

The Inheritance and Development of the Guang Dong Music in the New Era

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Abstract

This article focus on the inheritance and development of the Guang Dong Music. First, it states the status of Guang Dong Music. And then it states the main way to inherit the Guang Dong Music, including "Si Huo Ju" and "the Guang Dong Musicassociation of Guang Dong Province". At last, it states the different features in the three periods of the Guang Dong Music.

Keywords

Guang Dong Music; Inheritance; Development.

1. Overview

There are so many cultural treasures in China, as the only existing ancient civilization in the world, with 5000+ years' mysterious history. And the the Guang Dong Music is one import branch for the beautiful cultural treasures, which has been listed in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage list by the State Council. This stands that the Guang Dong Music has profound cultural value and artistic value. Reference to its history, the Guang Dong Music has more than 400 years. And it absorbs foreign new music culture since its borth, with adhering to its own distinctive characteristics at the same time. With the changing through ups and downs for more than 4 centuries, the Guang Dong Music is still loved by ordinary people. And it will be loved all the time, I believe. So it is our responsibility to inherit it and develop it. And it is also necessary to do that for us, not only it is one import part of China's cultural treasures and one of our intangible cultural heritages, but also it is our thought and culture in our ancestral legacy. Also, there are many foreign cultures in our country and the Guang Dong Music is still impacted strongly. There should be many difficulties and dangers for the Guang Dong Music, one traditional music, to be inherited. So it is important to know its history and features, and its inheritance modes, to make the Guang Dong Music to be more vitality, to go out of Guang Dong, out of China, into the world.

2. The Current Status of the Guang Dong Music

For the Guang Dong Music, it is a kind of music, mainly composed of silk and bamboo instruments. Mainly, it has performance style, including light and fresh, smooth and gentle, graceful and beautiful, which is belong to characteristics of LingNan, which is one region of Guang Dong province in China. So the Guang Dong Music is one of traditional local music in China. And its strong local characteristics is loved and welcomed by the masses of people in LingNan, Guang Dong, even south-east region of China.

Like other music schools, the Guang Dong Music has a life cycle. From germination period and development period, now the Guang Dong Music is in the maturity period, with experiencing much challenge and turbulence. Whether in the germination period, in the development period or in the mature period, the Guang Dong Music absorbs and fuses the features and advantages of foreign music or other local music selectively, with adhering its own characteristics at the

same time. Through continuous transformation, innovation and enrichment, the Guang Dong Music becomes more and more popular, known as current the Guang Dong Music at this stage. The rapid economic development in Guang Dong province helps the Guang Dong Music's rapid growth. From 1920s to 1930s, the economics of Guang Dong province began to develop, and would go into a rapid development period. At the same time, the Guang Dong Music began to develop rapidly and ushered in the heyday of development. Firstly, there are so many famous music talents emerged one after another, also including many famous music performers. Secondly, more and more new music works appears naturally. According to the result of collection and collation result for the Guang Dong Music in recent years, there are more than 500 pieces of music in the summarized list. The count is so larger and the quality is so better, than other folk music in China.

For the musical composition, the folk musicians get inspiration brought by emerging things to create a lot of great new music works, based on adhering to local characteristics of the Guang Dong Music. And the music performers also use the new instruments bravely, including playing many western instruments to performance the Guang Dong Music, for example, violin, cello, saxophone and piano, etc. This is also an innovation for the Guang Dong Music in its development process. So it becomes one novel phenomenon that there are many music performers to play the Guang Dong Music using traditional western instruments. More than that, there are some music performers even use modern western instruments during their music show, such as electronic organ, electric guitar and other emerging musical instruments. This bold innovation injects new vitality into the traditional the Guang Dong Music, and brings new idea and feelings to inherit and develop the Guang Dong Music for musicians and performers. Because of its powerful absorptive capacity, the Guang Dong Music develops according to the requirement of times, and there are always a lot of people to love it. Also, because of this, the Guang Dong Music was called "The Second National Music" in China in the 1950s and 1960s. This title stands that the the Guang Dong Music is always exude powerful vitality, and is loved by the masses widely all the time.

