

On the Musical Characteristics and Cultural Calue of Folk Songs on the Tea Horse Road Along the Sichuan Yunnan Tibet Line

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Abstract: with the continuous development and changes of the times, our country's national culture needs to be handed down from generation to generation. The tea horse road along the Sichuan Yunnan Tibet line refers to today's Yunnan region. This specific culture has opened up cultural exchanges between China and western countries and made China's national culture widely spread. The tea horse road specifically refers to the tea culture in the mainland and the horse culture in Sichuan and Tibet. With the exchange of "tea horse" culture, the folk songs in the mainland and Sichuan and Tibet blend with each other, showing their cultural connotations. This paper briefly analyzed and discussed the musical characteristics and cultural value of the folk songs along the Sichuan Yunnan Tibet tea horse road.

1. Introduction

The ancient tea horse road, which began in the Tang and Song Dynasties, is an important commercial road in China's history. Nowadays, the ancient tea horse road no longer has its original appearance, but we still don't forget the music culture inherited from history. Many folk songs created on the ancient tea horse road are still widely spread^[1]. The integration of many national music formed the folk songs of the tea horse road, which had a far-reaching impact on the development of national music in future generations. We should try our best to explore the musical value and cultural connotation of the folk songs of the tea horse road and continue to pass them on.

2. The Musical Characteristics of Tea Horse Road Folk Songs

2.1 Learnability

In ancient times, merchants on the tea horse road often had to experience a lot of suffering and endure the pain of missing their families. They carried such feelings and could only soothe their hearts by singing. At that time, the main form of the folk song of the tea horse road was "driving the horse tune", which was full of national and regional characteristics, and had the highest singing rate on the way of commodity trading. Due to different regions, the "driving the horse tune" also has different singing methods, and different nationalities give it different melodies. The melody of

“driving the horse tune” is simple and easy to learn. At that time, the working people liked to express their inner feelings and vent their pain and joy through it ^[2]. Besides, people often sang songs to communicate with each other during the transportation of tea. For example, the team needs to stop for a rest or speed up, which shows that the folk songs of tea horse road are easy to understand and sing.

2.2 Nationality

The folk songs of the tea horse road are national, mainly because they will pass through many ethnic regions on the way to the tea horse road. Because all ethnic groups have their own different characteristics and beliefs, their expression methods and feelings of folk songs are very different. Different songs can reflect different national characteristics, so the folk songs of the tea horse road have strong national characteristics. Traders on the tea horse road passed many ethnic groups, such as Han, Bai, Tibetan and Naxi. Because each nation has different national characteristics, so their singing and expression of folk songs are not the same. Take “driving the horse tune” as an example. Because the Tibetan people are unrestrained and uninhibited, the Tibetan singers of the horse racing tune have a loud voice and passionate emotion, which is also related to their religious beliefs. The Han nationality’s interpretation of “driving the horse tune” is more straightforward, clear, and easy to understand in content. The length is different, and even the long folk narrative poem “driving the horse tune” appears ^[3]. The Naxi’s “driving the horse tune” is based on the national tune, and then the Han and Tibetan tunes are inclusive, so as to form its own unique folk song style. Different nationalities have different national cultures and religious beliefs, which not only form different expressions of folk songs of ancient tea horse road, but also convey different emotions and values. However, they sang the most real feelings in their hearts. Even if there are national differences in singing, their hearts are closely intertwined through folk music.

2.3 Inclusiveness

The inclusiveness of the folk songs of the tea horse road is reflected in the whole business road of businessmen. Through singing, people can feel their life state and inner emotion. Their team has always been together with strong cohesion. Sometimes they can hear their thoughts for their relatives and their confusion in the face of the future. Nevertheless, they still keep moving forward. They overcome all hardships in order to enable themselves and their families to live a happy life. Many details about their lives can be found in the “driving the horse tune”. The multi-ethnic settlement makes the style and content of the “driving the horse tune” rich and colorful and inclusive. It can be implicit and euphemistic, but also bold and rough. In the face of parting from their loved ones and the dilemma of life, horse racing businessmen are hesitant and fragile. Under such emotion, they will sing a subtle melody mixed with some sadness and helplessness ^[4]. But even so, they will not give up easily. In the face of difficulties, they must have ambition and move forward bravely. Therefore, they sing impassioned and enthusiastic songs to vent their inner feelings and stimulate their fighting spirit.

3. The Cultural Value of Tea Horse Road Folk Songs

Tea horse road folk music has a very profound cultural value. It has a long history and integrates multi-ethnic cultural heritage. It has a large number, a wide variety and is very changeable. There are many kinds of folk music in the tea horse road, including religious music, folk music, folk songs and so on. With the passage of time and historical changes, a folk song music culture with great national characteristics has gradually formed in the southwest of China. Although the ultimate

purpose of this process is the exchange of tea, it also makes the folk song music culture of tea horse road take shape.

The emergence of the music culture of the tea horse road is the result of the boost of the economic development situation in different regions. One place produces tea and another produces horses, so trade will be formed. People here carry tea to exchange horses, and the final result is to realize the common interests of both sides. However, many merchants on the tea horse road are not the real owners of goods. They are like modern enterprise employees. They only pay labor for the employer, and the goods finally exchanged do not belong to themselves, but receive certain remuneration or commission^[5]. It can be seen that many people involved in the trade of the tea horse road are forced by life and use this way as a means of making a living. However, at that time, because of the emergence of the tea horse road, all ethnic groups realized a great cultural exchange and integration. To a large extent, the tea horse road not only makes all ethnic groups more united, but also makes an important contribution to the development of national music. At the same time, it also promotes the further development of social economy, which is a very valuable development process in China's history.

4. Conclusion

The folk music culture of tea horse road is a precious treasure of Chinese history, which needs every one of us to do our best to protect and inherit. The music culture of tea horse road has strong national characteristics and produces a large number of folk songs. While we understand it, we must dig deeply into its cultural value and connotation. The music culture of the tea and horse road is produced by the tea trade, which to a large extent promotes the unity and cultural integration of multiple ethnic groups. We should never forget that it is the tea culture at that time that gave birth to the folk music of the tea and horse road, so we should protect the national characteristics and cultural values in the process of inheritance.

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