

Musical Expression in Music Performance and Its Enhancement Pathway

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Abstract: *Music is an art form that crosses cultural and linguistic boundaries, it conveys a wealth of emotions and ideas through a combination of sounds and melodies. Music performance, as an important part of music art, not only requires music performers to have a solid technical foundation, but also requires them to be able to express the emotions and meanings embedded in musical works in a unique and touching way. Musical expression, as a crucial factor in musical performance, plays a key role in the emotional resonance between performer and audience. The purpose of this paper is to discuss in depth the musical expression and its enhancement path in music performance through the study of musical expression.*

Keywords: *Musical performances; Expressive power; Performers; Techniques and methods*

1. Introduction

This paper focuses on an in-depth study of musical expression in order to better understand how musical performers can achieve an accurate communication of the emotion and meaning of a musical work through their efforts in technical training, emotional expression and artistic understanding. At the same time, it helps music professionals and music lovers to improve their performance level and musical expression, and enriches the audience's musical experience. Finally, we will summarize ways to enhance musical expression, including the integrated application of technical training, emotional expression and artistic understanding.

2. Overview of musical expression

2.1. Definition of musical expression

Musical expression refers to the ability of a musical performer to convey the emotion, meaning and artistry embedded in a musical work to the audience through musical techniques and means of expression in the process of playing or singing. It involves the musical performer's understanding and interpretation of the musical work, as well as their emotional expression, individual style and artistic creativity displayed in their playing or singing.

2.2. The role of musical expression in musical performance

Musical expression plays a vital role in musical performance. It is able to give life and personality to a musical composition, making it go beyond simple notes and rhythms to touch the emotions and feelings of the audience. Musical expression can make the music become more real moving and memorable, make the music performance more artistic experience, and can let the audience understand the connotation of the music work more deeply. It not only gives life and uniqueness to musical works, but also establishes emotional resonance with the audience, making music a spiritual exchange and experience. The more expressive the music, the deeper the musical content that can be expressed, and the more infectious it will be to the appreciator. For musicians, the development and enhancement of musical expression is an advanced stage in the realisation of musical performance, and is of great significance in shaping one's musical image, professional recognition and artistic achievement.

2.3. The relationship between the performer's musical expressiveness and the audience's emotional resonance

The ultimate goal of musical expression is to create emotional resonance with the audience. Through the emotions and meanings expressed in music, musical performers are able to elicit empathy and emotional responses from their audiences. The audience is touched by the emotions conveyed by the performer while listening to the music, creating a shared emotion and experience that creates a spiritual connection with the performer. This emotional resonance allows musical compositions to penetrate and move hearts and minds, transcending linguistic and cultural boundaries. The importance of musical expression lies not only in enriching the interpretation of a musical work, but also in conveying the emotion and meaning of the music. A musician with excellent musical expression is able to bring out the delicate emotions, unique style and artistry of a musical work through virtuosity, emotional expression and artistic understanding.

3. Technical training and musical expression

3.1. The importance of technical training

In any industry or field where specialised technical training plays an important role, good expertise is a fundamental requirement for individuals to be able to thrive in the industry. Good musical technique is the basis for developing musical expression. A higher level of music technology can help music performers overcome technical obstacles in the performance process, enabling them to express the emotions of musical works more freely. At the same time, a good technical foundation also gives music performers more performance styles and means of expression, enabling them to interpret musical works more flexibly and show their personal musical style and artistic personality. As you can see, training in music technology is a must for every music performer.

3.2. The impact of technical training on musical performance

Technical training is the foundation and support of musical expression. A musical performer needs to have a solid technical foundation which is twofold. Firstly, the professional theoretical knowledge of music, such as tone pitch, rhythm and beat, notation and other basic music theory. The second is the practical training in the professional and practical skills of music, such as sight-singing, listening, tone control, use of techniques and stage performance. These two aspects complement each other and must be combined in training so that the theoretical knowledge can be implemented and applied in practice. It is only through adequate technical training that a musical performer will be able to perform with ease and accurately express the melody and emotion intended to be conveyed in a musical composition.

3.3. Methods and techniques for strengthening technical training

Basic technical training: Music performers can improve their technical sensitivity and accuracy through rhythmic exercises, breathing exercises, pitch training, etc.

Performance skills training: Music performers can enrich the means and effects of music expression by learning and mastering various performance and singing techniques, such as vibrato, glide, and intensity changes.

Independent Technical Training: Music performers can improve their mastery of specific instrument techniques, such as blowing techniques, playing techniques, bowing techniques, etc. Targeted training is conducted for different vocal techniques, based on the throat position, breathing, and resonance corresponding to the three singing styles of the United States, the country, and popular music, to improve the completeness and fluency of the performer's expression of the song.

Collective performance training: Music performers can participate in ensemble or choir performances and other orchestral performances, collaborate with other performers, exercise collaborative skills and observation skills, and improve the overall quality and expressiveness of the performance.

