

## Research of Mezzo-Soprano Singing Art and Teaching

Yuan Li

College of Music, Jiangxi University of Technology

**Keywords:** Mezzo-soprano Singing Art; Mezzo-soprano Teaching; Classification and Identification of Vocal Part; Method of Sound Production

**Abstract:** This paper is about the mezzo-soprano singing and teaching research. In the art of singing and the teaching of practical aspects, this paper summarizes the mezzo-soprano voices singing arts and teaching and learning theory, methods, and pays attention to solving the problems encountered during analysis and explanation. Research aimed at the theory of guiding significance of teaching. Furthermore, from this perspective, this paper introduces the development of modern art of Bel Canto School of singing and theory of learning, and accepts the most advanced methods of the art of singing, and promotes the present studies on the art of singing and education theory, practice ability training and development. In the following research on the mezzo-soprano singing art, this paper is divided into four parts: first, the mezzo-soprano history and development of the art of singing; Second, the mezzo-soprano voice type characteristics and singing style; Third, Division of the mezzo-soprano voice type and definition; Finally, mezzo-soprano vocal music teaching.

### Introduction

The formation and development of Mezzo-soprano singing and stylistic characteristics have gone through a long and tortuous process. Each has different characteristics and styles of art. Due to the spirit of the times and social development, their technical and artistic require constant updating and improvement with the times.

Parts division origin is polyphonic tones in the thirteenth and fourteenth century, which is generated by the formation of the Department of Music. It is a melody for parallel four or five of the simple harmonic progression, and because of male, female voice pitch difference between the octave and the natural formation of the four voices. [Begin only tenor (Terno), soprano (Soprano), alto (Sichuan to) only. After increasing the bass (Bass)] This period is of very monotone singing style (only limited performances chant music), only in the pursuit of serious, solemn emotion and artistic expression, not to mention color and expression, which was not filled by women or singing soprano, alto and other female vocal part, but by the boys to play sound. Imagine the chorus for four voices in the majestic tenor melody, lower, only weak, not important for boys to sing sound. So there is no connection between harmonic voices volume and timbre relationships.

At the 14, 15th century, choral arts developed rapidly, with 16th century cappella chorus, voice technical requirements of improvement: not only singing the part of the pitch, but also listening to other voices and sound with an emphasis on voice timbre, taking care to maintaining the balance of volume and timbre of harmony, and so on. Ordinary voices singing in the chorus are sound and non-sound-melody or it is difficult to hit by the ascending or descending tones, which is indispensable to the formation within the artistic features of voice, style, and condition. Accumulate and foster the formation and artistic independence of inner parts.

With the emergence of opera in the late 16th century and early 17th century, it flourished during the Renaissance movement, and the birth of the Italy of Bel Canto (Bel Canto school) marked the formation of the singing art. Theoretical methods and principles of singing young system. On this basis, the singer's level has been improved.

In the 18th century, mezzo-soprano voices artistic independence had not yet formed. During the 18th century to the 19th century, with the demise of the feudal system and social progress, women boldly stepped on the operatic stage, and the collapse of the dresser phenomenon occurred. Reform of the famous musician Gluck opera, emphasizing the music content subject to the literature (opera story) expression, breaking the opera and concert, the only sound Domination, regardless of formalism story content, allowing music and truly done for the purpose of the story content services, and music could be used to express and create vivid characters, so that male and female characters were all owned by the respective owners. Plus, they have been major breakthroughs in the nineteenth century singing technique, invented the "off" singing, not only to widen the range, but also solve the vocal techniques of major and difficult, which has made a breakthrough singing treble, so male singers get more satisfactory than castrato magnificent, full, howl bright, better quality of sound and better able to complete the first task of the actor.

Art songs and singing concerts rise in the 19th century, the mezzo-soprano who provide more opportunities to show and performances, but also for composers, singers provide a new writing style and performances.

In the 20th century, Bel Canto singing art of maximum features (and past different) is in pursuit of perfect timbre and full changes, not excessively exaggerated volume, unified breath and voice balance, very strong of expressive, has is good of high, and in the, and bass, exact of said, is requirements each singing who are has perfect of, and high standards of, and Almighty sex, and comprehensive of singing skills and accomplishment. Break strict voices of distinction from traditional fixed model came out, put people in a more important position, display of self, show each person's characteristics and the potential to adapt to society and scientific development. The study of traditional culture, if there is no inheritance of new vitality, it will lose the real meaning and value.

### **Sound Characteristics of Mezzo-Soprano and Its Singing Style**

Alto (Mezzo soprano) Italian translation for mezzo soprano. The girls in the Mezzo Soprano range between soprano and contralto (soprano) (Alto), so they are also called mezzo.

