

Gen Dequan's Contribution to Yunnan National Musical Instrument Cucurbit Flute Art

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Abstract—Cucurbit flute is one of the most distinctive national musical instruments in Yunnan. It carries the folk customs of the Dai nationality people and is an important symbol of the culture of the Dai nationality people. With love for the art of cucurbit flute, Gen Dequan has devoted his life to hoarding cucurbits. The fields involved are the production of cucurbit flute, playing techniques, timbre transformation, and composition of music. It is known as the founder of Yunnan's unique national musical instrument. He improved and standardized the manufacturing process of cucurbit flute, and made the regulation of cucurbit flute's tonality, and expanded the cucurbit flute's sound range and enriched the tone of cucurbit flute. He came from the village of Lianghe and pushed the cucurbit flute culture to an unprecedented height. He was hailed as a master of the cucurbit flute and the cucurbit flute king. Through the close connection between the development of Jude and the culture of cucurbit, the reform of the production process and regulation of cucurbit, the specification of the teaching and playing method of cucurbit, the cultivation, inheritance and promotion of the talents of cucurbit, this article introduced his contribution to the art of cucurbit flute in detail.

Keywords—Gen Dequan; cucurbit flute reform; standardized teaching; music creation; inheritance and promotion

I. INTRODUCTION

Gen Dequan, Dai nationality, was born in July 1958 in Bangjie Village by Mengyang River, Lianghe County, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province. Since childhood, he loved music. When he was 10 years old, he started to learn how to play and make cucurbits followed his grandfather and grandfather. He had a high reputation in the performance and production of cucurbit. [1] He devoted his life to the career of cucurbit, and achieved high achievements in the performance and production of cucurbit and the teaching and inheritance of cucurbit. The group of lectures covers students from China, Japan, Italy, France, etc. He promoted the unique national art of cucurbit flute, which is unique to Yunnan, and also conveyed the rich Yunnan folk music culture.

II. EXCELLENT TALENT AND THE HELP OF OTHERS — THE ARTISTIC CAREER OF GEN DEQUAN

According to the villagers' memories, when Gen Dequan was still a child, he was particularly sensitive to cucurbit flute. Still in his infancy, whenever he cried, as long as his

grandfather or aunt took out the cucurbit flute and played, the crying stopped and changed for a sweet expression, it seems that he understood the content of the cucurbit flute music. When he was a teenager, he always played cucurbit flute on the cattle or horse' back when he was laying cattle or horses in the mountains, and then began to ponder the fingering of cucurbit flute, squeaking, portamento, sound, vibrato, internal ventilation (circulation and ventilation) and other playing skills. Because he is too invested, he often forgets the time to go home when it was dark. In his youth, he had become a worker. Due to the busy work, he could only learn and study cucurbit flute while others were resting. He used his spare time outside of work to go deep into the country to find famous artists, humbly ask for advice, learn from the teacher, and study the craftsmanship and performance skills of the cucurbit flute. [2] But the progress had not been great until the encounter with the saviors of life - Gong Jiaming and Li Zhongpei; the two teachers gave Jude the great help and guidance, and revolutionized his cucurbit flute art road. Under the guidance of the two teachers, Gen Dequan studied the theory of music theory, the methods and techniques of playing music, the four-part chorus, and the analysis of music scores in a comprehensive and systematic way, and combined theory with practice. This made the path of the cucurbit flute art of Gen Dequan go further and wider.

III. CONCENTRATING ON RESEARCH, REFORM AND INNOVATION — GEN DEQUAN'S CREATION OF CUCURBIT FLUTE

With the love of cucurbit flute art, Gen Dequan devoted himself to the production of cucurbit flute, made preliminary specifications for the production process, and made significant contributions to the standard of the cucurbit flute and the expansion of sound range of the cucurbit flute. In particular, in 2000, he founded the "Cucurbit Flute Art Studio" in Mengyang of Lianghe, which contributed to the economic development of Mengyang and played a role in promoting the professional and standardized development of the hometown's cucurbit flute. [3] The team of folk cucurbit flute produced by the folks under the leadership of Gen Dequan went to his cucurbit flute art studio to learn and exchange each other, and together they gradually embarked on the development path of standardization and specialization. The improved cucurbit flute rushed out of China and was loved by people of all nationalities in the world.

