

DEVELOPMENT OF VOCAL MUSIC IN CHINA

In the 21st century today, Chinese vocal art is experiencing a new peak of development. With the states emphasis and investment in the cultural industry, as well as the popularization and improvement of art education in society, Chinese vocal art has gained unprecedented opportunities for development. In this vibrant era, vocal art not only becomes an essential part of people's spiritual and cultural lives but also serves as a significant avenue for showcasing Chinas cultural soft power. Music colleges, arts groups, and music festivals have sprung up like mushrooms after rain, providing broad platforms for the development of vocal art. At the same time, with technological advancements, digital and online dissemination methods have offered new avenues for the popularization and promotion of vocal art, making it easier for more people to access high-quality vocal works and performances.

The main part. In the development of Chinese vocal art, opera and art songs, as two important genres of vocal music, have achieved remarkable success in both creation and performance. Chinese composers continuously explore and innovate, combining ethnic musical elements with Western compositional techniques to create a large number of operas and art songs that are both distinctly Chinese and internationally influential. These works not only receive widespread acclaim on stages at home and abroad but also provide rich performance space for vocal performances, promoting the improvement of vocal performance skills. For example, some pieces skillfully incorporate traditional Chinese musical elements such as the pentatonic scale and opera singing styles, making them both artistically expressive on an international level and retaining the unique charm of Chinese culture.

As Chinese vocal education becomes more international, an increasing number of Chinese bel canto singers are winning awards in international competitions and performing Western classical music pieces in concert halls around the world. These singers not only showcase their exceptional singing skills but also spread Chinese vocal art to the world. When performing Western works, they must accurately grasp the style and language of the piece while infusing it with their personal interpretation and emotion. This is undoubtedly a continuous practice and exploration of the integration of Eastern and Western vocal techniques. Through this approach, Chinese bel canto singers not only enhance their artistic cultivation but also build bridges for cultural exchange between China and the West, promoting mutual understanding and appreciation of vocal arts from different cultural backgrounds.

Despite the remarkable achievements of Chinese vocal art on the international stage, an issue that cannot be overlooked is the lack of a systematic training system for bel canto techniques tailored to the characteristics of Eastern males. Western bel canto is based on the physiological structure and linguistic features of Westerners, while Eastern males differ from Westerners in terms of vocal cord structure, oral shape, and pronunciation. These differences pose numerous challenges for Eastern males when learning Western bel canto, such as the continuity of their voice, the uniformity of tone quality, and the stability of high notes. Therefore, how to integrate the physiological and linguistic characteristics of Eastern males to develop a scientific and systematic approach to bel canto has become an urgent issue in the field of vocal education.

In summary, this study aims to explore a new path for bel canto vocal training suitable for Eastern male characteristics through comparative analysis of tenor singing training and teaching in China and Western countries. It is hoped that this will contribute to the development of Chinese vocal art. By comparing and investigating the perspectives on arias and art songs, this study aims to provide valuable references for vocal educators and performers, promoting the exchange and integration of Eastern and Western vocal arts. At the same time, this study will also explore how traditional vocal teaching methods can be combined with modern technology, utilizing digital tools and platforms to offer more convenient and efficient learning paths for vocal learners, further advancing the popularization and development of vocal art.

In today's international vocal music scene, Chinese tenors often face dual challenges in language and expression when performing Western works. Language barriers not only affect the singer's technical skills but also limit their deep understanding of the emotional and stylistic nuances of the pieces. Moreover, differences in musical expression and cultural comprehension between China

and the West make it difficult for Chinese singers to achieve the desired artistic effect when interpreting Western works.

Therefore, the second objective of this study is to explore a method that integrates training for both Chinese and Western tenors, aiming to overcome the challenges of language and expression. This approach seeks to help Chinese singers better master the technical aspects of Western works while maintaining their individual artistic characteristics. Through this method, Chinese singers can not only convey the original intent of the works more accurately but also incorporate their own cultural understanding and emotional expression into their performances, thereby achieving an organic fusion of Eastern and Western musical cultures.

In the context of globalization, cultural exchange and mutual learning have become increasingly important. Chinese vocal art, as an essential part of Chinese culture, possesses unique value and charm. Through this study, we aim to promote cultural confidence and enhance the influence of Chinese vocal art on the international stage. By exploring and integrating training methods for male high voices from both East and West, we can not only cultivate more singers with international vision and standards but also enable them to perform Chinese works with even greater skill, presenting China's indigenous culture through music to the world. This display and dissemination of culture not only strengthens China's soft power but also promotes the diverse development of global music culture. Through this approach, we hope that the world will hear China's voice and experience the unique appeal of Chinese culture, thereby making positive contributions to the promotion of global cultural exchange and integration.

