Research on the Definition of "Gothic Music"

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ABSTRACT
The Gothic style in the Middle Ages has been passed down like an epic, and its achievements in the field of architecture are obvious to all. However, in the music field, the definition of "Gothic (style)" is still unclear. This article sorts out and summarizes several related discourses in contemporary literature. Some scholars believe that Gothic music (the music of Notre Dame de Paris), folk music such as music of troubadours, poets, famous singers, and even art nouveau represented by Marshaw, etc., are all included in the description of different academic literature. In short, some people only agree that the religious music born in Notre-Dame de Paris is "Gothic music", while other scholars argue that it is a combination of religious and secular music. Combining the above viewpoints, the author defines the so-called "Gothic music" from the semantics of foreign languages. "Musik der Gotik" in German actually refers to the development of the music field when the Gothic period was popular in northern Western Europe in the history of architecture, which necessarily includes both religious and secular music categories.

Keywords: *Gothic style, Gothic period, Gothic art, Religious music, Secular music.*

1. INTRODUCTION: THE BACKGROUND OF THE GOTHIC STYLE

In the Middle Ages, around 1140 A.D., a new style of art was born in France. It was derived from and gradually replaced the dominant style of Roman art in Europe at that time. This style first emerged in the architectural world, and it immediately showed similar style characteristics in the fields of painting, philosophy, literature, and music. This artistic trend, which was called the "Gothic style" by later generations, spread throughout Western Europe (the area north of the Alps) and lasted until around 1500 A.D.

The first use of the word "Gothic" appeared in a letter from Raphael to Leo X in 1518 A.D. The term was subsequently promoted by the Italian artist and writer Giorgio Vasari, who described Gothic art in 1530 A.D. as a "terrible and brutish" "tumult". Obviously, this term was originally equated with "barbarism" in the art world, and some people have criticized it as an unrefined medieval art. In the 15th century, many Italian architects and writers complained that this new "barbaric" style began to spread from the north of the Alps to Italy, which brought a certain degree of influence to the trend of "classical revival" in the early Renaissance. Even, the demise of the classical world and the collapse of the values were due to the Gothic suppression of the Romanesque style.

The Gothic cathedral can be described as a leader in the artistic creation of Gothic style. It is a synthetic work of art that unifies architecture, sculpture and stained glass painting. The Gothic era in architecture is divided into "early", "heyday" and "late" stage. However, in other fields, the scope of this period is not so clear.

2. RECORDS OF "GOTHIC MUSIC" IN THE LITERATURE

When people try to understand "Gothic music" through various channels, it is found that most modern people have defined it as a kind of "heavy metal", but there are very few documents that really involve medieval Gothic music. As an indispensable style and period in the art world, it has almost disappeared in the music world.

How is Gothic music? What is the inevitable connection between its style and Gothic architecture? Why is there almost no record of

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"Gothic music" in history books? What kind of influence did it have on the subsequent music style? In response to these questions, it is found that scholars nowadays have different ways of understanding them when they explain them.

2.1 "The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians"

In "The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians", there is no independent word "Gothic", but there are entries such as Gothic Voices. It describes a British choir that was born around 1980, and this choir specialized in performing plays from the Middle Ages and the early Renaissance. Finally, it is mentioned that this choir is particularly interested in the following fields: secular monophonic songs, Conduktus repertoire and new art (with special emphasis on Gwillaume de Machaut), British polyphonic music and songs in early 15th century. The choir is named after "Goth". However, according to the above-mentioned performances, at least they believe that secular monophonic songs, Conduktus and Art Nouveau have a certain connection with "Goth".

2.2 Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart (MGG)

In the authoritative music dictionary "Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart" which is as famous as "The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians, there is no independent entry of "Gotik". Among them, the term "Mittelalter" is slightly mentioned. There is a short paragraph in the entry that describes: "Musicology can be regarded as art, the definition of period in the history of art and culture can be directly used, such as Gothic, Renaissance or Baroque. After finding this path of compromise, the Gothic period had a clear position in everyone's mind, and it was only then that people came to face it squarely. The multi-voice music of Notre Dame de Paris is related to the Gothic cathedral, and the specific answer should be given according to the questioning method. "Mittelalter" briefly describes the views of Jacques Handschin, Pierre Bourdieu, Erwin Panofsky, Otto von Simson, Günther Binding and Ludwig Finscher and others, including mutual support or suspicion, but there is no final conclusion.

2.3 "Music in Western Civilization", Translated by Paul Heny Lang, Gu Lianli, Zhang Hongdao, Yang Yandi, Tang Yating, January 2009 (Second Edition)

In Paul Heny Lang's book "Music in Western Civilization", Chapter 7 is entitled "Gothic Style". The author believes that Gothic architecture and polyphonic music, as well as other contemporary literature and art, were born and grown in the same atmosphere. The early Gothic church music centered on the activities of Notre Dame de Paris in northern France. Perrotin, one of the representatives, was "the builder of the Gothic cathedral music. Gothic music further sorts out and summarizes the works of the troubadour era and the initial experiments of polyphonic music. With the rise of polyphonic music, all voices have become equally important, and the melody lines and rhythm forms are flexible and changeable. This activating of music is largely similar to the changes in various aspects of art and literature. The author emphasizes that a mixture of religious and secular factors constitutes Gothic music, and Gwillaume de Machaut's creation is the final expression of the Gothic style. In general, Paul Henry Lang's point of view is that from the Parisian period to Art Nouveau, it can be included in the ranks of "Gothic music".

