

# Application of Chinese Traditional Culture in Dance Sports Creation

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**Abstract.** Dance sport has been spread in China for more than thirty years, promoting the development of China's diversified art. Nowadays, in order to attract more people to participate in the dance sports in China, some experts and scholars advocate dance sports highlight Chinese characteristics and development, thus there is a situation in which the Chinese element is used to perform the dance sports.

## Introduction

Dance sport is a product of modern Western society, which combines competitive fitness, leisure, entertainment and social etiquette as an entirety. There are not so many Chinese traditional culture elements in dance sports, and most of Chinese dance sports and lovers tend to imitate Western dance sports form and content, including music, costumes, action and makeup, etc.

However, we are in a new era, and if the development of dance sports remains static, it won't get innovation and further development. In order to attract more people to participate in the dance sports in China, it is very essential to integrate Chinese traditional culture elements into dance sports, and carry forward the extensive and profound Chinese traditional culture through dance sports. In this paper, through empirical analysis, we explore the possibilities and ways of integration of dance sports and Chinese traditional cultural elements.

## Empirical Study on Integration of Dance sports and Chinese Traditional Cultural Elements

In recent years, Chinese dance sports begins trying to explore the use of traditional elements, rather than blindly copy the western model. In order to conduct empirical study on integration of dance sports and Chinese traditional cultural elements, here we collect seventeen typical dance sports works, from World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF), International Dance Sports Federation (IDSF), Chinese Dance Sports Federation (CDSF), British Blackpool Dance Festival, CCTV Dance Competition and Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Chinese dance sports works

| Works Name            | Event   | Category                     |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Dream                 | Blackpool Dance Festival                          | Standard dance (queue dance) |
| Blue and White        | Blackpool Dance Festival                          | Standard dance (queue dance) |
| Jasmine Flower        | Blackpool Dance Festival                          | Latin dance (queue dance)    |
| Flying                | Blackpool Dance Festival                          | Latin dance (queue dance)    |
| Ambush on All Sides   | CCTV Dance Competition                            | Latin dance (queue dance)    |
| Leave                 | CCTV Dance Competition                            | Latin dance (duet dance)     |
| Tango Variations      | CCTV Dance Competition                            | Standard dance (duet dance)  |
| Ge Zi You Dao         | CBDF Hyun Dance Chinese Dream                     | Standard dance (queue dance) |
| Disciple Gauge        | Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion | Standard dance (queue dance) |
| Marriage              | Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion | Standard dance (duet dance)  |
| Farewell to Cambridge | Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion | Standard dance (duet dance)  |

| Alley Image               | Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion | Latin dance               |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Mei Dong                  | China Dance sports Open                           | Latin dance (duet dance)  |
| Western Sings             | World Dance sports Festival Opening Ceremony      | Latin dance (queue dance) |
| Thirteen Girls in Jinling | National Sports Art Festival                      | Latin dance (queue dance) |
| Breeze Bamboo             | TV Dance Competition in Northeast China           | Latin dance (queue dance) |
| Tai Chi Feng              | Colorful Guizhou Dance Competition                | Latin dance (queue dance) |

**Folk Music Elements.** Music becomes a necessity of life and condiments, making the original monotonous life more colorful. Because of its unique charm, music has developed into an elegant art and an ancient social science today. Music and dance are as close as indivisible lovers. Dance sports music was spread from entertainment in South America, Latin America and European countries, so it can reflect the social form. To cope with the music of a certain rhythm and style, it gave rise to a certain matching dance style. No matter which country and which nation, its music has a different way of expression, and each beat and melody represents unique emotion and cultural connotation. If we do not have a deep understanding in dance sports charm and cultural connotation, Chinese dance sports would never get further development.

Through analysis of the seventeen works, we find that only one piece of work has not been integrated with Chinese musical instruments. Of the rest sixteen works, five are played only by Chinese instruments, and eleven are played jointly by Chinese traditional instruments and Western musical instruments, as shown in Figure 1.

