

Integration of Chinese Traditional Music Culture in Chinese Piano Works

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Abstract

Chinese piano artists usually grow up in a strong traditional cultural atmosphere, and their creative inspiration often comes from their own understanding of national culture and emotions. This unique background enables them to naturally incorporate ethnic elements into their piano music, expressing distinctive oriental emotions through the piano as a western instrument, so that their works not only show their personal artistic style, but also are deeply rooted in traditional Chinese culture. This kind of artistic creation not only enhances the infectious force of the musical works, but also provides a new way for the inheritance and promotion of national culture. By integrating traditional cultural elements into piano music creation, Chinese musicians not only show their artistic talent, but also assume the role of cultural inheritors. This article presented the integration of Chinese traditional music culture in Chinese piano works.

Keywords: Integration; Chinese; Traditional Music; Culture; Piano Works

Introduction

From the Peace March composed by Mr. Zhao Yuanren in 1915, which opened the prelude to the creation of Chinese piano music, to the early 20th century, such as the "New Dance of Nezhang Yuyi" and other works, the early Chinese piano music, although in the form of simple and harmonious, short, has begun to try to combine the Chinese elements with the expression of Western piano music, showing an exploration of the form of musical sketches and miniatures, which is the first time that Chinese piano music has been developed. The exploration of the form of musical sketches and miniatures. With the emergence of musicians such as Mr. He Luting, Chinese piano music not only gained wider recognition in China, but also brought Chinese piano music to the world with works such as Piccolo for Shepherd Boys, showing the great potential and achievement of Chinese musicians in fusing Chinese and Western musical elements to create works of international standard (Xue & Du, 2023).

In the 1960s, against the backdrop of China's social and cultural prosperity, the creation of piano music showed a trend of greater diversity and openness. During this period, musicians began to consciously incorporate elements of national music into their piano compositions, not only in terms of themes and forms, but also in terms of musical language and mode of expression, striving to express a strong Chinese national music style through the piano, a Western instrument, and displaying unique cultural confidence and artistic charm. In the 1970s, adaptation became an important direction in the development of piano music. Through the adaptation of traditional pieces such as "Three Melodies of Plum Blossoms" and "Reflections of the Moon in the Two Springs", not only did they enrich the expression of piano music, but they also made these beloved classic melodies present themselves in a new

light, and further deepened the fusion of folk music and piano art. Creators skillfully use the piano's harmonic and technical characteristics to imitate the timbre of ethnic instruments, creating works that display both the characteristics of ethnic instruments and the charm of piano music, providing new possibilities for the development of piano music's nationalization.

Since the 1980s, with the advancement of reform and opening up, Chinese piano music creation has ushered in a new opportunity for development. During this period, Chinese musicians, while maintaining their respect for and inheritance of traditional music and culture, paid more attention to innovation and openness, exploring how to express China's traditional music and culture through the art of piano in a more open and innovative way. They have not only made bold attempts and innovations in technique and expression, but also sought breakthroughs in musical concepts and aesthetics, creating a series of piano works with both Chinese characteristics and international perspectives, so that Chinese piano music shows a richer and more diversified appearance on the global stage (Wu, 2013).

This development process not only reflects the historical trajectory of Chinese piano music from introduction to integration and then to innovation, but also maps out the open attitude and innovative spirit of Chinese musicians in the face of international cultural exchanges and integration. They not only actively absorb and learn the advanced technology and concepts of western music, but also insist on incorporating Chinese musical elements and cultural characteristics into their creations, demonstrating the independent confidence and innovative vitality of Chinese music culture. These efforts have not only made Chinese piano music widely recognized and praised both at home and abroad, but also built a bridge for international musical and cultural exchanges and mutual understanding, and promoted understanding and respect among different cultures.

