

The Expressive Power and Artistic Characteristics of Saxophone

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Abstract: Nowadays, Saxophone music has a very mature development and popularization in Europe. Saxophone music has a certain market in China at present. However, there is a big gap between sax and the world's advanced level. The main problems are the uncertainty of saxophone positioning, the ambiguity of its characteristics, and the lack of appreciation of musical expression. The structural principle and aesthetic characteristics of saxophone are very exploratory. This paper is mainly based on the three typical characteristics of saxophone's function application, timbre characteristics and music expressive force, so as to study its music expressive force. So that more people can have the opportunity and interest to enjoy the musical charm of saxophone.

1. Introduction

Saxophone is a kind of Western musical instrument, which was born in the middle of the 19th century and named after the Belgian instrument maker Adolf Sachs. Saxophone is generally known as "Sax" in China^[1]. It is shaped like a pipe and made of metal. In terms of classification, scholars have always been divided, because its body is usually made of brass, which makes Saxophone have the characteristics of brass instruments. Saxophone and the same use of clarinet sound principle is closer, so generally classified as woodwind instruments. It has beautiful timbre, rich functions, and its music is very infectious, which is deeply loved by the world. Saxophone is a kind of Western musical instrument born in the middle of the 19th century. Its inventor is Adolf Sachs, a Belgian instrument maker. He named the instrument after himself. Compared with other orchestral instruments, saxophone is undoubtedly very young, but its development speed is very amazing. In a very short period of time, it has become popular in the world music field, and has penetrated into all fields of music, and has won widespread attention and favor.

2. The Structure and Application of Saxophone

The structure of saxophone is delicate and complex, which to a certain extent determines that it has a certain weight in the development of musical instruments.

2.1 The Construction Principle of Saxophone

Saxophone, a combination of features and functions of a variety of instruments, not only has the sound production principle similar to that of woodwind, but also has the function of brass instrument^[2]. In the process of performance, it realizes the timbre transition between woodwind instrument and brass instrument. The copper material is mainly composed of the tube body, which has the metal characteristics and tension of the brass instrument. The pipe body imitates the cone-shaped pipe body of the oboe, and the woodwind instrument is used for reference in the finger key system, finger movement and overtone. Therefore, saxophone and xylophone are similar.

2.2 The Development of Saxophone

Saxophone was accepted and used by French military band for military ensemble at the beginning of its birth. The emergence of saxophone can integrate all kinds of music and make the melody smooth and natural. Saxophone's ensemble effect can't be performed by other single wind instruments. To a certain extent, it's as perfect as Quartet, so it plays an important role in instruments. Since the 20th century, saxophone's performance mode has been developing

continuously, which has been widely used in all walks of life around the world, and has gradually penetrated into various music fields. There are also various occasions, such as symphony orchestra and Orchestra. Between woodwind and brass is the biggest characteristic of Sax. Form, condition and equipment can't make a great impact on Sax. It has its own family. It can also be used in pop music, classical music or serious music ^[3].

3. The Timbre Characteristics of Saxophone

Timbre is an effective way to measure the effect of musical instruments, and it is also an important component of musical style. Saxophone features a variety of functions and features, but also has a rich and colorful voice. For a century, after countless people's improvement and creation, the range of saxophone performance has expanded an octave on the original basis, and its interpretation of music is increasingly extensive and diversified, which can meet different music needs ^[4]. The saxophone has three major sound regions, namely, high, medium and low. Between the clarinet and the horn, there is a high pitch area, with bright and brilliant timbre, which is full of musical penetration. The middle tone area is called the expression area, which is similar to the cello, with soft and sweet timbre, which is best used to express rich and delicate emotions. However, it is widely used in saxophone performance, suitable for music performance with different strength. Between the timbre of the tuba and the bass is the bass area. The timbre is relatively thick and deep, with certain metal color, which is more commonly used in the aeroacoustic performance. Generally speaking, compared with other musical instruments, saxophone has more abundant musical expression and can be freely converted in the strong and weak sound areas, which greatly meets the requirements of players for the use of musical instruments.

