



The Role of Body Language in Orchestra Conducting

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Abstract. The conductor plays an important role in the orchestra. The conductor is the interpreter of musical works, the artistic leader of the orchestra, and has a certain interaction with other members of the orchestra. Musical works not only need the conductor to use the body to show the rhythm and speed, but also need the conductor to convey the sadness and joy of the music through the body language, so that the audience can feel the emotion of the music. At the same time, the application of artistic and precise body language in the orchestra conductor can reflect the performance value of the orchestra from an objective perspective. Therefore, orchestra directors need to use body language in a reasonable way to mobilize the emotions and enthusiasm of the performers and improve the performance effect.

Keywords: Body language; Orchestra conducting; Musical work

1 Introduction

Any conductor communicates the progress of the piece to all players or singers through gestures. Musicians and singers, on the other hand, need to judge the progress of the music according to the conductor's gestures and complete the singing and playing under the unified conductor. In this process, any gesture is the conductor's artistic understanding and interpretation of the music, and the thought expression is uploaded to the audience's understanding of the music itself. Through the use of small movements of fingers, palms, wrists, and even fingers, the orchestra and the singer can feel the conductor's intention, and the audience can also grasp the artistic understanding.

2 Body language in orchestra conducting

2.1 Body language

The conductor is the soul of the orchestra performance, taking the important performance responsibility, not only needs to express the connotation of the music, thoughts and emotions, but also needs to respect the writer's feelings on the basis of the connotation of the second creation. At the same time, in the performance of the orchestra, the conductor also needs to be consistent with the performer in the state and expression to convey the beauty of the music to the audience. Therefore, the conductor not only needs

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to accurately convey the thoughts and emotions of the performers, but also needs the conductor to express the emotions through body language. In the application of body language in the orchestra conductor, there are three specific forms of expression: first, gesture language. It is the use of wrists, palms, fingers and arms to express musical emotions. Second, facial language. It refers to the expression of emotions through the mouth, eyebrows and eyes and other parts, which is the strongest body language of musical emotion expression. The conductor can accurately express the emotion and connotation of music by applying facial language. Third, the conductor expresses the emotion of the musical work through different standing positions.

In the performance of the orchestra, the rational use of body language can accurately and directly express the conductor's emotions and intentions. More importantly, the conductor and the performer can interact with each other through body language, thus presenting the audience with high-quality orchestra performance.[1] In the orchestra performance, the performance level is usually closely related to the conductor. The level of the conductor is mainly reflected in the professional ability of the individual, and this professional ability mainly refers to the expression of the emotion and content of the music works through body language. In short, the application ability of the conductor's body language plays an important role in evaluating the performance level of the orchestra. The conductor's body language mainly conveys the emotion of music and interprets the connotation of music through different gestures, standing posture and other languages, combined with rich facial expressions and other languages. The conductor and the performer communicate with each other through body language, unify the performing and conducting arts of the orchestra, and present high quality music works.

2.2 The function of body language

First, the conductor uses body language to conduct, which can promote a more unified performance between players. Orchestra performance is a collective activity, the conductor is not only the leader of the orchestra, but also the soul of the team. It can be seen that the conductor has an important role in the overall leadership of the orchestra performance. The conductor needs to unify and coordinate through body language according to the needs of the presentation effect of the music work and its connotation and other factors to ensure the uniform characteristics of the performance. In the performance of the orchestra, it is not only necessary to have unity in the performance rhythm and sound, but also to pay attention to the unity of everyone's body language, so that the audience can feel a audio-visual feast. Therefore, orchestra directors need to use body language reasonably to ensure the harmony and unity of the entire performance. Orchestra performance is a kind of sound resonance that integrates various Musical Instruments and singing sounds, fully reflects the coordination between body movements and the sound of musical works, and thus improves the comprehensive effect of performance. The key to a orchestra's performance is unity, not only in terms of sound, but also in terms of performance, and this unity is the key to moving the audience. [2] Therefore, the orchestra conductor needs to consider the overall situation and conduct according to the actual needs of the performance, so as to ensure that the sound

