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The Influence of Jazz Piano Music on Chinese Music

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Abstract

As the most important musical instrument in jazz music, the piano not only makes great contributions to the development of jazz music, but also jazz pianists have formed their own unique performance thinking and performance techniques in inheriting the performance style and techniques of classical piano, developed many schools and produced many classic masterpieces, which in turn have affected the creation of classical musicians. This paper will study the development of jazz and jazz piano music, analyze the genre, performance style, skills and music characteristics of jazz piano music, and explore the impact of jazz music on Chinese music culture and the development of jazz piano music in China.

Key words

Jazz, Jazz piano music, Chinese popular music

Jazz, which originated in the United States, had developed during the colonial period in Latin America in the 17th century. In the development of nearly one hundred years, it has gradually developed from the original black music into an international art form favored by people today, which has influenced the whole world. The development of jazz music is not limited to one type of music, and tolerance and strong compatibility of jazz music become wider with the development of The Times. This kind of compatible artistic characteristics determines the deep fit between jazz music and the spirit of The Times.

1.Problem Background

As the most important performance form of jazz music -- jazz piano -- the important communication medium that conveys the language of jazz music to the world, its development and artistic style have had a profound impact on the world music culture, occupying an important position in the world piano music history. The definition of "jazz music" in *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, published in 2009 is: "The piano is not only the primary medium of ragtime (the immediate precursor to jazz), but can also imitate an entire orchestra. (P. 377)" Since the 19th century, ragtime piano music was formed. During the one hundred years of development, after the exploration and creation by talent jazz musicians, jazz piano finally formed a unique style in the jazz genre form and preserved many excellent music works.

At the same time, the performance techniques and artistic style of jazz piano also have a deep influence on other musical forms, including classical music. Some scholars once commented that jazz piano is "the three primary colors" that complete the painting if jazz is compared to a painting with a variety of colors. Today, jazz piano has long been a unique show in the field of piano art, and its artistic achievements have reached the peak and jazz music was praised as "classical piano music". As a student studying piano performance and its education in the stage of master's study, the author has realized the important research value of jazz piano.

1.1 Research Background

Here we have to trace back to the origin of jazz piano music and recognize it from the date of its birth. Jazz music (Jazz) came into being "from an encounter - an encounter between European and African traditions - and the subsequent creative combination" [Ren Hongmiao. Research on the development of jazz piano music and its impact on Chinese music [d] Northeast Normal University 2006], it is this kind of coincidence that makes jazz, an artistic tree, deeply rooted in the soil of white and black continents. This diametrically opposite race of black and white skin color also doomed the blending of jazz itself. In 1619, a landmark year, the first black slaves bought from African colonial slave owners landed in Virginia, North America, and then a wave of exotic black music swept in. This kind of black music, with its circuitous and tactful notes, repeated syncopation effect, and regularly separated dance style, also indicates the characteristics of jazz in the future.

Of course, after the emancipation declaration issued by President Lincoln in the civil war, those black slaves who had been bound by slave owners for many years gradually changed from political objects to musical subjects. On that day, the blood who loved music tempered the unique black music of the United States - Blues and spiritual, At the same time, the popular music of the white people was mainly the early sacred music and the songs of the civil war, and then gradually changed into the songs of stephenfoster, the military march of Susa and the romantic piano works with European composition techniques and styles. Thus, in the southern city of New Orleans, a new form of music appeared in the public view, and Jazz was

born.

New Orleans is located at the South estuary of the Mississippi River. It is the second largest port city in the United States. There are a large number of black, white and mixed-race people living here. It was also a distribution center for black slaves and a bloody place for capital accumulation. Since the city has always adopted a more tolerant attitude towards blacks and black-and-white people, until the civil war, blacks even enjoyed the same status as whites and could receive good education, including classical music education. Especially after the civil war, when many cities discriminated against blacks and suppressed the development of black music, New Orleans still allowed blacks to dance, sing and play drums and music in the streets. Brothels, casinos and low-level entertainment places around the port provided many opportunities for black musicians to play and earn a living. Naturally, The composition and performance techniques of blues and soul songs representing black music and European classical music representing white music are organically combined here. New Orleans has become the birthplace of jazz and is famous all over the world.