In addition, the development of Chinese piano music has benefited from the support and promotion of national cultural policies, as well as the popularization and enhancement of music education. With the deepening of piano education, more and more young musicians and composers have been able to come into contact with the creation and performance of piano music. Many of them, with a deep affection for traditional Chinese culture and a skillful mastery of Western musical techniques, have found new ways to express the spirit of Chinese music in their compositions, and created piano works with both artistic depth and a sense of the times, which have pushed the continuous development and innovation of Chinese piano music. They have created piano works with artistic depth and a sense of the times, promoting the continuous development and innovation of Chinese piano music.

In today's globalization, Chinese piano music is not only a product of musical and cultural exchanges, but also an important platform to show the charm of Chinese culture and artistic innovation. From the early attempts of integration to modern cross-cultural innovation, the development of Chinese piano music has fully demonstrated the Chinese people's cultural attitude of tolerance and self-confidence in the face of global cultural trends, as well as the artistic pursuit of continuous exploration in the process of inheritance and development. This process has not only enriched the diversity of the world's music culture, but also made positive contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding and respect of global cultures. Looking to the future, Chinese piano music will certainly shine even brighter on the world music stage (Jia & Li, 2023).

Integration of Chinese Traditional Music Culture in Chinese Piano Works

The piano, as a "foreign product" in China's musical culture system, has undergone a developmental process from West to East, from foreign to localization since its introduction to China. Although the piano's performance method, creative approach, skill acquisition and teaching system are essentially inherited from the framework of Western music culture, its wide circulation and acceptance in China, especially its attempts of Chineseization in music creation and teaching, have demonstrated the unique charm of cultural exchange and integration. From the perspective of teaching, Chinese piano education has heavily adopted the Western training system, which is not only reflected in technique training, but also in musical aesthetics and work selection. However, it is against this background that Chinese musicians and composers have become more aware of the importance and urgency of combining the art of piano with traditional Chinese culture. They endeavored to explore how to express Chinese aesthetic concepts, philosophical ideas and national musical elements through the piano, a Western instrument, so that piano music could not only convey universal human emotions, but also have distinctive Chinese cultural characteristics. Generations of Chinese composers and performers have continuously tried, explored and innovated, devoting themselves to combining elements of traditional Chinese culture with piano music. By borrowing melodies from Chinese folk songs, using classical Chinese poems as inspiration, or incorporating Chinese philosophical thoughts and cultural imagery into their works, these musical creations have not only enriched the connotation of Chinese piano music, but also opened up new paths for the development of piano art.

Such creative attempts and practices have allowed the piano, as a Western musical instrument, to take root and blossom on Chinese soil, forming piano music works with Chinese characteristics. These works not only show the creativity and artistic talent of Chinese musicians, but also demonstrate to the world the unique charm and profound connotation of Chinese music culture. Chinese piano art has become a bridge of cultural exchange, not only allowing Chinese audiences to enjoy piano works with Chinese elements, but also allowing people around the world to better understand and approach Chinese culture through these works. This mutual appreciation and integration of cultures promotes the modern transformation and international dissemination of traditional Chinese music culture, and also contributes to the diversity and communal development of the world's music culture, demonstrating the positive practice and far-reaching significance in the context of cultural globalization (Tu, 2015).

Advantages of the deep integration of traditional Chinese music culture and Chinese piano works

Perfect expression of musical diversity

The in-depth integration of Chinese traditional music culture and piano works not only injects new vitality into the expression of piano music, but also builds a bridge for the exchange and integration of world music culture. Such a creative process makes the piano, a Western musical instrument, an important medium for conveying the essence of China's millennial culture, demonstrating the unique charm of Chinese music culture and the innovative spirit of artists. By skillfully combining Chinese melodies, rhythms, timbres and cultural stories, the piano works do not just stay on the display of skills, but become a carrier for the transmission of cultural emotions and philosophical thoughts, providing the audience with a brand new aesthetic experience and cultural enlightenment. This deep integration

brings not only the listeners' enjoyment of the beauty of music, but more importantly, the cognition and understanding of traditional Chinese culture. China's landscape, history, philosophy and folktales can be shared with audiences around the world through piano music across borders. This not only demonstrates the profundity and unique charm of Chinese culture, but also makes piano music an important language in global cultural exchange, enhancing cultural interaction and inclusiveness.