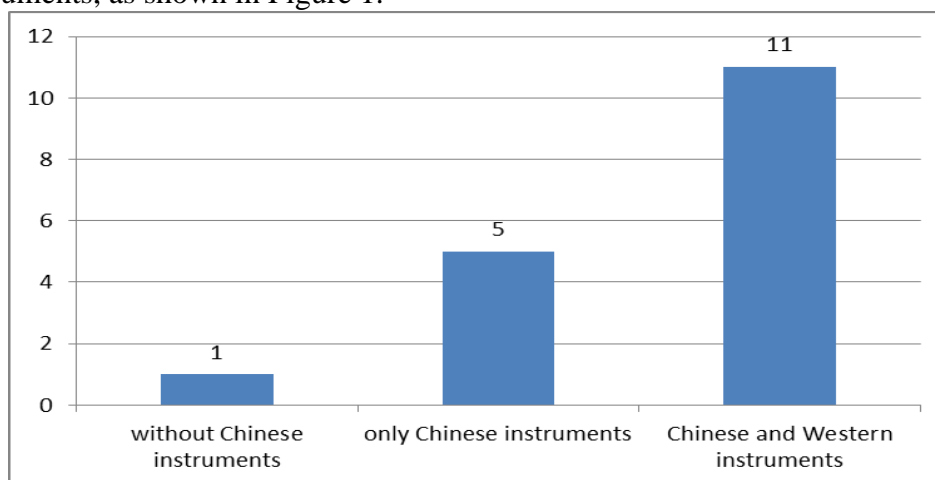


Figure 1. Application of Chinese instruments

Most of the dance sports music integrates Chinese folk music as the soundtrack. Chinese folk music was created and written in the work and life of the Chinese people, with long years of accumulation, so it embodies the Chinese nation's outstanding traditional culture. Try to apply Chinese classical and pop music in dance sports would not only helps to pass on and carry forward the Chinese national culture, but also is easier for Chinese dancers to comprehend western form of music and its cultural connotation, and contributes to the promotion of dance sports in China.

**Traditional Clothing Elements.** Clothing plays an important role in human life, for cover, insulation and beauty. Along with the development of human society civilization, clothing aesthetic is improving, and clothing industry presents a diversified development trend.

Stage clothing is used to reflect the beauty of movement, art and physique of the human body. From the perspective of artistic expression, clothing is like the dancers dance moves, jointly undertaking the performance of the dance features and dance theme. Dance sports are competitive and ornamental programs, so clothing can be described as a major part of dance sports. Dance sports clothing takes the criterion to reveal the beauty of the human body, such as elegant solemn

standard dance, and passionate Latin dance, etc. Due to the different styles and demand for dance movements, different clothing is designed into different styles, fabrics and colors, which are associated with the features of the dance.

In the past, China's dance sports clothing designers tended to follow the western fashion trends, and imitates the style, fabric, color of the West. However, western dance sports athletes are quite different from Chinese athletes, in terms of skin color, height and appearances, so western clothing is often not suitable for Chinese dance sports. Adding Chinese traditional elements in dance sports clothing and makeup, would not only meet the aesthetic needs of the Chinese audience, but also help Chinese dance sport athletes avoid the weaknesses.

Of the seventeen dance sports works, fifteen of them embody Chinese elements, and there are variety of elements and fusion modes, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Chinese dance sports works

| Works Name                | Elements Type   | Fusion Mode                              |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Dream                     | Han Dynasty costumes, drama                                   | Cuff, headwear                           |
| Blue and White            | Folk artifacts  | Skirt, hat                               |
| Jasmine Flower            | Famous songs  | Skirt, headwear                          |
| Flying                    | The image of the goddess of the Dunhuang murals               | Ribbons on wrist, headwear               |
| Ambush on All Sides       | Terracotta  | skirt, neckline, shoulder                |
| Leave                     | Women's clothing in the old Shanghai in the Republic of China | Dress, hairstyle, collar                 |
| Tango Variations          | None  | None                                     |
| Ge Zi You Dao             | Opera, Changing Faces   | Mask, headwear                           |
| Disciple Gauge            | ZhongShanZhuang, Tai Chi nosy                                 | Color, collar, buttons, cuff             |
| Marriage                  | Chinese traditional wedding dress                             | Standard dance (duet dance)              |
| Farewell to Cambridge     | Peach Cup International Standard Dance Completion             | Buttons                                  |
| Alley Image               | Common clothing of Chinese ordinary people                    | Pattern, flower, collar, buttons         |
| Mei Dong                  | Embroidery, opera   | Skirt, long sleeves, headwear, hairstyle |
| Western Sings             | Chinese minority costumes                                     | Color, headwear, skirt                   |
| Thirteen Girls in Jinling | Women's clothing during the war of resistance against Japan   | Whole dress                              |
| Breeze Bamboo             | Endemic plant of China  | Whole dress color                        |
| Tai Chi Feng              | Tai Chi nosy map  | Color, collar, buttons                   |

**Martial Arts Elements.** For dance, body movement is the core and fundamental element. Dance takes human body as a medium, rhythmic and beautiful body movement as main form of expression, therefore, the loss of an action element is also a complete loss of the nature of the dance.

Chinese culture is broad and profound, and content and artistic form of Chinese martial arts and dance is very rich. Firstly, Chinese martial arts are treasures of Chinese traditional culture, with distinctive national characteristics. It focuses on the unity of essence, qi and spirit. From the perspective of the development of Chinese martial arts and its style characteristics, to some extent, Chinese martial arts have something in common, because they both have competitive sports properties and performance art.

Based on the original movement of dance sports, apply the Chinese martial arts to the dance sports, and coordinate the relationship between martial arts and dance sports movement elements and music, would not only make the dance sports performance form looks more novel, but also promote the traditional culture of China to a certain extent. For example, in dance sports work “Banquet”, the dance uses the elements of Chinese classical dance and modern dance, and based on the basic technical skills of dance sports, blend modern and traditional dance spirit, to create a unique dance style.

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