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Song Creation Practice Combining Li and Miao Music with Hainan Regional Literature

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Abstract: This paper delves deep into the practice of song creation that combines Li and Miao music with Hainan regional literature. It analyzes the unique styles of Li and Miao music and the characteristics of Hainan regional literature, and expounds on the feasibility and significance of their combination. The research is structured around the perspectives of creative concepts, melody construction, lyric writing, and arrangement and production. By analyzing the experiences and problems in the creative process through specific cases, this paper aims to provide theoretical and practical references for promoting the development of music culture with Hainan local characteristics.

Keywords: Li and Miao music; Hainan regional literature; song creation

1. Introduction

Hainan, a bright pearl in southern China, boasts diverse and unique ethnic cultures. The Li and Miao ethnic groups, as ethnic minorities native to Hainan, have a long-standing and profound musical culture. At the same time, Hainan regional literature, with its vivid depictions of local customs, traditions, and historical cultures, provides rich materials for artistic creation. Combining Li and Miao music with Hainan regional literature in song creation can help inherit and promote local ethnic cultures, enrich the treasure trove of Chinese music creation, and also inject new vitality into the development of Hainan's cultural industry, contributing to the cultural construction of Hainan as an international tourism island. However, systematic research and creative practice in this field still need to be further deepened and expanded [1].

2. Overview of Li and Miao Music and Hainan Regional Literature

2.1. Stylistic Features of Li and Miao Music

2.1.1. Melodic Characteristics

The melodies of Li music are mostly based on the pentatonic scale, often featuring major second-degree and minor third-degree intervals, with relatively gentle undulations. For example, in *Chun Mi Ge* (*Pounding Rice Song*), the melody repeats and varies around several simple notes, with a brisk rhythm, vividly presenting the scene of Li women pounding rice. The melodies of Miao music, on the other hand, are more diverse and changeable, sometimes characterized by a large interval span and the frequent use of decorative notes such as glides and trills, adding a sense of agility and lyricism. For instance, in *Pan Huang Ge* (*Song of Panhuang*), reflecting the legends of the Miao people, the melody undulates, creating a solemn and emotional atmosphere.

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2.1.2. Rhythm Features

In Li music, rhythms are closely related to production and daily life. In work-song-like music, the rhythm is regular and powerful, coordinating labor; in song-and-dance-like music, the rhythm is lively and brisk. For example, the music of the Li bamboo-pole dance has a strong sense of rhythm, driving a warm and cheerful atmosphere. The rhythms of Miao music vary in different types of songs. Sacrifice-related songs have a slow and solemn rhythm, emphasizing the sense of ritual; while love songs have a light and flexible rhythm, expressing delicate emotions.

2.1.3. Singing Forms and Musical Instruments

Li music has a rich variety of singing forms, including solo, antiphonal singing, and chorus. Antiphonal singing is common in social life, where men and women communicate emotions through songs. Li musical instruments are diverse. The single-log drum has a powerful and deep sound, often used in ceremonies and celebrations, conveying awe and wishes; the mouth-bow has a soft timbre and is often used by young Li men and women to express love. Miao music also has diverse singing forms. The Lusheng dance is a representative song-and-dance form. The Lusheng has a bright timbre, and with the accompaniment of the Lusheng, people sing and dance, demonstrating the cultural customs of the Miao ethnic group. In addition, the Miao leaf-blowing imitates natural sounds, full of the interest of daily life.

2.2. *Characteristics of Hainan Regional Literature*

2.2.1. Thematic Content

Hainan regional literature has a wide range of themes, covering the natural scenery of the island, historical changes, and ethnic customs. Many works depict the blue sea, blue sky, coconut groves, and sandy beaches of Hainan, presenting the unique tropical island landscape. In terms of historical themes, it records the development of Hainan from ancient times to the present, including the connection between the Maritime Silk Road and Hainan, and the influence of immigrants in different dynasties on Hainan's culture. The themes of ethnic customs focus on depicting the living customs, traditional festivals, and myths and legends of ethnic minorities such as the Li and Miao. For example, the "March 3rd" festival customs of the Li ethnic group are vividly presented in literary works [2].

2.2.2. Language Style

The language of Hainan regional literature has a strong local flavor. On the one hand, it incorporates vocabulary from ethnic minorities such as the Li and Miao, adding a unique ethnic charm. On the other hand, the use of Hainan local dialects in literary creation enhances the regional affinity. The embedding of dialect words from Qionghai dialect, Wenchang dialect, etc., enables readers to deeply feel the local atmosphere. At the same time, the language of Hainan regional literature is simple and vivid when expressing emotions and describing things, reflecting the forthright and optimistic character of the Hainan people.

