal performers' clothing, props used, and stage layout. As we all know, vocal music artistic performance not only requires a moving sound sense, but also a space that meets the needs of

artistic emotional expression. Clothing, props, and stage decoration are all elements that constitute the audio-visual space of vocal music performance. The style of clothing and stage is often consistent with the attribute categories of vocal music works. If the overall style of clothing, props, and stage is not coordinated with the vocal music works, it will distort the expression of emotions and affect the audience's acceptance of emotions. In general, the role of decorative factors in emotional expression in vocal music artistic performance practice is to create an audio-visual interactive space for emotional expression and acceptance, using highly stimulating elements such as light, sound, and color to assist vocal music performance, and ultimately achieve the effect of creating an artistic atmosphere for sublimating emotions. In the practice of vocal music performance, technical factors should be integrated with decorative factors to achieve the harmonious use of visual and auditory elements. However, in performance practice, there are many times when the phenomenon of emphasizing technology over decoration, or emphasizing decoration over technology, has caused certain obstacles to the perfect expression of emotions.

4. Methods of Improving the Effect of Emotional Expression in Vocal Music Performance

4.1. Cultivating Internal Skills and Consolidating the Technical Foundation of Emotional Expression

Technical factors are fundamental and crucial, and the proficiency of performers determines the scale of emotional expression. Therefore, inherent performance skills and comprehensive literacy are the foundation of emotional expression in vocal music performance. In order to minimize the impact of technical factors on emotional expression in performance practice, vocal performers are required to hone their skills and consolidate professional performance skills. As the saying goes, "forging iron requires self mastery". Proficient in mastering these basic skills such as various performance skills can be achieved in performance practice, so as to express emotions in detail. Specifically, performers should firstly cultivate their voice and tone, and through long-term training, achieve clear articulation, rounded tone, and coherent breath, thereby ensuring a clean and full audio-visual enjoyment for the audience during vocal music performances. Secondly, after the basic skills such as words, sounds, and techniques have been consolidated, it is necessary to further develop a good sense of rhythm. Emotions in vocal music often sublimate and change with rhythm changes. Once the performers master the rhythm of vocal performance, they can largely grasp the changes in emotions and accurately express them through changes in tone, strength, and singing style. Finally, the performance practice of vocal music requires not only good vocal conditions and solid singing skills, but also other performance skills, such as body movements. The vocal performance process is complemented by appropriate actions and gestures, which can more catalyze the fermentation of emotions and sublimate the expression effect of emotions. In summary, the self cultivation of performers is a valve for fully and accurately expressing artistic emotions during the performance process.

4.2. Decorative Background and Constructing a Stage Space for Emotional Expression

The stage is not only a platform for performers to perform vocal music works, but also a part of the organizational content of vocal music performances. The stage constitutes the entire visual space of vocal music performances, largely determining the atmosphere of the performance and affecting the concentration of emotional expression in vocal music performances. Therefore, in the practice of vocal music performance, in order to fully express artistic emotions, it is necessary to attach importance to the overall use of clothing, props, and stage environment. Through the integration of the entire stage environment and the emotional atmosphere of vocal music performances, the emotions contained in vocal music works can be combined with elements such as clothing, props, and dance decorations to enhance the strength and intensity of emotional expression. The use of costume props and the creation of a stage environment should follow several guidelines.

Firstly, it is necessary to meet the style needs of vocal music artistic performance, such as the tone of stage lighting should correspond to the emotional color of vocal music performance, and so

on. Secondly, it is necessary to highlight the visual decoration and three-dimensional sense, with the purpose of constructing a visual space and emotional artistic conception space for vocal music performance, on the one hand, to give the audience a more realistic and impactful performance effect, on the other hand, to construct an emotional artistic conception space, bringing the audience a stronger sense of immersion (see Figure 1). Thirdly, the use of decorative elements should focus on setting off the performer. Regardless of the performer's occupancy or activity area, various elements should be coordinated to provide sufficient foil to the performer, so that the performer can fully express their emotions through their main body's voice, movements, and demeanor. In the process of vocal music performance, many people will ignore the impact of decorative elements on emotional expression, thereby failing to build an emotional mood space for the audience, resulting in the absence of visual environment assistance in emotional expression, and the overall performance effect is not satisfying.



Figure 1 The construction of emotional artistic conception space in vocal music performance.

5. Conclusion

Vocal music is an art that starts from the heart and belongs to the heart. Emotion is the soul of the art. Expressing emotions fully and fully is the mission of vocal music artistic performance. In the actual performance process, the emotional expression effect will be affected by technical and decorative factors, resulting in poor performance of vocal music art. Based on the analysis of the factors at two levels, the article further explores ways to improve the emotional expression effect in vocal music performances, so as to promoting more exciting vocal music artistic performances.

References

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