Mezzo Soprano in the sound partial classes is an important and indispensable to the voice, because it can not only as a melodic parts, as a soloist, but also is the main harmonic voices as chorus in the main with singing role. In the music, creation also plays the role of perfect harmony. This voice has important significance, like the relationship between the classical literature, modern literature, folk literature in the literature, there is no primary or secondary. They are interrelated, complement each other and promote each other. The development history of the vocal music proved this point. Every time the voice of fine division of labor, not only conducive to the voice to a deeper and wider field, and more to reach of the art of vocal music to improve and balance the development. In the formation and development of the voice art, Mezzo Soprano voices from birth to the gradual establishment of the art of singing, have experienced a long and tortuous development process, out of a secondary position changes for the main position, from passive to active competition in the road, eventually creating the girls music art's own value, forming a Mezzo Soprano some singing art characteristic and the singing style.

Many literary artists believe that the style is the uniqueness of the contents and forms of the works of a writer. The so-called style refers to the artistic work style. It also includes the characteristics of the ideas, the contents of the theme, and the performance of the author's moral character and personal temperament. Mezzo Soprano singing style refers to the characteristics of the Mezzo Soprano range, timbre, volume, and so on, specifically by the actual singing and processing of various types of songs, opera, and met various singing skills and formation of the difference between the other voices unique temperament, style. There are three main singing styles in the singing:

1. Lyrical style: traditionally, "also known as simple (simple) style (Cnato SPianato).
2. The coloratura style: also known as gorgeous in the traditional style (Cnaot Fiorato).
3. Theatre style: also known as recited in the traditional style (Cnaot Declanmato).

On the music style features, this general rule in the singing of the three is the same, but specific methods and training the three requirements there is a difference.

Art is based on the scientific principles of sound, integrated musical and many categories such as music, language and performance as a form of artistic expression. It is not only an art, or a science. Classification and definition of the vocal artistic voice are an important aspect of vocal music teaching. Voice classification and definition are based on natural physiological and chemical properties of vocal voice and voice of the people make distinctions and classifications. Physiological organ and composition are essentially the same, but there are differences in structure. People in the physical nuances are likely to have the results of, and voices have greater plasticity. This personalized Science Division, meets the subject of vocal music study characteristics, which reflects the principles of individualized teaching, it is also a good study results guaranteed. Mezzo-soprano sound kind of classification and definition, and is a mezzo-soprano singing the key issues. Mezzo-soprano due to innate natural conditions, dramatic soprano and mezzo-soprano voice type itself is similar to sound kind of drawn and defined more difficult to distinguish, in the performance in vocal music teaching is more complicated. If sound kind of drawn and defined this type of error occurs, light will result in delay of learning opportunity and retard the progress, which will destroy the voice.

Among the many vocal works, Division of voices, the perspectives of, based on standard schools are not the same. Timbre as a main criterion for others to register as important evidence, and so on. Practice proved, single aspects of judge is not reliable of, sound species of divided defined is a important of problem, needs to science theory made guide, on mezzo-soprano voices defined to rigorous, and seriously of attitude treats, not only to singing who of physiological conditions for defined based, voice of nature and features for identification standard, also to according to singing who accept singing method of learning status, and learning effect, of finds, full to analysis, and identification, and argument, do don't rash made conclusions. Divide the species definition is not a singing tone to measure and judge the level, couldn't sing high notes, is certainly a tenor, that alter the normal physiological state, leans up and making a hole bass no sound, or extraordinary voice of stretched throat, cannot be used to judge according to species. Acoustic classification of species definition is a matter of professional and scientific, are required by the voice doctor and vocal arts professional trained to do inspect scientific research determined. Propose the following as a kind of drawn and defined three basic principles.

Mezzo-soprano sound kind of divided on the definition should be based on sound and features to analyze and judge. Mezzo-soprano (MezzoSPonaro) ranges between soprano and contralto, so certain features of mezzo soprano, and has some characteristics of contralto. Sounds very close to the

drama of the mezzo-soprano soprano, flexibility can be comparable with the lyric soprano voice, whispered in expressiveness and dramatic soprano. Careful observation and judgment are required.

In today's vertical and deep development of singing art, art education, teaching more scientific and standardized development, voice condition good, talented, diligent student, may soon master the art. Easy singing with soprano height, then it's hard to make a judgment. Time to take a look at the usual range in the sound area, she was offered at high bass which stretch and expand the range and more convenient, easy and free. This show is more real and more accurate. In addition to this, generally speaking, people are the most natural sound show, and it is also a part of judgment factor. Mezzo-soprano voice identification, has a newer theory is based on proper singing method to determine voice part. These include breathing, resonance, and so on.

**Analyze from the Breath of Singing.** The physiology of breathing is an essential for human survival depends on instinct, breath in singing is the most difficult to resolve in the theory of the art of singing one of the most important technologies, is the key to mastering the superb singing skills and capabilities. Mezzo-soprano generally deep breathing, worse than soprano with flexibility, flavor but toughness and impact strength is strong.

**Analyze from the Position of Singing.** When it comes to singing position, will certainly think of masks, singing high was placed. Everyone's feeling according to their own body structure, establish the exact location of every note. Mezzo-soprano has a wide vocal range, high and low along with the sound of the tone, the volume of the different changes make position changes in singing. Mezzo-soprano singing position sense of consciousness, first and foremost in the throat, and gradually with height of the sound, connection and relationship of throat and mask, throat with sound strength weakens, the high position of head voice empathy feels more and more intense.

