On the Similarities and Differences Between Bel Canto and Popular Singing

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Abstract
With the vigorous development of China's economy and society, the quality of life of residents has been significantly improved, and the demand for spiritual culture has also continued to increase. As an important art form of people's leisure and entertainment and physical and mental relaxation, music has been highly loved and welcomed by Chinese residents, and various singing forms and song types emerge in endlessly. Popular and bel canto, as important forms of music art, both have their own singing characteristics and styles, but there are also similarities in singing skills. Therefore, the author discusses and analyzes the similarities and differences between Bel Canto and popular singing.

Keywords
Vocal Singing; Bel Canto Singing; Popular Singing; Similarities; Differences.

1. Introduction

Popular singing was originally converted from bel canto, so there are many similarities between the two, but there are also many differences because popular singing needs to be in line with popular tastes. How to compare bel canto with popular singing is a very serious problem. Music is the sublimation of art. Both bel canto and popular singing have their merits. This paper discusses and analyzes this problem briefly.

2. The main features of popular singing and bel canto

As an important art form, vocal music singing has a high requirement on the singer's comprehensive quality and professional ability. In order to accurately express the emotion of a song, the singer needs to have certain basic skills, master the way of using breath, and make the voice sound more natural and smooth. As two important singing forms, popular and bel canto have their own characteristics in singing.

2.1. Bel canto characteristics

Bel canto has certain requirements on the singer's breath. Usually, the singer can grasp his breath flexibly and has solid basic skills in singing. If the singer cannot control his personal breath, he cannot fully express the emotion and connotation of the song, which will have a negative impact on the performance quality. Therefore, breath is not only an important feature of bel canto, but also a key content for bel canto students to learn. Only by controlling personal breath well and pronouncing accurately can the song be better displayed and expressed.

2.2. Features of popular singing

Voice is an important feature of popular singing. In the expression of songs, the singer mainly sings with real voice. The voice is soft and natural, close to life, which can bring the audience a good auditory experience. At the same time, popular singing emphasizes more on appeal and passion. Singers combine Musical Instruments to create the same atmosphere as songs in their
performances, and create high quality electroacoustic effects through rational use of microphones.

3. Differences between popular singing and bel canto

3.1. Differences in singing skills

In terms of singing skills, bel canto mainly sings in the form of conversion of true and false sounds, which has a high requirement for resonance. Lips and tongue should be in the same position, and the aesthetic feeling of the vocal line should be emphasized. The popular singing method has no obvious requirements on true and false sounds. The types of songs are easy to understand and close to people’s life. The songs are mainly sung by the real voice, with great changes in lips and tongue, rich forms of works, and more emphasis on rhythm and rhythm.

3.2. Difference of breath control

In bel canto singing, singers are required to produce singing atmosphere through glottis, so as to enhance the appeal and attraction of the song. In order to achieve this effect, the singer needs to form sound resonance through the effects of bones, chest, pharynx, mouth, nasal cavity, frontal cavity and head cavity, etc., and scientifically control the intensity of light and dark, so as to promote the sound color clean, round and full of penetration. In popular singing, there is no need for precise control of breath. The flexible use of the pharynx, mouth and nasal cavity to make the sound has no obvious requirement for resonance. It tries to show the beauty of the sound and does not require much volume.

3.3. Differences in voice requirements

Generally, people use the vocal cords can control the voice of the length and thickness, bel canto asked the singer have a certain vocal talent, depending on the talent can be roughly divided into soprano, mezzo-soprano, alto, such as tenors, baritones and basses, some excellent talent of the singer can play different tone, singing range is wide. Popular singing has no higher requirements on vocal cord talent, and the division of vocal parts is not as strict as bel canto, which pays more attention to the vocal quality characteristics, sound magnetism and appeal of the singer.

4. Similarities between popular singing and bel canto

4.1. The two can be flexible

With the rapid development of vocal music art in China, popular singing and bel canto are no longer independent and separated. Usually, in the interpretation of a song, the singer can flexibly use a variety of singing methods, and make some changes according to the tune, content and emotion of the song. At the same time, singers on the basis of ensuring the stability of breath, appropriate to try new singing methods, not only can improve their singing level, strengthen the ability to control the song, but also can bring the audience with a sense of pleasure and freshness. In the actual singing, popular and bel canto have a mutual and flexible relationship, through the flexible use and easy switch, can make music works more appreciative value and aesthetic feeling.

4.2. Sound in the same direction

Although pop and bel canto belong to two completely different singing methods, from the perspective of sound direction, they both emphasize that the singer should make sure that his voice comes first in the performance of the song, that he should not hold the voice in his mouth, and that his words and pronunciation should be strong and fast. At the same time, both pop and bel canto emphasize that singers should skillfully and flexibly use vocal cords to make sounds,
master relevant vocal skills, improve the expressiveness and attractiveness of songs, and better present the high pitch to the audience.

