

Analysis of the Inheritance and Development of Original Ecology Music

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Received 5 November 2014; accepted 18 February 2015
Published online 26 March 2015

Abstract

Original ecology music is a hot topic in music and even in the cultural sector in recent years. With the rising and widespread concern of original ecology music, in terms of what original ecology music is, it remains controversial among experts. However, this term has entered into public view through a variety of media spread. China is a country with a broad area and many ethnic groups. With the impact of modern culture, to maintain the scenes of life in original ecology music also preserves more original ecology music. Singing folk songs are a form of life and the singers' lives are changing over the time. They also have dreams and ideals to pursue, especially in today's commercial society. When they are the advantages to change and improve their life through their singing, there are no reasons to stop their wishes and actions. Art is beyond life. The reality of art is not equal to the reality of life. Although original ecology music on stage is glamorous, the truth behind this is the rapid loss of original ecology music with time and productive way changing. Only traditions that the nation inherits and enshrines together can make our living meaningful and with dignity. To have its own traditions and be proud of its own traditions is the way to make a nation continuous and growing. To protect our traditions, retain and protect the original ecology is to protect our future.

Key words: Original ecology music; Inheritance; Development

Wang, J. (2015). Analysis of the Inheritance and Development of Original Ecology Music. *Cross-Cultural Communication*, 11(3), 106-109. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/cc/article/view/6304>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/6304>

INTRODUCTION

Original ecology music is a hot topic in music and the cultural sector in recent years. The rise and widespread concern of original music was once known as the "victory of common people". Discarding the victory, we find that original music with life support has got rid of the nature of pure performance and focused more on entertainment and life taste. China is a country with a broad area and many ethnic groups. With the impact of modern culture, if we retain the scenes of life of original ecology music, we preserve more original ecology music. On what original ecology music is, although experts are still controversial, yet the term has been spread through various media into public view. Therefore, in this article, we will temporarily retain the title.

1. WHAT IS ORIGINAL ECOLOGY MUSIC

The term "original ecology" is a term in biological sciences in 1960s and it is a compound word of "original creature" and "ecology". Original ecology music refers to the so-called original folk music which gradually forms in the fixed geographical environmental customs in life after long-term accumulation. Or we should say it is not a type of folk music, but a reality show state based on a "live" form rather than writing or recording. "Original" state can only be relative to the natural state, and it cannot be measured by specific time or physical space. "Original" state will change with changing of the living environment of folk singers and it is relative. Even if in the "Chinese Folk Music" program, in order to highlight the "original" state, all the innovations of personnel "in less than three years, trekked hundreds of thousands of kilometers to find record of Chinese folk songs", which also affirms that folk music has a "sense of time", and is "to be added with new era meaning, and to let classic folk music imprinted with the times characteristics and to keep pace with the times".

In fact, the original ecology is only relative. Take the original ecology singing and dancing show *Dynamic Yunnan* as example. People think that this is the real “original ecology”. After Yang Liping transferred to the Central Nationalities Song and Dance Ensemble in 1980, over the years she visited many countries in the world for cultural exchanges and absorbed the most modern artistic elements. She is an artist out of the influence of modern art. If we used completely “original” peasant extras from the field to replace Yang Liping, we would not see the same *Dynamic Yunnan* and I am afraid so-called original ecology of Yunnan will always be in a state of not known around the world and fending for itself. Another example is the folk song *Singing Folk Songs Each Year in Spring* from Napo County in Folk Song Festival. Many scholars believe that this is an original ecology folk song. However, according to the standards of “original ecology”, this is not an “original ecology” folk song. This is adapted from a well-known composer in Guangxi, Fu Qing, on the basis of local research. It is just because the performance style looks more “original ecology” compared with piano, trombone and other musical instruments on stage. Time can eliminate everything and precipitate everything. The produce and inheritance of folk songs is a masterpiece of cultural history test and will mutate with the course of history. Even with the same folk song sang in the same region, with the culture changing over the times, the thoughts and feelings and life it reflects are not the same. The folk song *Go out West* popular in northern Shaanxi and Shanxi Provinces was sung before and is sung now by women there. However, transportation and communications have been increasingly developed, and people’s thoughts are not as deep and painful as it is shown in the lyrics. However, you cannot say that *Go out West* sung by women in the past was “original ecology” song, and now it becomes a “pseudo-folk song”. As is said, “there are fake poems in the world, but there are not fake folk songs.” Obviously, it is difficult to grasp the evaluation criteria to define whether a folk song is “original ecology” or not. In general, experts agree that the so-called original ecology folk songs refer to “authentic” folk songs. They are different from folk songs in some folk song contests or with adapted folk songs. They are created and sung by working people in their life and work. They exist in the civil society in oral creation and oral spread, and in the process of spread, they are subject to screening, transferring, processing and refining, and as the years pass by, they are refined as perfect vocal music.

