# Integration and Development of Chinese Traditional Opera Elements and Contemporary Pop Music

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**Keywords:** Opera elements; Pop music; Integration

Abstract: Popular music, known as "popular music", has a high voice and popularity among the masses and is an important part of popular music culture. At the same time, the integration of popular music and opera elements has achieved certain results in the popularization of mass culture, but there are still some shortcomings that need further innovation and reform. Chinese traditional opera music, with its profound cultural heritage and unique forms of expression, has become an important bridge representing the communication between Chinese culture and world culture. Therefore, the combination of pop music and opera elements has become a new form of exploration. However, with the influx of pop music, the important position of opera has been greatly impacted. However, with the increasingly frequent cultural exchanges among countries, the influence of western music on the creation of pop music is becoming increasingly prominent. This form is not only easy to cause aesthetic fatigue for the masses, but also not conducive to the development of China's local music culture. It seems that opera art is only favored by the elderly and has become a "minority culture". The public yearns for pop music, a musical element in line with the development trend of the times. This paper will discuss the integration and development of pop music and opera elements in the current music market. The integration of the two has important value in promoting the inheritance and dissemination of Chinese opera culture.

#### 1. Introduction

With the continuous development of society, people's living standards are constantly improving, and aesthetic needs are constantly changing. Facing the increasingly diversified and diversified aesthetic needs of the masses, in order to achieve good and sustainable development of pop music, its creation must break through the limitations and innovate constantly [1]. Many times we usually convey our feelings through songs, and then express our love for life through songs [2].

However, with the development of society and the rise of mass media, various styles of music are flourishing, which makes the music market saturated [3]. Traditional opera, as one of the important expressions of Chinese historical music and culture, contains a strong national flavor and rich cultural connotations. However, with the changes of the times, traditional opera has gradually separated from people's lives, and at present, especially the younger generation, it is difficult to arouse interest in traditional opera, which makes the essence of traditional opera fall into the crisis of inheritance and development [4]. Pop songs, from the simple imitation of Hong Kong and Taiwan Music and European and American music in the past, to the current original music and online music, can be found everywhere [5]. Integrating traditional opera elements into modern pop music creation is not only an effective inheritance path of traditional opera culture, but also an important choice for pop music to break through difficulties and innovate and develop [6]. In the contemporary pop music creation group, more and more young creators are aware of this. They boldly integrate the traditional music elements of various regional cultures into their works, and combine folk songs, rap, opera and other materials with pop music elements to create a number of popular works [7].

How to use songs to penetrate Chinese traditional culture has become a development point of song creation in recent years. In recent years, the successful application for intangible cultural heritage of opera music represented by Beijing Opera and Kunqu opera has made opera music more widely into the public's vision and become a hot spot of attention. The creative method of

combining pop music and opera music has gradually been accepted and loved by the audience [8]. It is also an inevitable choice to promote the innovation and development of pop music by incorporating national cultural elements into pop music and recreating Chinese traditional ancient prose, ancient poetry and national opera[9]. Can make people get the shock of visual sense of hearing, make people feel the charm of national culture, change the music situation that despised vulgarity and decadence in the past, and remove those contents that are not suitable for the current era, thus forming a new pattern of national pop music [10]. Therefore, in the promotion of mass culture, relevant personnel, combined with specific information, have a detailed grasp of the characteristics of pop music and opera elements, and find the convergence point to realize the integration of the two, endowing music with brand-new music and connotation, and promoting the reform and development of music.

## 2. The application of the integration of ethnic elements and popular music

## 2.1 Application of national tune

"Gong, Shang, Jiao, Zheng and Yu" is the main content of China's traditional mode, which has strong national characteristics and national cultural characteristics. For example, Wang Leehom's Hua Tian CuO directly selects the love story of Hua Tian Cuo, a classic play in Beijing opera This story is actually a paragraph from the outlaws of the marsh. It says: it happened in a flower planting Town, and the flower field sacrifice was a wrong story. The performance of traditional opera, singing, reading, doing and playing all have standardized and standardized requirements, but this stylized performance form is incompatible with the aesthetic needs of the current music and culture audience, resulting in the gradual reduction of the audience, which threatens its own inheritance and development. In order to realize the integration between pop music and opera elements, we should correctly understand mass culture in essence, make full use of mass culture forms, and run a variety of literary and artistic activities through the whole history of human civilization, so as to provide a way for the integration of pop music and opera elements. Pop music contains a variety of music forms, and the specific forms are shown in Figure 1 below.

