Music Characteristics and Creative Elements of Shaanxi Erhu Works
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Abstract. Shaanxi has long history, Shaanxi culture also called Qin culture. Shaanxi culture has distinct local characteristics. Because of the influence of local culture, erhu in Shaanxi also has strong local characteristic, reflect the distinct characteristics of northern Shaanxi, including the erhu. Many erhu work show the strong local culture of northern Shaanxi. Local music works, such as "living with a wandering life", "flowing clouds and flowing water” and “happy Qin chuan", form a unique local music culture, which is an important part of northern Shaanxi culture. Qiao jian Zhong, as a national music scholar, pointed out: “the formation of any art genre is not by one or two people or one or two works, it must have a 'inheritance belt' composed of several generations of artists, and it must have a series of representative repertoire and the techniques and styles formed from it.”

Keywords: music; Erhu; Shaanxi; the element.

1. Introduction

Erhu works of Shaanxi local style can reflect the temperament and character of the people in northern Shaanxi, and bring us to know the people's life. Through the works, local customs and cultural qualities can also be obtained. These music works often infiltrate all aspects of the people of northern Shaanxi, often a song is a story. Understanding the music characteristics and creative elements of erhu has an inseparable relationship with the local geographical environment, history and culture, and has a unique regional color.

2. Characteristics of Music in Erhu, Shaanxi

2.1 Shaanxi Erhu Music has Opera Characteristics

Shaanxi province is a major opera province in China, and also the birthplace of Chinese opera. Opera is a part of Shaanxi people’s life. After a long period of historical precipitation, various musical instruments and operas also interact and integrate with each other. The same is true of erhu. The famous Shaanxi erhu melody, theme of Qin tune, is characterized by its free rhythm and sonorous pronunciation. Qin qiang opera had a great influence on the formation of Qin erhu school. From the Shang dynasty in the 17th century BC to the 11th century BC, western songs represented by music style in Qin dynasty were produced. Further confirm the so-called “western sound”, “western melody” and “western melody” as specific music cultural form concepts, that is to say, a unique singing style represented by the folk music style in Qin province (Shaanxi province, southern Shaanxi Province and eastern Gansu province). Since the 1950s, northern Shaanxi, Guanzhong and other areas gradually formed harmony but different with Shaanxi local characteristics Drama. Elements of local music, such as Qin qiang opera, Hua guxi opera, are Shaanxi the creation of erhu works provide inexhaustible music material.

Especially, the integration of music in Qin qiang opera makes the works of erhu in Shaanxi appear extremely. Shaanxi erhu style are unique. Lu rirong and Zhao zhenxiao performed works with Qin style according to Qin opera. And into a very Shanxi style erhu solo “Shannxi opera Theme Capriccio” is it one of the typical works in the book. Shaanxi, located in the middle reaches of the Yellow River, is the land of the ancient Qin dynasty, with a long history. Meanwhile, due to the special geographical environment and the frank character and plain language of the Qin people, music culture of the Qin dynasty has been permeated, so music of the Qin dynasty has formed a unique artistic style.
Qin qiang opera in Shaanxi art types, the most typical, erhu, Qin qiang instruments are essential.

In the thirties of the last century, by the Liu tianhua, Hua YanJun, older player’s efforts to become a very important soloist, so about the style of the Shaanxi music plethora of erhu music also have mushroomed. For example, an erhu solo in Shaanxi style written by Lu rirongong and Zhao zhenxiao based on qin opera tunes and singing tunes is a very typical work “Shaanxi Opera Theme Capriccio” is a representative work of Qin qiang opera music and also a famous erhu work. Therefore, it can be seen that music of erhu in Shaanxi has certain characteristics of opera style.

If we do analysis of the representative works from the Shaanxi erhu, will find that the reference material mainly concentrated in Shanxi local opera “Qin”, “Mei Hu” “Wan Wan Qiang” and north folk songs, which, in addition to northern Shaanxi folk songs, peculiar to the three kinds of local opera bitter Huan tone type scale and rotation method, is the Shaanxi erhu style formation of the genes, and thus give out some special performing skills, such as “Lou xian”, “downward rotating glide” and so on. Random melody with Qin opera theme inherits a large number of precious artistic features of Qin qiang opera music. Also formed their own unique style and it has a distinctive personality and far-reaching impact.

“The red Army Brother Regression” was a folk song of northern Shaanxi. In 1977, Feng Jianxue’s as the famous singer, her sang the northern Shaanxi folk song “red army brother is back” was selected by China news film factory into the art film “the sound of folk song”, which was screened nationwide, making her stand out in China’s singing circle. Shaanxi folk songs are closely related to the production and social practice of the working people in all dynasties. Shaanxi folk songs have various styles, including Xin tianyou, folk songs, ditties etc. Which can be divided into southern Shaanxi and Guan zhong characteristics according to different geography.