There are many famous music works of the Guang Dong Music, during the stages of germination, development and maturity periods, with more than 400 years process, since the Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty. Also, there are many representative music works of the Guang Dong Music, for example, "Han Tian Lei", "Yu Da Ba Jiao", "Shuang Sheng Hen", "Bu Bu Gao", "E Ma Yao Ling", "Lian Huan Kou", "Sai Long Duo Jin", "Ping Hu Qiu Yue", "Long Fei Feng Wu", "Han Gong Qiu Yue" in Chinese, and so on. They are all famous at home and abroad. Now the Guang Dong Music has become a special and unique folk music style, with adhering to its openness' development principle, and absorbing the essence of foreign music and other domestic folk arts, during a long time of its creation, practice, innovation and performance. And it has been listed as a national intangible cultural heritage, as its outstanding folk music art value, and popular affection in the masses. Also, as the Guang Dong Music's light and fresh, smooth and gentle, graceful and beautiful music style, it is now famous in all areas of China, and will go out of Chain, into the world, becoming a link for overseas Chinese with their motherland.

3. The Inheritance Ways of the Guang Dong Music

The main inheritance way is the "Si Huo Ju" in Chinese name, from the Guang Dong Music's birth. This is belong to folk music club, and it is a traditional inheritance way to spread and develop the Guang Dong Music. At the beginning time period, the performers played their own musical instruments, or used other playing things to perform the music works with sings Cantonese folk songs. And through this ancient and non-government organization, the music performers mainly spread Cantonese folk songs at begin time in Ling Nan region. Finally, people named them as "Si Huo Ju", which means personal or private music club or band. With the advance of

times, in Ling Nan area, people used “Si Huo Ju” to call the music club or band, which is formed as their same hobby of traditional the Guang Dong Music. And at that time, “Si Huo Ju” became the main ways to spread to sing Cantonese songs for the Guang Dong Music. Although the Guang Dong Music is no longer to be called as “The Second National Music” in recent years, there are still many “Si Huo Ju” clubs or organizations in Guang Dong province. Due to there is a large number of people liking the Guang Dong Music, the “Si Huo Ju” clubs or some organizations like that are developing vigorously. According to incomplete statistics from some organizations in Guang Dong province, there were more than 1300 “Si Huo Ju” clubs performing and playing in Guang Dong alone. And the number is still incremental. For now (in the end of 2021), there were more than 2000 “Si Huo Ju” clubs active in Guang Dong region and not only playing the traditional instruments of the Guang Dong Music and singing Cantonese folk songs, but also playing modern instruments from foreign music and singing other Chinese songs, even English songs.

So “Si Huo Ju” is the first way to inherit the Guang Dong Music. And because of the large and solid mass foundation for “Si Huo Ju”, the Guang Dong Music is inherited and developed well. “Si Huo Ju” play a key role in the development of the Guang Dong Music, to increase the influence and propagation in Guang Dong Music. At the same time, “Si Huo Ju” acted as folk club, it is very free and happy for the actors and performers to play or perform the Guang Dong Music in “Si Huo Ju”. This increases the development of the Guang Dong Music, too. While there are also limitations for “Si Huo Ju”, which exists as a kind of folk spontaneous orchestra organization only. For example, most of actors in “Si Huo Ju” clubs are amateur, and the role in “Si Huo Ju” does not the main occupation for them. So the first purpose is amused themselves for those actors or performers. There is no duty for them to spread the Guang Dong Music, or they are not aware of that they have one duty to inherit and develop the Guang Dong Music. Because there are many people loving the Guang Dong Music, and “Si Huo Ju” satisfied the love for the actors, performers, and masses unconsciously. So it can be active for a long time. This will limit the effect of influence and the radiation area for the Guang Dong Music, and this make it very difficult to inherit and develop the Guang Dong Music effectively and scale.

In order to inherit and develop the Guang Dong Music more officially and more efficiently, Guang Dong province establish an organization, named “the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province”. It appears appropriately, although it is also a spontaneous, non-profit folk music organization. “The Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” is a formal social organization independent of political parties. After registration and approval by relevant government departments, it is the only Non-governmental Organization officially approved by the government and the Literary Federation in Guang Dong Province.

Different with “Si Huo Ju” clubs, “the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” is bigger scale. Also the influence of “the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” is more huge than “Si Huo Ju” clubs. “The Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” has continuously expanded the influence for the Guang Dong Music by launching public welfare or mutually beneficial offline activities. What they do fills the gap of the inheritance and development for the Guang Dong Music officially. And “the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” has many ways to make the Guang Dong Music more popular and welcomed, such as holding promotion activities for the Guang Dong Music, organizing performance offline to masses, holding fellowship activities, and so on. What “the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province” does make the Guang Dong Music more known around the world. And it acts as an import role to create great impact on the inheritance and development of the Guang Dong Music.

