

# Artistic Aesthetics Significance of Piano Improvising Accompaniment

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**Abstract.** The piano improvising accompaniment is of high theoretical property and practical operability; it is a kind of piano improvisation which mainly depends on analysis on dynamic form of song, rhythm and musical sound and consideration on artistic conception so as to fully exert the infection of music to infect the singer's singing emotion and make the music perfectly combined with singer's sound, thus creating a beautiful music atmosphere. According to aesthetic judgment on music, the accompanist creates a kind of music form which can realize composer and lyricist's inner expression, and makes use of wonderful concord color, many types of rhythm variation, and different sound patterns and texture to show the music spirit delivered by composer and lyricist. The piano improvising accompaniment is an important pattern of presentation of artistic creation and artistic aesthetics. However, the current research on piano improvising accompaniment still remains at allocation of way of creation, and the value embodiment remains to be further enhanced. Through analysis on meaning of piano improvising accompaniment, this paper takes spiritual freedom expressed by piano accompaniment as platform to carry out exploration on aesthetic significance of musical art.

## Meaning of piano improvising accompaniment

The so-called improvisation refers to a kind of instantaneous feeling and impulsion produced by virtue of brain reaction on some special things under the condition that the brain has no rigorous thinking and sufficient preparation, and it can be also said a kind of special expression mode of artistic creation and performance under function of temporary creative thinking. The pattern of presentation of improvisation is widely applied in artistic performance, such as improvising recitation, improvising plotting, improvising singing, and improvising performance. In the process from ancient art production to diversified art development trend at present, the improvisation always develops together with specific pattern of presentation. The improvising performance always exists in western historical development of music; in recent hundreds of years, the improvising performance starts to evolve as a fashion in art circle; dated back to the 19th century, the improvising performance is still important form of musical creation. Most of musicians, such as Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach, fully show their musical talents by virtue of improvising performance, which provides wide space for musical creation. Those musicians are also excellent piano improvising performer; they play improvising wonderful notes with 10 fingers and once obtained favor from wide audience. Those musicians often have improvising performance according to their style of work conception and regard improvising performance as an important step of musical creation. Most of their classic works which have been spread up to now are bred in improvising performance.

## Artistic aesthetics significance of piano improvising accompaniment

(I) The piano improvising accompaniment can improve freedom of re-creation

In the performance process, the piano accompaniment depends on dynamic structure on melody of songs to dig out thinking essence of lyrics, carry out further integration and sublimation, adopt the best pattern of presentation to express charm of lyrics, and also adopt the beautiful harmony, sound pattern, and texture to show connotation of songs. The improvisation in improvising accompaniment not only shows that the accompanist adopts different melody to make accompaniment for different songs, or carry out artistic performance according to the singer's emotional change, but also shows that the accompanist realize perfect matching with singer's style

through flexible change of harmony, tonality, texture, and sound pattern according to different singers' different way of singing as for same song, so as to make the singing become more individual. Fundamentally speaking, the piano improvising accompaniment is re-creation of song. The re-creation is established based on the melody of original song. The multi-voice musical thoughts and way of creation are adopted to deepen the image of musical art in audience's thoughts, and improve the accompanist and singer's expressive force in shaping overall image of musical art. Therefore, the piano improvising accompanists shall make use of their own auditory aesthetics to carry out analysis and treatment on songs, select the way of sound which can most express the composer and lyricist's thought, provide songs with best piano accompaniment, and enrich harmony words, way of rhythm variation, and form of sound pattern and texture. Because the harmony words adopted in accompaniment are abundant and diversified, and the accompanying sound patterns adopted are various, the charm of harmony is fully shown; the form of accompanying texture also shows sense of multiple level, and they include various combinations and ways of presentations. The improvising accompanists make use of different accompanying way to freely express thought delivered by songs, which creates wide space for improvising accompanists to exert the music.

#### (II) The piano improvising accompaniment can expand musical imaginary space

The piano improvising accompaniment mainly transforms the inner feelings as sound form and then transforms them as specific course of sound imagination activity, which fully exerts the freedom of musical creation. The piano improvising accompanist is song re-creator. The song is a melody which consists of lyrics and musical tones; it generally gives singer and accompanist an emotional base point and emotional development point, and the expression on inner thoughts of songs must depend on piano accompaniment to make re-creation. The piano accompanist must depend on the inner aesthetic judgment to complete various forms of sound which the composer and lyricist want to express. In order to realize this re-creation, the accompanist must fully exert the creation imagination. However, the creation ability is the joint product of accompanist's experience of comprehensive iconic representation, experience of inner emotion, and experience of accumulated auditory materials. These three kinds of experience not only expand the space of musical imagination, but also let song have more artistic creation and charm. For example, the accompanist adopts artistic imagination according to general meaning of lyrics, and then plays the sound pattern and texture which conforms to this artistic conception and depicts image of musical art; the accompanist makes use of understanding on lyrics content and analysis on melody structure, and adopts rich harmony color to make melody more pleasant so as to promote emotional expression of music. Compared to other artistic creation, the musical creation highlights the aesthetic object; it not only combines with artistic feature of dynamic beauty of subject and object in reality, but also transforms external trend of subject and object into sound trend, and transforms subject's inner emotion and spiritual activity into sound form. This process is abstract and specific. In terms of trend of realistic beauty, the aesthetic object adopts integration, sublimation, and abstraction to know the structure features, adopt suitable dynamic sound structure for matching, and also adopt corresponding musical expression materials, and moving way of presentation to completion transformation of dynamic structure, so as to realize the enhancing on connotation of realistic beauty and fully show such connotation. The transformation process must be carried out according to composer's emotional mode and by use of creator's perception, emotion, imagination, and other psychological activities. Therefore, the piano improvising accompaniment is both a kind of artistic creation, and a kind of creative thinking activity.

