

Brief Analysis about the Expression Forms of the Rap Music in Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China

Ningyi Liu^{1,2}

¹CITI University of Mongolia, Mongolia

²Jinan University, Guangdong, China

Abstract

This article introduces the expression forms of the Rap Music in Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China. Firstly, it states the basic information about the Rap Music in Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China. Secondly, it describes what impacted and drove the Rap music to develop, including the economic development, the political environment and the ethnic integration in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. Thirdly, it introduce the rap music forms in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty, including “Tao Zhen”, “Gu Zi Ci”, “Zhu Gong Diao”, “Huo Er Lang”, “Chang Zhuan”, and so on, about their origin, their performance style, their tunes’ features, etc.

Keywords

The Rap Music; Gu Zi Ci; Zhu Gong Diao; Tunes.

1. Overview

Since the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China, there was a big change for China’s music culture. Before, the music was mainly for courts or noble, while it turned into nongovernmental. More and more artists appeared, as the emergence of urban amusement places. The influence of the music development from court music became weak, and the impact for music development became greater from nongovernmental. Since the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China, a variety of folk art forms have developed rapidly, mainly including “Ci Diao” Songs, Rap Music and Opera. This promoted the development of music art to unprecedented prosperity in the Song dynasty and Yuan dynasty.

The Rap Music, was a kind of main music form in the Song dynasty and Yuan dynasty. Also, it is an important part of Chinese national music. The Rap Music is a music art form which tells story through speaking, singing and performing comprehensively. It is same as the Folk Songs and Operas in some places. While there are also some difference between the Rap Music and them. The Folk Songs form appears earliest, and the Rap Music is developed based on the Folk Songs. At last, the Opera form absorbs the elements and advantages from the Rap Music, popular in China later.

Actually, the Rap Music has a very long history, which is appeared in Zhou Dynasty in China. There are many famous poetries or poems in China, which are the Rap Music form earliest, such as, in Chinese, “Xun Zi (Cheng Xiang Pian), Mo Shang Sang ”or“ Kong Que Dong Nan Fei from “Han Yue Fu” poetry from Han Dynasty, “Mu Lan Ci” from NanBei Dynasties. There are many burial objects, found in current era, also showing that the Rap Music form was popular in ancient time of China, such as “Shuo Chang Yong”, which is a storytelling figurines, found from a tomb belong to Han Dynasty. And the Rap Music was development quickly in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. So the main forms of the Rap Music in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty are very import for current performance of the Rap Music in China.

2. The Impact for the Rap Music Development in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty

The development of the Rap Music in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty was impacted by the economic development, political environment and ethnic integration of the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. These factors produced very hug influence for the development of the Rap Music.

2.1. The Impact for the Rap Music from the Economic Development

As we know, the Song Dynasty was the most prosperous in the ancient dynasties of China. As the emperor of the Song Dynasty strengthened the centralization management for the rights. All the policy decisions could be decided quickly. And the open mind of the management level of the Song Dynasty also helped to make many right policy decisions. Finally, the economic was developed rapidly. Many citizens made money and there were many prosperity scenes at that time. "Economic foundation determines superstructure". Most populace had more spiritual needs inevitably. So there were various forms of social music in this period to feed their needs. At same time, other businessmen catch the business opportunities, to build many entertainment places, such as "Gou Lan", "Wa She" in Chinese, and so on, to let the performers or arties to play or perform in them. Also many audiences went to these entertainment places to feed their needs, with paying money to watch music performances, to feed themselves, also pushing the economic development at the same time. With great material foundation and large requirement from populace, the Rap Music developed rapidly in the Song Dynasty. In additional, during the Yuan Dynasty, farming civilization and nomadic civilization began to touch and integrate. And the economics of the Yuan Dynasty was also great inherited from the Song Dynasty, especially for some big cities. So the Rap Music was also developed rapidly. Many rap musical creators and performers appeared and produced many famous rap songs, which enriches the music forms of this period.

2.2. The Impact for the Rap Music from the Political Environment

The emperor of the Song Dynasty marked the music of the Han Nationality as the orthodox status. And they preferred to elegance music style, and wanted to return the music to the style of ancients strongly. So since the Song Dynasty, this became the dominant direction of court music once and impact the court music as large as ever. While the rulers of the Yuan Dynasty did not have the strong admiration for Han Culture like the rulers from the Song Dynasty, and they allowed other cultures to develop in China. More than that, the rulers of the Yuan Dynasty had divided all the people into four levels, including the Mongols, "Se Mu" people, "Han" people and "Nan" people. So the level of the Han culture in society is reduced, and other cultures had opportunity to development. There were Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Christianity and other religions, free to develop with Han culture. As there was no opportunity to be the management level in the Yuan Dynasty, the intellectuals had a chance to in touch with the suffering of the people. Also they created their music works, with integrating with the life of the people at the bottom, to express the life image from the masses of the bottom people. At the Yuan Dynasty, there were a large number of excellent and famous dramatists appeared, for example, "Guan Han Qing", "Wang Shi Pu", "Ba Pu", in Chinese, and so on. They created many famous music works, to promote the Rap Music to develop rapidly.

