



# The Integration of Traditional Culture and Music Performance Art

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**Abstract.** This study focuses on the integration mechanism and core value of traditional culture with music performance art. Adopting the case study method and literature research method, it systematically sorts out relevant theoretical achievements, practical experiences, and representative musical works at home and abroad. The research finds that current music creation faces practical problems such as a single creative path, inadequate development of traditional cultural resources, and significant differences in audience cultural cognition. To address the above pain points, this paper proposes three optimization paths: clarifying the core status of traditional culture in artistic creation, innovating musical expression forms and creative techniques, and expanding the communication channels of integrated achievements while improving relevant supporting policies. The study indicates that the in-depth integration of the two plays an important role in promoting the dynamic inheritance of traditional culture, facilitating the innovation of music art, deepening the popularization of music education, and enhancing national cultural soft power, thereby providing theoretical and practical references for future related theoretical research.

**Keywords:** Traditional Culture, Music Performance Art, Integration, Strategies, Cultural Heritage.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Importance of Traditional Culture and Music Performance Arts

Throughout the long course of history, the Chinese nation has accumulated a rich cultural heritage, which serves as an important spiritual foundation for us and also constitutes a significant force for national unity. Throughout the long course of history, traditional culture has continuously accumulated and formed unique values, aesthetic concepts and artistic expression forms, providing rich cultural resources and spiritual nourishment for future generations. However, with the development of the times, traditional culture is facing the real challenges of losing its audience and weakening its transmission. The younger generation's interest in traditional culture is constantly decreasing, and the issue of protecting and inheriting traditional culture has become increasingly prominent. In this context, the art of music performance is like a refreshing breeze in

summer, through the artistic combination of sounds, with its beautiful melodies, unique rhythms and other performance forms, transcending the limitations of time and space, generating wonderful emotions and evoking resonance among the audience. When traditional music collides with music performance art, it can ignite the spark of innovation. The two blend together, opening up new paths for music creation. It is not only an important medium for cultural inheritance, but also an important source of artistic innovation [1].

## 1.2 The Necessity of Integrated Research

Under the trend of globalization and cultural diversity, the inheritance and development of traditional culture are confronted with unprecedented challenges and opportunities [2]. The process of globalization has accelerated the exchange and collision among different cultures. Traditional cultures need to reposition their own values in the new context. Moreover, the trend of cultural diversity has provided a vast space for the creativity of traditional culture. Music performances, as an art form with a wide audience and strong appeal, when integrated with traditional culture, not only can infuse new vitality into traditional culture, but also can provide more creative materials and expression methods for music performances. Therefore, exploring the integration of traditional culture and music performance art is of great significance for promoting cultural inheritance, facilitating artistic innovation, and enhancing cultural confidence. The implementation of the "Belt and Road" initiative has further strengthened cultural exchanges among the countries and regions along the route, and promoted cross-cultural understanding and communication [3]. Music performances, as an important carrier of cultural dissemination, are constantly absorbing elements from various cultures, thereby creating new artistic styles and forms of expression. For instance, the cultural program "Classical Songs in the Present Age" combines traditional culture with modern music, presenting a new form of cultural dissemination and demonstrating the possibility of cultural innovation within the context of diversified social culture [4].

## 2 Current Research Status

Many scholars have conducted research in this field by using methods such as literature review and case analysis, focusing on the integration of traditional musical elements with contemporary performance techniques. For instance, Gao Qiong's research method involves analyzing representative musical works. He analyzed the popular piece "Hair Like Snow", in which the lyrics of this song incorporated verses from the Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai, and further expanded the artistic conception of the song. This song also draws on the singing style characteristics of traditional scales. It achieves an innovative integration of traditional culture, giving life vitality to its musical works. For another example, in Qiu Guo's article, he proposed that traditional culture can enhance the language of music pieces and deepen the musical connotations. By analyzing works such as "The Pipa Ballad" and "Moonlit West Tower", which are all adaptations of classic Song Dynasty poems from traditional culture, the musical works have become carriers

of traditional culture elements. It has been confirmed that traditional culture can deepen the cultural connotation. However, there are still some shortcomings at present. The research focuses more on theory, and the depth of case analysis is insufficient. It is necessary to further enhance the comprehensiveness of content coverage and the practical depth of methods.

### **3 Research Methods**

This study selected multiple representative performance cases of music to comprehensively present the current state of the integration of traditional culture and music performances. This article selects the musical piece "Ode to the Fifth Erhu Fantasy" which is rich in ethnic characteristics and embodies traditional Mongolian culture [4]. In "The Story of Zhen Huan", the song "Pavilion of the Bodhisattva" adopts the method of using traditional poetry as its lyrics, which holds significant innovative value for musical works [5]. "Liang Zhu" is an important representative work that not only preserves the traditional Yue Opera but also elevates the expression of musical emotions [6].

### **4 Research Results**

#### **4.1 Modern Erhu Composition "The Fifth Erhu Rhapsody: Song of Praise"**

Contemporary Chinese music composers often incorporate ethnic styles into their compositions. The modern erhu piece "The Fifth Erhu Rhapsody: Song of Praise" composed by Wang Jianmin incorporates traditional Mongolian musical elements and is based on the style of Inner Mongolia folk songs. For instance, by combining the long and short melodies of the Mongolian folk songs with the unique rhythm patterns of the Mongolians and the performance of the erhu, new techniques for playing the erhu were innovated, and the way of integrating music creation was also innovated [7]. This piece of music vividly depicts and outlines the magnificent scenes of the motherland, and conveys boundless love and sincere praise for the motherland. Such a combination method can enable the musical work to have a very deep emotional resonance with the audience, allowing people to experience the ethnic customs of the Chinese land through the music.

