

# The Historical Development of Chinese-styled Piano Music Creation

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**ABSTRACT.** *The piano originated from the west, but after the development of history and the spread of music, the piano gradually became popular in the creation of music in China. The creation of Chinese-style piano music was deeply influenced by the western music culture in the early stage, and its Chinese characteristics were not obvious in style. However, with the social reform and the development of The Times, the creation of Chinese-style piano music has been able to present Chinese characteristics, and the creation methods and content of music are also more distinct. Based on the characteristics and techniques of Chinese style piano music creation, this paper discusses the creation and development process of Chinese style piano music, and provides basic research data for the creation of Chinese style piano music.*

**KEYWORDS:** *The Chinese style; The piano music; Creation*

## 1. Introduction

Music with unique Chinese style has been applied to many musical Instruments in China, integrating local characteristics with traditional culture and providing people with reverie of Chinese style in the presentation of music. Chinese style can also be integrated into the creation of piano music. By combining the piano music with the timbre of traditional Chinese instruments and deductive techniques, Chinese style is well integrated into the creation of piano music[1]. This is the perfect effect presented by the combination of Chinese style music and western Musical Instruments, and also a major feature of the creation of Chinese style piano music. It can achieve the integration and combination of music and show more artistic beauty of music related to the collision of music[2].

## **2. Characteristics of Chinese style piano music creation**

The Chinese style piano music creation cannot leave the Chinese characteristic. Chinese style music with traditional folk instruments is people's imagination of Chinese style[3]. This artistic concept full of collision is realized in the piano music creation, which truly combines Chinese style in the piano music creation and forms the piano music effect with Chinese characteristics.

### ***2.1 Imitate the timbre of folk instruments in the creation of piano music.***

The creation of Chinese style piano music is integrated with Chinese characteristics. The combination of traditional folk instruments and folk music is indispensable. The creation of piano music by imitating the timbre of folk instruments well presents the integration of Eastern and Western cultures in the tracks expression, and also gives people a special flavor and artistic conception of Chinese style. This is not only a single reflection of Chinese folk music style, but also a way to integrate Chinese characteristics into the piano music creation, giving the audience a sense of music conflict. But it can form a deep understanding of piano music in this conflict.

### ***2.2 National characteristics and harmonic characteristics are used in the creation of piano music.***

In the creation of Chinese style piano music, combining the national pentatonic mode to create the piano music can highlight the Chinese music style. In addition, the piano music works are created in combination with the way of transfer, and the elements of national music are integrated to make the structure of music works more arbitrary. The harmony effect in western music culture is reduced, and Chinese-style harmony elements are added to present Chinese characteristics with national characteristics, forming the unique harmony way in the creation of Chinese-style piano music.

### ***2.3 Distinct characteristics of rhythm in piano creation.***

The Chinese style piano music creation is different from the western music

creation. In terms of the rhythm of the piano music, the rhythm characteristics of traditional folk music are well combined. Speed, depth and rigidity and brightness combined with each other perfectly. This is the characteristic of Chinese style piano music creation, and also the way of piano music creation which fully shows Chinese style and Chinese characteristics. In addition, in the composition of Chinese style piano music, the structural changes are more obvious and diverse. In the piano music creation, we can integrate sonata style, polyphony music style, variation style, etc., and present the Chinese music style well in the creation style and music characteristics.

### **3. The Chinese style piano music creation technique**

The creation of Chinese style piano music with Chinese characteristics also attaches more importance to the quotation and expression of Chinese style. For a long time in the past, the creation style of Chinese style piano music lacked Chinese characteristics. Until the Cultural Revolution, the techniques and methods of piano music creation were limited by western music culture. The creation of Chinese style piano music didn't really realize diversification until the end of 1980s, and it can be done with the unique Chinese characteristic music creation method[4].

#### ***3.1 Embellishments and variations creation technique***

In the creation of Chinese style piano music, the real breakthrough of Chinese piano music should be *The Shepherd Boy Piccolo* created by He Lvting in 1934. In this work, the traditional folk instrument flute playing skill and embellishments and variations are used for the piano composition. Not only is the pentatonic mode combined with embellishments and variations, but also the folk pop music is added into the tracks. It breaks through the limitations brought by western music culture, creative techniques to Chinese piano music, and realizes the leaping progress of Chinese style piano music creation.