There are many versions of the origin of the word "Jazz", and the most reliable one is the call from the "red light district". When France ruled New Orleans, the world-famous French perfume was also introduced. At that time, jasmine perfume with the brand of "jassing it up" was the most popular. Its strong fragrance is especially popular with prostitutes in the red-light district. They often say "is jass on your mind, tonight?" Young man is its interesting tonight With strong sexual implications. Later historians believed that "Jazz" should be spelled "jass" at first. After all, early jazz music was born in areas with bars and brothels.

1.2 Research Meaning

Considering the development of jazz, it is easy to conclude that jazz music has equipped with the American characteristics. Frank Tiro (Mai Ling trans, 1995), a famous jazz master, once wrote in his book *A History of Jazz Music*, "Jazz is an American art form. It was neither born in Africa nor formed in Europe. It is a truly American product forged by American talent. (P. 19)" It should be said that jazz music, as an exclusive "cultural name card" of the United States, shines brightly in the world music field.

With its strong inclusiveness, jazz integrates with the world's many ethnic music forms. In the 1920s, jazz music flowed into China. Born on the Shanghai, called "Pearl of the Orient", a large number of professional jazz musicians and some small jazz bands appeared successively in Wuhan, Guangzhou and other cities. As a foreign art, jazz music has not only not been excluded and criticized by the public, but quickly entered the public life.

Until today, "old Shanghai" will spontaneously inspire people in mind the memory of that era: they assembled in the entertainment venues such as dance halls, nightclubs, movie theaters, be absorbed in the jazz music played by jazz piano, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, bass, drums and other instruments, and

sing the classical jazz songs "Rose Rose, I love You" and "Shanghai Night" in the era.

Being equal to the jazz music of the New Orleans period in the United States, jazz music described the old Shanghai in the early 20th century and became more and more popular. To some extent, the introduction of jazz music has influenced the values of a generation of Chinese youth. It has brought about this kind of alternative urban culture, which has influenced the social development of modern China. Due to China's reform and opening up policy in the late 1970s, jazz music, which had been developed "in different generations" in China, came back to the public. All kinds of theoretical knowledge and artistic performance forms related to jazz music constantly collide with and merge with Chinese traditional music culture. As the most important performance instrument of jazz music, jazz piano is bound to promote its popularization in China's music education in a more scientific and reasonable way.

When studying for a master's degree, the author took piano performance and its education as the research direction. During the education, the author knew well that theory should be put into practice. Therefore, while practicing piano performance techniques, the author continuously tried to study the piano theoretical knowledge. piano professionals know that appropriate playing techniques are the key to a good performance of a piece of music. A piano player can "select the different playing techniques based on an accurate understanding of the language style of the work, technical characteristics and musical connotation (Ju Yun, 2011; Noor, 2021)."Because the piano is a kind of western musical instruments, the Chinese piano music education is dominated by western classical music theory, get rid of "vulgar" and "dirty" jazz music. From the enlightenment period, most of the piano learners are fascinated by the mode of learning classical piano music; both playing technique and style had never deviate from this standard. Reviewing my learning experience, the author finds that classical education is still inevitable. Although I have practiced and played jazz piano music, in the whole stage of piano learning, it is just a drop in the bucket, not worth mentioning. Therefore, during my doctoral study, after reading a lot of literature, I realized the charm of jazz piano music, and its playing techniques and artistic style developed from the artistic characteristics of piano music in the classical period. In other words, "Jazz is the bridge connecting classical music and popular music" (Yu Le, 2013; Roberts, 2021; Smith & Stamatakis, 2020).

Today's China is a multi-cultural China, and the piano education in today's China will inevitably require inclusiveness and multi-integration. Correctly understanding and learning jazz piano music, grasping its artistic features and artistic expression, feeling the positive and full of lively vitality of artistic charm, making up for past traditional learning blank, broadening the piano education teaching horizons, changing the angle of the traditional view of the world and the way of thinking, are the present Chinese piano education with the urgent needs of the integration outstanding music culture into the world, are also the right

development direction of becoming international, but also the inevitable trend of the development.

