# Singing Analysis of Chinese National Vocal Music Works - Take "Water of the Autumn" as an Example

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**Abstract.** As a unique form of expression of national art, national vocal music is worth inheriting and innovating. China has a wealth of national vocal music works, and different vocal music works have their own characteristics of expression. As a work adapted from Wang Wei's poem "On a mission towards the frontiers", "Water of the autumn" has deep artistic conception, which is simple and elegant, and it has melodious melody and beautiful lyrics. The ingenious interpretation of modern composition techniques and the expression of traditional folk music characteristics make it popular among people. The singing should also be based on its theme setting, artistic conception atmosphere, composition techniques and emotional expression requirements. This work mainly summarized the singing characteristics and singing skills of "Water of the Autumn", and guided its wonderful interpretation, so that the folk vocal music works can better inherit and spread.

#### 1. Introduction

"Water of the autumn" is an outstanding representative of the excellent vocal music works. It is based on the poem "On a mission towards the frontiers" by Wang Wei, a poet of the Tang Dynasty, and retains the original emotional tone of the poem. It interprets the magnificent picture scroll of "A smoke hangs straight on the desert vast; A sun sits round on the endless stream" with magnificent lyrics and music language, and also reveals the true temperament of a warm-blooded man who serves the motherland and guards the border. In singing, it is necessary to clarify its theme, play the keynote, master the modern vocal music playing skills, and perform well.

# 2. Interpretation of the Creative Characteristics of "Water of the Autumn"

# 2.1. Lyrics creation characteristic - convey emotions through scenary description, which is elegant with classic simplicity

The lyricist first draws on a large number of well-known ancient poetic lines, such as "Water of the autumn", "The ancient road with west wind", "Lonely smoke straight in the desert", "Sleepless facing the moon" and so on, and then adapts and innovates these famous lines in modernity to realize the unification of the lyrics with the times and history, so as to make them more in line with the aesthetic habits of modern people. The main structure of the lyrics is divided into two parts, the first half of which is a parallel sentence, mainly describes the hero's yearning for his hometown. For example, in the inner part of the sentence, the lyricist adopts the sentence structure of "four plus ten", which makes the emotion spiral upward and progressive layer by layer, paving the way for the continuous sublimation of the emotion [1]. The song begins with "out of the west, who will stir up a chord for me", and then conveys a sincere emotion of low wan, sadness and homesickness through the depiction of classical style images such as "moon", "wanderer", "west wind", and "ancient road". Another example is that in the second half of the work, the lyricist adopts two sentences of "six plus seven" and two sentences of "seven plus five" to show the vast scene of the northern desert, express

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the hero's ambition and loyalty to serve the country, which pushes the spiritual expression of the whole song to the highlight.

## 2.2. Composition technique features - based on tradition but with novel fashion

"Water of the autumn" has made useful attempts in weaving application, timbre setting, orchestral harmony, and electric sound collocation. The whole song is a single trisomic structure with a reappearance part. At the beginning, the melodious huqin (a general term for certain two-stringed bowed instruments) with rich national characteristics is accompanied by a female voice singing slowly, showing strong exotic customs. The main body curvature formula can be divided into two parts of A and B. Part A has obvious lyrical characteristics, and the melody is meticulous and melodious, conveying lingering and soothing thoughts and feelings. At the end of the A part, the melody of the music gradually widens, and the rising descending B tweeter gradually forms a small climax, making the emotion progressive layer by layer. The style of part B music is passionate and powerful, in which the composer adopts a form similar to that of a march song, with male singing to describe the intensity of the war [2]. In terms of rhythm arrangement, the composer uses a slow way to interweave the long cavity with a strong beat, which highlights the sense of urgency, and receives a shocking artistic effect. The melody of part A and B music has changed many times, and the tone color has obvious contrast, which enriches the emotional expression of the song and pave the way for the arrival of the reproduction department. The reproduction rhythm of "Water of the autumn" is more free, loud and clear, and there is no lack of lyrical elements. The ups and downs of tonality are in sharp contrast with the A and B sections.