#### **4.2 "The Lady of Shalott"**

Furthermore, the incorporation of traditional poetry also adds a profound cultural flavor to the music performance. For instance, there is a poem called "Pavilion of the Bodhisattva" in "The Story of Zhenhuan". This poem was created by the Tang Dynasty poet Wen Tingyun. It delicately portrays the boredom of a woman confined in a secluded palace and her longing for love [8]. The creator incorporated this poem into the lyrics, ingeniously combining the poet's intended emotions with the situation of the character Zhen Huan in the play at that time. This effectively depicted Zhen Huan's cold and

lonely feelings and her reserved personality traits after losing favor in the palace. It enables the audience to follow along with the plot development in the drama and share the emotions together. This helps to narrow the gap between the work and the audience.

### **4.3 Violin Concerto "Liang Zhu"**

The creators also drew inspiration from traditional operas to create works with a soul. This collaborative piece incorporates the core singing passages from the Yue Opera "Liang Zhu", such as "The Eighteen Farewells", and combines the opera's musical patterns with Western forms. Within the framework of the sonata form, the piece integrates the rhythmic patterns and glissando techniques of Yue Opera, presenting the rhythm of Chinese opera on the violin [9]. This concerto, through its narrative musical expression technique, embodies the core of love's loyalty and the essence of tragic grandeur, integrating both national spirit and humanistic sentiment. It is a refinement of traditional musical narrative techniques, a continuation of Yue Opera, and has achieved a musical effect that combines Chinese and Western elements [10].

## **5 Existing Problems**

### **5.1 Cognitive Bias in Understanding Culture**

Nowadays, some music creators and performers lack in-depth research and exploration of traditional culture, which has led to the situation where some music works improperly utilize cultural elements or distort history. When a piece of music incorporates a classical poem, but fails to accurately grasp the meaning and the artistic conception it conveys, it will cause the musical work to lose its original cultural charm, and even lead to misunderstandings about traditional culture. For instance, in the song "Yu Meiren: Listening to the Rain", the lyrics violate the phonetic rules of poetry, causing the pronunciation to become chaotic and difficult to understand [11]. This prevents the audience from grasping the emotions and meanings that the song intends to convey, thus losing the core of using the original lyrics to express one's life experiences through listening to the rain. Therefore, any deviation in the understanding of culture will hinder the dissemination of traditional culture.

### **5.2 Insufficient Promotional and Dissemination Capabilities**

The current dissemination channels for the integrated works mainly include traditional concerts as well as new media platforms such as Bilibili and NetEase Cloud Music. However, the results are not particularly satisfactory. Some of the creative concepts for the dissemination videos are not novel enough and fail to capture the attention of the public. It fails to meet the aesthetic standards of the general public, and the audience cannot understand the meaning expressed by the music. As a result, the integrated work cannot be widely disseminated [12].

## **6 Optimization Strategy**

### **6.1 Enhance People's Understanding of Traditional Culture**

In the integration of traditional culture and music performance art, it is necessary to enhance the understanding and awareness of traditional culture among creators, performers and the audience group. Creators and performers can enhance their understanding and knowledge of traditional culture by reading books, visiting traditional culture museums, and other means. The audience can learn about it through relevant cultural lectures, school classes, etc. The current school education should also attach importance to explaining traditional culture to students, helping them to deeply understand the connotation and value of traditional culture [13]. For instance, in music classes at primary and secondary schools, various unique ethnic music segments and various traditional musical instruments can be used to arouse students' interest in traditional culture [14, 15]. Similarly, through relevant special lectures and other means, students' cognitive levels can also be enhanced. This multi-faceted and multi-level cultural education not only enriches the knowledge reserves of creators and performers, laying a solid foundation for them to better integrate traditional culture in their music creation and performance, but also helps cultivate the cultural knowledge literacy level of new-generation individuals.

### **6.2 Innovative New Fusion Music Performance Formats**

Innovative performance forms are an indispensable crucial step for the integration of traditional culture and music performances. Musical stage performers can integrate modern technological means and understand the aesthetic demands of the audience, and explore new forms of communication. The virtual reality technology in multimedia technology can be applied to stage performances, providing the audience with an immersive and novel visual and auditory experience. This innovative approach can better attract the younger generation, enhance the value and artistic appeal of artworks, and inject new vitality into traditional culture and musical art [16].

### **6.3 Expand the Channels for the Dissemination of Traditional Culture and Music Performance Art**

Expanding the channels of dissemination is an important measure to enhance the influence and dissemination power of traditional culture and innovative works of music art. In the current era of technology, the rapid development of new media platforms has provided a broader platform for the dissemination of traditional culture. Music creators and performers use some social media platforms to release information related to their works and also produce some related cultural and creative products to attract more public attention. It can also be disseminated through TV programs and radio media platforms, thereby further expanding the audience base [17]. One can also participate in some international cultural exchange organizations' events. By presenting Chinese-style musical works on the international stage, it can not only promote cultural



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