4. The Musical Expression of Saxophone

The performance of musical instruments is not only an art, but also a technology. Scientific performance method is very important to improve the performance of saxophone. A performer's solid basic skills must have a scientific and rigorous performance method.

4.1 The Functional Expressiveness of Saxophone

The four parts of the whistle piece are composed of whistle hoop, whistle cap, hanging belt and other accessories. Its tube body is generally made of copper material, its strength and tone color of many ranges can be completely comparable to that of brass instruments, and it has the tension and metal color of brass instruments ^[5]. However, from the perspective of its pronunciation principle, its blowing mouth, reed and clarinet are similar, and its opening adopts the Baum system similar to flute. In addition, although the saxophone body is made of copper material, the structure of the pipe body draws on the conical body of the oboe, and its key system, inner diameter, fingers and overtones are also similar to woodwind instruments. Therefore, it is also has the basic properties of woodwind. It can be seen that saxophone is a multi-functional instrument with many characteristics of brass instrument and woodwind instrument. It can not only connect the timbre transition between brass instrument and woodwind instrument, but also imitate the singing sound of real people vividly. It can also integrate the loud and clear of brass instrument, the soft of woodwind instrument and the lyric of string instrument organically. Since the saxophone came out in 1840's, it has become the favorite of the music industry, and was first tested in the French military ensemble. In the military band before this, because it is difficult to integrate brass instrument and woodwind instrument, it has become a big problem that puzzles the performers, and the emergence of saxophone skillfully makes up for the contradiction between them, and integrates them very harmoniously, so that the military band achieves an unexpected overall effect.

4.2 The Timbre Expression of Music Characteristics

Timbre is one of the main means for musical instruments to shape musical image, and also an important factor of musical expression. It sprouts and develops synchronously with music and runs

through the whole process of musical expression. In the colorful music world, beautiful voice is the key to attract the audience. Just as the saxophone is rich in various functional applications, so is the voice color of the saxophone. After several generations of efforts and exploration, as well as the continuous improvement of musical instruments and whistle pieces, the range of saxophone has been expanded from two octaves and one octave to one octave, which enables saxophone to perform more music perfectly, and at the same time, makes the voice color of saxophone to expand continuously. Today's Saxophone can not only show the magnificent and vigorous brass instruments and the light and cheerful woodwind instruments, but also imitate the stringed instruments such as songs and chants, and the delicate changes of nature and human voice to a lifelike extent.

4.3 Musical Expression of Performance Method

The performance of musical instruments is not only an art, but also a technology. The function application of the instrument itself is fixed and the timbre is relatively stable, but the same instrument can show different effects in the hands of different players, which shows that whether the playing method and technology are scientific and reasonable is also crucial to the musical performance of the instrument. Any musical instrument requires players to have several or even dozens of skill training units from the technical elements, the same is true for saxophone. It requires not only players to have correct fingering, playing posture, etc., but also correct mouth shape, good breath control and the cooperation ability of both hands and fingers. Scientific performance method is very important to improve the performance of saxophone. At present, the more scientific performance method is based on breath as the core, and the fingers and tongue cooperate effectively. The core element is that all systems of the performer must be coordinated and unified according to the breath. The sound produced by this method is deep, implicit, mellow and plump, just like a peach with core and flesh. It can show the advantages of saxophone similar to human voice, and express all kinds of feelings vividly. It can express not only the happy noise of youth, but also the sadness and desolation of old age and other emotions.

5. Conclusion

Saxophone has unique timbre and rich functions as a kind of Western musical instrument. Its rich musical characteristics and easy to play make it difficult to surpass in musical expression. No matter from the depth of its own development or the scope of its spread, saxophone has an irreplaceable position. Although at present in China, the saxophone market is relatively narrow. But we should take the essence and discard the dross, and learn from the advanced experience of foreign culture in the development of local music, so that more people can appreciate the penetrating power of the saxophone music, and at the same time let the Chinese culture go to the international arena.

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