Through systematic and targeted technical training, music performers can continually improve their technical skills, making them a powerful support for musical expression. The purpose of technical training is not only to pursue perfection of technique, but also to make technique a tool for expressing musical emotion and meaning.^[1] The combination of technical training and musical expression enables

musical performers to give fuller play to their personal imagination and creativity, and to present musical works more emotionally.

4. Artistic understanding and musical expression

4.1. The importance of artistic understanding

Haydn said "The true meaning of art is to make people happy, to inspire and empower them." Music, as an integral part of the arts, certainly has this significance. As a performer, you need to be more careful and feel deeply in order to truly understand the spiritual connotation of a musical work. Understanding the creator's motivations, emotions, and background for creating a musical piece can help the performer better understand the emotions and meaning expressed in the piece and make the secondary composition even better.^[2]

Different composers and works have different musical languages and styles, such as the passion and expressiveness of Romantic music, the ornamentation and complexity of Baroque music, understanding musical language and style can help musical performers to better express the characteristics and features of a work. In addition, musical compositions have a certain structure and form, such as the movement structure of a symphony or the three-part structure of a sonata. Understanding the structure and form of a work can help a musical performer to grasp the wholeness and developmental logic of the work in order to better express the inner emotions of the work.

4.2. The impact of artistic understanding on musical performance

Artistic understanding is a prerequisite and guarantee of musical expression. The art of musical performance is an independent and creative process of expression. It not only reproduces the historical era and artistic style characteristics of the musical works, but also demonstrates the distinctive and unique personality and skilful skills of the music performers, which is the concrete embodiment of the aesthetic consciousness and creative passion of the music performing artists. Musical compositions are the product of the artist's creativity; they contain the composer's intentions, emotions and thoughts. Through an in-depth understanding of the artistic connotation and creative background of a musical work, music performers are able to better interpret and express the emotions and meanings conveyed by the work. Artistic understanding enables the musical performer to grasp the uniqueness and style of the work, and in turn, to make the musical work richer, more vivid and touching with personal artistic interpretation and expression.

4.3. Ways and means to enhance artistic understanding

Learn about the history of music and the background of composers: Through the study of music history and the life and works of composers, we will learn about the background of the composers' compositions, the context of their times and their musical ideas in order to enhance our understanding and interpretation of musical works.

Analyzing the structure and form of musical compositions involves systematically analyzing and studying various elements. This includes examining the structure of movements, exploring harmonious relationships, and investigating the development and changes of themes. The purpose of this analysis is to reveal the internal logic and emotional expression present within the works.

In terms of diversity in music appreciation and study, it is crucial to have extensive exposure to different genres and styles of musical works. This exposure should include classical, folk, and contemporary music. By immersing oneself in these various genres and styles, one can develop a broader understanding and appreciation for the intricacies of music. And by appreciating and studying different works, we can broaden the musical perspective and understanding range of music performers.

The combination of artistic understanding and musical expression enables musicians to better understand and express the emotion and meaning of a work. Through in-depth artistic understanding, music performers are able to interpret musical works in a more vivid, touching and powerful way with their own unique artistic perspectives and expressions, so that the audience can deeply feel the emotions and thoughts conveyed by the music.

5. Emotional expression and musical expression

5.1. The importance of emotional expression

Music is to reflect real life by expressing thoughts and feelings with sound, which is a basic characteristic of music as a sound art different from other arts. Music is a kind of emotional language, it is the "language of art" that expresses or puts people's feelings, and it conveys emotions more directly than ordinary language. The combination of different notes in music can express different emotions, and music also has the ability to imitate emotions. The beginning and end of music, such as the beginning, the brewing, the climax and the end, can be matched with our emotional state of change. Music performance is used to maintain the composer, performer, the appreciation is the emotion, in the emotional performance to achieve the unity of form and spirit, the unity of reality, to find the mood of the music. Performers should not just show and impress themselves, but more importantly express the emotion in the music and be able to convey that emotion to the viewer or listener, thus giving them an aesthetic experience.

5.2. The impact of emotional expression on musical performance

Emotional expression is the heart and soul of musical expression. It makes music a powerful and direct medium that can touch people's hearts and emotions. Musical works contain a wealth of emotions, such as joy, sadness, anger, tenderness, etc. Through the emotional expression of musical performers, the emotions in these musical works can be truly and profoundly conveyed to the audience. Each musical work contains its own special emotional significance, and the performer should combine the emotional appeal of the work with the targeted expression of emotion in the process of interpreting the work. First of all, the performer must correctly understand and experience the emotional connotation of the piece, in a deep grasp of the emotional tone of the piece, but also carefully appreciate the development of the emotional logic and colour changes in the piece. During the performance, if the singer wants to accurately express the emotion of the song, he/she needs to integrate his/her own understanding of the song into the performance process, so as to impress the audience and trigger emotional resonance. Emotional expression gives the music an emotional resonance and sharing, enabling the musical piece to move the heart and trigger empathy in the audience.