4.3. Master the use of breath
Vocal singing has a strong professional and practical, in the performance of the song, the singer needs to breathe frequently, to ensure the flow of breath, this requirement is applicable to bel canto and popular singing. Under normal circumstances, ordinary people use the trachea for breathing, but the singer mainly uses the chest and abdomen for breathing in his usual practice, so as to ensure a stable breath during singing and better perform the song interpretation and emotional expression. Use is the premise and foundation of vocal music singing, there is a close relationship with the breath, no matter how change, breath voice can be affected by a certain, at the same time, popular and bel canto is to use fast absorption slow breath control mode, the singer’s voice register and resonance organs have higher requirements, to play a “resonance effect” in singing.

4.4. High musical accomplishment
Music literacy is the basic requirement of an excellent singer. Music literacy involves many aspects, which are analyzed from a theoretical perspective, mainly including sense of rhythm, sense of music, intonation and hearing. Meanwhile, musical literacy is divided into acquired learning and innate factors. For example, sense of rhythm and hearing are innate factors, while intonation and sense of music are acquired learning. Both popular singing and bel canto have higher requirements on the singer’s musical accomplishment. If a singer has insufficient innate factors, he or she needs to master relevant knowledge and skills through acquired learning. Rhythm sense, musical sense and intonation are the most basic requirements for a singer in popular and bel canto singing.

5. The combination of popular singing and bel canto
By language, culture, geography and norms, the influence of such factors as bel canto has not been universally welcomed and recognized by the audience just confined to professional bodies or institutions of higher education in the vocal music professional, in order to better meet the demand of the public aesthetic idea and spirit, a lot of professionals in popular and bel canto in to try and explore, using bel canto singing singing popular songs, for example, in a popular style of the breathing method for reference and the bel canto, realize mutual complement, bel canto and popular effective integration, thus realize the artistic level of ascension, for Chinese audience to provide more broad and profound appreciation of space, To innovate new approaches to the development of Chinese music.

5.1. Popular reference to bel canto
Bel canto belongs to a scientific way of singing, which has higher requirements on the singer’s professional level, vocal skills and vocal cord talent. The full use of bel canto vocalization skills and breathing methods in popular singing can help singers improve their professional ability and singing level, enrich their professional experience, and constantly improve their singing ability. Popular singing style is close to nature, which can bring the audience cordial experience and feeling. The bel canto style borrowed from bel canto not only retains the style of popular singing, but also can improve the appeal and attraction of songs. British soprano Sarah brightman, for example, the song style belongs to the pop music, but once by professional training of bel canto in professional learning, on the singing style tend to be more classical, so as to fully mix the bel canto and popular, not only can make it sound more attractive, works and gives a new connotation and the interpretation of his works “ode to the moon” is the bel canto and popular classic of highly integration, the use of the essence of the two kinds of style, the
whole works is full of emotion, breath control is very freely, voice is fruity nature, bring to the audience with ethereal experience and feelings; For example, in his work Farewell Moment, the first half uses the popular weak singing method to accurately convey emotions to the audience through sound. The climax uses bel canto to express emotions smoothly, which not only sublimates the theme of the work, but also shows the emotion of the song incisively and vividly. At present, with the rapid development of China’s music culture, more singers try to fully integrate pop and bel canto, which has become an important development trend of pop music.

5.2. Bel Canto’s reference to the popular
Bel canto originated from the West, and it has become an important singing art form after hundreds of years of development and inheritance. Many bel canto music works are full of the beauty of national culture and art, belonging to an elegant musical art, which can improve people’s cultivation and connotation. However, influenced by many factors, bel canto has a weak mass base in China. In order to promote its sustainable development, popular elements can be integrated into bel canto, so as to cater to the public aesthetics and make bel canto become a classical art favored and accepted by the audience. For example, Italian singer Andrea Bochelie, whose representative work Song of the Earth integrates certain popular elements, is a bold attempt to integrate popular and bel canto, which is widely loved and praised by the audience.

The popular singing method is rich and diversified in the singing content, and can be integrated with the personal characteristics of the singer to make the performance of the song more personalized. Because of its heavy personal color, the popular singing has no consistent rules. There are many different kinds of popular songs, the singer needed according to different songs in different ways to find the best vocal style, so popular songs also have higher requirements for the singer, the singer can not only individual character make public, ignoring the singing skills, destroyed the songs close feeling, and training of singing skills, popular and close the sound of singing is two completely different training methods, in the popular songs into the voice singing skills can add richness to popular singing.

6. Conclusion
To sum up, bel canto singing method in the future for a period of time in the process of the development of our country must give due attention from various aspects, to attach importance to learn from each other and passing on development, effectively will bel canto singing method combined with the culture of our country, in the process of development to create our national aesthetic characteristics of bel canto singing method and vocal music works.

References