2. THE SINGING METHOD OF ORIGINAL ECOLOGY MUSIC

The original ecology singing method is a new term appearing in Chinese music field. It is listed as an

independent separate contest unit. Although there is no attributive of folk music, yet it is a contest of folk music to display authentic civil musical art. The so-called original ecology singing method means that the singer does not receive musical vocal training from professional institutions. They have received vocal training from their “singing teachers” and in their own practice. The songs they sing are authentic folk songs without processing of modern composition ways. Singers sing for their own hometowns and feelings. The lyrics, composition or singing ways of these songs should not be changed in order to maintain the original flavor. The existence of the original ecology singing way is an objective fact. Not only civil songs have original ecology singing way, but also a variety of civil operas have original ecology singing way. For the language, they all are in their local dialect. The original ecology singing way has become an important part of Chinese national “oral intangible cultural heritage”. There are debates over the original ecology singing way; however, as a singing style, it exists and original ecology singers are also emerging.

3. PROTECTION IS AN IMPORTANT PART IN INHERITANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Under the impact of modern society, folk songs basically have lost the original soil for survival. Folk songs are the product of agricultural life. Agricultural civilization and folk songs are in a dependent relationship. Development of materials and fast-paced life has made folk songs lost the original soil to survive. Changes of the living environment, (love songs, working chanting, and sacrificial songs, etc.) have lost their living foundation. Meanwhile, the impact of foreign culture is another factor. With the advent of television, entertainment life in rural areas has become more abundant. Many people lost interest in folk songs. In modern society, along with the changes of social customs and improvement of education, highlighting of individual creation and media hype, the rural nature, collective nature and oral nature of folk songs have basically ceased to exist. Folk songs now are basically the old folk songs, and their content is farther away from the era.

Whether as historical data or as creative date or for other purposes, in short, the value of folk songs is inestimable, and it has become extremely important on how to inherit and develop the original ecology folk songs. Of course, the first thing we should do be to protect them. With good protection, they can be handed down and then develop better.

3.1 Data Retention

For the inheritance of original ecology music, first we need to collect and sort out as many as possible of the

existing works and have them centrally stored. We can protect the original ecology music through museums. In this process, we retain the authentic original ecology music, and nothing has changed essentially in the music. The original ecology music we preserve in the course of collection does not need the artistic process and it maintains the nature of original ecology music; by doing this, the starting point is good, but it is too conservative and would be very detrimental to the development of culture. Therefore, we should learn from the original ecology music to apply it to artistic creation to enrich musical culture of the Chinese nation. Only in this way, our world will have more splendid and eye-catching culture. Development while retaining the essence of the original ecology music will make it more consistent with the appreciation perspective of the masses.

On Academic Seminar of the Second Northern and Southern Folk Song Contest in China, Wang Liang pointed out that the protection of folk songs can use the say of data retention. Yang Xiuzhao also proposed to establish folk song museums so as to achieve the purpose of preservation. He believes the museum to preserve data will play a supporting role in the preservation of folk songs, and to a certain extent, this type of data retention is able to help people better record folk songs.

3.2 Folk Songs into the Classroom to Conduct Classroom Education Preservation

In 2004 in an academic journal forum on arts education, Xue Liling pointed out that, since the western operatic singing was introduced into our country in the last century, it does provide a larger space for the scientific development of China's vocal culture. Therefore, in China, from Conservatory to the music major, the educational system style of music has become increasingly westernized. The unique Chinese charm of a lot of folk songs is not saved completely. This phenomenon has led to very little featuring music with ethical style appearing in recent years. Therefore, to allow folk songs into the classroom has been pressing, and we should have the music education contribute to the revival of our folk music culture.

