Vol.3 No.2 2022
https://doi.org/10.37420/j.cer.2022.019

A Study of the Road to Classicization of The Yellow River Cantata

Lu Wang, Xiaoyan Zhou
Yancheng Institute Of Technology, Jangsu, China
Corresponding author,e-mail: 2571735762@qq.com

Abstract: *Born in 1939, the Yellow River Cantata was composed by the composer Xian Xinghai and the lyricist Guang Weiran, and is a large vocal work reflecting the hard struggle of the Chinese nation. Over the years, the Yellow River Cantata has become an artistic classic of the Chinese nation, with high aesthetic value, as it has been sung and recited continuously. The article mainly explores the road of classicization of Yellow River Cantata from three perspectives of classic formation, dissemination path and aesthetic value. The study of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata will help to clarify the specific content and importance of the classicism of the Yellow River Cantata, and enable us to remember history, cherish peace, create the future, and promote the construction of a strong socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.*

Keywords: *The Yellow River Cantata; the road to classicization; aesthetic value*

Introduction

General Secretary Xi Jinping has repeatedly emphasized that a flourishing culture is a flourishing nation, and a strong culture is a strong nation. Without a high degree of cultural self-confidence, without the prosperity of culture, there will be no great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The Yellow River is China's mother river, symbolizing the enduring, vibrant national spirit. In the heart of General Secretary Xi Jinping, symphony of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era of the "Yellow River chorus". To build a strong socialist modernization country, we should pay great attention to the intrinsic cultural value of Yellow River Cantata and explore the road of classicization of Yellow River Cantata.

Literature review of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata

The study of "classicization" and the study of "Yellow River Cantata" has always been an academic hotspot, and the main views and authoritative comments on "classicization" play a significant role in the study of literary and artistic works. In recent years, the discussion of "classicization" in academic circles has played an inspiring role in analyzing the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata.

Review of foreign studies

From 2004 to 2011, few academic papers on the Yellow River Cantata were published in foreign countries, among which the research articles on the Yellow River Piano Concerto accounted for an absolute proportion. Zehui Zhang (2021) and Yahui Wang (2006) use the Yellow River Cantata as an example to illustrate the

importance of music education; Xiangtang Hong (2009) explores how the Yellow River Cantata can be further popularized and welcomed among Western choirs and audiences.Christy Yu (2019), Jinghua Hu (2015), and Shan Bai (2008) studied the historical and cultural value of the Yellow River Piano Concerto; Hon-Lun Helan Yang (2019), and Jessica Xiao Ling Quah (2017) examined the nationalism and internationalism of the Yellow River Piano Concerto in the context of the early musical culture and political ideology of the Chinese nation.

Review of domestic research

In Contemporary Red Literature in Historical Perspective and the Nature of Its Classicization - A Review of Yan Haogang et al.'s <The Road to Classicization of Red Classics">(2022), Fang Weibao claims that artistic aesthetics is a necessary quality for all literary and artistic works to become classics, and He also discusses the unique "collective creation" approach in the creation of the "classics". From 2000, scholars began to shift their focus to the study of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata, but until 2022, only four related research papers appeared. They are An Inquiry into the Classicization of Yellow River Cantata by Fang Zhou (2021), A Study of the Classicization of Yellow River Cantata by Chen Lan (2012), The Process of Yellow River Cantata from Classic to Classicization by Fu Zonghong (2010), and The Problem of the Relationship between Music and Politics from the Classicization of Yellow River Again by Ming Yan (2000).

Research value of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata

1. It helps to promote the construction of a strong cultural country. Since the beginning of the 21st century, scholars have been conducting related researches on the issue of "the road to classicization", but the research is not deep so far. At present, along with the need for the development of China's cultural power strategy, this issue is particularly valuable and needs to be further studied.

2. It helps to strengthen the national identity of the country. The Yellow River Cantata itself, with its high level of intrinsic cultural and artistic value, and its derivative culture, as an important part of Chinese culture, plays an irreplaceable and positive role in enhancing the national identity of all ethnic groups, and is worthy of further study.

3. It helps to enrich the theory of classicization. This paper can provide a case practice for the study of classicization to enhance the national soft power and realize the Chinese dream; this paper explores the classicization of Yellow River Cantata and reveals the aesthetics and culture behind the classicization of Yellow River Cantata , providing theoretical basis, aesthetic model and practical reference for the "way of classicization" of Chinese music creation today. It is of great humanistic value and aesthetic significance.

Research on the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata

The existing Compared with foreign countries, the research results of Yellow River Cantata in China are more fruitful and diversified, which provide historical materials and methods for this topic, but the overall lack of thinking about the reality of the problem, and the relative lack of research on "the road to classicization of

Vol.3 No.2 2022
https://doi.org/10.37420/j.cer.2022.019

Yellow River Cantata".

Based on the above, this paper mainly explores the road of classicization of Yellow River Cantata from three perspectives of classic formation, dissemination path and aesthetic value.

