

Movie Music

The Mysterious Pushing Hands for the Storyline Development

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Abstract—Movie music is the music created for the movie. It is the high generalization of the movie content. It can employ the particular style and the concise emotional expression to enrich the main characters in the movie. The artistic attraction always takes the viewers into a certain historical context and cultural atmosphere or the particular affection category. The combination of the movie music with other sound factors like dialogues, asides and acoustic effects will complement and deepen the viewers' artistic feeling towards the movie besides appreciate the visual images, if properly in coordination with the movie screen. Movie music is a pair of mysterious pushing hands for the storyline development.

Keywords—audio-visual unified comprehensiveness; movie music; emotional expression

I. MOVIE MUSIC PUSHES THE STORYLINE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE RENDERING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATMOSPHERE

The movie has various rhythm functions. However, it is the music that unified with the rhythms of the movie. Music can display these rhythms through different music rhythms and music languages, so as to meet the different style and situation of the story. To a certain degree, the function of music to the movie is irreplaceable no matter in what kind of form. Wang Liguang has conducted an experiment on his postgraduates, in the meantime of playing the movie *"Pirates of the Caribbean"*, he closed all the music of the movie. As a result, in less than 20 minutes, some of the students cannot bear to view any longer. It is obvious that the movie music can properly render the atmosphere and create a particular background and atmosphere for the movie.

The *"Lord of the Rings"* trilogy is one of the milestones in the movie history. It is because of the epic like original work, almost perfect adapted screenplay and the excellent and dedicated cast members that the lord trilogy so successful. What's more, the wonderful music is also an important factor for its success. Because there is a large and complex story structure in the *"Lord of the Rings"*, the theme rhythms have reached over 50.

At first, the ensemble of orchestral and percussion music creates a powerful and grand music in the prelude of the movie. This piece of music represents the fierce fighting that the alliance of the elves at the end of the Second Age and human against the Dark Lord. The tune of the music goes higher and higher gradually and reaches the climax of this part, at when the Dark Lord was defeated. After the loud

cymbals, there is a few seconds silence. Then, there is a slow melody of the violin. This phrase is varied repeatedly, and is added with other orchestral music successively. Therefore, this phrase becomes strong gradually, making people feel the process of ups and downs in which the Ring that contains the most power of the Lord being lost in the river and slept for 2,500 years, till being discovered by an ordinary little hobbit and took to the deep cave down the mountain, and being discovered by another hobbit 500 years later and took to his hometown. The weak music gradually becomes strong indicates that source of evil forgotten by people has been found and waken up again. After the prelude, the screen changes to the hometown of hobbit Shire, who pick up the lord ring. This is a land of idyllic beauty, cheerful and pleasing to the eye. The hobbits who live here is a kind and simple nation, so the theme music of Shire sounds relaxed and happy. At first, the violin produces brief and brisk note, which represents the naturally optimistic personality of the hobbits. Then there is the beautiful melody of the tin whistle solo, echoing the words said by the film character "the hobbits have lived happily here and will live in this way ever after forever." Next, the tunes of the violin turn into long tunes, and the jumping notes are play by cello. The whole theme music of Shire represents a kind of peaceful, happy and deep emotion. This makes the viewers begin to be in love of this quiet and peaceful place, and worry about that the waken evil will destroy the peace of this place, which increase the tension of the movie.

Another place under the dark force is Isengard. The theme music of this place is different with that of the black knight. This piece of melody employs four and five time beats, giving people a kind of uncertain and wired feeling. This properly displays the ruler of Isengard, Saruman the White's twisted and distorted psychology, changing from a kind wise man into a careerist. The deep sounds of the tuba make people feel gloomy and dreadful. The deep and powerful beats of the steel plate are like the beat sounds between the hammer and the chopping block of the blacksmith, which represent that this place has become an evil industrial base, producing weapons and armours continuously and scheming to start an aggressive war. The theme melody of Isengard is full of wired and dreadful color.