2. Research Status

2.1 Fewer monographs

The author reviewed the current works about jazz piano, and discovered that *History of Jazz Piano* written by the famous American jazz pianist, composer and educator Billy Taylor (1982), Ph.D., which is called "a brief history of jazz", is now one of the few specializing in jazz piano as the research object of monographs. Books published and distributed in academic circles also only narrate the summary of jazz music; broadly describe the music accomplishment of all the artists in different periods and the representative works. At the same time, with the purpose of appreciation and scientific research, the paper presents the knowledge of jazz music to the public. However, there not been a special study on the jazz piano, resulting in gap in this field, which cannot be said to be a pity.

It should be noted that the title of this paper is "*A Study of Jazz Piano Music*", but jazz piano is not equivalent to Jazz piano music. In other words, the piano music of Jazz and Jazz piano in English are not the same concept. From a professional point of view, jazz piano music mainly refers to harmony, form, chord, rhythm and improvisation in jazz piano works. While jazz piano is a kind of performance form, or an artistic performance form including the performance and accompaniment of jazz piano, as well as integration into the band performance, etc. This paper studies not only jazz piano music, but also the performance of the whole jazz piano, including the jazz piano works, as well as the performance form. The reason why jazz piano music is used is to consider the following points: First, the main content of this paper is jazz piano music. Secondly, this paper is to discuss the jazz piano concerning the jazz piano music and its performance. Thirdly, the study of jazz piano music from the perspective of history is different from the perspective of musicology, so as to avoid causing misunderstanding; this paper chooses jazz piano music as the topic.

In addition, the author found that in the contemporary United States, jazz not only refers to a kind of music, but also jazz literature. Therefore, jazz has become an American artistic style, which is characterized by its arbitrariness, inclusiveness and popularity. It is essentially different from other musical forms such as European classical music and traditional western folk music.

The author thinks that, because of existing fuzzy understanding of concepts and cognition, there is not a monograph about jazz piano formally published in the current academic circles. This thesis is not to write a jazz piano music works as the goal, to achieve a jazz piano music of Chinese writing, but know the history and development of American jazz piano music, the basic characteristics of such understanding, the author hopes to improve himself, and makes good contribution the development of academic theory. If possible, the author hopes to continue to study jazz piano music after his doctoral thesis and try his best to fill the gap in

this field.

2.2 Relatively difficulty

Firstly, there are a lot of books, textbooks and audio materials about the jazz piano music itself, namely chord, harmony, rhythm and improvisation, which are published and circulated at home and abroad. They are diversified in form and variety, but there is a common problem in content, that is, the difficulty coefficient is big. Though a few scholars' works is relatively easy to understand, the primary learners are equipped with a certain degree of music theory knowledge. Besides, it is difficult for learners to appreciate the music, if lacking a degree of music basic literacy for learning the theory in jazz piano music teaching material now published in the market, practicing jazz piano playing techniques.

Secondly, because of the jazz music itself, not all jazz music works are suitable for solo piano. As a result, the domestic scholars engaged in research on jazz piano music choose some representative jazz piano repertoire in line with the audience group. And the scholars would simplify the original music. The original music would be redistributed without affecting the acoustics, which has a certain influence on the in-depth study of the artistic characteristics and performance techniques of jazz piano music. As a result, the artistic characteristics of jazz piano music cannot be truly performed in front of the public. Under this circumstance, it is more difficult to grasp and recognize its artistic charm. For different audiences, compiling jazz piano textbooks with different difficulty coefficients to meet the needs of each age group or each learning stage has become a problem to be faced by the current academic circle.

Thirdly, one of the biggest characteristics of jazz music is improvisation. It is difficult for many piano players to master the method of improvisation and cultivate the ability of improvisation. It is necessary not only to thoroughly study theoretical knowledge such as harmony, but also to have superb technical performance ability. Only with these two points, the piano players can improvise jazz piano music. At present, there is no professional jazz improvisation course, most improvisation methods are only obtained from the orthodox improvisation teaching materials, and the works and techniques on jazz piano improvisation have not yet been popularized, and the relevant works in circulation on the market are only experiential and lack of systematization and professionalism.

