Study on the Influence of Popular Singing on Vocal Music Teaching in Colleges and Universities

Dongqi Meng
School of Music
Baicheng Normal University
Baicheng, China 137000

Abstract—At present, classical music is facing tremendous transformation. Popular singing, a more direct artistic expression, is changing people's aesthetics and has a great impact on vocal music teaching in colleges and universities. If some characteristics and advantages of popular singing can be integrated into music teaching, the music teaching, including classical music teaching, will undergo qualitative changes.

Keywords—vocal music teaching; popular singing; influence

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, there is a thought in music education that popular singing and original music belong to "popular literature or art", and they are difficult to ascend the palace of elegant art. However, in this age of amusing ourselves to death, world popular music has made a great impact on classical music. For music educators, they should keep pace with the times, draw lessons from the advantages of popular music in vocal music teaching in colleges and universities to improve the quality of teaching and supplement students' lack of interest in classical music classes, so as to achieve the teaching purpose. The author of this article will talk about some of his own views in this respect.

II. CALMING DOWN AND FINDING GENERALITY

There is no difference in music singing. In the past, the teachers seldom used popular singing in vocal music teaching. Some teachers even think that popular singing is not art, and it is difficult to be elegant. Why is it so? First of all, teachers use bel canto or folk singing method to teach, while popular singing is considered by some educators that everyone can sing without technical content. Secondly, teachers do not have a systematic summary of popular singing, or specific theoretical guidance. Therefore, they have misunderstandings about popular singing. Should we learn from popular singing in the teaching? What is the status of popular singing?

The author believes that teachers should introduce popular singing into vocal music teaching. Whether it is caviar to the general public or popular literature or art, it is an organic part of art. Throughout the history of singing since the founding of China, there has been a dispute between native and foreign countries during the founding of the People's Republic of China. It is mainly embodied in the orthodox bel canto represented by Su Shilin, Zhou Shu'an, Ying Shangneng and Zhao Meibo, and in the national folk singing represented by Music Department of Lu Xun Arts College. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, in order to discuss the problem of singing, China Theatre Association and Chinese Musician Association hosted a "New Opera Symposium" in Beijing in 1957. However, the seminar ended in an anti-rightist manner and failed to reach a conclusion. At that time, there was no scientific and systematic folk singing that we now see. Until the 1980s, Jin Tielin of China Conservatory of Music used traditional bel canto as the basis to integrate the characteristics of national and opera pronunciation. He created the folk singing, and trained the proud students such as Song Zuying and Zhang Ye. Through the promotion of the Spring Festival Gala over the years, it gradually spreads. It can be seen that the history of folk singing is not very long. The history of popular singing is similar to that of folk singing. From 1949 to 1979, there was no popular singing in mainland China. In the 1980s, with the introduction of Deng Lijun's songs into the mainland, Li Guyi, a national singer, used the breathy singing to perform the "Township Love". Zheng Xulan performed the song "On Sun Island", and Su Xiaoming performed the song "Night at the Naval Port". Therefore, it completed the transition from nationality to popularity. At the National Light Music Conference, popular singing has its own formal name of "popular songs". It can be seen that the history of popular singing is roughly the same as that of folk singing. However, because of the collation and support of academician teachers, national singing has been used more in school teaching. The teachers should calm down and take a correct view of these three singing methods. They are not different from clouds and mud, but just different forms of singing.

In the process of learning music knowledge, people should try to find the generality of the three singing methods. They should combine the three singing methods together. It can really service for vocal music teaching. Of course, it is very common for folk singing integrating into the popular singing, even bel canto integrating into the popular singing, such as the "Township Love" mentioned above, Song Zuying and Jay Chou's "Compendium of Materia Medica" and so on, and some songs combining the popular and bel canto sung by Sun. It can be seen that the integration of these three forms of music will make the music emit infinite charm.
What is the generality of the three singing styles? The author believes that all three singing methods should open the mouth and use the diaphragm as the breathing power so as to achieve scientific and relaxed singing.

III. PAYING ATTENTION TO DEDUCTIVE TRAINING AND KEEPING UP WITH THE TREND

Nowadays, popular singing is popular in the north and south of the Yangtze River. Bel canto has gradually fallen into the minority circle, and folk singing has also fallen to the survival of singing political propaganda songs. If we want to breathe new life into these songs, we must introduce popular singing methods. One of the most popular examples of integration is the Rainbow Choir. Reasonable choreography of songs and keeping up with the trend have caused great sensation in the music circle, especially in the song "Zhang Shichao, where did you put my house key in the end", "A Tale of Two Cities — Special Performance of Cui Wei's and Jin Chengzhi's Works". It is popular all over the river.

The mix-up singing method of Bel canto and popular singing couples with clever composition, popular lyrics, and makes the serious form of expression of the choir actually playful and lovely. The super-praised kazoo, super-beautiful harmony and so on have changed the rigid image of classical music in the past. The subsequent "Self-saved Guide in Spring Festival" even added rap, which is very popular nowadays. It is close to the times, and is also easy to be accepted. In fact, this is an important direction for our development. Art also needs people to appreciate it. What we need is not the nobility of music, but the vitality of music. Therefore, we should consciously guide students to add popular elements in singing techniques in the teaching process. We should reasonably arrange the songs, keep up with the trend of the times, and even guide the trend of the times. In this regard, Jin Chengzhi opened a door for us, telling us that vocal music education in peacetime should also be diversified, combining popular singing with other singing methods organically, and making the cultivation in many ways.

