

A Study on the Singing Forms of Western Rock Music Integrating Classical Cultural Elements

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Abstract. Rock and roll is not only a form of music, but also a "attitude and philosophy of life". It is precisely because of this that rock and roll is different from general pop music, and there are various differences between Chinese and Western rock and roll. Rock music has many branches and complex forms. Its main styles include folk rock, art rock, psychedelic rock, Country rock, heavy metal, punk, etc. This article studies the singing forms of Western rock music that integrate classical cultural elements. People who listen to classical music "despise" the "vulgarity" of rock and roll, and people who play rock and roll "dislike" the "affectation" of classical music. These two music styles, which seem to never blend together, always maintain a proud attitude of respecting each other in their respective music culture circles. The extensive use of words with classical cultural elements and cultural imagery in rock music works can allow viewers to develop a sense of closeness and identification with the national essence reflected in the work from an aesthetic psychological perspective, and have a deeper understanding of the ideas expressed in the work.

Keywords: classical cultural elements, western rock music, singing forms

1. Introduction

Music is an indispensable element in the civilized society of human beings. It is constantly developing, leaping and merging, and gradually forms different branches and styles. Today, there is one of the most important musical forces called rock and roll. Rock and roll is not only a form of music, but also a kind of "attitude and philosophy of life". It is precisely because of this that rock and roll is different from general pop music, and there are various differences between Chinese and western rock and roll. Rock music has many branches and complex forms. The main styles are folk rock, art rock, psychedelic rock, country rock, heavy metal and punk. In the eyes of westerners, rock and roll has a unique heroic charm, and the musicians playing on the stage are like fighters, struggling to shed sweat and notes. Whether it's passionate American rock, or britpop, who is bold and unrestrained in gentlemanly elegance, the flaming rock flame has spread in various countries in Europe and America with the passage of time. As a very representative western music culture, rock music is full of strength and speed, which explains a kind of attitude of pursuing freedom and liberating human nature [1]. In this paper, the singing form of western rock music with classical cultural elements is studied. In the important process of the continuous development of domestic rock music, there are quite a few national elements from beginning to end. Whether it is the national mode in the melody and the regional style of the work, the use of national musical instruments, or the traditional cultural genes in the performance and lyrics, all of them reflect the existence and influence of China elements [2-3]. Subsequently, the superposition of various reasons led to the decline of rock music in China, which was replaced by pop music. Let rock and roll stand up again, and the overwhelming popularity of pop music and idolatry in the domestic media is bound to change. Those rock bands who are struggling underground for their ideals and lives are bound to conquer critical audiences with better and more appropriate music. Judging from the development of Chinese rock in the past 20 years, the middle is full of twists and turns. This is entirely determined by the nature that the characteristics of rock and roll itself are inconsistent with the superstructure of China. China's rock music started when the "Northwest Wind" in the domestic pop music scene was in the ascendant. Rock musicians creatively combined elements such as national mode, China traditional culture and national musical instruments with western rock music forms, and used a large number of national symbols and elements in the form of music works, forming a unique Chinese rock music style [4]. When it comes to the rock phenomenon in China's pop music scene, Cui Jian's name can't be ignored. Undoubtedly, this is a dark horse who killed China's pop music scene. Cui Jian and his band have brought

a brand-new feeling to China's music scene and music audience with their rolling and passionate music performance and unique singing form.

2. The Differences between Chinese and Western Rock Music

2.1. Environmental differences

The development of every cultural and artistic category requires an environment that corresponds to it, nurturing it like a swaddle. Western rock and roll is mainly established in the context of capitalist society, where young people are real, wild, angry, yearning for freedom, unwilling to follow the trend, and displaying their individuality. In the eyes of ordinary people, rock music is also a type of pop music. In China, rock music was initially regarded as "decadent music", which was despised by the High culture circles, and then was regarded as the "spiritual pollution" of decadent capitalism, which was severely prohibited by the relevant departments [5]. Western pop music is striving to pursue non Western factors. This pursuit was initially manifested in the enthusiasm for Latin American Folk music, which made many Latin American pop music, such as "tango", quickly spread throughout Europe and the world [6]. After "integration", Europe is making greater efforts to absorb non European things. In the open-minded and diverse Western society, the power of rock and roll is in line with people's tastes. In China, under Confucian culture, Chinese people are humble, introverted, even conservative, and pedantic. Coupled with the lack of promotion from social media, rock has gone downhill, and pop stars such as Japan, China, and the Heavenly Kingdom completely dominate the Japanese pop music market. It is said that the money Japan spends on music and entertainment every year is second only to the United States in the world, and most of it is spent on importing European and American pop music, while the export of Japanese pop music is negligible [7]. The reason is very simple: the Western world is not willing to enjoy Japanese pop music that imitates the West. Although the overall background of China is not conducive to the development of rock, its existing environment is gradually changing towards a direction suitable for rock. Chinese rock music does not need to replicate the West, but necessary approximations and positive environments are needed.

