

# Research on the Integration of Traditional Music Culture and Playing Techniques in Cello Teaching

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**Abstract:** *Chinese traditional music culture is a kind of artistic wisdom accumulated by human beings for thousands of years. The wonderful tone combines the thoughts and emotions of people of different regions and races, and integrates various different and changeable musical forms. It takes root in the soil of traditional culture and can be inherited and developed. Cello is a musical instrument that entered China from the West, but after it was introduced into China, it was further developed and integrated with Chinese traditional music culture. In cello class, teachers can adopt strategies such as highlighting the playing skills of the instrument, flexibly displaying the sound of the instrument, customizing famous music according to classic works, analyzing the characteristics of cello solo and ensemble, and realizing the combination of cello and Chinese musical instruments, so as to enrich the educational resources of Chinese traditional music and better integrate them into the traditional music culture, so as to improve students' musical ability.*

**Keywords:** *Cello teaching; Traditional music culture; Performance techniques; Integration measures*

## 1. Introduction

The cello plays an irreplaceable role in playing and expressing music emotion. The quality of the cello is an important factor that people have a special liking for the cello. The timbre of the cello is not as bright as that of the violin, nor does it have the sadness of Hu Qin. The tone of the cello is soft, generous, introspective, showing its elegant flavor, but also revealing a special meaning. Its connotation is similar to that of traditional Chinese music culture, and it also lays a solid foundation for integrating cello into traditional Chinese music culture.

## 2. Cello and Chinese traditional music culture

### 2.1. History and development of cello

The Chinese cello was introduced into China from Europe. It has a deep origin with Chinese traditional music culture. In ancient China, it was not uncommon for people to use the cello in their lives, especially in court music, temple religious music and folk art performances. The cello and national instruments together formed a harmonious whole.

### 2.2. Relationship between cello and traditional music culture

Cello and traditional Chinese music are inextricably linked. Both cello playing techniques and traditional Chinese music have similarities. Both have unique cultural connotations and artistic values. From this point of view, the author attempts to study and summarize the relationship between the two from three aspects: history, tradition and culture. First of all, history: both have produced many classic works in the process of development - "concerto", "sonata" and "symphonic suite". Secondly, classical culture: both of them have produced cello works created by many famous Chinese and foreign composers, which can be reflected in the mutual reference between Chinese traditional instruments and western instruments. For example, cello fingering is often used in Chinese violin playing techniques; There are also some ethnic musical instruments with their original styles. Finally, in terms of modern development, modern adaptation works have appeared in both of them.

### ***2.3. The influence of traditional music culture on cello playing techniques***

First of all, in terms of the selection of tracks, there are tracks with national characteristics in both of them, such as western orchestral music, national instrumental ensemble, etc; The second is in playing techniques. Both have some common points, such as different techniques and bow techniques used in the works.

### **3. The unique charm of cello performance art**

The sound quality of cello is similar to that of human voice, which makes people feel soft. A good piece of music, first of all, let the audience feel its voice. Whether you like the music or not has a great relationship with the style of the work. Based on the special tone, the audience can feel different feelings. There are many reasons why Chinese people like cello. Among them, the characteristics of sound is a very important factor. Among all the string instruments, the voice of cello is lower, softer, closer to the human voice, making people warm and gentle. The audience can deeply appreciate the deep feelings contained in the work, and at the same time can resonate with the actors or creators, so as to get a soft and natural feeling. This is similar to the traditional music culture in China, which lays a solid foundation for the combination of cello art and traditional music culture. The cello is very tactful in emotion, giving people room for imagination. Compared with other musical instruments, cello shows a subtle and direct psychological tendency in emotion, which is also why cello is popular. While playing music, performers rely on the music emotion they want to convey to the audience. The solo sound of cello can be embedded into symphony and chamber music to achieve good sound quality, which is also an important factor for many composers to regard it as symphony<sup>[1]</sup>.

### **4. Features of cello performance**

#### ***4.1. The range is relatively wide***

As a bowstring instrument, the cello has a wide range of five octaves. Although its voice range is large, its voice will become more deep under the influence of high pitch. Therefore, bass score is the most commonly used music, but there are also many people who like to make music score in the middle. Because of different sound areas, the effect will also vary greatly. Take the cello for example, it gives people the feeling of elegance and stability, because it has four strings. The sound of A string is very bright, the sound of D string seems to be covered with a layer of gauze, and the sound of C and G string is relatively low, which gives the cello more room to play.

#### ***4.2. Give people a soft and beautiful feeling***

A good piece of music often makes the audience deeply moved and loved when they first hear it. It is directly related to the sound quality of music. Through this unique sound quality, the audience will have a special feeling in the process of listening to the cello, and therefore like it. When you first listen to it, you will feel that the tone of the cello is low, but its emotional expression is more mellow, deeper and closer to the human voice. In the process of listening to the cello, the audience can deeply feel the deep feelings contained in the work, and can resonate with the performers and creators, thus obtaining a soft and natural feeling.