A. Regulating the Production Process of Cucurbit Flute, Making the Cucurbit Flute in Diversified Development

Since the establishment of the "Gen Dequan Music Studio" in 2000, Gen Dequan has seriously studied the defects in the traditional cucurbit flute production process and made up for it. First of all, in terms of materials and appearance, the main pipe and two attached pipes of Gen Dequan's cucurbit flutes are made of black bamboo with high quality, and the appearance is made of a delicate pyrography without chemical treatment. He also pays great attention to the selection of the cucurbit. The size of the selected cucurbit must be proportional to the size of the tone and the thickness of the bamboo, and then process the cucurbit. The length and thickness of the bamboo are determined by the adjustment of the cucurbit flute. It is better to use a dry black bamboo with a well-balanced inner and outer diameter and straight and crack-free. On the selected black bamboo, use a pencil to draw the position of each tone hole, and then punch. The tone is the soul of the instrument. Gen Dequan's requirements for the cucurbit flute tone are extremely high. For the reed, which is the most important part of the cucurbit tone, the reed is refined and completely cut, opened and scraped. After the whole cucurbit flute was hand-built, Gen Dequan all personally tuned each cucurbit flute. In the end, the cucurbit flute is pure and beautiful, the overall volume is large, save the air when played, the treble is loud and the sensitivity is good, the bass is thick and the pronunciation is pure and powerful, the appearance is elegant and generous, exquisite but not fancy.

Based on the accumulation experience of cucurbit flute for many years, Gen Dequan believes that to make a cucurbit flute with good tone and durability, two key problems must be solved, namely: the pest control of the cucurbit and the anti-rust treatment of the copper reed. In order to solve these two problems, he and his companions have done various experiments and explorations, for example, soaking the cucurbit with a traditional Chinese medicine to achieve the purpose of preventing insects from licking the cucurbit; for another example, the copper reed is bitten with dry lime to prevent the copper reed from the rusting to affect the tone. At the same time, the sound quality depends not only on the anti-rust treatment of the copper reed, but also on the toughness and thickness of the copper reed, the craftsmanship of the craftsman, and the level of the sound engineer. The cucurbit flutes made by Gen Dequan have changed the shortcomings of the folk cucurbits, such as poor timbre, inaccurate sound, not durable, and narrow range. Through years of research, he has made the cucurbits a variety of situations. Such as professional detachable cucurbit flute, professional adjustable detachable embossed cucurbit flute, professional rosewood cucurbit flute, three-tone black bamboo cucurbit flute, high-grade rosewood cucurbit flute, three-tone adjustable black bamboo cucurbit flute, mid-range cucurbit flute, the three-tone adjustable black bamboo cucurbit flute, the professional black bamboo bau, etc., meeting the needs of people at different levels.

B. Solving the Problem of Chorus and Improving the Ability of Instrument Collaboration

The earliest cucurbit flute has a single tone and cannot be combined with the band and the piano. In order to change this

situation, Gen Dequan has completely changed the arbitrariness of cucurbit flute production, non-tonalization, and inaccurate tone of the folk inheritance cucurbit flute. The preliminary process of the production process and steps of cucurbit flute was carried out, and the folklore folk musical instruments were converted to professional national musical instruments. After painstaking research, he made standard instruments in the treble category (small G, small F, small bE, small C, small D), standard alto instruments (bB, A), standard bass instrument (big G, big F, big bE, big D, big C, big bB). This is not only the classification but also maintains the original tone and style of the cucurbit flute, which not only expands the range but also increases the volume and enhances the expressive power. At the same time, Gen Dequan also improved the reeds, raw materials, appearance and tuning in the production of cucurbit flute. Therefore, the original rough, poor pronunciation cucurbit flute is further made into a relatively standardized national musical instrument.

How did Gen Dequan do it? First, he chooses the length of the main pipe according to different tones. For example, to make a high-pitched cucurbit flute (29 cm for the C and 25 cm for the D), make a bass cucurbit flute (35 cm for the A and 31.5 cm for the B). Secondly, the different pitch of holes on the main pipe can give different adjustments. First divide the main pipe into three equal parts, the cucurbit takes up one copy, and the other two are punched and reed at a certain distance. Third, assemble the attached pipe, strict sound, ensuring the pitch of the attached pipe is the same as the pitch of the 3 sounds of the second hole, or modified. [3]

C. Expanding the Range of Cucurbit Flute and Enhancing Musical Expression

The early cucurbit flute had only 5 tones (1 2 3 5 6), and later developed into 8 tones (5̣ 6̣ 7̣ 1 2 3 5 6). Later, with the literary and art workers, Gen Dequan worked hard to explore and changed the 7 holes of the traditional cucurbit to 9 holes, expanding the range. The modified cucurbit flute can be played with a lift sound of less than half a degree by the control of breath and fingering. The improved cucurbit flute has been extended to 11 tones (3 4 5 6̣ 7̣ 1 2̣ 3̣ 4 5 6). However, Gen Dequan is not satisfied. He has repeatedly studied and expanded to 13 tones (3 4 5 6̣ 7̣ 1 2̣ 3̣ 4 5 6 7 1), and the pronunciation is accurate, which conforms to the principle of the twelve-average law.