5.3. Improving methods and techniques of emotional expression

Observing and experiencing life: Music performers can broaden their emotional experience by observing and experiencing various emotions in their lives, such as joy, pain, joy, and loss, in order to enrich their ability to express themselves.

Deeper understanding of musical compositions: Performers can more accurately understand the emotions to be expressed in musical works by studying the composer's background and intention, analyzing the structure, melody, harmony, and other elements of the musical work.

Emotional engagement and self-expression: Musical performers need to express their emotions authentically in the process of playing or singing. Emotional engagement and self-expression: Music performers need to express their emotions authentically during the performance or singing process. The performer should replace themselves and integrate the musical works with the performer's emotional experience while performing, so as to make the audience immersive and experience more realistic and touching music composition.

Through continuous practice and exploration, music performers can develop and enhance their ability to express their emotions, making music performances more touching, moving and insightful. The combination of emotional expression and musical expressiveness can make musical works more vivid and resonant, so that the audience can deeply feel the emotions and meanings conveyed by the music.

6. An Integrated Approach to Enhancing Musical Expression

6.1. Integration of technical training, artistic understanding and emotional expression

Musical expression is one of the core goals pursued by music performers, which makes musical works more vivid, touching and powerful. Comprehensive musical expression requires not only technical support, but also in-depth artistic understanding, personal emotional engagement and emotional empathy

with the audience. In order to improve musical expression, it is necessary to organically combine technical training, artistic understanding, and emotional expression, and to continuously improve them through practice.

Through technical training, music performers acquire certain technical skills in performance, including pitch, rhythm, and tone control. This process requires repetition and practice, to allow expertise to gradually become second nature so that the performer is comfortable expressing the emotions in the music. Through artistic understanding, musical performers analyse and study musical works in depth. Understanding the context in which the composition was written and analysing elements such as pattern, harmony and melody, they are able to better understand the structure and internal logic of the music, and thus better express the intent and emotion of the piece. Through emotional expression, the music performer expresses his or her emotions authentically and is able to convey his or her innermost feelings to the audience with the help of well-timed virtuosity, timbre changes, and musical dynamics.

By using a combination of these methods, music performers can continually improve their musical expression. However, achieving a unified combination of the three takes time, experience and continued practice. It is only through continuous learning, practice and reflection that a music performer can achieve a higher level of musical expression, convey musical works more perfectly to the audience, and create stirring musical works.^[3]

6.2. Methods of developing musical expression in music education

Musical expression actually also includes a combination of factors such as musical perception, understanding, pitch and rhythm, skills and techniques, cultural and artistic cultivation and expression ability, which can be said to be a systematic project, so its cultivation is not overnight, but depends on long-term skills training, skills training and artistic cultivation in order to create.

The development of musical expression must begin in the classroom. When teaching music, according to the content of the work, students are guided to start from the melody, rhythm, style, etc., and while firmly grasping the basic knowledge of music, they make use of their old knowledge to analyse the work, such as musical phrases and sections, modal tonality, composition, style of the work, and so on. In addition, it develops students' confident singing, playing and integrated artistic performance skills, and develops students' performing and creative potential, enabling them to express their personal feelings in musical form and to communicate those feelings to the audience or listeners.

7. Conclusions

Comprehensive enhancement of musical expression is the goal pursued by every musician, which requires music performers to continuously improve their theory, basic skills, artistic understanding and interpretation skills.

In order to comprehensively improve musical expression, music performers need to deepen their knowledge of music theory and analytical ability, and be able to understand the inner logic and emotional expression of the work. A solid technical foundation is also required, and the development of musical interpretation and expression skills is vital, including detailing and personalised interpretation. It also broadens musical horizons through diverse music appreciation and performance experiences, and enhances understanding and expression of different styles and works. At the same time, self-reflection and continuous improvement are also essential. By reflecting on their own interpretation and expression, and by constantly improving and learning new musical works and styles, music performers are able to continuously improve their musical expression.

In the rapidly developing world of spiritual civilisation, the audience's pursuit of music and art has become increasingly diversified, with more and more attention being paid to the enjoyment of the senses of hearing, seeing and even touching. Therefore, musical performances must focus on creating emotional resonance with the appreciative audience. This requires music performers to be more expressive in their performances, giving the music richer connotations and achieving the best performance results. In terms of musical expression, performers need to be studied in depth, innovation and integration, focusing on the flexible use of stage performance skills in music performance, more profound expression of the connotation of music, to help the audience to experience the charm of music in all aspects, with the audience enjoyable, easy to accept the way, analysis of the work and show the work, and to promote the better development of the art of music.

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