Nowadays, there is a problem in vocal music teaching. Teachers only pay attention to the training of vocal music knowledge and related music skills in one-to-one teaching. For emotional training, compilation and lyrics, psychological quality training is less. Students can't fully integrate into their feelings in singing. Sometimes, they will forget words, and make stiff performance because of stage fright and other factors. Accordingly, the author believes that the deductive training of students should be strengthened. Training students in arrangement and writing lyrics can help them understand each song better and express their feelings more sincerely and abundantly. Bel canto singing pays too much attention to singing skills. Sometimes, it is difficult to express emotions, while popular singing is full of emotions. Rock and roll music can even use the way of shouting to vent their anger, especially punk and heavy metal. Only by letting students have a good understanding of different singing methods, can they develop their ability of arrangement and writing lyrics, so that they can gain the advantages of popular singing methods in their future creation, and constantly create excellent music works.

IV. TEACHING STUDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR APITUDE AND CORRECTING PROBLEMS

Vocal music teaching is different from other cultural knowledge teaching. There is no stereotype in this aspect of teaching, and every student is different. Nowadays, when college students grow up, pop music is in full swing. Children in this period are more receptive to popular music and more enthusiastic about learning new forms of expression. Therefore, teachers should grasp the characteristics of students and teach students in accordance with their aptitude. After all, not only the level of students, but also the level of singers is uneven. Various talent shows emerge in endlessly, and the level of artists selected is also different. Taking the two programs that have recently returned to music such as "The Voice of China" and "I am a Singer" as the examples, they have discovered many singers with excellent singing skills. However, they have to face the embarrassing situation that "programs rely on voice modification in normal times, and live finals show timidity". This is actually the charm of true singing. However, as a singer, it is our duty to interpret our works in the best condition. Only good basic vocal education can reduce the possibility of accidents in students' future performance.

In terms of singing skills, the shortcomings of students are more obvious. Rather than introducing popular singing into vocal practice, it is better to carry out vocal training for students learning popular singing. In order to lay a solid foundation for singing, people must start from many aspects.

First of all, teachers should understand the complete theory of knowledge system. Teachers should clear the basic principles of popular singing, and study the characteristics of popular singing. Nowadays, people need to theorize popular singing, and form systematic teaching methods, teaching theory, and scientific teaching system. Secondly, the teachers should understand the characteristics of students, especially the characteristics of students' voice line, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of singing in peacetime, and teach students in accordance with their aptitude. Everyone's characteristics are different. Han Hong's chances of success in singing Wang Fei's songs are not very high. Cui Jian's chance of success in singing Fei Yuqing's songs is not high. The teachers should select songs according to the characteristics of students, teach them, correct mistakes, make full use of their strengths, and avoid their weaknesses. Finally, in order to avoid blind imitation, some students blindly imitate the characteristics of singers when learning popular singing, which is a way of neglecting one thing or the other. In music teaching, people should always remind students to have good foundation of music, know the merits and demerits of singer's songs, and then remove the dross and extract the essence. They can't turn singing into an imitation show. Finally, in order to be able to sing foreign songs and domestic songs, some singers are better at singing foreign songs, but there are some shortcomings in singing Chinese songs. This is unreasonable and unscientific. Art comes from life. The mother tongue of the land where we
live is Mandarin. If they are separated from the land on which we live, they will not have the nourishment to grow. In addition, there are gaps between English songs and Chinese songs in terms of expression, breath and pronunciation. If only English songs can be sung and Chinese songs can’t be sung, it will make students give up the original and go to the end, which will bring many unfavorable factors to their future development.

V. PAYING ATTENTION TO COLLECTING FOLK SONGS AND LEARNING WIDELY FROM OTHERS’ STRONG POINTS

From ancient times to the present, human beings have many forms of music expression, most of which are eliminated because they can’t adapt to the development of society. If people want to keep up with the development of the times forever, they must constantly innovate and break down the dogmatic ideological barriers. In fact, not only popular singing can be introduced into vocal music teaching, but also original music is the direction they can learn from. The folk singing and the music expression form of different places need people to learn from them. Only by integrating all kinds of music forms and forming a complete music system, can their music teaching work be able to acquire all the advantages and cultivate talents adapted to the times.

VI. CONCLUSION

In a word, as music educators, people should constantly update our teaching concepts and means while improving professional quality and level. Then, students can sing their charm and style under the correct guidance.

REFERENCES

[1] Zhou Yuqin. Discussion on the Innovation of Music Teaching in Colleges and Universities. Dajiang Weekly: Forum, 2011. (in Chinese)

[2] Xu Jinglun. A Probe into Children's Vocal Music Teaching. News Universe: The Second Half of the Monthly, 2007. (in Chinese)

[3] Suo Zhenmei. The Influence of Popular Music on College Students' Ideological and Political Education and Its Countermeasures. Journal of Qiqihar Institute of Engineering, 2015. (in Chinese)

[4] Yang Lifei. On Several Issues in Vocal Music Teaching. Art Exploration, 1998. (in Chinese)

[5] Jiang Xiaoyan. Review on the Development of Daweidov's Developmental Teaching System. Curriculum, Teaching Material and Method, 2007. (in Chinese)