4. The Development Processes of the Guang Dong Music

4.1. The Germination Period: From the end of 19th century to the beginning of 1920s.

At the beginning of the Guang Dong Music, there were only five musical instruments usually, including “Er Xian”, “Ti Qin (Da Ban Hu)”, “San Xian”, “Yue Qin” and “Hou Guan Or Heng Xiao” in Chinese name. And they were called “Wu Tou Jia” combination at that time, means five hard bow musical instruments. As these five musical instruments, people also named that time period as “Ying Gong” combination, means these five musical instruments were hard and belong to bowstring instruments, and named the era as “Ying Gong” era. During this period, the Guang Dong Music mainly was popular in Cantonese dialect area. And this music was just separated from opera accompaniment as one independent music category. So the Guang Dong Music showed the obvious rationality.

In the germination period, there are four kinds of performance scenes for the Guang Dong Music. First, the performance for the wedding and funeral celebrations in the countryside. This scene was always called as “Ba Yin Hui” in Chinese, which means that there were eight or more tones during the performance show. Second, the playing for the stage music from the drama. Third, the private show as “Si Huo Ju” club, to happy themselves. This way was very popular in the germination period. Forth, the street shows or teahouses’ shows from folk artists. Because the playing field was very wide and open. The player or performers would like to use the hard and loud musical instruments, for example, “Wu Jia Tou” in Chinese, the most typical instrument in the germination period, to make the sound louder and spread more the sound further.

The Guang Dong Music of the germination period, was related to folk customs closely. Most of the music works were created because of four traditional rites, including marriage, funeral, birth and sacrifice. These rites were very import for Chinese people. So the artists created the music works to meet the requirement of these rites. Finally, the form to create music became the Guang Dong Music. So the folk customs breed the Guang Dong Music, and the Guang Dong Music spread the folk customs. It means that it is same to inherit the Guang Dong Music and to inherit the folk customs. Whether it is the performer, the enjoyer or the inheritor of the Guang Dong Music, their behaviors of loving the Guang Dong Music, reflects the lifestyle of the grassroots people, also the folk cultural characteristics of the germination period.

4.2. The Development Period: From 1930s to 1960s.

The biggest difference between he germination period and the development period of the Guang Dong Music, is the musical instruments. In the development period, the instruments were not hard. Many soft bow musical instruments were used in this period, such as “Gao Hu”, “Yang Qin”, “Pi Pa (Or Qin Qin)”, “Dong Xiao”, “Ye Hu”, “Er Hu” in Chinese, and so on. These instruments are soft bow combination. So the development of the Guang Dong Music also was called “Soft Bow” period. At the same time of the development period, there were many other music schools sweeping the word, for example the popular culture especially. It made much huge influence for China, not only the Guang Dong Music. Under this huge influence, the Guang Dong Music was opened to absorb the advantage and essence of foreign music and other domestic folk arts, with inheriting its own tradition. And it became more and more popular and famous in the world. Of cause, the Guang Dong Music was not limited to folk customs, as the influence of popular culture. There was commodity attribute for it to spread and circulate. This means the cultural attribute of Guangdong music had changed imperceptibly. Therefore, it was more popular and entertaining. It was popular in the society at that time and became the early pop music in China.

In the development period, the Guang Dong Music inherit and develop based on three aspects, including the audience, the media and the mode of creation. Firstly, as the people became open-

mindful, they would like to new musical forms. Secondly, the modern media appeared appropriately, such as radio, gramophone and film. These media helped the Guang Dong Music to spread much further and more famous. Thirdly, as the needs for business, the mode of creation of the Guang Dong Music had changed, by using industrialization mode. In summary, the Guang Dong Music developed very rapidly in the development period.

4.3. The Maturity Period: From 1960s to now.

The Guang Dong Music is defined as a folk music in the maturity period, with the influence of the concept of nation and country. We want to spread the Guang Dong Music as a symbol standing Chinese traditional culture and region history, as its great influence in China and overseas. Also as other reasons, such as the impact from national music school thought, the Guang Dong Music seems to lose its vitality. In 2006, the State Council drew up the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage, among which Guangdong music was listed. And the inheritance and development of Guangdong music has once again become the focus and cared by masses.

5. Summary

The Guang Dong Music is a kind of music, mainly composed of silk and bamboo instruments. And it is listed in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage list by the State Council. Its performance style is light and fresh, smooth and gentle, graceful and beautiful, and was famous as "The Second National Music" in China. The inheritance way of the Guang Dong Music are "Si Huo Ju" and "the Guang Dong Music association of Guang Dong Province". One is non-official and folk club and one is approval by relevant government departments. The Guang Dong Music is developed across three period, including germination period, development period, and the maturity period. Different period has different style and features. And the Guang Dong Music is always opened and developed rapidly.

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