2.4 "Wikipedia"

Among today's academic data, "Wikipedia" can be regarded as a relatively authoritative and influential open encyclopedia dictionary. There is a Gothic art in the English version and Gotik in the German version. However, it is deeply regrettable that it does not involve any music-related content. Fortunately, in the entry of "Medieval music", there is a part involving "High medieval music" (1150~1300). The first paragraph of the chapter briefly explains the music of the Gothic period. The period from 1150 to 1250 was the prosperous period of polyphonic music for the music of Notre Dame, and at the same time, the achievements of Gothic architecture were equally impressive. In fact, the activity center was in the cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris. People sometimes called the music "Parisian school" or "Parisian organum", which represented the beginning of ancient art. And the rhythmic notation (ie "rhythm pattern") of Western music appeared for the first time in this period. The editor of this entry clarified that the Parisian school and Gothic church developed

simultaneously, and the category of "Gothic music" was not formally mentioned.

2.5 Tabellen der Epochenübersicht

The "Figure 1" shows that the time around 1250 is the booming period of the Gothic style (BLÜTEZEIT DER GOTIK).

DATEN	GESCHICHTLICHE EREIGNISSE	KUNSTSTILE UND EPOCHEN	MUSIKENTWICKLUNG			
			Entwicklungen, Merkmale und Gattungen	Vertreter	Träger	Stilrichtungen
1250	Staufische Kaiser; Friedrich Barbarossa; Tod Friedrichs II.	Fresken; BLÜTEZEIT DER GOTIK;	Notre-Dame-Schule in Paris; kunstvolle zweistimmige Organa; Modalrhythmik; Minnesang drei- und vierstimmige Organa; Entstehung der Motette;	Walther von der Vogelweide Perotinus Magnus	Kirche und Kloster	***Notre Dame*** *(Von ca. 1100 bis ca. 1200)*
	Interregnum: Verfall der kaiserlichen Macht	Kathedralen/ Münster zu Paris, Freiburg, Straßburg, Ulm	Motette als Hauptgattung; Mensuralrhythmik		Kirche und Hof	***Ars Antiqua*** *(von ca. 1200 bis ca. 1300)*

Figure 1 A piano learning website in Germany (http://www.klavierunterricht-wiesbaden.de/).

At that time, the development of music included: Parisian school, highly artistic two-voice Olganon, rhythm pattern, poetry lover, Olganon of three to four voices, and the rise of scripture songs. Representatives include Walter Vogelwerder, a minne singer, and Perotin, one of the representatives of the Parisian School. The development environment includes churches and monasteries. The style trend is "Parisian school", being popular about 1100-1200. The development period of ancient art was from 1200 to 1300, during which Gothic cathedrals rose up in Minster, Paris, Freiburg, Strasbourg and other cities. With the prosperity of motet, "mensural notation" was born in rhythm, and the development environment of music was transformed into church and court. The table is not very clear. It just compares the history of art and the history of music according to their periods.

2.6 Musik der Gotik

Urs Fassler, professor of music history at MHS -Musikhochschule Luzern, published an article entitled "Musik der Gotik". Minnesang, a secular art, originated from people's worship of the Virgin Mary, and many hymns and love songs came out of it. At this time, the music gradually developed into multiple parts, with each individual part remaining parallel to each other. With the advent of the Gothic era, Europe was sucked into a vortex, and everything in the world began to present the "secularization". This paper expounds Troubadour, Trowell, Minnesang, famous singer, ancient art and new art respectively.

2.7 History of Christian Religious Music, Chen Xiaolu, Religious Culture Publishing House, February 2006

The author puts the motet, Galerie Perrotin, Machaut, and the religious music of France, Italy, Germany, England and Spain into the "Gothic Art Age", while the Léonin, the troubadours, and the Minnesang mentioned in other documents above are all included in the previous "Roman Art Age". Romanesque art was developed in monasteries, while Gothic art was formed in civic culture. The polyphonic music of Parisian school is the carrier of gothic music. Perrotin, the representative of polyphonic music, expanded Léonin's two-part organum into three to four parts, "which echoes the Gothic church architecture with light and transparent style". Nevertheless, the author also believes that the monophonic Minnesang belongs to religious music, which is a part of Gothic art. It even claims that English polyphonic extras, motet, comduktus and the music borrowed from Parisian school all made great contributions to church polyphonic music in the age of Gothic art.

