

# The Formation and Development of Chinese National Vocal Music in the New Period

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## Abstract

National vocal music in the new era refers to vocal music which has a certain internal relationship with Chinese traditional national vocal music from music form to style characteristics, and has distinct characteristics of the times, and is different from Western vocal music works and popular songs style. This paper takes the creation and singing methods of national vocal music in the new period as the main object of investigation, and makes a rough comb in order to put forward my own opinions on the above problems.

## Keywords

New Period; National Vocal Music; Formation; Development.

## 1. Introduction

Chinese modern national vocal music art, some scholars and researchers also called Chinese national vocal music, Chinese national vocal music school or Chinese vocal music school. Although the scientific definition of the concept of national vocal music still needs further discussion in the academic circle, it is indisputable that the modern national vocal music art with Chinese characteristics has been established in China after decades of practice and exploration. What we call the modern Chinese national vocal music art is relative to the western vocal music art as well as the traditional Chinese national vocal music. China's national vocal music is rooted in the Chinese land, after thousands of years of honing and forming a relatively independent, independent system, with strong ethnic customs and regional style, covering a variety of means and forms of artistic expression, with Oriental aesthetic characteristics, has always been the Chinese people's favorite art form. In Chinese modern history, the traditional Chinese national vocal music in the specific social, historical and cultural conditions, through the absorption method, draw lessons from the western vocal art theory, from the singing method, form of expression, vocal music education to the concept of thinking, and many other aspects, has won a new promotion, thus formed the modern significance of national vocal music art form. It can be said that the modern Chinese national vocal music art is born from the Traditional Chinese national vocal music, and is the reproduction, sublimation and development of the traditional Chinese national vocal music under the new historical conditions.

## 2. Its Own Factors and Objective Conditions of the Formation of Modern Chinese National Vocal Music Art

The cultural form of any country or nation has a process from tradition to modernity, from simplicity to science, from seclusion to openness. Chinese national vocal music is no exception. In history, once the more advanced vocal music method theory entered China, it would be absorbed by the Traditional Chinese music culture sooner or later and merged together to a certain extent. After this transmutation, Chinese national vocal music will take on a new look. The intrinsic character of the essence of Chinese traditional culture determines that it always

needs to absorb advanced foreign cultural forms. Chinese traditional culture has the characteristics of absorbing, integrating, storing and symbiosis. It is neither conservative nor fixed. It is always enriched and developed in the nourishment of absorbing foreign cultures. It has been proved by history that foreign culture and Chinese native culture are integrated into each other and finally transformed into a part of Chinese national culture after the process of nationalization. From the perspective of Chinese traditional music culture, this feature is very prominent. Most of the traditional Chinese Musical Instruments were introduced from other countries and regions in history. For example, the pipa (Persian) was originally a Persian musical instrument and was introduced from the western regions in the Eastern Jin Dynasty. After the reform and integration of the Tang and Song dynasties, its pear-shaped sound box, four strings and fourteen columns were basically fixed after the Song Dynasty. Together, the Xiliang music became an important type of Music in The Sui and Tang Dynasties.

Science and culture know no boundaries, and scientific musical methods and theories will always be liked and accepted by most people and spread around the world. Italian vocal music, as early as the first century spread to Europe, and later to the Americas and Asia. The main characteristics of the voice is relaxed and free, a wide range of development, resonance and exquisite expression. Because of its scientific singing method, this vocal method is still widely spread, such as Italian opera, German art songs and so on are performed by bel canto.

### **3. The Development of Modern Chinese National Vocal Music in the Social Evolution**

The blending of two different cultures will inevitably go through a long process of collision. Since the middle of the Ming Dynasty, China began to ban the sea due to the Japanese pirates. The Qing dynasty was even more closed to the outside world. Most of the Chinese music culture in this period was intermingled internally and lacked external stimulation. As a result of a long period of isolation from the outside world, the nation has become psychologically closed and xenophobic, and is unwilling to accept foreign things, even good ones, at once. The simple method of "taking doctrine" is acceptable in a certain range of people, but if it becomes an artistic choice of a nation, it is doomed to undergo a long process of adaptation. Look from the essential attribute of music culture, Chinese traditional vocality and western methods of vocal music theory, belong to the west different cultural system, due to the culture are very different, to some extent, is bound to have collisions, somewhat sublation, both from the mutual confrontation gradually converge, is necessarily long and even painful.

The emergence of Chinese modern national vocal music is catalyzed by the process of ideological emancipation. The May 4th Movement in 1919 awakened the liberation of the people's minds. Since then, learning advanced western science and culture has become a social trend, and Chinese music culture has also entered an unprecedented new stage. As a result, China began to have western-style vocal music teaching, began to create their own art songs, and even later appeared opera. Although these art forms were immature at that time, they nevertheless took a powerful step towards the direction of modern art forms. Scientific culture is also gradually accepted by the Chinese people in the process of people's ideological emancipation.