The formation of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata

From Yan'an to the world, Yellow River Cantata has transcended time and space and become a monument in Chinese art history. This is inseparable from its focus on musical ontology at the very beginning of its creation. From then on, the germ of the classic text of Yellow River Cantata has been planted, and later on its classicized character was fully formed. The formation of the classical character is divided into three periods: the initial period, the development and cultivation period and the maturity period. First of all, the initial period is characterized by the creation of the work from the people: Yellow River Cantata did not become a classic overnight. It has been collectively revised, shaped and adapted by several generations of musicians, before presenting the "perfect form" today. Secondly, the development and cultivation period was characterized by the insistence on creation and performance for the people: literary and artistic creation should first serve the people, which is what Xian Xinghai respected. He always insisted that music should be popularized, nationalized and artistic, with popularization being the most important. The typical characteristics of the classical character development period of Yellow River Cantata are to insist on creating and performing for the people, which is manifested as the content creation close to the public, the performance form inclined to the public, and the performance effect reflecting the public. Finally, the maturity period is characterized by the combination of inheritance and development: the greatest achievement of Yellow River Cantata as a classical music work comes from the fact that it has always insisted on using Chinese inherent melodies, blending the progress of Western music and boldly incorporating the world's modern technology, so that the work itself integrates popularization, nationalization and art into one. The Yellow River Cantata, no matter how many versions it has undergone, has never departed from the traditional Chinese national aesthetic presentation, but has incorporated the world's innovative development blood, emphasizing the inheritance and development of the music itself.

Analysis of the classicization path of the Yellow River Cantata

The above phenomenal consideration of the classicization of "Yellow River Cantata" can make us clearer about the interaction between the musical text and many external factors, and then we will discuss the important paths and strategies of the classicization of "Yellow River Cantata" from three paths: version innovation, overseas public performances and academic seminars. In the spring of 1939, Xian Xinghai completed the most original version of the Yellow River Cantata, which was subsequently adapted by many parties, leaving several versions with different artistic forms. Secondly, overseas public performances have continued to promote the text as a continuing social hotspot. For more than eighty years, the Yellow River Cantata has always stood at the forefront of history, stirring and uniting the Chinese people with its Chinese physicality and verve, and attracting and inspiring foreign friends, promoting the choral text to continue to become a social hot spot. Finally, related academic symposiums continue to drive new propositional research. The development of music is closely related to the political changes, and the active political work of music can better serve the politics and become a political need. The important speeches in the previous symposiums on

"Yellow River Cantata" have highlighted the important meaning of music in ideological communication and the political need of the state for positive literary expression, which has constantly led to new propositions. Above all, the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata has been a gradual process of recognition and inclusion of domestic and foreign groups of artists, people and academic groups in its creation and renewal, an exemplary example of uniting the creativity of all peoples of the world with national music.

Aesthetic value of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata

Aesthetic value is the soul and core of the classicization of the work. The Yellow River Cantata has not only gained a high status in the domestic literary and artistic circles, but also gained aesthetic recognition in different national boundaries, fundamentally because of its high aesthetic value, which is reflected in three aspects: the community of voices, the voice of humanism and the voice of modernization. The classicization of "Yellow River Cantata" helps to build a community of voices of the Chinese nation, compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and Chinese people at home and abroad; it characterizes the voice of humanism from three perspectives: describing suffering, singing the masses, and promoting heritage; it witnesses the modernization process of Chinese society from three levels: showing the course of Chinese people's awakening, showing the course of gradual enrichment of the connotation of the Yellow River imagery, and characterizing the course of modernization of Chinese society.

In conclusion, the classicization of "Yellow River Cantata" and the generation of national collective memory can be explored from three perspectives: the history of classic formation, dissemination path and aesthetic value. Firstly, from the perspective of classicism, the formation of the classic character of Yellow River Cantata is summarized into three periods: the initial stage, the development and cultivation period and the maturity period; the characteristics of these three stages are: insisting on creation from the people, insisting on creation and performance for the people and insisting on the combination of inheritance and development. Secondly, the classicization of the text is described and summarized from three perspectives: innovation of version, overseas public performance and academic symposium: it is the course of gradually recognizing and absorbing the participation of domestic and foreign artist groups, people and academic groups in creation and renewal, and it is the model example of uniting the creativity of all nationalities in the world with national music. Finally, it reveals that the Yellow River Cantata has an important aesthetic value in building a community of voices, symbolizing the voice of humanism and characterizing the voice of modernization. The study of the classicization of the Yellow River Cantata will help to clarify the specific content and importance of the classical point of the Yellow River Cantata, and in turn enable us to remember history, cherish peace, create the future, and promote the construction of a strong socialist culture with Chinese characteristics.

Funding

This paper is the result of the project of Excellent Graduation Design (Dissertation) Cultivation Project (Team 2022) of Yancheng Institute Of Technology in 2021, and the project of Social Science Foundation of Jiangsu Province, "Aesthetic Study of Chinese Popular Music in the 40 Years of Reform and Opening-up" (Project No. 19YSB013).

Vol.3 No.2 2022
https://doi.org/10.37420/j.cer.2022.019

References

He, S. N. (2019).The creation history and contemporary value of the Yellow River Cantata from the perspective of the "four insistences" of literary creation.Music Creation,(09):97-103.

Zhao, T. T. (2021).The worldliness of Chinese theatre: perseverance, integration and creation. *Drama Art,* (03):148-160.

Fang, Z. (2021).The classicization of the Yellow River Cantata.Changjiang Literature and Art Review,(02):12-18.