2.2.3. Cultural Connotations

Hainan regional literature carries rich cultural connotations. It contains the open and inclusive spirit of marine culture. Due to its long-term exchanges with the outside world, Hainan has formed a compatible cultural trait. At the same time, the farming culture has a deep foundation in Hainan. The descriptions of agricultural production and rural life in literary works reflect the Hainan people's love and dependence on the land. Moreover, the cultures of ethnic minorities such as the Li and Miao serve as important cultural ele-

ments that enrich Hainan regional literature. Elements such as traditional beliefs and symbolic cultural motifs are reflected in literary works, demonstrating the charm of the integration of multiple cultures in Hainan.

3. Feasibility and Significance of Combining Li and Miao Music with Hainan Regional Literature in Song Creation

3.1. Feasibility

3.1.1. Compatibility of Cultural Origins

Both Li and Miao music and Hainan regional literature are deeply rooted in the land of Hainan, jointly reflecting the lives, emotions, and cultural pursuits of the Hainan people. Both the singing of labor and love in Li and Miao music and the descriptions of similar themes in Hainan regional literature stem from daily experiences. For example, their praise of nature and love for their hometown show consistency in emotional expression [3].

3.1.2. Complementary Artistic Expressions

Li and Miao music, with their unique melodies, rhythms, and singing forms, can directly impact the auditory sense and have a strong artistic appeal. Hainan regional literature, through delicate character portrayals, scene depictions, and profound storytelling, has rich narrativeness and ideological depth. The combination of the two means that music enhances the rhythm and emotional resonance of literary content, facilitating its dissemination, while literature provides rich content for music, enhancing its cultural connotation and artistic depth, thus achieving complementary artistic expressions.

3.2. Significance

3.2.1. Cultural Inheritance and Protection

In the context of the rapid development of modern society, both Li and Miao music and Hainan regional literature face challenges in inheritance. Combining them in song creation can make excellent local cultures more accessible to the younger generation in a more attractive and contemporary way. As a widely spread art form, songs can expand the influence of these cultures, promote their inheritance and development, and preserve these precious cultural heritages.

3.2.2. Enriching the Styles of Music Creation

Chinese music creation needs continuous innovation and enrichment. The combination of Li and Miao music and Hainan regional literature brings unique materials and elements. Their unique melodies, rhythms, and the cultural connotations of their characteristic languages open up new paths for song creation, creating works with a strong local and ethnic style, enriching the style system of Chinese music, and bringing a new auditory experience to the audience.

3.2.3. Promoting the Development of Hainan's Cultural Industry

As an international tourism island, the development of Hainan's cultural industry is crucial [4]. Taking the song creation that combines the two as a breakthrough point, a local-characteristic music and cultural brand can be created. These characteristic music works can be applied in tourism performances, cultural exchange activities and other cultural showcases, attracting more tourists to Hainan to experience its unique cultural charm, thus promoting the integration of Hainan's cultural and tourism industries and injecting new impetus into Hainan's economic growth.

4. Elements of Song Creation Practice Combining Li and Miao Music with Hainan Regional Literature

4.1. Creative Concepts

4.1.1. Respecting and Inheriting Ethnic Cultures

In the creative process, we should always respect Li and Miao cultures and Hainan regional literature. Thoroughly study their historical origins, cultural connotations, and development contexts to ensure the accurate presentation of cultural elements. When selecting elements of Li and Miao music, preserve their original forms and cultural symbols; when using materials from regional literature, respect the ideological emotions and cultural values expressed, and inherit and promote ethnic cultures through creation.

4.1.2. Innovation and Integration of Modern Elements

On the basis of respecting traditions, pay attention to innovation and the integration of modern elements. Combine Li and Miao music, regional literature with modern music production techniques and popular music styles to make the works meet contemporary aesthetic needs. In arrangement, use modern electronic music to enhance the sense of rhythm and fashion; in lyric writing, adopt the creative techniques of modern poetry to make the lyrics both contemporary and ethnic-characteristic, attracting young audiences and realizing the innovative development of traditional cultures.

4.2. Melody Construction

4.2.1. Drawing on the Melodies of Li and Miao Music

Deeply explore the treasure trove of Li and Miao music melodies, select representative segments or themes for adaptation and development. We can directly quote classic melodic motives and then process them through rhythm changes, interval expansions or contractions to adapt to the emotional expression and style requirements of the song. For example, when creating a song with a Li-ethnic-love theme, we can draw on the gentle and melodious melody lines of Li love songs, and through appropriate variations and decorative note treatments, make it retain the charm of Li music and conform to modern singing habits.

