

Study on the Application of Bel Canto in Popular Music

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Abstract: Bel Canto has its own characteristics in breathing, resonance and singing skills. Applying Bel Canto to pop music can break the outstanding performance of traditional pop music, enhance the emotional expression of pop music, and promote the personalized development of singers and the innovative development of pop music. Based on the uniqueness of Bel Canto, this paper discusses the application of Bel Canto in pop music.

1. Introduction

Bel Canto and popular singing are both important components of vocal singing. The two singing methods have great differences in vocal method, breathing method, resonance method and singing skills. This difference creates the unique artistic expressiveness of the two singing methods. For a long time, Bel Canto and popular singing have developed in parallel, without any intersection. With the development of music art and the change of the public's aesthetic demand for music, Bel Canto and pop singing began to show a "crossover" phenomenon. A major manifestation of this "crossover" is that Bel Canto has been applied in more and more popular music^[1]. It is under this background that this paper studies the application method of Bel Canto in popular music.

2. Comparison of Bel Canto and Popular Singing

The deep understanding of the difference between Bel Canto and popular singing will help us find the application method of Bel Canto in popular music. This paper analyzes the similarities and differences between Bel Canto and popular singing from the perspective of singing characteristics.

2.1 Similarities between Bel Canto and Popular Singing

Two kinds of singing methods are used in the use of breath chest and abdomen breathing methods. In singing, the singer is required to clearly enunciate the words. At the same time, both kinds of singing methods require the performers to have a correct and profound understanding of the song, and to be able to express correct and rich emotions according to the theme of the song.

2.2 Differences between Bel Canto and Popular Singing

There are significant differences between the two kinds of singing methods. Specifically, the Bel Canto method is more mixed, that is, the mixture of falsetto and true voice in the high pitch area, and the singer's voice is required to have penetration and endurance. While the pop singing method

uses falsetto, true voice, mixed voice, shouting and other vocal methods, and does not have high requirements on the singer's voice^[2]. In addition, there are also significant differences in the resonance methods between the two singing methods. Specifically, the Bel Canto singing method adopts mixed resonance, which requires the singer to unify the vocal area when singing resonance. Pop music, on the other hand, places little emphasis on resonance, as long as the singer delivers the sound through simple oral resonance.

3. The Application of Bel Canto in Popular Music

3.1 Treble Control

There are many high-pitched songs in popular music, such as Zhang Jie's "This Is Love", Li Yugang and Shitou's "Yuhuashi", Sun Nan's "Never See or Leave", Liu Huan's "Always Come Again" and so on. In these songs, the performer perfectly interprets the theme and emotion of the song with bright high pitch, which greatly improves the artistic expression of the song. Take Yuhuashi by Li Yugang and Shitou as an example. In this song, when Li Yugang sings "your shadow is not clear, I'm still looking for your smile at the beginning" and "after the prosperous end of a thousand years, I'm still waiting for you in the wind and rain", the high voice is bright and the breath is smooth. His soft sound quality reveals the theme of the song vividly. Li Yugang's treble control skills are a combination of breath breathing skills, resonance skills and vocalization skills in Bel Canto, which makes the sound have extraordinary penetrating power and endurance.

3.2 True and False Voice Conversion

There have been many songs with true and false voice conversion in modern pop music, such as Zhang Liangying's "Light", Wang Fei's "Sky", Tao Zhe's "Lonely Season", Qu Wanting's "In My Sing", Huang Qishan's "Only you" etc. Take Zhang Liangying's "Light" as an example. In this song, Zhang Liangying's skillful conversion between true and false voice and the addition of vibrato have created infinite space for the song, demonstrating her profound skills in conversion between true and false voice. In popular music, the transition between true and false voice of the singer should be smooth, and there should be no sense of break. When practicing the conversion between true and false sound, the singer should first find the position of the sound, that is, find the resonance part where the false sound is best heard, and then use the resonance part to switch to realize the conversion between true and false sound^[3]. Singers can use some low-voice practice to find the feeling of true and false voice changes. It is best to use the method of opening and humming when practicing. When switching between true and false voices, the singing should not be fragmented or interrupted. Instead, it emphasizes smoothness and roundness like Bel Canto.

3.3 Emotional Expression

Both Bel Canto and pop singing emphasize the emotion of the singer. The emotions contained in popular music are rich and diverse, such as missing, admiring, sad, depressed..., which puts forward higher requirements on the singer's emotional expression ability. The singers of an excellent pop song have extraordinary emotional expression ability. The emotional expression of the singer is realized by the pitch, the depth of breathing, and the conversion of true and false voices. There are many popular songs with high emotional scores, such as Jiang Yuheng's "Looking Back", Zhao Lei's "Chengdu", Fei Yuqing's "Yi Jian Mei", and Yang Zongwei's "Onion". Take Fei Yuqing's "Yi Jian Mei" as an example. In this song, Fei Yuqing's high and low bass processing, breath application and resonance cavity change smoothly and smoothly, making the song very emotional. His songs

are beautiful and delicate, and the reason is that he uses a lot of Bel Canto techniques when singing^[4]. To be sure, the application of Bel Canto in pop music can significantly enhance the emotional expression of music. Therefore, when singing popular songs, singers must actively learn from Bel Canto in the aspects of voice, breath, resonance, etc.

3.4 Enunciation

Pop music emphasizes clear enunciation, because clear enunciation can give full play to the information transmission and emotional expression of “words (lyrics)” in music^[5]. Bel Canto requires the singer to pronounce clearly, which is much stricter than pop singing. In view of this, singers should actively learn the Bel Canto spelling skills when practicing popular songs, clearly understand the focus of each word, standardize oral movements and mouth shapes, and maintain the balance and accuracy of the sound of the words. Follow the correct methods of vocalization, rhyme, and collection to perform the training of spelling.

4. Conclusion

Pop music has a unique artistic expression, which can enrich people’s cultural and entertainment life. With the development of popular music in China, the “crossover” between Bel Canto and popular singing has become more and more common, which has brought a new development space to traditional popular music. It is found that the application of Bel Canto in pop music can significantly improve the artistic expression of pop music. As a pop music singer, you can learn Bel Canto from the aspects of treble control, true and false voice conversion, emotional expression, biting and spitting, so as to further improve the artistic expression of singing and improve your own singing level.

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