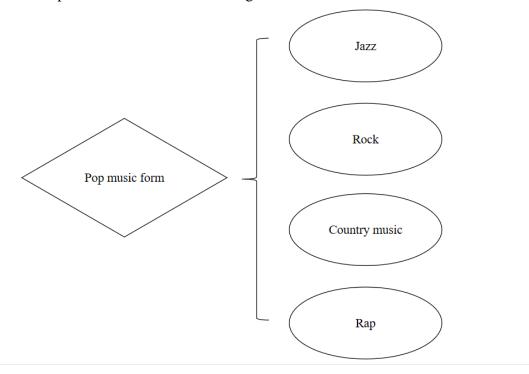


Figure 1 Pop music form

Nowadays, popular music has a wide audience. If traditional operas want to borrow popular music to realize their own inheritance and development, they must be integrated with it, and with the help of popular music, the masses can re-recognize opera and fall in love with it. In the creation

of music works, the arrangement structure of scales can show the characteristics of music itself, and ethnic modes are widely used in popular music, which fully embodies the national characteristics expressed by songs and is closely related to our life and culture. Thousands of miles away, which is sung by Jay Chou and Yu-Ching Fei, is a typical Chinese style. Thousands of miles away matches Jay Chou's R&B style with Yu-Ching Fei bel canto, which forms a strong contrast and gives the audience strong auditory and visual stimulation. The score is supplemented by traditional Chinese musical instruments such as flute, guqin and guzheng. The whole tune is full of national flavor. This song has been a popular one until now.

Taking the palace mode as an example, the scale is composed of five tones of "1, 2, 3, 5 and 6". In the song, different combinations of chord changes and rhythm length complete different effects of melody, in which the tonic and subordinate tone play a stabilizing role, and the ending tone is returned to the palace at the end, so as to achieve a stable and bright ending effect. Compared with pop music, the unique tone in opera has great memory points, and its way of articulation and vocalization is very different from that of pop singing. The rapid development of pop music largely benefits from the diversification of its communication channels. With the help of new media and the Internet, it has fast communication speed, wide communication range and large audience base, which provides space for its wide spread. When integrating into pop music, singers are often asked to learn opera singing, or professional opera actors are invited to sing and record, so as to meet the requirements of expressing the characteristics of traditional opera.

# 2.2 Use of melody fragments

As a common means in the current pop music creation process, adding fragments of national songs to pop music is an effective means to promote the innovation of pop music. There are many kinds of operas in China, but on the whole, the sound types can be roughly summarized into four types, as shown in Figure 2 below.

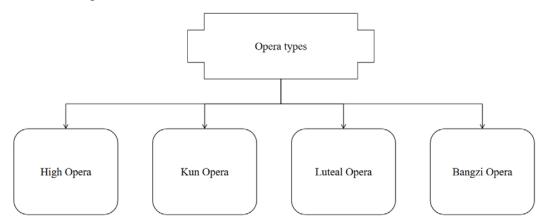


Figure 2 Opera classification

In the process of the integration of pop music and opera elements, relevant personnel highlight the value of integration from many angles, which provides a clear direction for the subsequent integration strategy and further ensures the effectiveness of mass culture promotion. Melody fragments of folk songs reproduced in popular music are often songs that people are familiar with, remember deeply, and can arouse people's inner passion. They have a certain sense of the times and strong melody. However, the melody creation of opera is quite different, with the feature that the upper and lower sentences echo to form a basic paragraph. The composer re-adapted a segment in the opera, retaining interception or running through the music. For example, Faye Wong and Tony Leung Chiu Wai's Happy Encounter was adapted on the basis of the selected passage "Couples Return Home" in Huangmei Opera "The Match of Heaven and Immortals", which retained a large number of melodies. Because of the long sentence pattern, the melody is relatively difficult to remember, the listening sense of traditional opera is lengthy, and the climax fluctuation is relatively

inconspicuous. For example, "Liuyang River 2008" is a typical national pop music. With the sound of running water, the song begins with the classic melody of teacher Li Guyi's traditional folk song "Liuyang River", and a familiar melody leads to the adapted song sung by BiBi Zhou. The second creation and embodiment of the classic melody is very worthy of our affirmation, which makes it easy for people to return to the original song's emotion of the times. There are two most prominent structural forms in lyrics: first, an up-down sentence pattern with seven-character sentences or cross sentences as the main form, in which the rhymes of two strings are upper and lower, and the lower sentence rhymes.

Therefore, the opera melody in pop songs often appears in the beginning or chorus paragraph, while the main song is dominated by the relatively gentle pop song melody, with a soothing and stable auditory feeling, in sharp contrast to the opera melody of the chorus, so as to attract the audience. The second is the "doll" sentence body with "332" as the structure. In this form, except for the jumping rhyme of the fourth sentence and the seventh sentence, the rhymes of other sentence patterns are the same. In the specific development link, music producers integrate songs with classical pop music and opera elements, find the existing laws of the combination of singing and pop music, and then create unique music composition to enrich the content and theme of mass culture promotion.