4.2.2. Incorporating Hainan-Specific Tones

The phonetic and rhythmic features of the language in Hainan regional literature can be transformed into unique tones and integrated into the melody. Study the tones and rhythms of Hainan dialects and combine them with the melodies of Li and Miao music to create melodies with local characteristics. The tone changes of Hainan dialects can serve as an inspiration for melody undulations. By transforming the phonetic rhythms of the dialect into the high-low changes of notes, the regional recognition of the melody can be enhanced.

4.2.3. Matching the Emotions of the Lyrics

The melody should be constructed closely around the emotions expressed in the lyrics. If the lyrics depict the beautiful natural scenery of Hainan, the melody can adopt a light and bright style, mainly using major keys, with a relatively slow rhythm to show a pleasant and comfortable emotion; if the lyrics tell the historical vicissitudes of the Li and Miao ethnic groups, the melody may adopt a deeper and more solemn style, mostly using minor keys, and appropriately adding syncopation or dotted notes in the rhythm to enhance the emotional tension, so that the melody and lyrics complement each other in emotional expression.

4.3. *Lyric Writing*

4.3.1. Selecting Materials from Hainan Regional Literature

There is a wealth of materials in Hainan regional literature for lyric writing. We can select poetry and prose fragments describing the natural scenery of Hainan, adapt and integrate them into modern language to show the beautiful scenery. We can also explore the myths, legends, and folk stories of the Li and Miao ethnic groups and transform them into lyrics in a narrative way. For example, one could create lyrics based on the Li "Great Hercules" legend to show respect and yearning.

4.3.2. Integrating Li and Miao Language Elements

Skillfully integrate Li and Miao language vocabulary or phrases into the lyrics, adding ethnic characteristics and conveying cultural connotations. Add representative words in key positions, such as the chorus part, accurately grasp their pronunciations and meanings, and clearly convey their cultural significance.

4.3.3. Paying Attention to the Rhythm and Connotation of the Lyrics

The lyrics should pay attention to the beauty of rhythm, rhyme to be catchy. Through words, depict unique artistic conceptions, and create an artistic atmosphere together with the melody. When depicting Hainan's characteristics, use rich images such as coconut trees, waves, etc., to construct an artistic conception picture with Hainan style, enabling the audience to feel the cultural charm as if they were on the scene.

4.4. *Arrangement and Production*

4.4.1. Using Li and Miao Characteristic Musical Instruments

Reasonably use Li and Miao characteristic musical instruments in the arrangement to enhance the ethnic style. Add the percussion of the single-log drum in the prelude or interlude to create an atmosphere; use the mouth-bow or leaf-blowing in the lyrical passages to add charm. Ensure the integration with modern musical instruments. For example, match the melody of the Lusheng with the chords of an electric guitar to create a novel and harmonious sound effect.

4.4.2. Combining with Modern Music Production Techniques

Use modern music production techniques, such as audio processing software and synthesizers, to finely produce the song. Adjust parameters such as the timbre, volume, and reverb of musical instruments to create a rich sound hierarchy. Use a synthesizer to simulate natural sounds, such as the sound of waves and birdsong, and integrate them with the melody to create a more vivid Hainan regional environment atmosphere. At the same time, modern music production techniques can also achieve precise control and changes of the rhythm, making the song more dynamic and attractive.

4.4.3. Paying Attention to the Unity of the Overall Style

In the process of arrangement and production, pay attention to the unity of the overall style. Carefully design each link, from melody, lyrics to instrument selection and sound effect processing, around the theme and creative concept of the song to ensure that all elements are coordinated and integrated. The use of traditional and modern elements should be natural, forming an organic whole, and demonstrating the unique charm of the combination.

5. Case Analysis of Song Creation Combining Li and Miao Music with Hainan Regional Literature

5.1. Case 1: Love Song of Li Township

5.1.1. Creative Background and Concept

Love Song of Li Township aims to show the innocent love between Li young men and women and the unique cultural customs of the Li ethnic group. The creative team, adhering to the concept of respecting the Li culture, went deep into the Li-inhabited areas, explored the living customs and traditional love songs, and integrated modern pop elements to attract young audiences' attention to the Li culture.