3.3 Preserve as a Folk Custom

Mr. Qiao Jianzhong from China Academy of Art believes that, original art is really viable only when retained in the civil society. In the Second Northern and Southern Folk Song Contest in China, he said that,

overall, the trend of folk songs in the recent two years is very helpful for the conciliation of cultural and ecological imbalance; however, now to hold this kind of Folk Song Festival really is a last resort. To gather the folk singers of all nationalities to the game, in fact, it has changed the ecology of original ecology music. If the country can be consciously aware of the need to protect local folk heritage, it would be much better.

The social life of all ethnic groups and regions is the soil and hotbed for the production, inheritance and

development of original folk songs. Its exchange, heritage and information transfer requires a certain space, so if the tie between original folk songs and the nation's social life is cut off, they will lose the original values, and this can only accelerate the demise of folk music.

3.4 With Media to Conduct Performance Preservation (Tourism and Contests)

In *Invert of "Original Ecology"—On the Classifications of Singing Ways in Young Singer TV Grand Prix*, Li Min mentioned that, in April 2006, in the CCTV Longliqi Cup Twelfth Young Singer TV Grand Prix, "original ecology" singing way was added to the classification list. This change is actually related to the attention of "original ecology" from the art field in recent years. "Original ecology" has become a hot topic in the recent years. In the music field, the most influential "original ecology" musical works include *Dynamic Yunnan*, led and directed by Yang Liping and *Map* firstly premiered in Xiangxi Fenghuang by Tan Dun and many programmes from CCTV are introducing a large number of folk singers and the folk songs they perform. In 2003, Nanning International Folk Song Festival successfully explored and promoted a number of original ecology folk songs. We can say that, that "original ecology" can become a focus of interest is directly related to cultural awareness and national policies to protect "intangible cultural heritage". The preservation ways that experts and scholars have proposed will play an important role in the survival of original ecology folk songs, and some of them such as Folk Song Collection Action have been put into practice and have achieved good results. For the inheritance and development of folk songs, experts agree that, we first cannot lose their uniqueness when we talk about inheritance; second, we cannot separate them from their ecologic environment. At the same time, care and support of the community are the best way to preserve original folk songs.

Singing folk songs are a form of life and the singers' life changes over the time. They also have an ideal to pursue, especially in today's commercial society. When they can change and improve the conditions of their life through songs, it has no reason to stop their desire and action. Art is beyond life, and the reality of art is not equal to the truth of life. In any folk culture, when leaving the field on which it was produced and going onto the stage and turn on the TV screen, the culture is different from the culture in the real world, and it is not "original ecology" at all. However, only through the artistic process, cultural gene is there, and then, it can be another original ecology.

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORIGINAL ECOLOGY MUSIC

It has been nearly a hundred years since China's school music education developed from classroom songs. Music education should be a living education rather than

patterned education. We should be based on their own culture, invite folk artists to come into the classroom, so that teachers and students can feel the charm of authentic folk music. China is an ancient civilized country, and our ancestors left rich musical resources. Only to carry forward our distinctive national characteristics can we make our original music go out of the country, and “the national art can become the art of the world.” We should play the role of folk music in music education, enhance national consciousness, introduce our original music into the classroom, and make national culture and arts into schools become diverse as well as standardized.

CONCLUSION

The love of original ecology is our body’s inner instinct and a universal human spirit that our ancestors left for us. The original ecology music is a cultural treasure of the Chinese nation and is the source of promoting national art. As a kind of folk music culture, nature of original ecology music is the creation of human practice. Although the original ecology musical performances on the stage are glamorous, behind this, it is rapid loss of original ecology music as times change and changes in production methods. Take dramas which combine art, music and dance together as an example. There were thousands of dramas in China, and spread so far, only three hundred kinds are left. With the development of times and the role of economic factors, many young people have left their home becoming migrant workers. These people are out of the native cultural environment, and are farther

away from natural original folk songs. Senior artists successively pass away, and there is an absence of heritage. Traditional folk culture created in civil society is becoming more fragile. Under this environment, there are very few opportunities that people can enjoy the authentic original ecology. Cultural heritage is imminent; therefore, we have to protect the original ecology and retain the original ecology. Of course, everything has its process of production, development and extinction. However, as the world’s species face extinction, there are some types of music are facing extinction. Also as some species are able to survive in our efforts, some types of music can be protected.

Only traditions that the nation inherits and enshrines together can make our living meaningful and with dignity. Original ecology music shows the feature that art comes from life and is beyond life and it contains unique musical value. To have its own traditions and be proud of its own traditions is the way to make a nation continuous and growing. To protect our traditions, retain and protect the original ecology is to protect our future.

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