On classification and identification is a mezzo-soprano singing mezzo-soprano voices part of the arts and scientific research. While the mezzo-soprano voice classification and identification of problems to do a more detailed analysis, but these alone may not be enough to draw absolute conclusions. Determined by the mezzo-soprano special conditions. Identification of some people's voices, and may take a long period of observation, not entirely sure prior to voice and try to liberate their thinking, in alleviating the psychological burden is unduly restrictive and frame her personal conditions development space. Modern vocal development also requires us to break the absolute theory of voice constraints to fully tap the potential of each individual, characteristics, realization on personnel training.

Study of method of sound production in singing and training, singing is the most important and basic, standardized, systematic practice of singing began. In the tradition of Bel Canto school, singers and vocal music educators, there is lots of discussion of vocal exercises and lessons learned, and many Etude books, has been handed down. The most famous example is the *Album of Kong Kong Vocalism Songs*. Voice formed by way of the art and science of singing, is an excellent tradition of art-important part of the Bel Canto school.

Vocal singing method which first school early European vocal music schools and methods of teaching the art of singing Italian origin. Vocalization and Vocalise is to master the art of singing method and the primary means of learning science, the system is to improve the sound and voice technology training important part of learning. Learning is singing, singing in front of the "warm-up" The main contents indispensable. Three parts in school examinations, the selection of the actors, the vocal etudes are as prescribed must assessment (singing voice training, art songs, opera excerpts) one. This scientific teaching methods have been followed so far. There is countless bits singer in the

history of vocal training to learn soft spot. The famous soprano Veronique Mada • Orly sound practice half an hour a day, one day when that task a little practice in the morning, around noon, a half-hour practice. Famous tenor Placido Domingo, was asked whether his father taught him to use when singing vocal exercises, the answer is absolutely available. Famous lyric baritone to sing Pablo • Elvira quickly scale as the best way to develop the treble. And some singers in search of recovery, damage and loss of sound, or change their errors, is also used in voice training, and even some vocal exercises every day only professor teacher in years, seen an important way to learn vocal exercises and necessity.

Singing vocal exercises to step through a variety of different vocal training, comprehensively master the art of singing skills. Voice training methods achieve the necessary means, in order to improve the level of singing this. In basic training of the cast vocals, musical instruments, therefore, there must be very detailed and thoughtful arrangement of teaching plans and procedures, according to the specific conditions and characteristics of different students with different voices, in different phases due to their different contents and emphases. For example do not have specialized mezzo-soprano singing poor students the basis of learning and training, should raise its overall mezzo-soprano singing correctly understand concepts. If the student is a Foundation, and received a certain amount of professional learning and training, that will be in accordance with a comprehensive artistic measure, requests, and gradually improve their learning requirements.

The technology itself is not the art, and technical learning is ultimately to better express the artist's ideas, and artistic sense. Researchers shall not be in order to master the technology and learning techniques, it is important to cultivate

## **Conclusions**

We only have voice doctor in three aspects, music teachers, students participate in singing teaching, under the guidance of teachers, doctors, improve health care for the voice recognition, voice disorders is the best method of prevention.

Along with the birth, development and maturation of vocal art, the mezzo-soprano singing has become indispensable to sound kind of vocal music art in the world. Today we separate the species, studying its history, sound quality, style, and mezzo-soprano vocal music teaching, this is my study in the teaching of vocal music in recent years in the process of exploration and research. The art of vocal music teaching, is a very wide knowledge, which itself is under continuous development, is also endless forever. Research of mezzo-soprano singing and teaching this just inspired. Our experts and our colleagues will study more results along the way, and constantly

## **References**

- [1] Appelman D R. The science of vocal pedagogy: Theory and application[M]. Indiana University Press, 1967.
- [2] Holding L. Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences[J]. Journal of Singing, 2009, 66(2): 193.
- [3] Mitchell H F, Kenny D T. The impact of 'open throat' technique on vibrato rate, extent and onset in classical singing[J]. Logopedics Phoniatrics Vocology, 2004, 29(4): 171-182.

- [4] Pettersen V, Westgaard R H. The association between upper trapezius activity and thorax movement in classical singing[J]. *Journal of Voice*, 2004, 18(4): 500-512.
- [5] Heman-Ackah Y D, Dean C M, Sataloff R T. Stroboscopedaryngoscopic findings in singing teachers[J]. *Journal of Voice*, 2002, 16(1): 81-86.
- [6] Erickson M L, Perry S, Handel S. Discrimination functions: can they be used to classify singing voices?[J]. *Journal of Voice*, 2001, 15(4): 492-502.
- [7] Hinman M F L. Slogans for singers[M]. G. Schirmer (inc.), 1936.
- [8] Wagner R. *Der Ring Des Nibelungen*=: *The Ring of the Nibelung*[M]. Leyerle Publications, 2003.
- [9] Holding L. The Mind's Mirrors[J]. *Journal of Singing*, 2010, 66(5): 585.
- [10] Huff-Gackle L. The young adolescent female voice (ages 11-15): Classification, placement, and development of tone[J]. *The Choral Journal*, 1985: 15-18.