2.3 Unsystematic

At present, the study of Chinese piano education has not formed systemic application of jazz piano teaching. Although some have opened a major of jazz piano in music colleges, such as the major of jazz in the Shanghai music college, the students in the music colleges play jazz piano music works from the major of piano, not learning to play and learn jazz piano works from the initiation phase. and on a path to professional. The current piano teaching concept is still based on European classical traditional music as the standard. The level of skill is only based on the performance technology, skills and speed and other aspects as an evaluation

index. Jazz piano music is not well understood, and even is blamed. It is unjust to put jazz music into the same class. There are many problems in training students' performance skills and respecting students' personality development.

From the 1920s, jazz music was introduced and developed into China, and experienced a tragic "generation break". In the late 1970s, after China began to reform and opening up, jazz music was reborn and slowly returned to people's vision. However, it is not compatible with the traditional Chinese music education concept. School music at the beginning of the 20th century, and the founding of the National Academy of Music are deeply influenced by the educational theory "traditional western music center theory" rooted in people's mind and imperceptibly formed the inherent value concept of Chinese. The piano students influenced by this concept, and European classical music culture for a long time, hardly get interested in the performance and style of jazz piano music and take the initiative to play and act it. They don't know the information related to jazz piano music. Therefore, to answer the question of "how to scientifically construct and improve the jazz piano education system", scholars still need to carry out a lot of research to construct and improve the jazz piano education and teaching system, so as to realize the jazz piano education with Chinese characteristics.

2.4 Be not in line with the mainstream

As already mentioned, the jazz was introduced into Shanghai, China. Shanghai has a jazz history of more than 60 years. After reforming and opening up, with its unique geographical location and cultural background, a large number of jazz bars, bands and singers have emerged in Shanghai. Besides, Shanghai has cultivated a large number of jazz lovers in that particular environment. But for historical reasons, jazz music is associated with "petty bourgeoisie, emotional appeal" and other words. Even when we talk about jazz, we can't help but think of the Old Age Jazz Band at the Peace Hotel, or the "accompaniment music and background music" from the bar.

From its origin to its development in China, jazz music has always been "constrained" by the traditional Chinese culture. Due to the changes in the nature of Chinese society in modern times, jazz music has brought tremendous changes to the production and life of the Chinese people. Jazz music came into being in that special period. Jazz performer Xia Jia once said, "Every emotion can be naturally released in jazz. (Peng Xin, 2011)" In that turbulent era, people could only listen to exotic jazz in entertainment places such as Paramount and nightclubs to express their worries about the country and the people. Due to the special geographical location of Shanghai (occupied area in the early 1920s), various cultures were mixed in the French Concession. Jazz blended with the secular music of that time, which led musicians to create many popular classic jazz songs, such as "Rose Rose, I Love You" and "Night Shanghai". People treated it as a medium for luxury and entertainment. And even jazz songs were used for political purposes to promote "East Asian coexistence" ... In those days of very strict political demands—during

the war, jazz has always been a cross between “high-pitched” classical music and “loud” pop. During initial period, jazz music certainly got a lot of criticism, and doesn't conform to the popular taste, which going against people's desire to express a better life in high culture. The misunderstanding of people to jazz makes it difficult to integrate into the mainstream of society

2.5 The uncertain future

Because jazz has struggled to enter into the mainstream, its prospects in China have been particularly murky. Throughout its development in China, both the impact on Chinese society and culture and Chinese music education, jazz piano music does not work well. The good phenomenon in recent years is that some of China's higher music colleges and universities have been established and the opening of a jazz piano music major. Students are developed to learn pianos play skills, such as the successful research of Shanghai Music College in jazz of the subject construction. It achieved the construction of the source code library, actively connected with various forms of music in modern commercial society.

Under the guidance of the professors and teachers, more and more amateur or professional learn to play the piano. But this condition is not so obvious. There are still some problems that need to be improved and solved. For example, there are few places for good Chinese jazz majors to study. In all regions, learning system of jazz piano music is not systematic or professional. In the society, the general music training institutions and art schools do not have enough ability to train students majoring in jazz. Without professional teachers, jazz piano teaching is difficult to popularize. Although music schools now have students from all fields of jazz, the number of graduates does not match the needs of society. Meanwhile, in the process of study, students enrolled pay attention to the improvement of skills, but neglect the cultivation of theoretical consciousness. In the discipline construction, they do not have enough ability to support academic research. The talent caliber needed by the society is less, and the lack of market cultivation and the guidance of employers lead to the invisible loss of talents. China has a large population; the employment issue has always been the primary issue of national social governance. All the disadvantages mentioned above have resulted in the current situation of the development of jazz piano music in China which is not good.

