

# The Application of Popular Singing Skills in Musicals

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**Abstract:** Nowadays pop music gradually develops and advances, pop singing skills are gradually defined and standardized. With its diversified, comprehensive and easy to accept characteristics, musicals are gradually known by the public in China. In order to satisfy the public's aesthetic taste, a large number of pop music elements are added to the current musical market so that pop singing skills can be used in musical dramas. In order to apply what you have learned, this paper takes the lyrics *supernatural Troubles* and *From now on* in the musical *The Drunk Winner* as examples, and briefly discusses how to use pop singing skills reasonably and skillfully in the musical based on my own learning of pop singing skills and musical practice experience.

**Key words:** Pop Music; Pop Singing; The Musical; Singing Skills

## 1. Introduction

Since its origin in the late 19th century and early 20th century, pop music has rapidly become a carrier for people to express their emotions and find resonance. Nowadays, the pop music system is gradually improving, and many excellent works emerge in an endless stream. Under the study and summary of many music educators, the pop singing skills are also clearer, so that the pop music singing is no longer limited to "hobby", but develops into a solid professional.

There are different opinions on the origin of musicals, but with the progress of time and the induction and improvement of artists, musicals have gradually become concentrated, rich and clear from loose form, single content and unclear definition. In order to meet the needs of the progress of The Times and meet the aesthetic needs of the public, a large number of pop music elements were added to enrich the style of the original single operetta. At the same time into the rock, jazz, modern singing, so that its performance style is more popular and interesting, consistent with the public taste.<sup>[1]</sup> Therefore, the author thinks that actors can make good use of pop singing skills to enrich the diversity of the lyrics and refine the popular elements.

## 2. Musicals and Pop Music in China

With the gradual diversification of pop music forms, the development of pop music in Hong Kong and Taiwan in the 1980s and 1990s also aroused a wave of enthusiasm, such as the "Little Tigers" and "Four Heavenly Kings", which became the object of imitation by many people at that time. The current material demand and the rising public demand for spirit, pop music is more diverse and rich, the emergence of many talented musicians, create many well-known pop music works, such as Li Ronghao creation of young and promising, hair is not easy to create "deserve" word of mouth and so on have become the people's work.

In the early stage, musicals were little known in China until the 1980s, when the first musical, *A Game of Mountains and Wild Fields*, appeared in China, and then musicals began to attract the attention of the domestic music industry. In 1997, Jacky Cheung acted as the art director and starred in the musical *Snow Wolf Lake*, which had a warm influence once it was staged. The musical is an original musical based on pop music, and many of the songs in the musical are still widely circulated today, such as *Love is Eternal*, *The Legend of The Ageless* and so on. In the 21st century, the development of domestic musicals began to take shape. The musicals *Jinsha* and *Disc*, directed and composed by Sanbao and written and written by Guan Shan, have become the classics of Chinese musicals. In 2018, hunan TV broadcast the program "Sound into People's Hearts", which greatly promoted the awareness of musicals among the domestic public, and more people began to flock into the field of musicals, contributing to the development of domestic musicals. In 2020, the Chinese Musical Awards was held to promote the popularity of musicals, including many excellent original

musicals, such as *The Orphan of Zhao* and *The Drunken Winner*. Through this event, many people have a more intuitive understanding of musicals.

### 3. Using Pop Singing Skills in the Riff on *Drunk Winner*

#### 3.1 Singing Section "*Supernatural Troubles*"

*Supernatural Troubles* is the middle part of the show, where the character Chow Tai Fook tries to prove his supernatural powers. Because "Chow Tai Fook" is a feminine and charismatic character, the author added BossaNova style to the song "*Supernatural Troubles*", with light rhythm and extremely soft and free melody. Since this part is the part of Chow Tai Fook's solo and the highlight of the play, the author believes that pop singing techniques can be used in this part to improve the musicality and interest of the part.

The opening melody of *Supernatural Troubles*. It can be seen from the score that the author uses a large number of supplementary rhythms and rests to give the melody a light feeling, and uses "# F" as the change and passing sound for many times, adding musicality to the simple melody and making it full of languid and relaxed feeling.

The author thinks that when singing this part, we should skillfully sing the Latin jazz singing method that is, using glide, tremolo and embellishment to enhance the effect.

In section B of *Supernatural Troubles*, there are a lot of supplementary rhythms and homophone repetition, which makes the music more rhythmic. Therefore, when singing this paragraph, the author thinks that "elastic rap"[2] can be used, that is, the sound is constantly out of breath, which ensures the continuity of phrases while providing sufficient breath support between words. While the diaphragm maintains the support, the abdomen gives the breath circulation to inhale and push the movement, which can avoid the problems of incoherent phrases, insufficient breath and inaccurate rhythm. In its trails in 71 to 72 in the section "clear" two words, you can use the same glide skill to transition, pitch to improve at the same time, should also pay attention to when singing the change of the cavity, the glide starting sound transition to a word "chu", the song singing body to fall toward the chest, to ensure that the stereo sound and channel unobstructed, such treatment can give the audience a better listen to feeling.