Through years of research, he has made the cucurbits a variety of situations. Such as professional detachable cucurbit flute, professional adjustable detachable embossed cucurbit flute, professional rosewood cucurbit flute, three-tone black bamboo cucurbit flute, high-grade rosewood cucurbit flute, three-tone adjustable black bamboo cucurbit flute, mid-range cucurbit flute, the three-tone adjustable black bamboo cucurbit flute, the professional black bamboo bau, etc., meeting the needs of people at different levels.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTBOOKS, AND CREATION OF MUSIC — GEN DEQUAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE TEACHING OF CUCURBIT FLUTE

A. *Development and Regulation of Cucurbit Flute Textbooks*

His student, Gao Xingguo, once said: "Mr. Gen's previous study of cucurbit flute was to use the spare time to go deep into the country and ask the folk artists in humility. Because each artist's playing fingers and techniques are inconsistent, he needs to sum up and draw the essence to get rid of it. He hopes that the cucurbit flute can be taught as the piano." [4]

In May 2000, led by Gen Dequan, and his apprentices Li Chunhua and Yang Zhiyu, together with extremely hard efforts, co-edited the first Chinese cucurbit flute teaching monograph "Cucurbit flute, Bau Voiced Course", in December 2002, With the help of the artist of Gen Dequan et al, Li Chunhua compiled the Practical Course of Cucurbit flute, Bau.

"Cucurbit flute, Bau Voiced Course" introduces the use of hand shape, the use of breath, the avoidance of sound "gu", and the practice and application of portamento, beating tone, summation tone, tremolo, finger tremolo and gas tremolos. At the same time, it introduces cucurbit flute techniques such as T, TK, TTK, and cycle ventilation. "Practical Course of Cucurbit flute, Bau" introduces the basic knowledge of cucurbit flute more systematically, to strengthen the basic exercises from introductory practice to breath, finger skills, tongue techniques, fingering exercises, and finally through the solo. The publication of these two sets of textbooks has revolutionized the traditional way of teaching cucurbits, and the inheritance of cucurbit flute has gone from the way of masters and apprentices to the diversified development direction that has been promoted to the world through music score.

B. *The Creation of Gen Dequan's Cucurbit Flute Music and Its Characteristics*

Gen Dequan is a card of the cucurbit flute culture that recorded a large number of cucurbit flute discs in his lifetime. From the 1988 release of the disc "cucurbit flute, little stuffy flute solo" to 1998 released the first album CD "Warm Pau", followed by the release of "The Dai culture", "There is a beautiful place", "Yunnan folk music — places people yearn for" and "Red Sun", "Gen Dequan's full solo cucurbit flute VCD", "Daffodil", "The 50th ensemble of Gen Dequan's full cucurbit flute", "Gen Dequan's full cucurbit flute gold song selection", "Yunnan impression", "Lianghe passion — the essence of Gen Dequan's Hometown", "Cling to cucurbit flute — Jasmine", "Cling to the most beautiful music of cucurbit flute — colorful clouds chasing the moon" "Ancient song — Mong banasi's dream", "Little river running", "Cling to cucurbit flute — in that faraway place" and "Missing", 18 songs in total. In these albums, Gen Dequan used the "cucurbit flute" to play the new life of the nation, and also played the soul of the Dai.

The cucurbit flute and bau music of Gen Dequan's full creation (including the scores) are: "Ancient songs" (scores), "The Mengyang riverside", "The rushing", "Under the moon in autumn", "Jingpo love song" (Record finishing), "The Dai culture", "Feelings on the frontier", "Deangshan Past", "Tea

Mountain Girl", "Grazing back", "Spring in the Dai", "Missing" and so on. Among them, "Tea Mountain Girl" shows the dialogue between tea picking girls and clouds, fog mountains and tea mountains with fresh and beautiful melodies, praises the tranquility of nature and the industrious beauty of the Tea Mountain girl and depicts a harmonious labor scene in which people and nature are integrated. The introduction of the breath is very long, and the strength and weakness have changed, showing the scene of the echo of the tea mountain girl talking to the valley. The andante is accurate, the performance is invested, and it has strong singing ability. Allegro emphasizes the sense of jumping, and the TK is as short and flexible as possible. The ending is smooth and the emotions are happy. This curved structure is a single trilogy with reproduction, played with bB tuning cucurbit flute.