In addition, such attempts and explorations reflect the Chinese musician's art of balancing between heritage and innovation. He has the courage to introduce Chinese elements and traditional culture into his works while maintaining Western piano techniques and expressions. This cultural self-confidence and sense of innovation not only opens up a new path for the development of Chinese piano music, but also contributes to the enrichment and development of global music culture. At the same time, it has inspired generations of musicians and composers, encouraging them to constantly seek new ways of artistic expression while respecting traditions, and to face the cultural challenges brought about by globalization with an innovative stance. In this process, music is not only the art of sound, but also becomes a messenger of culture, spreading and exchanging culture through every performance and listening. The traditional Chinese music and culture incorporated in piano works is like a bridge, bringing the Chinese cultural spirit and aesthetic taste to the world, letting more people know about China, enhancing mutual understanding and respect among people of all countries in the world, and promoting the common cultural prosperity and progress of all mankind (Zhang, 2022).

Better inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture

Piano works incorporating Chinese traditional music culture are of great significance and far-reaching impact on the inheritance and promotion of traditional music culture. This kind of creation is not only a manifestation of cultural self-confidence, but also a kind of reinterpretation of the vigor and vitality of traditional culture, so that it can continue to emit unique charm and artistic value in modern society.

First of all, through the innovative arrangements of piano composers, the elements of traditional music culture are integrated into piano works, which helps the modern transformation and dissemination of traditional music. Traditional music culture contains rich emotions and deep historical and cultural heritage, and its unique melodies, rhythms and timbres, as well as the cultural stories and philosophical thoughts behind them, are valuable resources for modern music creation. Creatively integrating these elements into piano music can not only make the works present distinctive national characteristics and cultural depth, but also help the inheritance and development of traditional music culture, making it more in line with the aesthetic habits and cultural needs of modern people. Secondly, the creation and performance of piano works bear the responsibility of spreading music culture to the public. Through the excavation and utilization of traditional music culture, composers and performers not only innovate and explore artistically, but also assume the responsibility of reviving and passing on the national music culture of the times. This sense of responsibility and cultural awareness can promote the depth and breadth of the work, so that the piano music works show richer cultural connotation and artistic expression in the dissemination, and enhance the social influence and cultural value of the works. In addition, combining traditional music culture with piano music works can not only attract the attention of music lovers, but also stimulate the interest and hobby of the general public in traditional culture, and promote the

enthusiasm of the public to participate in cultural heritage. Such extensive participation and support is crucial to the promotion of the active dissemination and long-term development of traditional music culture, which can revitalize traditional music culture in the context of the new era and achieve the purpose of "revitalization" of inheritance.

Integrating Chinese traditional music and culture into piano works not only shows the unique charm and artistic value of traditional music, but also contributes to the modern inheritance and innovative development of traditional music and culture, and further enhances the self-confidence and pride of the national culture, and at the same time contributes to the protection and development of the world's cultural diversity, and demonstrates the inclusiveness and innovative spirit of the Chinese culture.

Favorable to the innovation and development of piano works

Under the background of the era of integrated media, the practice of integrating traditional Chinese music culture into piano works is not only a powerful exploration of cultural inheritance, but also an important booster for the innovation of piano works. This kind of integration can expand the artistic boundaries of piano music, enrich its expression methods, enhance the cultural depth and artistic attraction of the works, and is of great significance to enhance the innovation ability and artistic value of piano music.

With the development of the Internet and new media technology, people can contact and appreciate piano music more conveniently, which also provides a new platform and way for the dissemination of traditional music culture. In such an environment, piano works that incorporate elements of traditional Chinese music can not only attract more listeners' attention and appreciation, but also enable listeners to enjoy the aesthetics of music while increasing their knowledge and understanding of traditional Chinese culture, thus improving the cultural and aesthetic qualities of the public. This fusion also helps guide young people to rediscover and appreciate the charm of traditional Chinese music and culture, and inspire them to consciously inherit and develop a sense of responsibility for national culture. By creating and performing piano works that integrate traditional cultural elements, musicians not only carry out innovative explorations artistically, but also assume important social responsibilities culturally, contributing to the protection and inheritance of China's outstanding traditional music culture (Tang, 2023).