during the performance can maintain the consistency of the strong and weak, and create a neat and unified performance effect, which will shock the audience and make it resonate with the music works. Secondly, it is helpful to ensure that the connotation of music works is reflected when the orchestra performs. In the orchestra performance, if only through singing to express the emotion and connotation of music, although the effect is also very good, but the form of performance is relatively simple, if the orchestra conductor can be integrated into the performance, then the performance will be fuller, the emotion and connotation of music works will be more three-dimensional and more perfect. In the performance of the orchestra, the connotation and emotion of the music need to be shared with the audience. The conductor needs to mobilize the emotions of the performers at the right time to make them make corresponding body movements, and the movements should be consistent, which requires a tacit understanding between the performers and the conductor to ensure that the body movements are neat and smooth. The audience can experience the emotion and connotation of music, and have a good feeling in hearing and vision. Body movements can express emotions, and conductors can only express their true feelings through body language to promote the whole performance to get the audience's love. During the performance, only when the performers have an understanding of the connotation and emotion of the music, will they make a physical response along with the performance. This is the normal performance of the orchestra, and it is also the conductor's body language to promote the unity of the performers' movements, improve the authenticity of the performance and enhance the artistic value of the orchestra's performance.

3 Key features of body language in orchestra conducting

3.1 Consistent with the emotional expression of musical works

Body language in orchestra conducting is consistent with the emotional expression of music works. The conductor's body language expresses the emotion of the musical work, which is emotionally consistent with the appeal of the musical work. From the conductor's point of view, his facial expression, gestures and so on are the expression of the emotion of the music work, which is in line with the emotional world of the music work. Through a good grasp of the emotions of the works, the conductor enriches his body language, and then displays the true emotional conception, and displays the emotions in the way of artistic images, so as to infect the audience and increase their understanding of the connotation and emotions of the music works. In addition, from the perspective of orchestra performance, the performance level is based on the effective direction of the conductor. The performers understand the music works under the guidance of the conductor's body language, and stimulate the inner emotions of the performers, thus shaping high-quality music works and making the orchestra's performance more amazing.

3.2 Consistent with sound expression

Body language in orchestra conducting is consistent with the sound expression in the orchestra's performance. The conductor's body language not only pursues the consistency with the music works in the emotional connotation, but also has a distinct consistency in the sound expression. Orchestra performance is a special art form, that is, the use of different performance forms to enhance the artistic effect, which is inseparable from high-quality orchestra directors. In the orchestra performance, the stage has a relatively static, rich body language expression can promote the performer to form a good visual perception, and then promote the two sides to achieve efficient cooperation, maintain emotional unity, so as to form a good orchestra performance atmosphere.

4 The application of body language in orchestra conducting

4.1 Facial Expressions

In the practice of orchestra conducting, the conductor makes appropriate facial expressions according to the connotation and emotion of the music works, so as to convey the musical emotion and express the complex ideas in the music, and thus have a good impact on the orchestra performance. First, the eyebrows and eyes combine language. In order to ensure the performance, the orchestra director needs all the performers to be within their line of sight and pay attention to the whole, rather than paying too much attention to individuals or special parts. In order to ensure that the performers can read their body language, the conductor needs to look at the specific performers at the right time. The eyes can convey the silent language, and the changes in the eyes can convey the emotions and thoughts that you want to express. The eyes naturally reveal one's thoughts and feelings; The eyes are the window to express the changes of the soul, and the feelings will be accurately expressed in the eyes. [3] The eyebrows are a very important part of the face, and the conductor can express inner excitement and excitement by raising the eyebrows; Locking the eyebrows can show sadness, pain and other emotions; Similar emotions such as shyness and shyness can be expressed by lowering the eyebrows. Eyebrows and eyes are inseparable parts of the face, the two have integrity, cooperate with each other to achieve a good orchestra performance. Secondly, in the process of orchestra conducting, many conductors are used to comparing their mouth movements according to the lyrics. In order to ensure the effect of teamwork, they need to compare their mouth movements in many aspects. This method has good practical effects in singing and rhythm expression. If the conductor points to his forehead during the performance, he can express the performance situation that the voice is not concentrated and has no position, and the voice position needs to be raised at this time. During the performance, if the breath is shallow, the conductor can express it through the facial expression of the chin pulling down; The underhand finger can express the meaning of holding breath.