The chorus of *Supernatural Troubles* is mainly composed of minor sixth intervals and has a large span. Due to the segment for the whole song of the chorus, arranger of instruments is also more abundant, Latin jazz style is more apparent, so the author thinks that should give full play to emotion when singing, singing state should be more active, but should pay attention to not disturb breath cycle movement, in order to avoid in the process of singing caused by unstable sound floating breath hissing sound. In the lyrics, some words can be sung more freely, for example, "Coming" in bar 115 and "Holding fate" in bar 117 can be appropriately extended, but the diction should be kept clear. Because *Supernatural Troubles* is clearly BossaNova Latin jazz, Therefore, the author thinks that we should skillfully use the tremolo and glide skills in jazz singing, and use the singing skills of elastic rap to enrich the musicality of the singing section, so as to form a perfect fit with the charming and enchanting character image of "Chow Tai Fook".

#### 3.2 Song "*From Now on*"

*From now on* is a love song sung by the character Lee Dingyi when he proposes to his wife. The melody is beautiful, is a 6/8 time lyrical style pop love song.

Part A of *From Now on*. In this paragraph, there are many big jumps of intervals, and the stress is on the fore beat. Therefore, the author believes that each stress in the phrase can be emphasized when singing, such as "tian" in bar 6 and "jin" in bar 16. . In this paragraph, the "flowing chant" [3] technique in popular singing techniques can be skillfully used, that is, on the basis of abdominal breathing, emphasis is placed on combined thoracic and abdominal breathing and circuitous breathing, and the breath should be in a coherent rolling state. Under the support of the breath, the articulation should be kept clear, and at the same time, the coherence between the words should be maintained, and the breath goes before the sound. Using this technique, you can avoid the repetition of words and make sure that each phrase is consistent and stable, so that the listener does not think that the lyrics are popping out one word at a time.

"From Now on" the chorus singing the, the author thinks that to focus on the emotional progressive and the power of sound in the period of the chorus: on the premise of guarantee the quality of sound is higher, in the period of the first half of 63 the chorus section 71 section, you can use the weak voice singing, such processing can make the corresponds to the emotional tone of voice and songs. From bar 72 to bar 75 in the second half of the song, the vocal position can be gradually shifted to chest voice, and the proportion of true voice is increased. When the melody jumps to the high pitch, the diaphragm remains supported, the waist and abdomen give power, and the high pitch is kept low in consciousness, giving the high pitch enough explosive power. This treatment can push the song emotion to the highest level, which is also an important point in popular lyric songs.

#### 4. The Use of Pop Singing Techniques in A Musical

Drunk Winner is a musical that uses a variety of pop styles, so pop singing skills can be skillfully used in the vocals. For example, boss nova-style jazz singing, elastic rap and flow singing of popular lyric songs are listed in this paper.

The use of vibrato in jazz singing in musical arias can make the arias more elastic and produce a touching effect. [4] The use of glide can create a lazy and soft effect and make the arias more rich and flexible. Through the use of vibrato and glide, the musical canto, especially the unique charm of the characters, can be jazzier.

Using the technique of elastic rap in the musical canto can make the phrase swing and enhance the overall rhythm, which can give the audience a more intuitive feeling when combined with the dance.

Using the technique of flow singing in the musical canto can make the lyrical style of canto more soft and soothing. At the same time, with the application of flowing chanting style, breathing in and out can be very stable circulation, giving continuous support to sound. The singer can more easily and easily interpret the emotions in the lyrics, and the audience can also get a sense of hearing.

#### 5. Conclusion

Nowadays, pop music has become an indispensable part of people's entertainment life. With the perfection and innovation of the pop music system, pop singing skills have been gradually defined and standardized. As a new art form, musical has gradually appeared in the public eye with the principle of "big world in small theater". In the early years, most musicals were based on bel canto, with elegant style and untouchable in the eyes of the public. However, with the continuous development and innovation of musicals, a large number of pop music elements have been added to musicals, making musicals more accessible and enjoyable to watch. Therefore, musicals have gradually become another vehicle for popular music. With the emergence of many styles of musicals, popular music and musicals complement each other, creating many vivid characters and extraordinary musical works.

The skillful use of pop singing skills in musical arias can make us more recognizable, vivid and creative when singing musical works. As a practitioner of musical drama, the skillful use of pop singing skills is conducive to better shaping characters, shaping music, and helping oneself to find a more appropriate way of singing. The integration of pop music and musicals is conducive to creating more quality musicals, promoting the development of domestic musicals and providing more choices for the cultural life of the public.

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