After the 1960s, there was a tendency in The Chinese music circle to overemphasize the nationalization and ignore the western singing, and some places even changed the western singing hard. Since introduced from the western vocal music art at the time also is not very mature, has not obtained a ShengLeJie technically the unity of cognition, appear nationalization of vocal music education field as well as to the western style is different, the so-called Italian school, the Russian school, mainstreams, objectively hindered the system of vocal music learning and development. The harm of "Cultural Revolution" also affected the field of vocal

music art. Ten years of man-made disasters caused the modern national vocal music, which had no solid foundation, to be almost deserted. After the reform and opening up in the 1980s, with the increase of musical cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, many world-class vocal music artists and educators came to China for many times to perform and give lectures, which promoted the Chinese national vocal music to enter a new period of development. The rationality, standardization and scientificity of western vocal music have been widely used for reference by the teaching of national vocal music, and the art of national vocal music has been explored, developed and promoted.

The formation and development of Chinese modern national vocal music art is ultimately the choice of the people. Music is created by the people, and only the music accepted by the people has the most vitality. The hard exploration of artists and theorists on the road of art has undoubtedly played a leading role, but in the final analysis, it is obviously impossible to form a new vocal art school without the approval of a large number of appreciation groups. After a long period of history, the Chinese people gradually accepted the modern Chinese national vocal music art, which conforms to the aesthetic requirements, appreciating habits, appreciating level and appreciating way of the nation. Although Chinese national vocal music absorbs and integrates western advanced vocal music methods and theories, it does not lose itself.

#### **4. The Decisive Factor of Chinese National Vocal Music from Traditional to Modern**

##### **4.1. In Terms of Vocalization Methods, a Relatively Scientific Foundation for Vocalization has been Formed**

On the basis of inheriting the traditional vocalization methods and singing techniques, modern Chinese national vocal music combines western vocalization methods to further enhance the scientific nature of the vocalization methods and singing techniques of national vocal music.

##### **4.2. In the Form of Singing, it Not Only Inherits the National Traditional Form, but also Draws Lessons from the International Common Form**

While inheriting traditional forms such as opera, quyi, rap, folk song, mountain song and local tunes, Chinese national vocal music has also introduced new vocal forms such as opera and art song. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, a large number of songs with regional and national characteristics have become one of the main forms of expression of modern Chinese national vocal music.

##### **4.3. In Terms of Creative Practice, the Space for Artistic Expression is Expanded**

Chinese national vocal music writing not only follows the characteristics of Five and seven tones of Chinese music, but also absorbs the techniques of western music creation. The White-haired Girl of Yan 'an period is the first excellent national opera work which takes traditional opera and folk tunes as the main body of creation and draws on the experience of the western opera. After the 1980s, representative Chinese operas based on western opera techniques emerged.

##### **4.4. In Terms of Theoretical Research Construction, the Research System of National Vocal Music Theory has been Constructed**

After the founding of new China, music workers actively explored the historical evolution, academic connotation, artistic features and development direction of modern Chinese national vocal music art, and put forward a large number of theoretical achievements. Especially after 80 years, the study of folk music was listed as a national key scientific research project, and the

Chinese Traditional Music Society and art research institutes and art colleges in various provinces and cities were established one after another. And music theory journals represented by Chinese Musicology, Music Research and journals of music colleges and universities constitute the front of theoretical research on national vocal music art.

#### **4.5. In the Form of Professional Education, a Pattern of Vocal Music Education with Institutional Education as the Center and Social Education as the Auxiliary has been Formed**

In the early 1950s, Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Shenyang Conservatory of Music took the lead in setting up the major of national vocal music, and in the 1980s, Shenyang Conservatory of Music established the Department of National vocal music. In recent years, some comprehensive universities have also set up music or art departments with national vocal music education. A national system of national vocal music art education has taken shape, with music colleges as the backbone, comprehensive and normal universities as the extension, primary and secondary schools as the foundation, professional performance groups as the practice, and grass-roots cultural centers (stations) as the supplement.

#### **4.6. In Terms of Artistic Style, it has Created the Situation of a Bright and Competitive Situation**

At the beginning of the 21st century, Chinese modern national vocal music has developed into a full-bodied artistic style and its own system. According to Professor Jin Tielin, Chinese national vocal music still needs to be enriched and improved through constant exploration and practice, and the direction of scientific, national, artistic and contemporary should always be grasped.

#### **4.7. In Terms of Representatives, a Number of Educators and Singers have Emerged**

Shen Xiang, Zhou Xiaoyan, Lin Junqing and Jin Tielin are all outstanding representatives of promoting the development of Chinese modern national vocal music art education. In terms of performance, Guo Lanying, Wang Kun, CAI Danzhuoma and Peng Liyuan were all popular folk vocal singers after the 1950s and the 1980s. With their brilliant achievements in artistic practice, they have become an important symbol of the development of modern Chinese national vocal music.

### **5. Conclusion**

After nearly one hundred years of evolution and development, the modern Chinese national vocal music art has gradually formed in the integration, collision and combination of western vocal music method theory and Chinese traditional music culture. Especially after the 1980s, with the progress of The Times, Chinese national vocal music art in singing skills, technical theory and creative techniques and other aspects are becoming mature. The development of The Times has not only endowed The Chinese national vocal music with new vitality, but also put forward new requirements and subjects for the modern Chinese national vocal music art. This is how to realize the unification of the nationalization and modernization of The Chinese national vocal music art. How does Chinese national vocal music further demonstrate itself on the world stage? How to explore and carry forward the profound heritage of Chinese traditional art? And so on, this is China's modern national vocal music art in the further development of the need to face an important subject, we look forward to the majority of colleagues to make greater efforts to this end, for China's modern national vocal music art this wonderful work add yan plus color.

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