4.2 Gestures

In upper body language, Gesture language expresses the most abundant information in the conductor, which can fully express the thoughts and emotions of music. Gesture language needs to be expressed through close coordination between different parts of the upper limb to highlight the connotation of the music. [6] First, finger language. Fingers are capable of representing many different languages. In the orchestra conductor, the control of the conductor's opponent is very important. It is necessary to pay attention to not only the resistance, but also the unobstructed breath, and express the cadence of the sound. [4] Therefore, resistance also plays an important role in the conductor. When conducting, the fingers should be slightly bent, the middle finger should be facing the front, the thumb and index finger should be pulled apart in an arc, and the palm should be facing the performer, which means that the conductor's palm can control the sound of the performance, and the palm can also show a hug shape, indicating that the sound of the performance is held together. For example, the hand shows a fist shape, indicating that the music at this time should be low, solid, and powerful, expressing the music effect of extraordinary tragedy and shock. When the palm is down or down, the voice is weakening, and the palm is up, it is gradually increasing.

In addition, the conductor raises the thumb and the other fingers are in the shape of a fist, which can play a motivating role for the performers. Second, wrist language. In the orchestra, the position of the palm is slightly higher than the wrist, and the position of the wrist is usually not able to move, even a very slight activity needs to be within the range of control. During the orchestra's performance, the wrist needs to maintain a certain degree of tension to avoid the situation of beat confusion during the performance. The conductor needs to make good use of the wrist, using the wrist to maintain a similar fixed but not rigid movement, to express the sense of continuity of the music. Doing this well gives the conductor's hands and fingers a sense of control over the music. Finally, palm language. In the performance of the orchestra, the conductor needs to form a feeling of control of the rhythm of the music in his heart. This operation cannot be done with a single palm, but requires the coordination of the wrist and fingers, thus presenting the audience with the perfect musical performance.

4.3 Arm Movements

When conducting body language through arm language, the conductor needs to make good use of forearm and forearm language. The support point of the forearm is the elbow, and the cooperation of the elbow can promote the forearm to complete the expression of body language. [7] The strength of the forearm is in the middle position, neither strong nor weak. Combined with the characteristics of forearm movements, its expressive characteristics are as follows: if the music works express events, the effect of the orchestra's performance is relatively stable, without large emotional fluctuations, and the whole is flat and straightforward. If it is a transitional part of the performance, the language expression of the forearm needs to move between the hand and the upper arm; If you want to show the musical feeling from weak to strong, forearm language also needs to reflect the transitional characteristics. [5]With the assistance of the

shoulder joint, the upper arm language can promote the hand and forearm language command to play a role. Because the body movements during the expression of the big arm language will have a direct impact on the beat, it means that the larger the movement range, the clearer the illustration, the better the expressiveness, and the better the performance effect of the orchestra.

The conductor of the application of body language needs to maintain a relaxed attitude and good posture in the conducting work of the orchestra performance. At the same time, the posture should also be straight, and the feet should stand firmly on the stage, the shoulders should be relaxed, and the legs should be slightly separated. Such a standing posture can have a positive, harmonious visual feeling, and the audience can feel the meaning and emotion that the music wants to express through standing posture. In conducting, in order to ensure that the conductor can see all members of the performance, the conductor of a higher height can maintain eye level with the performer, and if the height is not high, it is necessary to conduct from the back. In addition, the conductor's processing of music and psychological changes can usually be reflected by changes in sitting and standing posture. Reasonable use of body language, the conductor's effect in the orchestra is better, but also can successfully improve the performance of the orchestra, to convey a good musical atmosphere to the audience.

5 Conclusion

The conductor is the focus of an orchestra. All musicians need to judge the progress of the music according to every detail of the conductor's movements, and coordinate to complete the artistic emotions expressed by the symphony under the unified conductor. Therefore, the body language and emotional expression of the orchestra conductor not only affect the performance of all musicians, but also deeply attract the attention and focus of the audience. Although the only person on the stage who does not need an instrument is the orchestra conductor, every detail of its movement is a profound expression of the artistic interpretation of the music itself. In the expression of body language and emotion, the profound perception of the symphony can arouse the resonance of the audience, and then produce the artistic appreciation and high experience of the music. Therefore, although the success or failure of a symphony is related to every musician, its leader is the orchestra conductor, and the way of body language and emotional expression in the orchestra conductor determines the completion of the symphony and the effect of artistic expression.

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