5.1.2. Melody Construction

The melody draws on the typical melodic characteristics of Li love songs, based on the pentatonic scale, with gentle and winding melody lines, and most intervals are major second-degree and minor third-degree. The rhythm is lively and brisk, imitating the happy mood of lovers. Combining with the phonetic and rhythmic features of Hainan dialects, it integrates local-characteristic tones, and shows the charm of the dialect through the rising and falling of the melody.

5.1.3. Lyric Writing

The lyrics are based on the folk love stories of the Li ethnic group, narrating the process of falling in love. It integrates Li language elements such as "Bolongai", adding ethnic characteristics. Paying attention to rhythm, it rhymes to be catchy. Through delicate descriptions, it creates a romantic artistic conception, showing the cultural customs.

5.1.4. Arrangement and Production

The arrangement uses the mouth-bow and the single-log drum. The mouth-bow in the prelude leads to the theme, creating a romantic atmosphere; the single-log drum in the chorus enhances the rhythm and emotional tension. Combining with modern techniques, it simulates the sound of the wind blowing through the coconut grove. The overall style integrates traditional and modern elements, meeting contemporary aesthetic needs.

5.2. Case 2: Echoes of Miao Mountain

5.2.1. Creative Background and Concept

Echoes of Miao Mountain stems from the exploration and inheritance of Miao culture, showing the life changes, cultural inheritance, and future aspirations of the Miao ethnic group in Hainan. The creative concept emphasizes innovation and integration on the basis of respecting traditions, making the song both ethnic and contemporary, and spreading Miao culture.

5.2.2. Melody Construction

The melody draws on the rich elements of Miao music, with a large interval span, obvious undulations, and strong lyricism. The rhythm combines the characteristics of Miao sacrifice songs and song-and-dance music, having solemn and slow parts as well as lively and brisk parts. It integrates the common characteristics of Hainan regional music, showing both Miao characteristics and the overall style of Hainan.

5.2.3. Lyric Writing

The lyrics take the migration history, traditional festivals, and yearning for a better life of the Miao ethnic group as creative materials, telling the migration story and showing the tenacious spirit. It integrates Miao language vocabulary related to festivals, enhancing the cultural heritage. The rhythm adopts a combination of free verse and rhyming, depicting scenes to create a Miao-characteristic artistic conception.

5.2.4. Arrangement and Production

The arrangement highlights the Lusheng, with its melody as the main line. In the climax part, the Lusheng combines with modern rock instruments, forming an impact and showing the vitality of the culture. Using modern techniques to polish and expand the timbre of the Lusheng, and adding the environmental sound effects of Miao sacrifice ceremonies to enhance the cultural atmosphere and sense of reality.

6. Problems and Solutions in the Song Creation Practice Combining Li and Miao Music with Hainan Regional Literature

6.1. Lack of In-Depth Cultural Understanding and Expression

Some creators do not have a deep understanding of Li and Miao cultures and Hainan regional literature. In their creations, they only use elements superficially, without exploring the deep-seated connotations, resulting in works lacking cultural heritage and appeal, and unable to accurately convey the essence of the culture.

6.2. Imbalance in the Integration of Modern and Traditional Elements

When integrating modern and traditional elements, some works show an imbalance. Either over-emphasizing modern elements, overshadowing the characteristics of traditional music and literature, or being too conservative, with modern elements incorporated stiffly, making the works lack a sense of the times and difficult to attract contemporary audiences.

7. Conclusion

The integration of Li and Miao music with Hainan regional literature in song creation is a significant and rewarding exploration. It represents an important way to preserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Hainan. By analyzing the stylistic features of Li and Miao music and the characteristics of Hainan regional literature, and by carefully considering the elements of song creation, including creative concepts, melody construction, lyric writing, and arrangement and production, we can create songs that are both culturally rich and artistically attractive.

However, as with any cultural-creative endeavor, there are challenges to overcome. The lack of in-depth cultural understanding, the imbalance in the integration of modern and traditional elements, and the difficulties in dissemination and promotion are all issues that need to be addressed. Through the proposed solutions, such as strengthening cultural research, achieving a balanced integration of elements, and diversifying promotion channels, these challenges can be effectively mitigated.

In the long run, the successful combination of Li and Miao music with Hainan regional literature in song creation can contribute to the construction of Hainan's cultural identity. It can also play a vital role in the development of Hainan's cultural industry, especially in the context of its development as an international tourism island. Moreover, these songs can serve as a bridge for cultural exchange, promoting cross-cultural understanding both within China and globally. Therefore, continuous efforts in this area of song creation are not only crucial for the inheritance and development of local cultures but also for the enrichment of the global cultural landscape.

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