

4th International Conference on Contemporary Education, Social Sciences and Humanities (ICCESSH 2019)

# Discussion on the Development of Contemporary Tibetan Song Creation\*

Shuyue Ding Mianyang Teacher's College Mianyang, China 621000

Abstract—Tibet has made brilliant achievements in the development of music and culture in the past 60 years through the periods of peaceful liberation, democratic reform and social construction, the Cultural Revolution and the Reform and Opening-up. This paper studies the development of contemporary Tibetan song creation and discusses the future development of Tibetan song creation through the combination of music culture and the times.

Keywords—Tibetan song creation; song development; problems and methods

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The development of contemporary Tibetan song creation has undergone a complex process. With the development of the times, people's demands for various cultures are getting higher and higher. Music, as an important way to enrich people's spiritual world, should be promoted on the basis of combining tradition with the requirements of the times. Tibetan music culture is an important part of China's music culture. In the process of writing Tibetan songs, it is necessary to combine people's psychological needs and the development of the times to describe the current situation of Tibet's development under socialist conditions with brand-new strokes, so that people can better understand Tibet and know Tibet, and promote the synchronous development of Tibet's material culture and spiritual culture.

### II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN SONG CREATION

With the acceleration of globalization and the diversification of global culture, China should fully develop the different cultures of different regions, enrich the diversity of cultures, and promote our culture to go abroad and to the world. First, Tibetan culture is an important part of Chinese culture. It can help us better sort out the cultural and historical context, excavate the historical music materials contained in Tibetan culture, and have a better development of contemporary musical culture to study the development of

contemporary Tibetan song creation. Second, music is the spiritual food for human beings. It can help people remember the development history of Tibet, make good plans for its future development and create better music art by studying the development of contemporary Tibetan song creation. Tibetan culture is an indispensable part of Chinese culture. It is necessary to strengthen the process of Tibetan cultural creation, promote the development of Tibetan music culture, and help more people understand Tibetan music and the current situation of Tibetan development in the new era.

### III. THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN SONG CREATION

Since the founding of New China, the development of contemporary music culture in Tibet can be roughly divided into four stages according to the historical periods: the period of peaceful liberation, the period of democratic reform and socialist construction, the period of Cultural Revolution and the period of Reform and Opening up. According to the influence of each period on music, it can be divided into four stages: the sprouting stage of song creation, the exploration period of contemporary song creation, the development of contemporary song creation and the diversification period of contemporary song creation. Through the historical stratification of the development of contemporary Tibetan song creation, it is possible to deeply understand the development of contemporary Tibetan song creation in different historical stages, and make clear the impact of different historical stages on the development of music, which is conducive to supplementing and improving the development history of contemporary Tibetan song creation and collecting more historical data about contemporary song creation.

### A. The Sprouting Period of Contemporary Tibetan Song Creation

With the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the vigorous development of literary and artistic construction in New China, many cultural troupes were set up in the army to carry out cultural construction in New China. The cultural troupes entered Tibet to publicize music and art, giving specific guidance to the local people in music and culture. With the continuous propaganda of music culture by the musicians in the cultural troupes, people began to pay more and more attention to music culture, and their enthusiasm for music culture creation has gradually increased, which has laid

<sup>\*</sup>Fund: This paper is a phased achievement of Mianyang Social Sciences Federation's planned project "Oral History of Tibetan Music in Kangba" (Topic number: MY2019YB013) in 2019, a phased achievement of the key subject of Southwest Music Research Center — the key research base of Sichuan association of social science, and also a phased achievement of the "Research on Local Arts of Tibetan and Qiang People and 'New' Art" funded by Mianyang Teacher's College.



a good foundation for the cause of contemporary music culture in Tibet. Musicians have gone deep into Tibet to collect music materials, explored local music and history and culture, used Tibetan music terminology to ingeniously conceive the composition and expression of music, so as to truly and accurately reflect the voice of the Tibetan people and the living conditions in Tibetan areas. Many songs created at that time had a great influence on the people and spread widely. Music closely linked the people together with the army. As far as music creators were concerned, most of them were not Tibetan natives at this stage. They were mainly accompanying workers of the Chinese Military Corps. They have successfully applied Tibetan language to music creation, making use of Tibetan music elements and Tibetan creative techniques to write songs. As for the theme of music, it mainly focused on the peaceful liberation of Tibet, construction of Sichuan-Tibet highway and national unity, which reflected the level of construction of the times. The gradual penetration of music into people's daily life is an important manifestation of the development of new music in Tibet.