#### 3. Analysis on the application of opera elements in popular songs

### 3.1 In the creation, musical elements such as aria or accompaniment of opera are used.

In the 1980s, a composer wrote a song "The Story is Beijing", and the whole song is full of rich Beijing charm. It can be seen that the integration of traditional opera and modern pop music is an important bridge for traditional opera to re-enter people's daily life, and an innovative idea to help its inheritance and development. The melody of opera is beautiful and pleasant, and the pitch can be high or low, which is basically similar to the requirements of popular music for melody and pitch. In the same period, "Men Be Self-reliant" and "Chinese Kung Fu" used the melody of "your legend" in Beijing Opera, which sounded chic and quaint.

The performance of traditional opera is usually carried out in the theater. The choice of performance venue is very limited. The mode of communication is single and the scope of communication is narrow, which can not form a good communication effect. In the process of the development of pop music, there is a constant collision and blending between opera and pop music. In the creation of music works, through the investigation of listeners and singers and their own personal feelings, in order to meet the needs of the audience's music works, the creators constantly eliminate the melodies and tones that the audience do not like in the music works. Later, One Night in Beijing, two kinds of vocals, Dan Jiao and Lao Sheng, were used. Among them, Bobby Chen's Lao Sheng's vocals were hoarse, which was already an authentic popular singing method, which made the listener shine at the moment, while Dan Jiao's singing method completely adopted Peking Opera's vocals. The whole song was full of strong Beijing flavor, reflected the unique customs of Beijing, and also expressed the singer's interest in Beijing One Night. The chorus is sung in Beijing dialect, and the melody changes, giving the audience a refreshing sense of hearing.

In the development of pop music, accompaniment instruments are constantly updated. From the initial use of western elements to the use of Chinese opera, it reflects the diversity of pop music. Although the lyrics of the chorus paragraph have nothing to do with the traditional lyrics of opera, it has become a musical work with Beijing opera flavor by changing its articulation and pronunciation position. It is a case of successful integration that when the chorus of opera is repeated, it is combined with the popular singing method to make the popular music echo the opera singing.

## 3.2 Use opera elements to set off artistic conception.

Put a short opera segment or recitation on the introduction, interlude or ending of the song, or as a level in the song accompaniment. The quoted part may not be related to the content of the song, and its musical style may not be related to the style of the whole song. But on the whole, pop music

pays more attention to the direct expression of emotion. In order to make the content singing more grounded and more in line with the people's emotional demands, the language form is relatively colloquial and more direct, and there are no special technical requirements for enunciation. The interlude and the ending of the song of "prostitution in the world of mortals" of "Daming school" use the chant of "Du Liniang", which integrates the chant with the exotic drum. In the whole song full of confusion and despair, this chant is like a dazzling sunshine in the dark night, bringing the protagonist back from his confused life to the direction full of hope and happiness.

However, traditional opera has strict requirements in singing. Compared with pop music, traditional opera pays more attention to the skills of articulation and articulation, which makes singing more difficult. At the same time, it also has local culture and regional characteristics. These unique aria features are not available in pop music. In the process of creating pop music works, musicians often add some new elements to attract the audience in order to highlight the particularity of music works, among which there is the shadow of drama aria. In Huang Yue's song "Zhezixi", Chen Shimei's aria, the opening part of Beijing Opera "Qin Xianglian", is used as the introduction of the whole song. Incorporating traditional opera elements into popular music will greatly change the singing form, breathing style and vocal skills.

Performing pop songs in this way can make the classic aria that is not accepted by young listeners glow with new charm and spread widely. Although this aria is not related to the whole song, as an ornament of music, it can achieve a very ideal effect, showing the singer's emotion and nostalgia for the past.

#### 4. Conclusions

The reason why pop music can be loved and recognized by more and more people is that its advantages in theme and content are worthy of recognition, and its easy-to-understand melody and music language are also an important reason. In today's society, pop songs are everywhere, and the quality of pop songs is also related to people's thoughts and mental state. The sparks and new creative ideas generated by the collision and fusion of opera and popularity have produced very meaningful results: it not only opens a window for young audiences to learn more about and accept the treasures of the motherland's music culture, but also attracts many listeners who are interested in traditional opera music culture to pay more attention to the forms of pop music. In a word, in the process of mass culture promotion, relevant personnel set the goal of the integration of pop music and opera elements in essence, understand and master its value in essence, carry out specific mass culture promotion activities in combination with the current situation, further innovate and optimize the integration strategy, and improve the effect of mass culture promotion as a whole. National is the world. Under the impact of other cultures, local opera culture not only needs to be consistent with the development of the times, but also needs to continuously increase the number of artists in the trend of development. Therefore, cultivating reserve talents of local opera is also a key link. But at the same time, we must take the essence of both, and go to the dross of the two. We can not copy the traditional culture, nor can we eliminate the use of pop music. This is consistent with the trend of the times.

#### Acknowledgements

Initial achievements of Jiangsu Social Science Fund (2020SJA0733):Research on the Communication of Intangible Heritage Opera Culture in Higher Vocational Colleges and Universities from the Perspective of New Media

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