2.8 Music Der Gotik / Music of the Gothic Era

Musik der Gotik / Music of the Gothic Era, an album published by Archiv Produktion, divides music into three categories:

Notre-Dame-Periode (um 1160-1250)

Ars Antiqua (um 1250-1320)

Ars Nova (um 1320-1400)

The album regards Notre-Dame-Periode as an independent and important stage before the Ars Antiqua, and the secular music of the Ars Nova is also included in the album with the theme of gothic music.

3. THE AUTHOR'S UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINITION OF "GOTHIC MUSIC"

As for the "gothic music" above, the author thinks it is more appropriate to translate it into "music of the Gothic period".

In English, whether it is medieval Gothic or contemporary rock-and-roll Gothic, it is translated as "Gothic". Even, a style of choral art is also called "Gothic" that appeared in the UK in the 1980s, as discussed in "The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians".

However, in German, the word "Gothic" only refers to Gothic rock, and the word "Gotik" really means the medieval Gothic period. It should be noted here that "gotisch" (the adjective form of "Gotik") means "Gothic style", such as die gotische Kathedrale. Most of the musical expressions in the literature about this period are Musik der gotik, but not gotische Musik.

As shown in the title of the album above, the English title is music of the Gothic era, which implies that another parallel German title is music der gotik. Of course, some English documents label this definition as "music of the Gothic period". In this way, Parisian school, Ars Antiqua, Ars Nova and many other classifications mentioned in the records are understood as "gothic music". It usually takes the Notre-Dame-Periode as the background period to summarize the music schools.

Obviously, in the eyes of Westerners, "Gothic" itself is a term developed from a certain architectural style in the middle ages. Music and other academic categories are affected by each other because of their synchronous development. However, people can not call all the styles of the same period "Gothic".

The formation time and service life of architectural art itself are relatively long, and the construction period of decades or even hundreds of years is not surprising at that time, so the style of a certain region tends to be more unified. Compared with architecture, music poles asunder. Just like in China, the differences in architectural styles in a hundred years are actually not big, but folk music blossomes like a hundred flowers, and each place has its own music form. The cycle of music creation is generally relatively short. Especially in the Middle Ages, there is no concept of "composition". People who know the rhythm improvise and hum and use it for church teaching, or it is just a word of mouth among the people. It was not until the emergence of notation that people wrote them down one by one, and the perceptual music experience was gradually rationalized, and "composition" came into being. In this way, it seems that music creation has become a kind of popular and different behaviors. In a certain period, there may be several styles in a larger range at the same time. This also explains why the overall style of architecture is relatively uniform in the Gothic period, but it is difficult for people to draw a specific boundary in music.

Here, the author would like to summarize the music of the Gothic period and give the understanding.

Surprisingly, there is no exclusive entry about Gothic in the most authoritative dictionaries, such as "New Grove music and musicians", and "the Dictionary of ancient and modern music". Only in the "mittelalter" section of "the Dictionary of ancient and modern music", there is a short description. And it is not clear that the academic circles do not agree with the so-called gothic music originated in the middle ages.

Some people think that the music of Gothic period should be church music. Others advocated the inclusion of all church and secular music throughout 1150-1500 into the Gothic period. And no matter it is right or wrong, the author first sorts out the music schools of this era.

The music of middle ages is dominated by religious music, and there is also secular music coexisting with it. Parisian School, which developed almost in sync with the Gothic Cathedral, belonged to religious music. In the previous times, or early Gothic era, there were secular art groups such as troubadour and Minnesang singers. These groups, accompanied by the religious polyphony music of Parisian School, have not been paid enough attention, but they have survived for centuries. And secular music has grown up. Since then, the succession of the famous singers to the Minnesang, the development of the secular genres such as motet, and even the brilliance of a new secularization period -- the Ars nova represented by Machaut in the 14th century, are all the affirmation of the development of the secular culture in the middle ages.

Paul Henry Lang states in "music in Western civilization" that "recent historians have seen nothing but chaos in gothic music, a music in which religious and secular factors mingle but fails to reach a final settlement." This confirms that many experts agree that music in the Gothic period included both religious and secular aspects.

To sum up, the author believes that "gothic music" in the eyes of Chinese people actually refers to the music schools contained in the Gothic period in the history of architecture. Therefore, neither religious music nor secular music should be excluded from this era.

4. CONCLUSION

As a very important link in art history, the Gothic period has left a rich cultural heritage for future generations. Although its main achievements are in the field of architecture, the various simultaneous developments of literature and art have laid a good social and cultural foundation for it, and complement each other to build a great monument in the Middle Ages.

Religious music is booming, and secular music is surging in secret, both of which are indispensable elements in the field of music in the Gothic period. The free development of secular music affects the composition trend of religious music to a certain extent, and they absorb each other's nutrients. Without the dominance of religious music, secular music will not be able to achieve self-breakthrough and open the door to the Renaissance.

As a major and glorious stage at the end of the Middle Ages, the Gothic period carried a thousand years of Western civilization. Since then, the Renaissance and Baroque polyphonic music have all emerged, and it is still valued by the professional field and generally recognized by the public.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by Yue Zhao.

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