### B. The Exploration Period of Contemporary Tibetan Song Creation

At this stage, the Tibetan government attached great importance to the development of music and culture, mobilized the local people to form the Tibetan Song and Dance Troupe, conducted Tibetan literature and art tours throughout the country, disseminated Tibetan culture, made other ethnic groups understand the living conditions of the Tibetan people, and promoted the exchange of creative songs in Tibet. In the process of dissemination, it has greatly enhanced the understanding of Tibetans on the music culture in other areas, and has brought great reference significance to the development of music culture in Tibet. Some young literary and artistic workers of the Song and Dance Troupe have entered professional units such as the Central National Song and Dance Troupe to study professional music culture, which has nurtured a large number of talents for the development of contemporary music culture in Tibet. Music culture education in Tibet has made historic breakthroughs, and cultural development in Tibet has been greatly improved. At the same time, with the spread of Tibetan music culture, more and more people are interested in Tibetan culture. In order to create excellent works reflecting the real life of Tibetan people, many workers actively set out to explore Tibetan culture and go deep into the families of Tibetan people to live together. According to the actual living conditions of the Tibetan people, this paper has explored the art culture contained in Tibet, excavated the music style of Tibet, and created excellent literary works. The main creative themes at this stage were praising the new life of the Tibetan people brought by the Communist Party, extolling the outstanding achievements of the PLA, describing the current production situation and the actual production and life of the people in Tibetan areas, encouraging national unity and national integration, etc. In terms of musicians, literary and artistic workers in the Legion were the main composers. With the gradual deepening of music culture, more and more local musicians in Tibet have begun to study professionally. In terms of composition, the lyrics were positive, reflecting the active support for the Party's policies, praising the new life brought by the Communist Party's Liberation Army, and promoting national integration and national unity. In terms of melody, the Tibetan rhythms of five or six tunes were used to write songs, with strong regional characteristics. In the form of expression, there were mainly solo, unison, chorus and so on. The distribution of various forms was relatively uniform with no tendency emphasizing a certain style, and the style was developed evenly. In terms of creative enthusiasm, under the leadership of musicians, people's creative enthusiasm was high. Music, as people's spiritual need, has penetrated into people's real life. Many people could consciously create music according to actual life situations. Although the geographical environment of the plateau area is relatively bad, it still cannot resist the enthusiasm of the people for music creation, and the unique charm of Tibetan music has been developed.

### C. The Fermentation Period of Contemporary Tibetan Song Creation

Since the establishment of the Tibetan Song and Dance Troupe, Tibet has had an independent development platform in the development of singing and dancing. People's enthusiasm for music and cultural creation has gradually strengthened. Since then, the music and culture in Tibet have been in the fermentation period. During this period, a large number of excellent cultural works emerged, such as "The Emancipated Serfs Are Singing", "Wonderful Tibet", "Beautiful Tibet, Lovely Hometown", etc. Through different creative techniques and music styles, the present situation of life in Tibet was revealed, which greatly enriched the content and form of music, and gradually moved to a more mature stage.

### D. The Diversified Period of Contemporary Tibetan Song Creation

Since the reform and opening up, the music culture and music style in Tibet have gradually developed in a diversified direction. According to its strong historical and cultural accumulation and rich music culture style, it has have brought a brand-new spring to the contemporary song creation in Tibet. Creators create literature and art according to the actual style content, and through painstaking creative process, left behind a lot of classical works of literature and art. During this period, national and regional policies encouraged the people to actively carry out cultural creation. Under the open conditions, song creation showed a diversified trend of development. In terms of creative techniques, the selection of materials was broader and more closely integrated with the development of the times. In terms of structural design, the development of music in Tibetan areas gradually absorbed the structure and lyrics of music in other areas. There is a deeper integration of elements in different regions, creating more artistic forms.