3.The influence of jazz piano music on Chinese music

The development of jazz piano music in China is closely related to the development of Chinese pop music, and the performance of pop songs is its main form of expression.

3.1 Shanghai Jazz piano music before the founding of new China

This period mainly refers to that before 1949, the development of jazz in China was synchronized with that in other parts of the world. However, it benefited from the global implantation of American culture caused by the growing economic

strength of the United States at the end of the 19th century. With its special geographical location and cultural background, Shanghai has become the first place for jazz music to enter China. Shanghai is a world-famous port city. In 1842, due to the corruption of the Qing government, Shanghai became a concession of great powers such as Britain, the United States and France. A large number of foreign institutions and business houses gathered here, making Shanghai an international metropolis. All kinds of cultures in the world are integrated here, resulting in an unprecedented prosperity of the music market.

As early as 1897, Shanghai public band, the first brass band, was established. It was active in various cultural activities held in the concession. There were cinemas, bars, high-end restaurants and cafes all over the place. Music was always available in all the lively places. In 1907, the brass band was expanded into an orchestra and regularly organized concerts. On November 27 of the same year, with the strong recommendation of Cai Yuanpei, the National Conservatory of music, China's first higher music school, was born, and Xiaoyoumei was acting president. The Conservatory of music has four departments: composition theory, piano, Violin and vocal music. Compared with the music transmission Institute of Peking University, the teaching here is more professional and systematic, because it really imparts western classical music theory and music performance technology to Chinese students and has cultivated a large number of students who are deeply familiar with classical music. As an important part of the May 4th New Culture Movement, the popularization of music education has affected people's cultural life. Therefore, a new urban culture has gradually taken shape with large and medium-sized cities as the center.

Jazz piano performance is mostly based on the theme of popular songs at that time, and the melody is mostly a combination of the five-tone mode of Chinese folk music and the seven-tone mode of western music. In the accompaniment part, seven chord and nine chord methods are mostly used. In terms of rhythm, the characteristics of jazz music are used for reference, or reggae or blues are used. In terms of melody, syncopation is also used to create changes and carry out variations. Its dynamic singing and dancing flavor brings a full sense of freshness to urban listeners who are used to Chinese folk music and Western classical music. Since most of these musicians are active in entertainment venues as accompaniment, it is difficult to find their names. However, some records and films have recorded their classic performances in those years, and some music scores have been preserved. Even today, the "old oak bark band" in the ballroom of Shanghai Peace Hotel still retains the performance style of Shanghai style jazz and plays the pop music of that period.

However, from the perspective of Chinese history, the prosperity of jazz music culture has been criticized from the very beginning. Some left-wing cultural workers represented by Nier have repeatedly written articles criticizing the works of Lijinhui and others for their low style and catering to the vulgar tastes of ordinary citizens. Especially after the September 18th Incident in, Shanghai was occupied

by the Japanese and became a Japanese occupied area. Pop music has become a spiritual comfort for many people to escape from reality. Some songs have even been used politically to promote "East Asian coexistence" and beautify Japanese imperialism. Therefore, they have been resisted and criticized by many progressives and are called "decadent music". At this time, the development of jazz music in the United States was in the rising period of American economy and culture, synchronized with Hollywood films, and became a symbol of the spirit of the times and a representative of the development of popular art. In China, only a few cities with a high degree of "Westernization", such as Shanghai, Beijing and Harbin, have the soil for the survival of pop music. This soil is poor, deformed, and does not meet the trend of the times and historical requirements, let alone the entire Chinese public, which indicates that its development is full of tragedy.

