

Integrating and Mastering the Folk Style Singing and Bel Canto in Teaching

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Abstract: Vocal music experiences a long history in China, and presents a hotter trend in recent years with the continuous economic and social development. With the development of vocal music in recent years, it can be seen that the current vocal music level in China is high, with various kinds of professional and non-professional vocal competitions held, and more and more learners of vocal music emerged. However, for the folk style singing and bel canto in teaching, scholars generate some disputes, and the author thinks that in vocal music teaching, the folk style singing and bel canto should be integrated and mastered, which will be discussed in this paper.

With the social progress, people have higher requirements on vocal art. Various colleges and universities have set vocal music majors, and the majored students show an increasing trend year by year. Vocal music teaching begins to take shape. Bel canto has gained popularity in China, and gets new development after absorbing the features of folk style singing; the folk style singing in China also presents obvious increase due to the influence of bel canto. The folk style singing and bel canto influences on and promotes each other, so in vocal music teaching, the folk style singing and bel canto should be integrated and mastered.

1. Distinctions between folk style singing and bel canto

1.1 The cultural background difference of folk style singing and bel canto

China is a country consisting of 56 nations, and each nation has unique personality and customs. The folk vocal music in China originates from the folk to express life and emotion. The vocal music of each nation is associated with the corresponding artistic personality, and both the content and form of the vocal music presents sharp folk features.

The bel canto originates from the Italy opera and presents dense Christian culture and Greek culture. Although the singing styles are rich, the cultural background is relatively simple.

1.2 The distinctions between the breath uses of folk style singing and bel canto

The folk style singing stresses "descend the breath to Dantian", to use abdomen to adjust breath and take the breathing as the main driving force of voice.

For the bel canto, although is also emphasizes the use of breath, it regards breathing as the driving force behind the voice. It requires deep inspiring and consistent breathing, and unified conversion of true and false sounds.

1.3 The distinctions between the voice makings of folk style singing and bel canto

The folk style singing in China presents typical national features, which uses breath to make voice. During the singing performance, it requires to give full play to the voice characteristics of singers, the articulation should be good, the rhyme and tune should be complete, the tone should be brilliant and sweet, and the voice and body performance should a harmonious unity.

The bel canto integrates the skills of physics, physiology, acoustics and other aspects, including how to control voice organs, the resonance of voice, the pursue the full and round tone, etc., which is a flexible singing form conforming to human voice rules.

1.4 The distinctions between the resonance cavities of folk style singing and bel canto

The folk style singing in China mainly make resonance with mouth and the head cavity. The tone is bright and concentrated. The position of the head cavity is ahead of that of the bel canto.

The bel canto utilizes the head cavity, nasal cavity, oral cavity and chest cavity together to achieve a unified, flexible and natural transformation, so that the voice of the singer are more beautiful and pleasant.

2. The positive significance of integrating and mastering the bel canto and folk style singing

The folk music of China has new developments through learning from the bel canto. Without changing the essence of folk music, the learning of bel canto skills can make the folk style singing performance more mellow and more flexible; besides, it helps solve the problem of too acute sound in treble area of the folk style singing, which is more conducive to the conveyance of the charm of folk style singing. The integration of bel canto can also enrich the characteristics and forms of folk music, making it more acceptable to the listeners of the world and present new vitality. The success of application and expression of folk song "Jasmine" in Turandot is a typical case of the internationalization of Chinese folk music.

Therefore, to integrate and master the bel canto singing and folk style singing will be beneficial to the development of folk style singing.

3. Approaches of integrating and mastering the folk style singing and bel canto

3.1 Applying the breath use of folk style singing to bel canto

The traditional folk vocal music teaching emphasizes "to use the breath to drive emotion, to use emotion to convey voice", which means to use the small air hole to make punctuation, and the decorative tone to express the national sentiment. This presents the typical reserved tone of Chinese people. But the folk music and folk songs with coloratura artistic characteristics put very high requirement on breath use and singing skills of singers. If the folk style singing method can absorb the bel canto method, then the students are able to use the nose-mouth deep breathing way to control the diaphragm, which promotes the stability of breath control and then improve the singing skills. In actual singing process, this help achieves the unity of organic breath and singing skills, and meet the requirements of different emotional expressions. Therefore, in vocal music teaching, the teacher should strengthen students' breath training with proper methods to improve the ability of breath use. With the help of the unique breathing skills of bel canto, the reserved feature of folk style sing will not lose, and the fluency of voice and the consistency of breath will be improved, which can make the performance more vivid.

3.2 Applying the articulation of bel canto to strengthen folk style singing training

The folk style singing puts very strict requirements on pronunciation and sound coordination. By learning the bel canto articulation, the original point of strength in folk style singing will be moved behind, which makes the vowel singing more mellow and full, and can effectively avoid the rhyme error, such as the error singing of "a" to "o". This requires the teachers to help students clarify the rhyme, to set up the posterior pharyngeal wall, increase oral space and raise the soft palate to a certain extent, make the oral and pharyngeal cavity form a positive state. With the stability of this positive state, the students will be able to flexibly use this articulation, which will not abandon the original softness and connotation of folk style singing, and will make the articulation more clear and accurate, which makes the emotion conveyance effective.

3.3 Applying the resonance technique of bel canto to folk style singing

For a long time, music experts in the world have fully affirmed the resonance skills of bel canto, and taken a lesson from it in different degrees. Through the continuous training of students' resonant cavity, students' control of the resonant cavity size will be effectively strengthened, and

they can perform different tones. The training can also improve the roundness degree of voice, to fuse the true and false voices and then broaden the musical range. Through the coordination of head cavity, oral cavity, nasal cavity, and chest cavity, the students can achieve the mastery of the style and content of the music ultimately, making the performance in line with aesthetic.

3.4 A typical case of integrating folk vocal music and bel canto

Chinese folk vocal music can be divided into Haozi, mountain songs and minors based on their genres. In order to accurately express the songs, we must firstly understand the singing styles of different genres.

Haozi is a folk song genre accompanied by labor and is used to boost morale. It has the high pitched tunes, strong rhythm, and requires the tone to be strong and bold. In general, the beginning and end of Haozi is in treble area, and requires the tone to be broad and clear. This requires the singer to adopt the chest and abdominal breathing method of bel canto, and use the head cavity and chest cavity together to make resonance, in order to enhance the elasticity of voice, and achieve the effect of "both voice and emotion is full" during labor. For example, the "Haozi of boatman worker", "thrash wheat Song", "Haozi of ramming", etc.

Mountain Song is a folk song genre sung during working in mountains. The voice is loud, the tune is circling, and the rhythm is fluent. It is a song of expressing thoughts and feelings of workers. Through the Bel Canto breath use and articulation training, it can successfully solve the problems of thin voice, difficulty in high pitch and voice trembling of students. It can increase the degree of soundness of voice, make the expression more aesthetic. For example: "the sun is beaming with Joy, "In that distant place".

Minor is a folk dance ditty circulated in the market. The melody is exquisite, and rhythmic is regular. By integrating the bel canto, students grasp the tune more accurately, and the use of breath is more stable. For example, "Wuxi scenery", "Meng Jiangnu", "Yimeng Mountain minor" and so on.

With the continuous development and progress of times, the folk vocal music has become the unity of scientificness, nationality, artisticness and times, and the correct expression of this artistic culture has represented the important position of Chinese culture in world culture. Therefore, the folk vocal music teaching, not only needs to inherit the essence of traditional ethnic vocal music, but also needs to continuously improve the scientific singing method, to integrate the bel canto into folk style singing, to promote the scientific development of folk style singing, and promotes the growth of folk music.

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