2.3. The Impact for the Rap Music from The Ethnic Integration

As we know, the Mongolian was the rulers of China in the Yuan Dynasty, and they allowed other culture to develop free in that time. So many other Nationalities were active on the land of China, not only the Han Nationality. So it was a very import stage of national integration for China in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. Not like before, the Han Nationality was not dominant in that time, and all kinds of cultures began to communicate with each other. It went into a stage

which was the multi-ethnic integration. As the limitation of the Han Nationality, many poets created their works with strong national consciousness, such as “Man Jiang Hong” from “Yue Fei”, a general who resisted foreign enemies, and “Po Zhen Zi” from “Xin Qi Ji”, a patriotic intellectual. Also, during the Yuan Dynasty, the management level implemented the policy of racial discrimination, and many music creators found musical source material into their works, with driving the development of the Rap Music, too.

3. The Main Forms of the Rap Music in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty

For the Rap Music in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty, there were many forms to express the music works, including “Tao Zhen”, “Gu Zi Ci”, “Zhu Gong Diao”, “Huo Er Lang”, “Chang Zhuan”, in Chinese, and so on. These new forms stands the high development of the Rap Music in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty.

3.1. “Tao Zhen” Form

The Rap Music form of “Tao Zhen”, was originated in the Northern Song Dynasty and prevailed in the Southern Song Dynasty, the Jin Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty. This rap musical form was popular in rural areas, and it is a kind of rap art with a pattern that there are seven words in one sentence. The lyrics of the “Tao Zhen” form are very easy to understand, and the singers would repeat the two sentences always, with the accompaniment instruments, like “Pi Pa” and drum. There was a strange phenomenon, that most of the performers of the “Tao Zhen” rap music were blind, belong to “Lu Qi” people in the Song Dynasty.

Most of the people who performed Tao Zhen in the Song Dynasty were “Luqi people”, and most of them were blind. Tao Zhen was still very popular in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. It is generally considered to be the predecessor of “Tanci” in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Not only in the Song Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty, the “Tao Zhen” rap music was also popular in the Ming Dynasty and the Qing Dynasty. This also shows that the “Tao Zhen” rap music form was loved deeply by people in the ancient of China. There is a famous poem series, named “Xiao Zhou You Jin Cun She Zhou Bu Gui”, and the forth poem describes the scene that the performers performed the “Tao Zhen” rap music. The content of this poem is that there is a blind performer, who is playing the drum at a village named “Zhao Jia Zhuang”, under a willow at the evening, and all the people from this village are listening to the “Tao Zhen” rap music, named “Cai Zhong Lang”, without being concerned with anything. The scene described in this poem shows that the “Tao Zhen” rap music form were popular in that time.

3.2. “Gu Zi Ci” Form

“Gu Zi Ci” means the lyrics with drums. So the performers will sing the music accompanied by drums, added the silk and bamboo accompaniment instrument later. “Gu Zi Ci” was popular in the Song Dynasty. It is a rap music form, with singing mainly, and rap at the same time. Also, it will repeat the words with one tone alternately. So this rap music form is very simple.

“Gu Zi Ci” form is a kind of rap music type with using same tones for different words, or telling background of the work, with narration. In this rap music form, there are two performance style. One is singing without speaking any words, the other is singing with speak words. For the first performance style, most of the rap music works are short, with one or two poems only. There are many famous rap music works performed in this performance style, for example, the “Shi Er Yue Gu Zi Ci Yu Jia Ao”, which describes the beautiful scenes for the four seasons or twelve months in a year, which created by “Ou Yang Xiu”, a famous poet from the Song Dynasty. And for the second performance style, the speaking will be performed at the beginning of the rap music performance, like a speech to introduce the whole content of the rap music work generally. The speaking part of the second performance style always use parallel prose with fix format. And with the development of the Rap Music, the performance style, singing with

speaking words, becomes a new form, that singing part and speaking part would be performed alternately, with singing a part and then speaking a part, and turning to singing again same like before. There is one rap music work in this performance style, named “Cui Ying Ying Shang Diao Die Lian Hua”, which is a rap music work telling a story, with singing and speaking rap music form, which created by “Zhao De Lin” of the Northern Song Dynasty. This rap music form of “Gu Zi Ci” generates great impact for the development of the rap skills in the ancient of China.

3.3. “Zhu Gong Diao” Form

“Zhu Gong Diao” form stands the new high development level for the Rap Music in the ancient of China. It is a kind of large scale performance, created by a folk artist from “Ze Zhou”, born in the Northern Song Dynasty. And it was famous, developed, and prevailed in the Southern Song Dynasty, the Jin Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty.