#### ***4.3. Give audience imagination space***

In terms of sound, cello is closer to human voice, more penetrating, and more suitable for expressing more emotions. At the same time, from the perspective of performance, it has a variety of techniques such as vibrato, slide, wave and tremolo. Applying it to cello performance can improve the level of performance technology. When you play a piece of music, the instrument can "talk", and so can the cello. When playing, the cello can fully convey the emotion of music. Compared with other instruments, it has more hidden feelings, rather than directly express the inner feelings, so the cello will be loved by the audience. When playing music, the performer places his feelings in the work and expects to show his feelings to the audience through the instrument. When dealing with emotions, he must follow the principle of "delicacy". In this regard, the cello is a good choice. It is conservative in emotion and cannot be expressed directly. It gives the audience unlimited imagination and imagination<sup>[2]</sup>.

#### ***4.4 Can achieve good music expression effect***

When playing, the music can use the cello to convey emotions and ideas, so as to achieve a good musical effect. Among various instruments, cello performance is added to achieve good performance. Although the cello is performed in a single way, it has beautiful melody and melody. Therefore, more and more performers use it as the main instrument to play, which will subtly convey the feelings of creators and performers and make it achieve the best performance<sup>[3]</sup>.

### **5. Integration strategy of Chinese traditional music culture in cello teaching**

#### ***5.1. Highlight the skills of instrument playing***

All kinds of musical instruments have different forms of expression, and their performance techniques are also very different. Therefore, students should master the performance techniques of various musical instruments according to their characteristics. The introduction of traditional music culture in cello lessons can promote the improvement of playing skills, thus improving the learning efficiency of students. In teaching, teachers can improve the expression of traditional works and explore the artistic form of traditional music. During this period, it is necessary to improve teaching methods to play more classical music with cello. When playing national music, its style is mainly to use special techniques and fingers to slide. It needs to master the skills of Chinese bowstring instruments. First of all, when practicing bow splitting, you should play the corresponding notes with your left hand, and use the finger swing technique to cooperate. In this way, during the performance process, the performer can better cooperate with the music, at the same time, it can also give the soft beauty of the music and increase the appeal of the work.

For example, in the teaching practice of "Legacy", teachers can improve the traditional performance methods according to the traditional music culture, explore a variety of different performance techniques, such as creative creation on music symbols. Secondly, in playing, we should make arms, wrists and fingers as a whole, and express emotions in a coherent way. This also reflects the traditional music culture. In classical music, people usually use the technique of "kneading strings" to convey their feelings in an implicit way. In the cello class, the teacher can guide the students to use the method of twisting the strings with their fingers to flexibly use short strings, long strings and empty strings. For example, in the process of playing "Legacy", we can use this method to show different voices and convey the unique texture of cello. Finally, in the process of use, we should constantly innovate the traditional playing technology. For example, in the teaching of "Legacy", the teacher can guide students to use the strings to lower the pitch, thus increasing the tension of sound quality. When replacing the handle, it is necessary to ensure the coordination between the palm and the range, and be able to use the wrist and arm flexibly to show the changeable tones in the work.

#### ***5.2. Flexible display of musical instrument timbre***

In the classroom, we should adjust the sound quality according to the music needs. Our national traditional music has the characteristics of softness and flexibility. In class, the teacher should strictly require students to reach the correct pronunciation standard with bow, finger tremor, sliding, string rubbing and strength. Each tone is consistent with Chinese traditional music culture, so in the teaching process, children should fully show the timbre of cello and understand the rhythm characteristics. For example, in the cello performance of the Mongolian folk song "Hong Yan", you can add such performance techniques as sliding tone, decorative tone, and string rubbing. When changing hands, when the jumping range of the slide is small, the teacher asks the students to slide their fingers from the low to the high, showing an introverted and tactful tone quality. The combination of Chinese classical music and Chinese slide combines the power of tuning and bowing. You can also try to change the sound settings to make the sound closer to the work. During this period, the cello should imitate the timbre of the morin khuur, match the front and back of the morin khuur piano, and the fingers should be concentrated, rich and stable. The fingertip of the left hand slides on the fingerboard to keep the tone when singing low. At the same time, it uses the sliding technique of the morin khuur to highlight the characteristics of Mongolian music<sup>[4]</sup>.

#### ***5.3. Analyze the characteristics of cello solo and ensemble***

In teaching, we should combine ensemble and solo. Although the cello was introduced from the West, it also has a long history of development in China. It combines with Chinese traditional music culture to

form a harmonious atmosphere. The new features of cello solo make it play an important role in Chinese music. Whether it is symphony, chamber music, national music, cello has an irreplaceable position. In the process of teaching, teachers should constantly innovate and use a variety of performance methods to make students fully understand the characteristics of cello solo, conductor, ensemble, accompaniment and other aspects, and combine them with other instruments to achieve better learning results. At the same time, it is also a strong musical atmosphere, which plays a great role in depicting the bass line. On the whole, whether solo or ensemble, we should clearly recognize the characteristics of music and combine it with traditional music culture. When playing, we should make full use of the musical affinity of the cello; In order to improve the overall effect of the performance, each voice part needs to be played during ensemble.