The combination of Chinese traditional music culture and piano works can not only promote the inheritance and development of traditional music culture, but also provide new ideas and motivation for the innovation and enhancement of the piano music works themselves, strengthen the cultural penetration and complementation, and promote the Chinese piano music creation to a broader stage, showing a more colorful artistic style.

Means of integration between piano works and traditional Chinese music culture

Adaptation

As an important means of combining traditional Chinese music culture with piano works, it reflects the deep respect for traditional culture and also demonstrates the innovative spirit of modern music creation. By retaining the artistic value of traditional music while using the piano as a medium for artistic re-creation, this method not only does not change the essence of traditional art, but also gives it new vitality, allowing traditional music to be inherited and carried forward in modern society.

Take the piano adaptation of the Chinese work "Yangguan Sanjie" as an example, this kind of adaptation studies the cultural background, emotional expression and artistic characteristics of the traditional work in depth, instead of simple melodic conversion or imitation of musical style, on the basis of which it combines the expressive and technical characteristics of the piano to carry out innovative musical creation. This not only requires composers to have a deep understanding and perception of traditional music, but also requires them to have superior skills and unique aesthetic perspectives in piano music creation.

In the process of adaptation, the composers adjust the rhythm, melody, harmony and other technical means, so that the adaptation not only maintains the flavor and style of the traditional music, but also shows the richness and colorfulness of the piano music and heartwarming. This kind of artistic innovation not only enhances the artistic infectious force of the work, but also makes the traditional music culture get new interpretation and presentation in different music forms and expression methods.

In addition, this kind of adaptation is also very helpful to promote the public's interest in and understanding of traditional music and culture. By combining traditional music with the piano, which is a more familiar Western musical instrument, more listeners can be attracted to come into contact with and appreciate traditional Chinese music, and their knowledge and love of traditional Chinese culture can be enhanced, thus promoting the dissemination and popularization of traditional culture.

Incorporating the harmonic tunes of traditional Chinese music

In the context of the contemporary era of media integration, the practice of integrating traditional Chinese harmony and tunes in piano music works is not only a manifestation of the in-depth excavation of Chinese music culture, but also an important way for the innovative development of piano music. By combining the rich and diverse elements of traditional Chinese music with the expressive methods of piano music, as shown in works such as *Piccolo for Shepherd Boys* and *Autumn Wilderness*, the piano musicians did not simply imitate the traditional Western harmonic structure, but creatively added unique Chinese harmonies and melodies, making the works demonstrate the technical charm of piano music, but also deeply rooted in the cultural soil of China. This fusion not only maintains the essence of traditional art, but also gives it a new vitality, so that traditional music can be inherited and carried forward in modern society, showing unique national characteristics and cultural depth.

Through the innovative use of traditional compositions, such as "Sunset xiao drums", the creation process of which skillfully combines the traditional structure of Chinese music, such as plate cadence and multi-part cadence, with the tonal layout and function of piano music, not only injects new creative inspirations into the piano music works, but also allows the rhythm and philosophy of classical Chinese poetry and literature to be expressed in the field of music in a new way. This kind of cross-border fusion not only enriches the artistic expression of piano music, but also is an important symbol of the innovation and development of Chinese music culture, which promotes the perfect combination of Chinese traditional music culture and modern music art, and enhances the competitiveness and influence of Chinese music culture in the world music scene (Tang, 2023).

Incorporating Chinese traditional harmonies and tunes into piano music works is an artistic exploration that both respects tradition and dares to innovate. This way of creation not only promotes the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture, but also provides a new path for the innovation and enhancement of the piano music works themselves, making the piano music become a bridge connecting the tradition and modernity, the East and the West, and demonstrating the unique charm and contemporary value of Chinese music culture.