The erhu has been mixed with these tunes for a long time to produce a variety of tunes. For example, the erhu work is adapted and created based on the folk songs of northern Shaanxi with distinctive characteristics. The works express people’s love and praise for life in northern Shaanxi. The style of Shaanxi erhu works is closely related to Shaanxi dialect. Due to the bold and unrestrained Shaanxi dialect and the strong and powerful discourse, the melody of Shaanxi erhu works fluctuates greatly, and the timbre is also relatively rich. Geopolitical features Shaanxi is not only the political, economic and cultural center of several dynasties, but also famous for its revolutionary historical status in July 1938.

Much reflects people’s struggle for living drama Chinese folk art forms music especially in 1942, chairman MAO in Yan’an literature published about the speech at the meeting, well solved the Chinese proletarian literature and art theory and practice problems in the development, make broad literary and art workers in the breadth and depth of reality in diversification have reached a new level during the creation of a large number of opera drama Music on the later creation of Shaanxi erhu works, and played a certain reference role in the more innovative works.

This song is adapted from the Shaanxi local opera “Wan wan qiang” music as the material. The music vividly depicts the red army’s triumphant return, its warm welcome by the masses and its return to the journey. “Wan wan qiang” is a kind of shadow puppetry opera popular in hualiang and other areas at the northern foot of Huashan mountain in Shaanxi province. It is famous for its main percussion instrument, bowl (shaped like a small bronze bell), and its music is euphemistic and pleasant to hear.

2.2 Music in Erhu of Shaanxi has the Regional Characteristics of Local People

For example, “Guerrillas under Hengshan” is “Xin tianyou” music style of one of the most typical representative tracks. During the agrarian revolution in the 1930s, people in northern Shaanxi used traditional folk songs to compose and sing a large number of new folk songs about the communist party, the red army guerrillas revolution.

Yan’an is one of the five thousand years of civilization of the Chinese nation, the tomb of the yellow emperor Xuan yuan is lying in Yan’an territory of the bridge hill, is honored as the “humanity of the first ancestor.” In the long river of history, Yan’an with its “border county”, “five road front throat” special strategic position, Wu qi, Meng tian, Fan zhongyan, Shen kuo and many
other ancient Chinese famous generals in this great exhibition of wen tao-wu strategy, staged a scene of the tragic and stirring historical drama.

In the first half of the 20th century, Yan’an wrote a brilliant page in the history of the Chinese nation. National heroes Liu zhidan, Xie zichang founded the northern Shanxi revolutionary base, became the central red army long-distance campaign foothold. From 1935 to 1948, Yan’an was the seat of the central committee of the communist party of China (CPC) and the total base of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army. During the past 13 years, it experienced a series of major events that influenced and changed the course of Chinese history, such as the Anti-Japanese War, the liberation war, the rectification movement, the mass production movement, and the seventh national congress of the CPC.

In particular, the Yan’an spirit of self-reliance, hard work, seeking truth from facts and serving the people wholeheartedly, which was cultivated by Mao zedong and other revolutionaries of the older generation, is a precious treasure in the spiritual treasure house of the Chinese nation and has become an important spiritual pillar for the Chinese people to unite in the socialist modernization drive. In 1982, Yan’an was named as a famous historical and cultural city by the state council. In November 1996, the state council approved the abolition of Yan’an district and the establishment of prefecture-level Yan’an.

Shaanxi was the seat of several dynasties, and also the revolutionary base of modern China, with a red history. Therefore, it is inevitable to produce works related to revolutionary spirit, including Chinese folk arts forms, music and drama. Among them, erhu works “The Red Army Brother Regression” it was an excellent erhu works, which combines the creation background and real living environment to express the warm picture of ordinary people in northern Shaanxi sending the red army off to embark on a new journey.

3. Shaanxi Erhu Music Creation Elements

3.1 Creative Elements Come from Life

Music comes from life. Any creation comes from the perception of life, and such works are infectious. Erhu works are no exception. There are many excellent erhu works in Shaanxi province, including labor, kinship, career and other elements, which are the true portrayal of people’s life in Shaanxi province. For example, works such as “Shaan xi Opera Theme Capriccio”, “Lan hua hua Ballad” “Xi kou emotion” and so on.

3.2 Creative Elements Come from Opera Stories

Many of the erhu works in Shaanxi are adapted from opera stories, most of them reflect the life of Shaanxi people. Shaanxi drama has a lot of influence on the excellent erhu works in Shaanxi province. It makes the erhu works absorb the elements of these plays, and it is also one of the creative elements of these erhu works. In the creation of Shaanxi regional opera music, the most representative opera has its unique style, which influences the music style of erhu, thus forming a performance style in the development of Shaanxi erhu art.

