

Analysis on the Music Preparation of "Monkey King: Hero is Back"

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Abstract—In Disney's musical-like animated film trend, "Monkey King: Hero is Back" (hereinafter referred to as "Hero is Back") can be said to spell out a way to survive, it uses a large number of Chinese style music and oriental music instruments, so that to mark a strong China imprint for the whole film from the visual effect. This article will focus on the analysis of the dubbing and soundtrack art of the film to understand the film's audio-visual design process.

Keywords—*Hero is back; music; preparation; fit degree*

I. INTRODUCTION

"Monkey King: Hero is Back" is a 3D animated movie which expand and interpret based on the traditional Chinese fairy tale "Monkey King". It is directed by Tian Xiaopeng and joint dubbed by Zhang Lei, Lin Zijie, Liu Jiurong, Tong Zirong etc. It tells the story that the Monkey King who was lonely locked up under the Wuxing Mountain for five hundred years accidentally freed by the child Tangseng - common name Jiang Liuer, and later he find his original intention during the adventure trip with each other's accompany and finally complete his self-redemption. After the film released on July 10, 2015 in the form of 2D, 3D, IMAX in China, its excellent reputation caused hot pursuit of the audiences and netizen and widespread reports of the medias. In September 2015, the film won the first 30th China Golden Rooster Award for best cartoon film award and the 12th China Golden Dragon Award for best animated feature film golden award. And it created a whole new history for Chinese animated movie with nearly one billion Box office, it has become a phenomenal domestic animated film work.

Such a good movie is naturally inseparable with outstanding music. Music plays an important role in the work of art, especially in movie this comprehensive art form. The right music can create an atmosphere of movie characters and scenes. For characters, it highlights the psychology of the characters, creates three-dimensional characters. From the plot, different styles of music can set the tone for the entire story development and narrative rhythm. From the theme, it can play the role for sublimation of film theme. There is no doubt that film as a comprehensive art form is inseparable from the music's contrast. "Hero is back" validated this point of view. The film invited strength dubbing actors, experienced voice engineers and national treasure level singers, which may be described as powerful

combination. In addition, the episodes of the film mostly use Chinese-style musical instruments, the march-like folk music instrumental ensembles create a impassioned, pressing harder and harder atmosphere and momentum. And finally it through this Chinese music style to create a Chinese hero which can cause people's resonance and evoke their memories.

However, due to limited funds and time, and sound effects did not reach perfect, such as the film episode "Brave heart" does not fit well with the film, it has a better version and other issues. But we look forward with full of joy the future creations will become better and better, "Hero is back" will be another new starting point for the development of Chinese animated film.

II. CAREFULLY PREPARE THE ROLES MUSIC

A. Select the Dubbing Actor Depending on Different Character's Personality

Monkey king (Mandarin) - Zhang Lei: The main character is Monkey King, make a good dubbing for his voice is critical to make successful shaping for him. Monkey King's voice belongs to warm male type. Warm Male means safe and warm, hard working, open-minded, responsible, give people the feeling of sunshine, which also are the character's personality. The director once said in an interview: "Monkey king is a very rebellious, very chivalrous hero character, it feels more like a middle-aged uncle." But, after all the prototype is a monkey, so it is necessary to characterize the devil and beast in his voice, the roar belongs to primates is indispensable, and dubbing actor Zhang Lei is an experienced dubbing actor and dubbing director. In the film, he uses proper and variable voices, manic or warm, make vividly expression for the character's personality: In the beginning when he was rescued by Jiang Liuer from ice, the bestiality which depressed for five hundred years through some muffled roar it manifests itself; then when face the "entanglement" of Jiang Liuer this die-hard fan, voice and expression unity demonstrate his freaking out, after a groan turning into frustration; former domineering God of War, now seal unsolved monkey. Uninhibited pride and frustration to be manifested at the same time is not easy, and when Jiang Liuer said he is going to chant scriptures for the Monkey king, the warm and bitterness were interpreted by the "You little kid". The dubbing actor's strength was underlined by it.

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Jiang Liuer (Mandarin) - Lin Zijie, Ji Ji: Since Jiang Liuer in the film is a child, so his voice mainly is the little dubbing actor Lin Zijie, partly is an adult dubbing actor Ji Ji. Lin Zijie is a child, so he dubbed for Jiang Liuer, plus acting, naturally very real, especially the kind of childish feeling is what an adult dubbing actor can not achieve. However, in the character shaping and the complex feelings change aspects the child can not be competent, and some very strong emotional outbursts need to be performed by a more mature dubbing actor, Ji Ji with his skillful dubbing techniques to make up for this problem. So in fact the film selects a true child and adult combination two dubbing actors for Jiang Liuer. The most often line for Jiang Liuer is: Da Sheng. The same line, for first time it is shouted as worship; after the fighting start, it means concern; express the poor feeling after begging failed; shouted at the end of the film only left the moved feeling. From the voice design for Jiang Liuer reflects the director spends big ideas in the production process and make strict requirement for every detail.