3.2 Jazz Piano Music from the founding of new China to the reform and opening up

In 1949, after the founding of new China, the mainland followed the will of the supreme ruler and banned the singing of pop songs and the performance of pop music. This led to a large number of domestic pop musicians and singers leaving the mainland one after another to go to Hong Kong or Taiwan. In the 1950s, the television industry gradually rose in the world. During this period, both Hong Kong and Taiwan established television stations, which played a very good role in the spread of jazz. Before the 1950s, due to language and other reasons, Shanghai style music had no market in Hong Kong. At that time, the entertainment life of Hong Kong residents was mainly Cantonese opera. Cantonese opera performances accompanied by Guangdong folk bands were performed in teahouses, bars and other places. In the early 1950s, a large number of singers, composers and musicians from Shanghai went south to Hong Kong, which led to the prosperity of the film, radio, television, recording and dance hall industries. Hong Kong once showed a prosperity of Shanghai style music. The creation of Chinese pop songs with jazz style was still the mainstream of pop music at that time. The representative composers were Yaomin, lihouxiang and liangyueyin from Shanghai.

The development of jazz piano music in Hong Kong continued the Shanghai style pop music in the early stage and relied more on foreign world pop music in the late stage. Due to the adoption of the "foreign lyrics" model, the originality of music is not high. Therefore, jazz piano music can only be spread in the form of "Introduction".

Compared with Hong Kong, Taiwan's pop music is a force that can not be ignored in Contemporary Chinese pop music culture. Through the efforts of several generations, Taiwan pop music has inherited and carried forward the tradition of Shanghai style music. The lyrics are organically combined with life and literature, the melody is skillfully integrated with tradition, and the artistic conception creation fully reflects the aesthetic habits of the Chinese people. The involvement of some professionals, poets and composers with high artistic attainments is also Taiwan

pop music, The ideological content has reached a fairly high level.

Before the Kuomintang moved to Taiwan in 1949, there were three types of popular music in Taiwan. The traditional folk songs were mainly Gaoshan folk songs, namely, the folk songs called "Nanguan" and the percussion music called "Beiguan". A Japanese style music called "nakashi" during the Japanese occupation. "Times music" from the 1920s to 1940s in mainland China, that is, song and dance music of Shanghai style jazz style.

3.3 The development of mainland pop music after the reform and opening up

After the reform and opening up, Taiwanese singers represented by Teresa Teng and Liu Wenzheng became popular in the mainland with their mature singing style. Then came the popularity of Taiwan's campus songs. The introduction of Hong Kong TV dramas brought the popularity of Hong Kong pop songs such as the Great Wall will never fall down and Shanghai beach. Then came the album "take the wrong bus" and "my Chinese heart" The reform and opening up has provided an opportunity for the development of pop music with a strong commercial atmosphere in the mainland, and also provided rich creative experience for professional musicians in the mainland to develop pop music. This is a period of accumulating experience and strength, as well as a period of major changes in people's music consumption concepts and methods. The main works "love in the hometown", "on the sun island" and "grass" have been discussed and criticized by the music circle because of their use of popular music expression methods, such as gas sound singing and Tango rhythm.

The prosperity of the music market enables everyone to find their favorite music style. People know that the soul of rock music popular in China in the 1980s comes from the rhythm and blues in jazz music. It is an extension of jazz music and a new form of music expression; We also know what jazz music is. More and more musicians with formal classical music education begin to contact jazz music and create jazz music. Some study abroad, some read relevant books, watch audio-visual materials, refer to the music score of jazz piano performance, learn jazz harmony and rhythm, some organize jazz style band performances, and some create Chinese style jazz music. The true development of jazz music in China should be that after the 1990s, the music culture of the three places on both sides of the Taiwan Straits was in its heyday. Influenced by the diversity of world music, jazz music has been deeply rooted in the music of various countries and nationalities and has been constantly integrated and evolved into a universal music language in the world. Jazz piano music teaching materials and music scores have also been widely spread, which has not only trained pop music professionals, but also pointed out the direction for the development of Chinese pop music.

4. Conclusion

Jazz piano music, which originated in the United States, is a typical American art. At the same time, it belongs to the world. During the more than 100

years of its spread, jazz pianists have continuously absorbed, integrated and developed the musical elements of various countries and nationalities. Based on the performance techniques of European classical piano, they have created the jazz music with distinctive rhythm, rich changes, a large number of syncopated melodies, unpredictable and emotional, which we hear today, and has the flavor of the times. It is not only popular, but also classical. It is a bridge between classical music and popular music. Its melody, harmony, rhythm, improvisation and musical structure have their own unique musical characteristics, which is worthy of our teachers engaged in music education to study and study.

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