#### (III) The piano improvising accompaniment can motivate auditory aesthetics and exert musical art association

In the process of piano improvising accompaniment, we express the harmony content of melody, apply color to musical background, describe artistic conception of songs, and add musical atmosphere through sound accompanying. The content, background, artistic conception, and atmosphere mentioned here are accompanist's musical movement combination and used to motivate audience's auditory association. In the piano accompaniment, different ranges have different way of presentation to make audience produce psychological resonance. The heavy and deep low-pitch

range brings people a sentimental and depressed psychological feeling; the resonant and plump middle-pitch range brings people a warm and steady feeling; the clear and melodious high-pitch range brings people a happy and clear feeling. The piano accompaniment makes use of different chord to motivate people's inner emotional experience through different patterns of color expression. The color expression of major triad is bright, and it can bring people a happy and strong emotion; the color expression of triad is soft, and the water brings people a peaceful and distressed feeling; the color expression of diminished triad is folding, which brings people a fearful mind; the color expression of augmented triad is unfolding, which brings people a sense of urgency, etc. All of those things are expressed through different harmony color to motivate audience's emotional association. The different way of decomposition of chord texture brings people different feelings. The semi-decomposition brings people a soft, tranquil, soft, and quiet feeling; the up and down reverse decomposition brings people a warm and cool feeling; the multi-layer decomposition is mainly description on heavy sea, flowing river, and natural scenery to show people's change of inner emotion. All of those are association produced through perfect combination of piano accompaniment and musical theme. However, as for wide audience, due to different person's different musical aesthetic standard, when they listen to same music, the different auditory feeling appears due to different personality, social experience, artistic cultivation, and ideas. Therefore, the piano improvising accompaniment can make audience have diversified association and bring people different emotional experiences, so as to fully exert association of musical art.

#### (IV) The piano improvising accompaniment can construct perfect artistic conception

In the process of vocal music performance, the piano improvising accompaniment mainly coordinates with singer to complete the deduction and explanation on song. The singer's creation thoughts, emotion, artistic performance mode, infection of artistic performance and mastering degree of thoughts of song are restricted by piano accompaniment. The piano improvising accompanists make use of different creation ways, rich range of piano, long-span change, exquisite change of speed, various variation of rhythm as well as large quantity of harmony color, sound pattern and texture method to form perfect coordination with singer and jointly create a perfect artistic space.

In the process of piano improvising accompaniment, the accompanists make use of imitating the sound of nature, infection on affective atmosphere, sound color, movement form of sound, sound image and other ways of creation to create a kind of picture background and visual imaginary space for songs so as to create perfect image of music works. For example, in the accompaniment process, the piano performer highlights the vivid scene of spring through imitating the sound and rhythm of chirp; through imitating the sound of raindrop and thundering, the performer depicts a background picture for the song. The piano accompaniment can utilize the variation of rhythm and sound pattern to show basic style feature and emotional background of songs. The tango music brings people a stylish feeling; the rumba music brings people a happy and bright feeling; the waltz brings people a kind of elegant and romantic feeling. Through different harmony color and texture, the performer depicts the musical background. For example, the major-scale harmony is used as background music to bring audience a happy and bright feeling; the minor-scale harmony is used to show a missing emotion. The rich accompaniment texture is more efficient for shaping musical image. In a word, the imitativeness, implication and symbolism of piano improvising accompaniment builds a perfect background for musical art.

#### (V) The piano improvising accompaniment can enrich the content of musical art

In the process of piano improvising accompaniment, the piano accompaniment mainly makes supplement from prelude, interlude, and epilogue of song as well as melody of song; this is a supplementary way of accompaniment, and it mainly combines with the theme of song itself to form a perfect artistic image. The supplementary way of accompaniment can improve aesthetic value of musical art background. The prelude of song is to apply colors to general content and emotion that the song intends to express as well as description background and preheat the singer's performance before the song is performed; in this stage, the singer must gradually enter into the musical scene of song through adjustment in pitch, sound velocity, rhythm, and beat; the prelude

brings singer a kind of specific artistic image so as to arouse singer's extending expression of musical emotion. The interlude refers to contrast on artistic image, emotional change, and mode of song, and it can play a transition function for emotional expression of prelude and rendering of musical atmosphere; it makes use of different emotional change to help singer push the song performance to a new high. The epilogue mainly makes use of piano accompaniment to supplement emotion of song and make bedding before completion of song, and enhance emotional expression of song so as to further sublimate main thoughts of song and realize more substantial and perfect expression of connotations of song. Besides, the prolonged sound and stop sound in the song don't mean the pause of content of song, but bring people a feeling of longing for more through this way. This is a supplement for piano accompaniment to make emotion of sound fully exerted in song and perfectly matched with melody of song so as to jointly shape artistic image of song. Therefore, the piano improvising accompaniment is a supplement to music and used to perfect formal beauty of art.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the piano improvising accompaniment is an important way of presentation of piano artistic performance; with the improvement of people's spiritual culture level, people's knowledge of piano is further developed. The piano improvising accompaniment has strong comprehensiveness; the performers make use of their mastering of harmonics, theory of composition, piano performance skills and other knowledge and apply them in piano performance. The function of piano improvising accompaniment in improving freedom of re-creation, expanding musical imaginary space, motivating auditory aesthetics judgment, constructing perfect artistic conception, enriching the content of musical art is of active significance and can promote further development of piano improvising performance.

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