Demon king Hun Dun (Mandarin) - Tong Zirong: Tong Zirong, a well-known name to so many fans, his dubbing experience is a history. Just listening to his voice, I believe there will be lot of fans. Bright and handsome, gorgeous tone and full of noble elegance quality. In the film he can accurately grasp the character's personality. When dubbing for the demon king Hun Dun, he was an old man with nearly seven-year-old age, but his sound was still mildly and bright. He was known by dubbing for Zorro and then he dubbed this character after his retirement, the vitality of professional dubbing actor is so exuberant, and he injected a needle of strength for "Hero is back".

Far Ming (Mandarin) - Wu Wenlun: Mr. Wu Wenlun and Mr. Tong Zirong both are the veteran level dubbing actors, and Mr. Wu also is an actor, which makes his dubbing work as vivid as his performance, lively and full. Whether the Pomo Xianren in "Shenbi Maliang", or the Master Wugui in "Kung Fu Panda", and to the Master Fa Ming, his voice endowed with a wise old man image.

B. Prepare the Adapted Music Depend on the Entrance of Different Characters

Because Monkey King experienced the havoc in heaven and then locked up under the Wuxing Mountain for five hundred years, from the former god of war to today's normal monkey, he became unconcern and mania but difficult to give up the chivalrous feelings, later he was moved by Jiang Liuer bit by bit, slowly turned into a warm father figure, and ultimately return to a real hero. So for the entrance music of the Monkey King, Huang Yinghua consults the Western film lone cowboy entrance situation, cool and mysterious, and also with the sound of whistles. Also designed a male bass in order to enlarge his inner loneliness and vicissitudes, later the music becomes warmer and warmer and the feeling becomes more and more full. For the entrance music of Jiang Liuer, Huang Yinghua uses clarinet and oboe, because these bright sounds are very innocent. The entrance of "Tudi Gonggong" uses some treble flute, feels very naughty. Pigsy because in his heart still feel he is Marshal canopy, but with a pig appearance, so Huang Yinghua uses a few bass aria

improvisation to express he's funny and helpless. In the performance of the big demon king Hun Dun, Huang Yinghua adds a little Japanese "Noh" element to his aria, sounds a bit eerie and strange. And in the sacrifice scene, he specially design an opera singing for the demon king in order to enrich the role and increase the dramatic effect of the film, Chinese style is more intense. At 1 when the mountain demons on stage, at first use some Chinese drum, but later replace them with Japanese "Taiko", because the Taiko was originally used in the exorcism ritual.

III. SELECT THE CLASSIC FOLK MUSIC AS BACKGROUND MUSIC

A. Select Traditional Music As the Episode Music

"Chuangjiang ling" is the background music of the Monkey King caused the havoc in heaven and also is the background music of the entrance of Money King. When this music started to play, his handsome red cape waved in the wind. National orchestral ensemble "Chuangjiang ling" was finished by the national music musicians Yu Huiyong and Hu Dengtiao together in 1958, it is a Chinese folk music work from the era of the Great Leap Forward which described the heroes on all battlefronts always step forward and indomitable spirit, full of vitality and spirit of forging ahead. It is a national orchestral ensemble, lead with suona, later add gong and other national instruments, the band is fast-paced, high-pitched and full of marching sense, sound and picture combined impassioned. This part is a tribute to the classic cartoon "Monkey King" with a very strong sense of substitution, also make a perfect performance for the shining Monkey King.

"Zheng Feng" adapted from the clip of Liu Dehai's Pipa music "Bawang Xiejia", early it appeared in Stephen Chow's movie "Kung Fu" as the Guzheng ensemble played by Sandong Qinmo Tiancan Dique, The Qinmo brothers use the sound of Guzheng as weapon, the inflectional music wave is sharp and powerful. The sound of Guzheng is natural and smooth, just like the Monkey King beat the demons, at this point is very fit. But the Monkey King's weapon is a stick, this clip only has beating sound, but lack of stick waving sound, if raise the stick audio, it will make the flight more powerful and more fit with the music, so that the entire reference makes some actions do not step on the point and the power is not enough.

"Xiaodaohui Overture" this background music appears in the end of the film when Monkey King transferring, lead the entire film to a climax and make people's blood boil. In the beginning use Suona to create a majestic momentum, so to make the majestic characters figures. Next is continue to make theme sublimation, the adding of pipa and erhu is to enrich the expressive force of the music. A lot of Stephen Chow's movies have this background music, usually is the entrance music of the heroes. 2015 "Hero is back" once again used the music segment. This overture is the finishing touch of the films, we can see that this is a rare classical music and it can be called the classic soundtrack of Chinese films.