The introduction part of "Feelings on the frontier" adopts the graceful euphemism of "Baozi Love Songs" in Dehong Ruili area, showing the beautiful scenery of the misty morning in the Dai township. The andante is based on the unique "Intonation Tune" of the Dai people and maintains a strong style of rap. Allegro is developed by the Dai's "Peacock Tune" with warm and cheerful emotions, which show people's love and praise for the new life. The introduction is a difficult point to play. It is necessary to handle the breathing point. It should be rich in performance when playing. Pay attention to the use of imaginary finger tremolo and summation tone, highlight the style and charm of Dai music, and understand and grasp the emotions expressed in each passage. Allegro's performance should be full of energy and dynamic, and push the mood to a climax.

V. TALENT CULTIVATION, AND CULTURE INHERITANCE — GEN DEQUAN'S INHERITANCE AND PROMOTION OF CUCURBIT FLUTE

The art to Gen Dequan is meticulous, passionate, and persistent. The life to Gen Dequan is sincerely doing things, treating others with sincerity, and ambition to open up. Gen Dequan's character is accommodating. Gen Dequan's wish is letting the sound of cucurbit flute resound through the world. — Preface

In 2000 and 2003, Gen Dequan created the "Gen Dequan cucurbit flute art studio" in Mengyang and Kunming respectively, trained a large number of excellent cucurbit flute production and performance personnel to cultivate a new follow-up for the development of cucurbit flute culture. In addition, in order to let whole the world know more about cucurbit flute, from 1998, Gen Dequan started to teach the United States, Japan, France, South Korea students. For example, Japanese student Ito Gou¹, French student Sophie,

¹ Ito Gou, an international student of the Chinese Department of Yunnan University. The fascination with the cucurbit flute and the love of the Yunnan national music made him give up the decision to return to Japan to study as an undergraduate. In 2003, he returned to Japan with a gourd to graduate school and became the first person to play Chinese cucurbit flute in Japan. Perhaps he was unable to give up the love of cucurbit flute. In September 2006, Ito Gou went back to Kunming and became a visiting scholar at the Conservatory of Music of Yunnan Arts Institute. He spent two years specializing in the investigation and study of the Dai culture. In September 2007, he went to Dehong Teachers' College as an international

American student Li Cuilan (Chinese name), Korean student Cao Jixue, etc., these students have become the disseminators of the cucurbit flute music culture to the world. In the ten years before his death, he visited more than 10 countries.

Around the National Day of 2007, the first "Gen Dequan Cup" Yunnan cucurbit flute and bau TV Competition hosted by the Chinese National Orchestral Society cucurbit flute and bau Professional Committee and Yunnan TV Station was held in Kunming, attracting cucurbit flute and bau masters from Yunnan and all over the country. This contest is by far the first national instrumental music competition in Yunnan named after a folk artist. More than 1,000 people from 13 provinces and cities nationwide and abroad signed up for the competition. In the competition, there were friends from Japan, old people who were over 60 years old, and children aged six or seven. It can be said that the culture and art of cucurbit flute has gradually become internationalized, and its development prospects are bright, and the development market is broad.

VI. CONCLUSION

Cucurbit flute is a unique show in the Dai folk music garden [5]. Since childhood, he has been influenced by the Dai culture, so his creations are mostly praised by the Dai and the Dai people. At the same time, he has solid foundation and flexible skills, combining the characteristics of many folk artists, and he is more comfortable in playing national style music. In particular, the use of circular ventilation makes the continuity of the music very good. In the context of the new era, with the development of science and technology and the diverse needs of people's aesthetic tastes, the art of cucurbit flute has undergone tremendous changes in the production process, shape, tone, subject matter, genre, etc., and its status has also been changed from early folk instruments to a formal instrument. The folk musical instrument has sublimated to a national musical instrument.

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student, specializing in proverbs. "Yanbao" is his Dai name. Since then, he has further perceived the Dai culture and the cucurbit flute, and used life to interpret this mysterious music from heaven^[14]. After achieving academic excellence, he held many cucurbit flute concerts in Thailand, Japan and other countries.