#### ***5.4. The integration of music culture in the cello teaching of "Jasmine Flower"***

"Jasmine Flower" is a very classical Chinese music. Its melody is beautiful, its rhythm is bright, and it is full of the unique warmth of Jiangnan region. This piece of music was created by Yang Wanli, a poet of the Song Dynasty. The content of the music expresses a feeling of homesickness. As one of the most famous representative works of Chinese instrumental music, this song was included in the repertoire of the same name adapted by cellist Zhang Lizhong and others. Take "Jasmine Flower" as an example to adapt it. The first is the analysis of performance skills.

(1) The choice of the position of the left hand according to the string needs to change. In this section, we will analyze and explore the work from two aspects of strength and speed. This mainly takes into account that the cellist should try to use natural and soft strength when playing, so we should grasp the change of the left hand strength.

(2) There should be changes in fingering, bowing and bowing. In the aspect of fingering performance skills, we should pay attention to two fingering methods used in "Jasmine Flower". One is the single-tone cello fingering method: move the left hand finger on the piano surface with the fingerboard as the center and the single tone as the unit; The other is the fingering of the two-tone cello: that is, the right hand uses the little finger to move on the lip to change the tone. These two fingering methods have certain requirements for the way the work is played<sup>[5]</sup>.

### **6. Safeguard measures for integration of traditional music culture in cello teaching**

#### ***6.1. Enrich the teaching resources of Chinese traditional music culture***

We should combine traditional Chinese music with cello teaching, make full use of diverse music resources, and let students fully understand different music cultures. Through such teaching, students can have a comprehensive understanding of different music, especially traditional music, so as to achieve a full and efficient learning effect. In daily teaching, in addition to teaching cello playing technology and guiding basic music theoretical knowledge, students should also broaden their horizons of music culture and combine it with traditional Chinese music to achieve the purpose of music education. In the process of enjoying the cello performance, teachers can select classic works such as "White Haired Girl" and "Yellow River" with Chinese traditional music culture, so that students can learn some traditional music culture while experiencing the charm of the cello.

#### ***6.2. Adequate resources of traditional music culture***

Through the enrichment of traditional music culture, the teaching of cello and traditional instruments is combined. To integrate cello and traditional music culture, it is necessary to have sufficient music resources so that students can better understand the diversity of traditional Chinese music culture. In this way, students can understand the traditional music culture, so that students can fully and efficiently integrate into the learning process. In daily teaching, in addition to teaching students to master the cello playing skills, we should guide them to master the basic music theory, but also broaden their vision of music culture, so as to achieve the purpose of music education.

#### ***6.3. Integration of red classic culture***

The introduction of red classics in cello teaching organically combines professional courses with ideological and political courses to promote students' patriotic enthusiasm. Since the founding of the

People's Republic of China, the cello has been inextricably linked with Chinese traditional music culture. In his cello performance, a cellist adapted China's "Saliha" into a cello solo. This is a song full of the flavor of the times and national characteristics. It reflects the expectations of intellectuals in a boiling age. It not only maintains the original style, but also fully displays the characteristics of Xinjiang music. Especially in the Allegro part, playing the cello creates a warm atmosphere. In class, teachers should guide students to adjust their tone flexibly according to the mood of music, and show the passion of youth in the form of Allegro and Adagio. Many examples show that in traditional Chinese music culture, such as cello and other western instruments. During the teaching process, the teacher will explain the classic red classics, and describe them in detail in combination with the style characteristics of music and the emotional needs of the works<sup>[6]</sup>.

#### **6.4. Combination of traditional culture and national music culture**

Under the diversified music mode, the integration of traditional culture and music culture of various countries is the general trend. The deep, euphemistic and unique western musical instrument of the cello has a close relationship with the introverted and implicit nature of Chinese traditional music culture, which has laid a good foundation for the in-depth integration of traditional music. We are both educators and communicators in the new era. We should not only inherit and preserve traditional folk music, but also overcome the barriers between western music and Chinese language and culture, and strive to make Chinese music "go out" and "integrate" into the new situation of western music. The diversification and inclusiveness of China's national music must combine the development of national music culture with the exchange and reference of other national music cultures to stimulate new artistic sparks.

#### **7. Conclusion**

To sum up, the cello has played an irreplaceable role in the expression and expression of Chinese music, but in general, the integration between the cello and traditional music still has huge development space. Under the current situation of music education and teaching reform in China, teachers should combine traditional Chinese music culture with traditional music, find the commonality of music and musical instruments, and achieve the purpose of teaching innovation.

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