The “Zhu” of “Zhu Gong Diao” means many and various in China, and “Gong Diao” means tunes in ancient time of China. So “Zhu Gong Diao” rap music form means that the works in this rap music form consists by various and different poems and tunes. In the works of “Zhu Gong Diao” form, there are multiple sets of poems, and each set of poems uses a same tune, which different sets of poems use different tunes. With multiple and different poems and tunes, the “Zhu Gong Diao” enhances the appeal of music, also with the accompaniment instruments, including drum, board, flute, and “Pi Pa” sometimes.

“Zhu Gong Diao” form absorbs the features and advantages of many folk music in north region, also from the “Da Qu” music form. But most works of “Zhu Gong Diao” form in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty are lost unfortunately. The “Xi Xiang Ji Zhu Gong Diao” is the most complete preserved work for now. We can see all the works is this work, and also get one third of the music tunes from “Jiu Gong Da Cheng Nan Bei Ci Gong Pu” work. The “Xi Xiang Ji Zhu Gong Diao” was created by “Dong Jie Yuan”, based on the “Ying Ying Zhuan” write by “Yuan Zhen” of the Tang Dynasty. According to its words and tunes, there are 14 tunes, and 151 poems, and 444 poems if adding the variations. So its structure is very grand, and the rap music is very abundant. It shows that the Rap Music had reached a very high level in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty.

3.4. “Huo Er Lang” Form

The “Huo Er Lang” form is a kind of rap music art, developed based on the “Jiao Sheng” folk art in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. The “Huo Er Lang” means the peddlers who sold daily necessities and children's toys from urban and rural areas, with carrying pole on their shoulders. They would sing the names of their goods to attract customers, with beating gongs and drums. And their tone was found and processed by folk artists constantly, turning to “Huo Er Lang” rap music form, which was also called as “Huo Lang Tai Ping Ge” or “Zhuan Diao Huo Lang Er”.

At the beginning, the “Huo Er Lang” form was just a rap music form, popular in folk, and evolved into a rap art gradually. This rap music form is good at rapping a long story. And its structure is included two parts, and there would be one or more poems and tunes between them. The performers of “Huo Er Lang” form shook the string drum in one their hand, with playing the board with the other hand at the same time. Due to the particularity of its musical style, it is very popular with the masses of people.

3.5. “Chang Zhuan” Form

“Chang Zhuan” form of the rap music is flourished in the Southern Song Dynasty, accompanied by drums, boards and flutes. It is developed, based on the “Chan Ling” and “Chan Da” in Chinese. This rap music form has very high artistic value. And it is very difficult to sing for performers. According to record in “Shi Lin Guang Ji”, this rap music form used the “Man Qu” and “Qu Po” tunes, which was popular at that time, and there was some fix requirements for the performance, such as the cavity must be real, and the words must be correct. Also, this rap

music form absorbed many advantages from folk music, and it was popular in the Southern Song Dynasty finally.

In addition to the above forms of rap music, there were many other forms of rap music in the Song Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty, such as "Fu Zhuan", "Ya Ci", "Hua Ben", and so on. All these rap music forms show that the rap music reached a mature stage in the Song Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty.

4. Summary

Since the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty of China, there was a big change for China's music culture. And the Rap Music was a kind of main music form in the Song dynasty and Yuan dynasty. The development of the Rap Music was impacted by the economic development, the political environment and the ethnic integration in the Song Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty. And finally it developed into many rap music forms, including "Tao Zhen", "Gu Zi Ci", "Zhu Gong Diao", "Huo Er Lang", "Chang Zhuan", and so on. All these rap music forms show that the rap music reached a mature stage in the Song Dynasty and the Yuan Dynasty.

References

- [1] Cui Li. Characteristics and historical significance of music development in Song (Jin) and Yuan Dynasties [J]. Journal of Qinghai Normal University (PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES EDITION), 2004 (03): 95-97.
- [2] Huo Wen Ling. On the development of Chinese rap music art [J]. Anhui Literature (second half of the month), 2010 (07): 76.
- [3] Song Yang. The formation and development of rap music [J]. Journal of Liaoning Institute of education, 1999 (06): 103.
- [4] Wang Ke Yong, sun Huiqin. Rap music in song and Yuan Dynasties -- Zhugong tune [J]. Business culture (Academic Edition), 2008 (12): 181.
- [5] Gao Xiu Zhu. Analysis of vocal music art in song and Yuan Dynasties [J]. Music creation, 2016 (04): 187-188.
- [6] Liang Jing Mei. Analysis of music forms in song and Yuan Dynasties [J]. National music, 2014 (06): 9-10.
- [7] Liang Er Hao. A new probe into rap music in market culture of Song Dynasty [D]. Guangxi Normal University, 2020 .