### IV. CURRENT SITUATION AND DIFFICULTIES OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN SONG CREATION

With the continuous development of network technology, and science and technology, Tibetan songs have been combined with new media technology to develop in a diversified direction. Since the peaceful liberation of Tibet, people's spiritual needs have been constantly rising, the



requirements for music culture have been constantly improving, and the enthusiasm for music culture has gradually increased, and a large number of excellent works have emerged. Tibetan music culture has strong local characteristics. It has unique advantages in pronunciation, intonation and lyrics, and is loved by many people. However, at this stage, some songs are created in a quite traditional way, divorced from the reality of social development, and the audience of music is gradually decreasing. More and more people are changing their love for national music to popular music, which makes people's enthusiasm for contemporary folk songs in Tibet gradually decrease, and excellent music creation in Tibet is becoming less and less. With the advent of the commercialized era, the artistic connotation of music has gradually changed from artistic detection to commercial interest detection. The development of music culture has gradually appeared cracks, the speed of creation has gradually accelerated, and the connotation of art has gradually decreased, which has brought great impact on the music cultural creation in Tibetan areas.

## V. SUGGESTIONS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY TIBETAN SONG CREATION

### A. Combining Network Technology

The network has been used more and more in people's lives. In order to expand the scope of music transmission in Tibet and enhance the influence of music in Tibetan areas, the traditional way of touring performances is relatively limited. Music creators can publish new Tibetan songs on relevant music platforms on the basis of network platform, so as to enable more people to know the charm of Tibetan music art. At the same time, because of the open network platform, various information resources are easy to be revealed. So, publishers should pay attention to the security and confidentiality of music resources to avoid the loss of music information.

### B. Combining with the Spirit of the Times

With the development of the times, the combination of culture and the times is an inevitable trend. Firstly, the development of the times has injected new connotation and style into the culture of Tibet. Secondly, with the change of people's ideas and concepts, the music culture combined with the times is more acceptable to the people. Creators should pay timely attention to the latest developments in the development of China, combine the relevant policies and development requirements of the times and enrich the content of works. In addition, they should praise the good life of the people in the new era, develop their own culture in inheritance, innovate constantly in the process of development, enrich the connotation of music and cultural creation in Tibetan in accordance with ethnic characteristics and the demands of the times and find the way of contemporary Tibetan song creation in the new era.

### C. Enhancing the Confidence of Music Culture

Due to the short history of Tibetan music culture and the impact of diversified culture on Tibetan culture, the

development of Tibetan music culture lacks cultural confidence. To make Tibetan culture occupy a certain position in Chinese culture, it requires that the whole people in Tibet have strong cultural self-confidence, actively explore the Tibetan culture, deeply excavate the Tibetan cultural connotation, and constantly innovate and develop music works based on Tibetan culture. In the selection of creative themes, it is suggested to try the best to make the theme close to life and avoid being disconnected from the actual life of the people, so as to better enable the broad audience to have a deeper understanding of music, culture and art, and get the recognition and support of the broad audience. On the basis of national culture, people in Tibet shall be committed to building the brand of Tibetan music culture, promoting the spread of Tibetan music creation, developing domestic and foreign markets, and better developing Tibetan music culture based on the feedback of the audience.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

To sum up, the development of Tibetan music culture has undergone a tortuous process. In the future, the spread of Tibetan music culture still has a long way to go. It is possible to better integrate Tibetan culture and spirit into Tibetan music creation and promote Tibetan contemporary songs and help more people know and understand Tibet by combining the spirit of the times, relying on technical force and enhancing cultural self-confidence.

#### REFERENCES

- Wen Xu. Research on the Development of Contemporary Song Creation in Tibet. Tibetan University. 2018. 05: 1-85. (in Chinese)
- [2] Tian Liantao. An Investigation and Study of Music towards the Snowy Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Central Conservatory of Music Press. 2015. 12. (in Chinese)
- [3] Omegacan. Snowy Reba. Ethnic Publishing House. 1998. 05. (in Chinese)
- [4] Bianduo. Tibetan Music History. China Tibetology Publishing House. 2006. 07. (in Chinese)