Shaanxi opera has a profound influence on erhu works. The creation of erhu was influenced by opera. The creation elements of many excellent erhu work more or less refer to the merits of Qin qiang opera music. In the process of collecting creative elements, special tones are included, and typical opera special tones are appropriately adapted and transferred into erhu works. Through the integration and combination of opera tones, erhu works have formed the main morphological characteristics and performance style of the development of erhu art in Shaanxi province.

Shaanxi opera music has a great influence on erhu art. From the early 1960s, a large number of excellent solo erhu music appeared successively. For example, the work “Shaanxi opera Theme Capriccio” and “Mei hu Tune” which participated in the fourth “Shanghai spring” competition, marked a milestone. From then on, erhu art began to grow under the Influence of Shaanxi opera music, excellent erhu works full of qin charm keep coming out. These works include “Qujiang
Chant” and “Pick the flowers” by Mr. Lu Zhirong, “Lan hua hua ballad” and “Xi kou emotion” by Mr. Guan Ming and so on.

The rapid development of erhu in Shaanxi is attributed to the great influence of its environment on erhu, especially in terms of opera. The development in the country also makes a school of its own, showing strong local characteristics. The various changes in the creation and performance skills of erhu opera in Shaanxi province have been influenced by the sales of music opera in Qin, which is closely related to each other and adds Qin style and charm to erhu works, as well as many inspirations to erhu works. Many creative elements of erhu in Shaanxi province come from Qin opera, including creative materials, music tune of erhu and melody techniques used in the music, which enrich the expression of erhu art in Shaanxi province.

3.3 The Material Comes from Local Folk Customs

The reason why Shaanxi erhu achieved great achievements in a short period of time is mainly due to the resources of traditional music culture and the provision of local folk customs in Qin dynasty, except the joint efforts of scholars in erhu of Shaanxi. The calm and atmospheric national character of Shaanxi people adds deep and strong elements to the erhu style.

Erhu is a main body of Chinese music, and erhu culture is a kind of substrate of Chinese music thought.

The performance can be performed by several people or thousands of people together, the magnificent momentum, superb performance is intoxicating, known as the world's first drum. In 1996, An sai county was named as China’s waist drum township by the ministry of culture. On May 20, 2006, waist drum was included in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage list approved by the state council.

“Waist drum” is a popular form of folk encouragement in northern Shaanxi, especially in A sai waist drum A sai county in Yan'an region, Hengshan and Mi zhi in Yu lin region, which is one of the most popular folk dances in Shaanxi. There is no doubt that the creation of erhu work in Shaanxi is influenced by these intangible cultural heritages to some extent.

3.4 Creative Elements Come from the National Spirit

We know that people in any region will encounter various difficulties in the course of history and overcome numerous difficulties and obstacles. Since ancient times, the people of Shaanxi have left many glorious traces, which will inspire the local people to continue to struggle. From the long history, Shaanxi has accumulated a strong national style and characteristics, accumulated a lot of rich national spirit, it has a long history of traditional culture and also attaches great importance to tradition. There is no doubt that these traditional national spirits will inject the national spirit into erhu music, make these music's infectious. There is a national spirit in the excellent erhu works of Shaanxi, and the national spirit is constantly written into the erhu of Shaanxi, including many praises of the excellent spirit of Shaanxi, which brings spiritual works of art to Shaanxi people and has a feedback effect on local Shaanxi people.

4. Conclusion

Erhu was used as a solo instrument in the 1920s, and later many excellent erhu works appeared successively. Every place has its own local style. Shaanxi erhu has the bold and deep style of Shaanxi people. These erhu express the local people’s life in a real way, which has an impact on every Shaanxi people. The local custom of erhu music in Shaanxi province is characterized by opera, poll, geopolitical color and other characteristics, which are reflected in erhu works respectively. It has unique local attraction, which makes erhu music works present a different style. Shaanxi local customs erhu music elements and local ethnic culture, historical accumulation, folk customs are inseparable, its these factors are mixed in erhu works, make the works more vivid, more dynamic. In the process of artistic exploration. Only by carefully understanding the expressive elements of music, accurately grasping the emotions of music, distinguishing different music
themes and forms, and understanding the style of music, can I vividly present the works of music in performance. Erhu after decades of development, evolution, in erhu play and creation of more and more mature, erhu get rapid development in Shaanxi Province, Shaanxi has built up their own schools, erhu as working people have cloud thickens personality in Shaanxi, erhu from the long history of culture, constantly absorbing and growth gradually enriching the content of their own play, the erhu art in the field of contributed a certain culture.

References