## 3. Analysis of the Singing Skills of "Water of the Autumn"

### 3.1. Grasp the changes of tone

The beginning, middle and the end of the emotion are different with rich emotional changes, therefore, this requires the singer to adjust the tone at any time when singing, so as to better fit with the artistic conception of the song itself, better express the emotion of the song, and show the meaning of the song. For example, the opening lyrics of the song are "West of the Yangguan pass, who will stir up a chord for me. Sleepless facing the moon, right and wrong will turn into a wisp of smoke. Travelers return to hometown, and the dream ends among the hometown clouds and water. On the ancient road of the west wind, looking back on a long autumn water sky". These lyrics are based on the poem "Returning crows croaking at dusk. A few houses hidden past a narrow bridge" of the short lyric "Tianjing Sha - Qiusi", written by Yuan Ma Zhiyuan, a composer in yuan dynasty. The confrontation is neat, and the lyrics are rhyming. The lyrics express the author's nostalgia for his hometown after leaving home. Therefore, when singing, it is necessary to pay attention to control the timbre and the chest resonance. Falsetto should be used less, the voice should not be too bright and strong, otherwise it is easy to destroy the original meaning of the lyrics. When singing, the voice should be slow and calm, soft and stretch timbre, and singers should pay more attention to the melody of music and the burst of inner feelings, so as to express their sense of doubt and their own mission to Xiguan, alone outside the loneliness and nostalgia for home [3]. However, the lyrics "the desert is full of smoke, in exchange of an encounter". The mood of the song in this section is completely different from the previous part, and the melody is mostly carried out in the rhythm of eighth notes. Through "desert", "blood", "pride", the change of emotional emotion can be obviously felt from the lyrics and rhythm. This section of the song expresses more of the singer's inner pride, therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to chest resonance when singing, and the tone should be deep and vigorous, strong and powerful, so as to show the singer's inner pride.

#### 3.2. The combination of spit words and sound

When singing the "Water of the autumn", it is necessary to pay attention to the pronunciation and rhyming of consonant and vowels. In the process of word pronunciation, the rhyme cannot be sent out in advance, and it is also necessary to keep the mouth open, otherwise the sound will be deformed.

For example, the Chinese word "Xi", "Shui", "Dui", "Shi" of the first words in the song should be paid special attention to, while these words are relatively easy to bite, since these sounds are rhymes in the closed accent, the position of the mouth will not easily change, so the difficulty of singing will be relatively reduced. However, some words have a certain difficulty, for example, the words "Tian" and "Pian" are returned rhyme to "an", which is belonging to an open accent, and the sound appears in the high pitch position many times. There is usually no problems with two words "t\_i\_an Tian", "p\_i\_an Pian" at the beginning of the bite, but it is difficult for the rhymes of "an" when singing the high pitch. When singing, if the "an" is not held, the mouth will be closed early, and the voice will be distorted, causing problems such as unstable breath. Therefore, when singing, it is necessary to bite the consonant and keep the mouth position, so as to make the sound more unified [4]. It is necessary to pay attention to articulation when singing. Correct articulation is the premise of correct singing. Based on the fundamental, mastering the rules and skills of articulation can make the song singing more touching.

#### 3.3. Use breath reasonably

Different singing sections have different requirements for the use of breath. For example, the beginning of the song "Water of the autumn" is a relatively soothing melody. It belongs to the more soothing melody, and there is no great requirement for breath when singing. However, another section belongs to the stage of ups and downs, so there are high requirements for breath. When singing, it is necessary to distribute the breath reasonably. It should not use strong breath at the beginning of the song, otherwise there will be insufficient breath, then it can not support the voice. For example, in the allegro part of the whole song, it is necessary to use the breath flexibly, timely adjust the breath, and use the power of diaphragm, so that singers can firmly and forcefully sing. The end of the song is the the part with the most fluctuating emotions in the whole song. It has a high requirement for breath, so there should be enough breath to support the singing part. For example, at the end of the song, singers should breathe deeply, open the diaphragm and chest cavity, and hold the voice with sufficient breath to better express the singing.

# 3.4. Grasp the emotion appropriately

For one thing, it is necessary to master the emotional integrity of the songs. When singing, singers should grasp the central meaning of the song, and express the longing for home and the love for the motherland as a drifter. For another, it is necessary to pay attention to the variability of the song's emotion [5]. The song "Water of the autumn" is a single-trilogy song structure. For example, part A mainly expresses the author's nostalgia for his hometown after he left home. The words are beautiful, described with modern words with flavor of ancient poetry. These lyrics describe the writer's feeling of missing his hometown when he was on a mission to Xiguan and could not fall asleep for a long time in front of the moon. When singing this part, the singer should sing in a narrate tone and describe the inner feelings. The emotional layer of the song is gradual. For example, in the singing part of accelerating, singers should should be passionate, loud, and powerful. The highlight of the song uses a lot of big lines writing, when singing here, it is necessary to not only be full of emotions, but also sing out feelings about the hometown.

#### 4. Summary

The wonderful singing of national vocal music is not easy. Only through in-depth speculation, careful thinking and repeated attempts to practice, can singers find problems and timely adjust and improvement, and grasp the true meaning of singing. In the face of such an excellent vocal music work "Water of the autumn", it is necessary to master its creation characteristics and performance skills, and consciously blend into the emotion, so as to make the singing more outstanding and shocking.

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