2.2. Differences in Ideology

Rock and roll is no longer just a form of popular music, but a declaration of a series of new values. It can be said that rock music and Western values complement each other, and overall, rock music and Western values are isomorphic. The absorption of Eastern music also emerged to showcase a more diverse and colorful life. It is natural for a rapidly developing and changing genre like pop music to be dissatisfied with its own culture and try to absorb cultural factors beyond its own traditions [8]. The phenomenon of "cultural hybridization" between the East and the West is commonly seen in Western pop music. In the entire Western society, it is a rebellious consciousness towards the real system and is loved by the majority of young people, resulting in some excellent works. But the extremely complex situation of pop and rock music does indeed confuse the world about them. Sexual freedom and violence are two reflections of Western values, which should be common in Western movies and an enduring theme in rock and roll [9]. Although there have been multiple confrontations with the government in the history of rock music, it is an inevitable development process. After ten years of turmoil, people have experienced the impact of "strong and hard sounding" "model music". What they crave the most is warm comfort, relaxation, and beautiful fluency. The romantic and strong human touch of popular songs better fit people's aesthetic psychology, and popular songs and singers have become popular. The rebellious and "decadent" personal behavior of rock musicians is socially unacceptable; The content of lyrics is generally more implicit and tactful, and on the surface, it may seem that the government does not allow it. In fact, the underlying reason is still a matter of values.

3. Western Rock Music Singing Form Integrating Classical Cultural Elements

3.1. National Mode in Melody and Regional Style of Works

Both rock and classical music have a strong sense of rhythm and accuracy, and although the two styles differ greatly, there is also a close connection. In order to make young audiences like his music style, David adapted many pieces, such as in terms of harmony and rearrangement. He believed that classical rock music had a symbiotic relationship in harmony progression, so he would require himself to be able to freely transform the two on the piece. For the rearrangement of music, this may be the most complex issue. Classical music needs to incorporate rock elements, while rock music needs to incorporate classical elements and present them in the most perfect way.

A large number of rock music works draw lessons from China's traditional national mode elements and different regional style features in their melodies, showing colorful and rich Chinese rock music styles. Rock and classical, two musical expressions that originally seemed to be irrelevant, one is as elegant as spring snow and the other is as enthusiastic as Xialiba people. In the long history of music for thousands of years, there are few moments of blending and collision. Those who listen to classical music "despise" the vulgarity of rock music, while those who play rock music "dislike" the classical "artifice". These two musical styles, which never seem to be in harmony, will always maintain a proud attitude of mutual respect and non-negotiation in their respective music and cultural circles [10]. In fact, the freedom and uncompromising spirit of rock and roll is its essence. Compared with other

genres of music such as rap, its greatest charm lies in the thorough expression of emotions, which coincides with the strong emotional color that runs through classical music all the time. As shown in Figure 1, the newly appeared LONG+ band made great efforts to break the shackles of music expressions such as rock, classical, pop and even ethnic groups, and took the rock violin as the main theme of the band's C position. Through the classical fusion of rock, it perfectly presented a brand-new cross-border concert with seamless connection and high integration of various music styles.



Figure 1. Classical Rock Cross Border Concert

The use of this melodic element perfectly expresses the nostalgia and helplessness towards traditional culture and the ancient homeland facing the impact of industrialization and urbanization in the work, and the combination of the two complements each other. The music style of the band also has a unique Beijing style melody and draws inspiration from traditional cross talk performance methods. In addition to the innovative interpretation methods of rock music, it is known as Beijing style cross talk rap rock and Chinese opera rock.

3.2. The Influence of Traditional Culture in Lyrics

Using music to interpret history, promote life and individuality, express reflection on life and profound contemplation of self exile, trace back to the depths of national culture accumulated in a long history, pursue the prosperity and glory of the Tang Dynasty, and also express the beautiful desire of Chinese civilization to rise back to the top of the world. The extremely ancient lyrics make Heavy metal music more gorgeous, and also reflect that the Tang Dynasty band has a deep literary foundation and strong artistic accomplishment. As shown in Figure 2, when Beethoven's classic works are integrated into rock music, the grand scene of classical music adds to the grandeur of rock music. The concert is colorful, warm, romantic and delicate. The Classical element that are ready to come out are parallel to the modern sense. The use of many musical elements such as classical music, pop music, rock music and so on makes the concert doomed to be "cold". From the selection of tracks to the overall atmosphere of the performance, LONG+ brings a revolution full of creativity and subversion.



Figure 2. Rock concert integrating Classical element

A beautiful piece of music or a stunning piece of music often brings tears to one's face, and both the audience and the performer will draw tremendous musical power from it. LONG+ hopes to be a good music that can be understood by all people and all ages. By adapting the world's classic music into a style and performance that is more popular, more grounded, and both refined and popular, people who have not learned or contacted classical music can also hear good music that is truly diversified and beautiful, and feel the healing and beauty of music. The extensive use of words with traditional Chinese cultural imagery in rock music works allows viewers to develop a sense of closeness and identification with the national essence reflected in the work from an aesthetic psychological perspective, and to have a deeper understanding of the ideas expressed in the work.

4. Conclusions

The creation of rock music and the emergence of new music are both historical inevitability. Rock and roll reveals social problems, which are often very ugly. This kind of disclosure is not the so-called argument of seeking common ground while reserving differences and letting a hundred flowers contend in the theoretical circle, but directly exposes some sensitive issues. Coupled with the popularization of music, it is easy to arouse public resonance in a wide range. The choice of rock music form, performance attitude and the design of environment and post-production people are not only to get rid of the rules, habits and repression of daily life, but also to consciously judge and attack those secular things. In this paper, the singing form of western rock music with classical cultural elements is studied. Although Chinese and western rock music is like two different fruits on the same tree, I believe that everyone did not see the original criticism of Chinese and western rock music, nor did they want to criticize the differences between the two. Regarding the future of Chinese rock music, Cui Jian, who is known as the "father of rock music" in China, expressed firm confidence: "We want to do rock music with China characteristics. These rock music works with classical cultural elements can be said to have influenced a whole generation, making people feel cordial and intoxicated. In the passionate and impassioned place of rock music, there is a rational return and reflection, which makes the appreciator unconsciously pursue the cultural context and spiritual home in the depths of the soul.

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