B. *The Effect Evaluation of Prepared Folk Music*

Use suona, Guzheng, flute and other instruments, either solo or ensemble, all filled with Chinese style, at this point the tribute to the classics pull back Chinese animated film from foreign worship. The widely use in the background music of "Hero is back" is because the director wants to relieve the classic arts in memory through Chinese style music.

Use folk music as soundtrack will inevitably cause the sound not rich, the symphonic version soundtrack shows the hard work of the music artist, Huang Yinghua himself is good at doing music with full of Chinese style, which is also the reason why director chose him for the soundtrack of the film.

The same animated film "Kung Fu Panda" in the fight clips make more careful process to the music, the sound effect is very good: stick swinging shoop sound, panda belly bouncing sound, the animals lower bark sound. Action scenes often use more powerful and rich sound of drums or the magnificent symphony and march, and the sound is customized for the film, so that the sound has a fit degree and personality.

In addition to folk music accompaniment, there are many fragments use chorus, concertos and other international methods, the audio processing is very good, when enjoy the movie in theaters the first time, will still be shocked by the music. But every fan is holding good wishes for the national animated film can do better and create more original things out, music artist can be more carefully to every creation.

IV. THE PREPARATION OF MOVIE PROMOTION TRACK

A. *The Selection of Official Version Track*

Theme Song: Singapore Soul singer Chen Jieyi to sing the theme song of the film "Former myself", take you into a period of amazing journey which annihilated in the thousand years: When the monk has not enlightened yet, hero lost his magic power, can the unexpected reunion in the nine reincarnations rewrite fate? Even demons still in power, warm blood still getting cold, path is always vaguely, future has already been written, how does those laughter and tears mean nothing? All the way to the west, it is dream not the road that can not look back; persistent fighting, firmly saved not only others but also inner heart." Turn back is not say goodbye, separation but can not be apart, if you met the former myself, please bring him back." ⑤ The official version MV of the theme song once released then it has obtained a high popularity and it has become the signature track of "Hero is back" and is familiarized by people. The lyric is written by the director, music arranged by the music artist, so it has a high fit degree with the film, warm song coupled with the singer's delicate interpretation brightened the film.

Episode: Wang Feng's "Brave heart" is not specifically created for the film, but the director felt it fit the scene. In fact it could have done a good job, let the Chinese audience to hear familiar Chinese musicians singing Chinese songs in the theater, it can be said to be a breakthrough in Chinese animated films. But it is unsatisfactory, Wang Feng only

provide the CD version of the song, there is nothing particularly high quality. This makes the connection between the episode and the film particularly reluctant. It is the worst failing among the few failings in this film. At the same time it reflects the animated film was not taken seriously in the film market, and some musician's benefit-only concept.

B. *Comparison of the Unofficial Version Track*

The unofficial version MV track Dai Quan's "Wukong" with its extremely high rate of praise was considered by the audience to be the perfect fit with the film. Dai Quan and his "Wukong" first appeared in front of people is the original song show "Song of China", he was selected by his tutor with this song. In this song he added some elements of Chinese opera to make it full of Chinese style. The Monkey King is not a simple plane heroic image, China's hero itself has a tragic colors. Wukong this image is the pride mixed with some frustration. The author used this song to make a good interpretation of this understanding and he built a full three-dimensional shape of Wukong. Not only a perfect match with the film temperament, but also a perfect match with the image and the character itself. Songwriter and lyric writer are both Dai Quan, he is very obsessive with Wukong, only with a deep passion, he could created such a distinguished work. Director also thought to put the song in the film, but it needed to re-adjust the rhythm and screen of the film to match it, and the fund and time were all limited at that time. However, in order to satisfy the fans, the premiere invited Dai Quan, and the director said the sequel may use the song.

V. CONCLUSION

Music requires a high degree of fit with the film so that it could add extra points for the film. This is a test of whether the director has a high requirement for the film, whether the director is a perfectionist. I guess director Tian Xiaopeng is such a meticulous perfectionist who has a high requirement to the film. But the director also admits that because of limited time and funds, there is room for improvement. Although use the Hollywood story structure, but different with the "Kung Fu Panda", "Mulan" and other Western-style Chinese films, this time is Chinese people with Chinese-style thinking to tell Chinese own story, so the design and detail are close to oriental abstract, and the music will use a lot of oriental elements. From music to see big things, Chinese animation is not lack of talents, it is lack of dedication and sincere heart. "Golden Monkey rose supremely stick, clear the whole universe", in the national revival aggressive point, the return of the hero now is no doubt in favor with the general public. This stick no doubt opens in a window in the dreary world of domestic animated film filed, and builds the development confident and the a new hope for the revitalization of domestic animation business.

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