When the big war is about to open and the White City is on the verge of destruction, the ruler regent lost his vigor and vitality, and doesn't take any action, awaiting his doom. However, the hero of the movie quietly lights the flame for

help to its allied nation Rohan behind the regent. Along with the lightening of the beacon, the violin produces resounding, sharp and rapid notes, which sweep away all the depressed feeling and bring the refreshing hope. Then, the theme music of the White City is played at the same time, but adds some deep chorus of the tuba and the bass drum, which represents the ancient oath of alliance and promise will be effective again. Along with the lightening of the beacons in the mountain one after another, the background music is more and more grand and powerful. At last, the two ensembles of the metal and rap is even more passionate, which brings this phrase of lightening flame into a climax and encourages the viewers to be very excited.

In this movie, the perfect combination of all kinds of music factors, like instruments, melody, rhyme and human voice, is a driving force for the development of the storyline.

“Ambush and be surrounded in all four directions” is a major plot in the movie *“King of the Western Chu”*. *“The songs of Chu”* play a decisive role in the movie. It is played twice in the movie. The first time is when Xiang Yu and Liu Bang overthrow the rule of the Qin Dynasty. Xiang Yu returns home after getting fame and winning the victory. The hometown people welcome him on the two sides of the road and sing *“The songs of Chu”*: the grass and the trees are green, but I have some worries on my mind. I miss you very much but you don’t come back, so I have to wait for you bitterly. I want to ask you, my lover, why don’t you come back? Even the hometown is waiting for you. I walk quietly and slowly in order to meet you, however I cannot find you anywhere. So I have to wait there for some comforts. The second time is at the end of the movie: Xiang Yu the king of Chu is surrounded in Gaixia by Liu Bang’s *“ambush on all sides and sing the songs of Chu in all four directions”*. Liu Bang send his soldiers to drive the relatives of Chu army to the place and order them to sing the songs of Chu outside the military camp of Chu army, so as to arouse the homesickness of the Chu generals and soldiers, and make the morale of the Chu be lax and collapse. The two times use of the songs of Chu not only play a decisive role for the movie, but also display that music has great influence on human feeling from the realistic angle.

II. MOVIE MUSIC PUSHES THE STORYLINE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

In many film and TV works, there is always a basic emotional thread, sorrow, happy or praise. In order to better display the certain emotion in the work, many directors prefer to employ music in different time to display the inner heart feeling of the hero in the certain time period throughout the whole story, and therefore push the development of the storyline.

The film *“Harry and Son”* describes a father, who works very hard to make a living, lacks the caring and warmth to his son that lost the love of mother. When his son is about to die, the father falls into endless guilt and regret. In the film, music with fresh tone and warm feeling is played through the whole film. It is shown for four times, and each time is closely related with the fate of the hero. It is involved in and pushes the development of the storyline and becomes an indispensable factor for the film.

The song “Why are the flowers so red” arouses people’s fresh memory to the movie “Visitors on the Icy Mountain”. The song is like an intangible role in the movie, and it is the component of the movie storyline. The three times that the song played all play the role as the part of the storyline. The first time singing: Amir the soldier recalls his sad memory in the childhood about his fellow Gulan Danmu. Gulan Danmu was sold by her cold-hearted uncle, so Amir and Gulan Danmu were forced to leave each other. The song reflects the pure friendship between the hard two fellows and displays the bitterness when they were forced to separate. The second time sing: Mr. Yang the platoon leader finds the bride “Gulan Danmu” walking to the ice peak. In order to make sure whether she is Gulan Danmu or not, Mr. Yang the platoon leader intentionally asks Amir to sing the song. When the song is singing, this “Gulan Danmu” keeps walking towards the ice peak and totally ignores the song. Why does she not hear the song even though there is a favorable wind? This increases Mr. Yang the platoon leader’s suspension towards this “Gulan Danmu”. The third time singing: when another Gulan Danmu come to the army, Mr. Yang the platoon leader ask someone to send a potted flower to probe, and then ask Amir to sing the song. When the song is singing, Gulan Danmu hears carefully and is emerged in the exciting memory of the past. A moment later, she cannot help to sing with the singing. At this time, the song becomes the “evidence” for the two young people to recognize each other after rough experience, and also uncovers the riddle of true and false Gulan Danmu.

At the beginning of the movie “Happy Together”, Li Yaohui and He Baorong buy an old desk lamp from a street stall. The Iguazu Falls on the lamp shade make the two long for deeply. So they make an appointment that they will go to Buenos Aires in Argentina to search for this waterfall.

