

Exploration of Brief History of Keyboard and Keyboard Music

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Abstract

The keyboard is not only applied to piano, but also various other musical instruments, this paper explained the characteristics of keyboard instruments from the historical source of the keyboard, and emphatically told about piano works and international competition.

Keywords

Keyboard; History; Type; Competition.

1. Introduction

Keyboard instruments are a very diverse family of musical instruments, in addition to our common piano and electronic organs, there are also accordion, pedal organ, mouth organ, digital piano, etc., various keyboard instruments form huge keyboard musical instruments, also bring gorgeous keyboard music art.

2. History and Types of Keyboard

2.1. Pipe Organ

Ctesibios, an engineer of the ancient Roman city Alexander, made the first hydraulic pipe organ in the history of music in 250 BC; it was the first keyboard instrument. The table-sized accompaniment piano which replaces the water box with air box appeared in the 4th century AD, it increases the volume. By the end of the 5th century, the volume became larger and larger, expanded to the size of the room, entered the church, and became the exclusive accompaniment instrument of the church choir. This situation lasted for more than five hundred years until about the 10th century, with the increase and development of church music, the prelude part of the accompaniment works gradually increased from a few bars to dozens of bars, and finally formed a complete prelude works, at this time, the keyboard solo was officially independent from the church accompaniment music and became a special occupation: the pipe organ soloist.

2.2. Mouth Organ

The mouth organ is a keyboard-style wind instrument with small size, good intonation, and excellent melody, it is the same type as the harmonica in the classification of instruments, all belong to the free reed-sounding instruments, similar forms of musical instruments appeared in Italy in the 19th century, they used piano-type keyboard and drive the reeds to produce sound via the side winding, so they can also be regarded as wind keyboard instruments. The range of the mouth organ is about three octaves, which can play rich harmony effects. The modern mouth organ was invented by the German company Hohner in the 1950s.

2.3. Accordion

In the 18th century, the Chinese musical instrument "sheng" was introduced to Europe, on the basis of the sheng, the German Friedrich Buschman made the mouth-blown ola in 1821, on the basis of Buschman, Cyrillus Demian improved and made the world's first button accordion. Later, affected by the piano keyboard, the buttons of the right hand were changed to a piano-

style keyboard, since then, the keyboard-style accordion has been widely popularized all over the world. Today, button-type accordions are basically only popular in Russia, and keyboard-type accordions are mainly used in other countries and regions.

2.4. Electronic Organ

In 1907, American Cassirer invented the electronic organ that uses electromagnetic coils to generate scale signals, from 1939, the "Allen electronic organ" appeared on the market, which is commonly used in teaching, concert halls, etc.

In 1959, Japan's Yamaha Company produced the world's first vertical electronic keyboard, named "Electone", it has a three-layer keyboard. Since the price of electronic organs is relatively cheap, China began to popularize electronic organ after 1977.

Electronic organs can be divided into single-row keyboard and double-row keyboard; compared to piano, its volume and timbre can be changed and adjusted, it can play various sounds, and has the functions of automatic performance and automatic rhythm, it is an essential part of modern electroacoustic bands, the electronic piano we are talking about today is a branch of the electronic piano, it should be called the "digital piano", to be precise.

2.5. Other Keyboard Instruments

During the 12-14th century AD, the manufacturing industry of pipe organ gradually developed, and two keyboard instruments were branched out, one is the clavichord, and the other is the harpsichord.

In 1709, the Italian Cristofori made the world's first piano in a real sense in Florence, it was named "Piano e forte", and later Piano e forte was called Piano for short.

3. Important Foreign Composers and Works

Johann Sebastian Bach, a German composer, performer, and conductor in the Baroque period, and the father of modern Western music. "Equal Temperament" is the most important polyphonic works in the history of piano; it is called the "Old Testament Bible" in the history of piano, which has extremely profound logic and philosophy.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Austrian genius composer and performer, and the first classical musician who breaks away from the shackles of the court in European history, his concertos, symphonies, sonatas and other works laid the foundation for main forms of classical music.

Ludwig von Beethoven, a German musician, a representative of Viennese classical music, a pioneer of romantic music, and the first composer who used to use metronome to mark his works in the history of music. Due to illness, he has been fighting stubbornly against illness all his life, so his works are magnificent and full of struggle.

4. Chinese Piano Composers and Works

In 1583, the Italian missionary Matteo Ricci brought a clavichord to the Zhaoqing Catholic Church, it was the first piano to enter China, in 1600, he dedicated the harpsichord to the then Emperor Ming Shenzong, and became a toy of the royal family. In the late Qing Dynasty (1842), British businessman brought a batch of pianos to Guangzhou, but there was no piano market in the social environment at that time.

He Lvting (1903-1999) composer, in 1934, in Russian composer Qi products, in 1934, he won the first and second prizes in the Piano Works Competition with Chinese Style held by the Russian composer Zierpin, with Piccolo and Lullaby respectively, this is the first time that an original Chinese piano works won an international award. This works is full of style of south of the Yangtze River, which has pioneering significance in the history of Chinese localized creative process, it is still a phased works of learning the piano.

Ding Shande (1911-1995) in Jiangsu province, composer, pianist, played "The Cowboy's Flute" in 1934, he became the pianist who first recorded in China. His main piano works include the "Spring Tour Group", "E Temple Sonata", "Happy Festival", "First Xinjiang Dance" and other works.

Chen Peixun (1922-2006) in Guangxi province, composer, his piano works are full of national customs, his representative works are "Selling Grocery", "Miss Spring", "Two Butterfly Variations", "Pinghu Autumn" and other works.

5. International Major Piano Competitions

There are more than 400 piano competitions around the world every year, but whether they have authority, it is necessary to see the following points: Is the event judge composed of the most influential pianists, whether the event track is difficult and professional, and whether the winners finally become an international well-known master. There are only three major competition recognized by professionals around the world:

International Chopin Piano Competition, which is held in the hometown of Chopin Warsaw, it is the most authoritative piano competition in the world, is acclaimed as the "Oscar of the Piano". It started from 1927, except the war factor, the competition is usually held every five years. The competition consists of five rounds; all the competition tracks are the works of Chopin.

The Tchaikovsky Competition which is held in Moscow, this competition was originally divided into piano and violin, later, the cello and vocal were added, and each of them was very influential in the music world. It started from 1958, every four years; the tracks of the piano competition are relatively wide, which divided into five rounds, only the final finals must play a Tchaikovsky's piano concerto.

Leeds International Pianoforte Competition, which is held in Leeds, England, it started in 1961, every three years. The tracks of the competition are relatively wide, which divided into five rounds, of which the second, third, four rounds require playing the classical works, romantic works and modern works, and finally the first six-win awards. At present, it becomes the preferred competition of the world-class top pianists began to career.

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