Adding Chinese language and traditional melody

The fusion of piano art and Chinese traditional music culture shows a special musical language and melody. This fusion not only preserves the unique style of national culture and traditional culture, but also presents the mood and emotion of traditional music in a brand new form to the modern audience by means of the piano, which is a Western musical instrument. In this process, the piano is not only a tool for performance, but also a medium to convey the spirit and aesthetics of traditional Chinese music. Integrating traditional melodies and music culture into piano works through innovative ways can bring listeners a more colorful listening experience and accelerate the inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture.

By skillfully combining the musical elements, the creators make the traditional melody revitalized under the interpretation of the piano. For example, the introduction of folk boatmen's horns in the piano concerto of "Yellow River" not only lets the listener feel the momentum of the vast river, but also the hardship and tenacity of the boatmen, demonstrating the profound national flavor and historical emotion. In addition, by integrating the elements of national scale tuning and folk song singing into the piano works, it enriches the expressiveness and artistic charm of the piano music even more, so that the works are not only the presentation of music, but also the conveyance of culture and the resonance of emotion.

This practice of integration is not only the result of combining music theory and practice, but also the crystallization of pianists' unremitting efforts. It not only allows piano music to show its unique charm in China, but also makes an important contribution to the diversity and richness of the world's musical culture. Through such creation and interpretation, piano music has become a bridge connecting the past and the present, the East and the West, providing valuable experience and demonstration for promoting cultural exchange and understanding, as well as promoting the modernization and innovation of traditional music and culture.

In order to realize the deep integration of Chinese traditional music culture and Chinese piano works, first of all, it is necessary to innovate ideas and concepts, and strengthen cultural self-confidence. Although the piano originates from the West, it has been deeply rooted in the Chinese cultural soil and accumulated rich development experience during its long-term development in China. On this basis, to explore and integrate the essence of traditional music culture is the key to realize the deep integration. This not only requires musicians to maintain cultural self-confidence, backed by the rich resources of traditional Chinese culture, but also requires the general audience to strengthen the importance and support of national piano music, and together provide a broader stage for the musical fusion between tradition and modernity, between the East and the West (Zhang, 2022).

In addition, building a perfect piano music theory system is another important way to promote the development of Chinese piano music. Through theoretical research and practical exploration, traditional music cultures of different dynasties and styles can be fused and unified to form a piano music style with Chinese characteristics. This requires that while inheriting the traditional music culture, we should actively draw on the music theory and practical experience of the West, and strengthen the inheritance and development of traditional music culture by combining with China's national conditions and the current situation of music, so as to provide scientific theoretical support and rich practical guidance for the creation of Chinese piano music. Increasing the global recognition and influence of Chinese music is the key to promoting Chinese piano music to the international arena. By injecting personal emotions and cultural thoughts into the works, composers can not only show the aesthetic value of music, but also reflect the deep cultural connotation and unique national flavor. Therefore, grasping the cultural core and creating piano works with Chinese characteristics that can show their charms on the international stage is an important strategy for Chinese piano music to occupy a place in the world's music culture. Through such efforts, Chinese piano music will not only gain wider recognition at home, but also show its unique artistic value and cultural charm in the international arena (Gu, 2023).

Conclusion

The integration of traditional Chinese music culture into piano works serves as a significant artistic innovation that honors cultural heritage while exploring new creative possibilities. Through adaptation, composers maintain the essence of traditional melodies and harmonies, injecting them with fresh vitality through the technical and expressive capabilities of the piano. This fusion not only respects traditional forms but also enriches them, allowing piano music to become a medium for conveying the spirit and emotion of Chinese music in modern contexts. By skillfully incorporating elements such as Chinese harmonies, rhythms, and folk melodies, this creative approach deepens the cultural connection between East and West, enabling broader appreciation and understanding of Chinese music. The resulting works serve as cultural bridges, fostering both national pride and international recognition, and advancing the modernization and innovation of traditional Chinese music culture in a global music scene.

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