In summary, this study holds significant theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, it will enrich and perfect the theoretical framework of vocal art training, offering new perspectives and methods for vocal education. Practically, it will assist Chinese tenors in enhancing their performance skills, promoting the exchange and integration of Eastern and Western vocal arts, while contributing to the promotion of Chinese culture and the enhancement of national cultural confidence. Through this research, we hope to open up new avenues for the development of vocal art, providing valuable references for future vocal education and performance practices. This not only helps advance the prosperity and development of Chinese vocal art but also contributes Chinese wisdom and solutions to the diversity and richness of global musical cultures.

In the learning and teaching of tenor, there are some common misconceptions. For example, beginners often pursue overly bright voices while neglecting the naturalness and balance of their sound. Moreover, some students focus excessively on high notes, overlooking the foundational training of mid and low notes, leading to tense and unnatural voices.

To address these issues, the training of Chinese tenors needs to be reformed and improved from multiple perspectives. This includes updating educational concepts, adopting more scientific and personalized teaching methods, enhancing student's musical understanding and stage performance skills, as well as providing more practical opportunities and stage experience. At the same time, establishing a more comprehensive and objective evaluation system is essential, encouraging singers to focus on artistic cultivation and vocal health while pursuing technical advancement.

The current situation of western tenor singing training is closely related to its historical development. The following is an overview of the art of western tenor singing and its training methods:

The Birth of Opera and Bel canto Singing: The development of Western tenor singing art can be traced back to the late 16th and early 17th centuries, when the emergence of opera had a profound impact on vocal art. The advent of opera prompted the transition from polyphonic music to homophonic music in vocal art, placing greater emphasis on melody and character portrayal. During this period, bel canto singing also emerged, emphasizing ample breath support, full and bright resonance, clear diction, and a powerful volume.

18th century developments: During this period, the development of tenors was relatively quiet. Although opera promoted the rapid development of singing, important opera roles were mostly played by castrato singers, which limited the development of the tenor voice.

Breakthrough in the 19th century: In the 19th century, tenors made a major breakthrough in technique, solving the difficulties of singing in the transition zone and head voice zone, thus entering the golden age of development.

The glory of the 20th century: Entering the 20th century, the art of tenor singing reached a new era of glory, during which many outstanding tenor singers emerged.

Emphasis on scientific methods: Western tenor singing training focuses on scientific methods, emphasizing systematic training in breathing, resonance, articulation and other aspects. These methods are designed to help singers master the correct vocal techniques to protect and enhance the quality and expressiveness of their voices.

Personalized teaching: Western vocal education also emphasizes personalized teaching, according to each student's voice conditions and characteristics to make training plans.

Maintenance and innovation of technology: While maintaining traditional bel canto singing, western tenor singing training also faces the challenge of how to integrate new music styles and forms of expression.

Globalization influence: With the advancement of globalization, the training of western tenor singers is also adapting to the influence of different cultures and music styles. This requires singers to maintain tradition while also having the ability to adapt across cultures.

The training of western tenor singers has gone through a process from birth to silence, and then to technical breakthroughs and brilliance in history. At present, it is facing the challenge of how to integrate new elements and adapt to the trend of globalization while maintaining tradition.

The technique of modern bel canto tenors is the result of three centuries of evolution of Italian singing, especially in the bel canto period of the 19th century, when top tenors eliminated decorative techniques to make their voices more direct and dramatic. The inheritance and innovation of this technique enabled modern tenors to better interpret complex bel canto roles.

Sound type refinement. As opera has evolved, the vocal types of tenors have become increasingly specialized, such as lyrical tenors and dramatic tenors. These classifications not only reflect physiological characteristics of the voice but are also closely related to the vocal training and performance style of the singer. For example, lyrical tenors are typically known for their bright and soft voices, while dramatic tenors possess a broader range and greater power.

Mastering voice change technology. Vocal transition is an important part of tenor singing. Modern tenors need to master the skill of smooth transitions between different vocal ranges through long-term training. This not only involves control of breathing and resonance but also the proficient use of techniques for "closing off" or "transitioning" high notes.

Conclusion. Modern tenor training places greater emphasis on scientific and systematic approaches. Researchers use physiological testing and acoustic analysis to help singers better understand their vocal characteristics and develop personalized training plans. For example, through pitch graph tests and analysis of the singer's resonance peak positions, it is possible to more accurately determine the type of voice part and the merits of vocal techniques.

With the diversification of music styles, bel canto tenors have begun to attempt singing popular songs. This cross-genre fusion not only enriches the performance forms of bel canto but also broadens its audience base. For example, some tenor singers combine classic bel canto works with modern pop music, creating new artistic forms.

As society and culture evolve, the audience's aesthetic demands for tenors are also changing. Modern tenors not only need to excel technically but also resonate emotionally with their audience. This shift has led tenors to place greater emphasis on drama and emotional authenticity in their performances.

The technical changes in 21st-century bel canto tenors not only reflect the inheritance and innovation at the technical level but also involve the refinement of voice types, scientific training methods, and the cross-genre fusion of musical styles. These changes enable modern tenors to better adapt to the ever-changing opera market and audience demands.

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