Along with the appearance of the dark blue Iguazu Falls on the movie screen, full of water smog and constant sound of water, the song “Cucurrucucu Paloma” slowly rings. The music is high and low from time to time, just like a singing pigeon, overlooking the dark blue Iguazu Falls sadly. The two loafers wandering in a foreign place lost themselves in the deep and misty dark blue. Wang Jiawei the director once said, “I have decided to use this song as the foreshadow before Li Yaohui the hero set foot in Buenos Aires.” They have ever seen the image of the Iguazu Falls on the lamp shade. Its incredible beauty is like an allusion. From the beginning to the end, the song “Cucurrucucu Paloma” is played throughout the whole storyline of the movie. Mild Spanish singing, seductive baritone and sad cello music are interwoven together, repeatedly following the development of the movie storyline. As a result, a feeling of deep sorrow gradually fill in one’s mind.

When talking about the combination music of movie and music, one classical movie cannot be ignored, that is “Titanic”. In a pleasant song of the Irish whistle, the director slowly open the prelude of the movie “Titanic”. The music “Never an Absolution” is mild and slow. Along with the low human speaking, the lonely and distant whistle is repeatedly singing. It seems like an elegy song sing for this historical tragedy. Then, the music begins to be pleasant. That is the busy scene

when Titanic the never sink luxury liner first set sail: the huge ship with the smell of paint is welcoming people's envy proudly. The lucky first tourists set their foots on the deck with the excited and proud feelings. The music "South Ampton" and "Leaving Port" describe people's longing and hope that hard to control towards the free country in the opposite bank--Boston by employing the exciting tunes. However, good times don't last long. When the topsmen makes the alarm, the ship is too big and the rudder too small to avoid the crash. At this time, the music "Hard to Starboard" is played. The quick drum and the excited beats all reflect the danger and tension of the situation. Poorly that the tourists are still intoxicated in the poetic dream with glasses and drinks, totally unaware of the fact that their fate is about to change here after. When the tune "The Sinking" is played, there is a panic and rush situation. In the contest of living and die, people's kindness and evil are exposed. The desperate atmosphere is spreading along with the music. The composer is surely very thoughtful. Besides the quick and tense rhythm, the sound of the stringed instruments is used to stabilize the radical situation, aiming to reflect the comprehensive fact on the ship: some people jump into the ocean, some are still calm and quiet; some bribe the ship's crew meanly, while some give their place to the women and the children selflessly..... When the people are running for their way to escape, the love between the heroes Rose and Jack is subliming in the danger. Watching the seat prepared for Rose on the lifeboat, she tightly holds the hands of Jack. Their hearts are melting together and cannot be separated. The theme melody "My Heart Will Go On" is played again along with the Irish whistle, romantic and tender, moving people to tears.

In a certain degree, a good piece of movie music is decisive for the movie to leave a good name forever. Taking a general survey on the world movie history, a classical movie always has universally praiseworthy movie music. Movie music plays the role of pushing and adaptation for the whole plot. Music together with the visual pictures constructs the audio-visual world on the screen. Music is a part of the plot and pushes the plot, and finish the construction of the artistic image of the movie at last.

In recent years, along with the adding of more and more popular music factors, the movie music always could attract the interests and arouse the emotional resonance of the young people. The movie music has meet people's needs for entertainment and relaxation greatly. Since the movie becomes more and more commercial, the feature of the movie music as popular culture is even more obvious. Therefore, in the future, the combination of the movie music with the popular music will be the new trend for the development of movie music. For example, as a popular song, the music "My Heart Will Go On" in "Titanic" has become the classical work in the popular music.

III. CONCLUSION

At present, the movie music has diversified styles including classical, folk and popular and so on. In the process of creating the movie music, the movie musicians are no longer content with the fact of taking the movie music as the accessory of the movie to fill in the blank of languages and

sound effects. According to the different personalities of the figures, the historical background and the storyline in the movie, they break up the traditional mode of composing, and employ different style of music language to reveal the theme of the movie. Therefore, the movie music will be on a diversified road in the future. It is because that the diversified development of the movie music will not only broaden the creative thoughts for the movie, which will deeply influence the movie art, but also will sublime and elevate the movie music in the artistic and appreciating aspect. One day in the future, there will even be some people who go the cinema because of a certain kind of movie music. Sometimes maybe a movie will be forgotten by the viewers, but the music in the movie will be handed down for a long time.