#### ***3.2 Innovation of traditional folk songs***

Piano music has the attribute of flexible conversion, and the interpretation of

traditional folk songs by piano music can form a new music aesthetic feeling. In the creation of Chinese style piano music, the innovation and technical creation of piano music expression techniques are realized by means of the local characteristics and times characteristics of traditional folk songs. This is a breakthrough in the creation of Chinese style piano music, which also makes good use of piano timbre to innovate traditional Chinese folk songs. This is a breakthrough in the creation of Chinese style piano music, which also makes good use of piano timbre to innovate traditional Chinese folk songs. Among them, there are also ways to create Chinese style piano music by imitating minority music style. It makes good use of the characteristics of syncopated rhythm and dotted rhythm in the ethnic music, and embodies the characteristics of ethnic music in the creation of piano music, presenting the characteristics of Chinese ethnic music and forming the unique Chinese style piano music.

### ***3.3 imitate the timbre and techniques of traditional Chinese Musical Instruments***

In the creation of Chinese-style piano music, it imitates the timbre of traditional Chinese folk instruments such as pipa and guzheng, and uses the playing techniques of traditional instruments such as guqin and erhu to create the piano music, which is a great progress in the creation of Chinese-style piano music. It is a great progress in the creation of Chinese style piano music. It can well apply traditional Chinese Musical Instruments and display Chinese characteristics in the piano music, which well realizes the diversification and diversity of piano music creation[5]. For example, in the piano music “trilogy of pump blossom”, it uses the playing technique of the guqin music “trilogy of pump blossom”. In the creation of piano music, it imitates the single and compound scattered notes of guqin, and also creates piano music with the sliding and grace notes of guqin. At this stage, the piano music creation has been able to clearly present the style of Chinese piano music, which also marks the new level of Chinese piano music creation.

## **4. Development process of Chinese style piano music creation**

Chinese style piano music has gone through different times of changes and formed different development stages in its long development, constantly promoting

the development of Chinese style piano music and forming unique Chinese music.

#### ***4.1 Chinese style piano music creation in the initial stage***

The development of China's new music movement can be said to be generated from the background of the New Culture Movement. Zhao Yuanren was the first one who tried to create Chinese style piano music with western instrument piano. The recognition of Chinese piano music abroad is the Peace March published in American Science Journal in 1915, which is a sign of the preliminary recognition and budding of Chinese piano music abroad. From 1910 to 1929, Chinese style piano music was influenced by western music culture. Therefore, the idea of structuring is relatively simple and short. There is not much innovation in professional skills. Although the representation of Chinese style piano music in this period is not high, it marks the formal birth of Chinese piano music.

#### ***4.2 Chinese style piano music creation in the embryonic stage of artistic creation***

After the birth of Chinese piano music, diversified thoughts of music creation are gradually coming. In the twenty years from 1929 to 1949, the creation of Chinese style piano music experienced two stages of development. In the first stage of development, the Chinese-style piano music gradually got rid of the enlightenment art concept in the May 4th period due to the influence of the Soviet literary and art theory and achievement trend of thought. In this period, music art was able to combine with the characteristics of the Times, and many piano music works were created that combined with the sounds of the Times. The 1934 evaluation activity of Chinese piano music really laid a good foundation for Chinese piano music creation and promoted the later development of Chinese style piano music creation. In the second stage of development, the creation of Chinese style piano music is more closely combined with the characteristics of The Times, and the creation art of piano music is combined with war and national salvation. Integrated with the local cultural atmosphere and way of thinking, the piano music creation in this period was endowed with a distinctive war attribute. Although the Chinese style piano music in this period was different in creation methods, it could highlight the same characteristics. For example, in terms of harmony processing, through the harmonic

characteristics of national music, the piano music harmony is processed in detail, which reduces the conflict between piano tone and national music, and forms a unique harmony style with Chinese characteristics. As the embryonic period of Chinese style piano music creation, this period allowed more people to see the hope and possibility of the development of Chinese piano music, and also let more people express their sense of national mission and personal feelings through piano music creation.

#### ***4.3 Chinese style piano music creation in the flourishing period of artistic creation***

From 1949 to 1966, music education in China received further attention after the founding of new China, and there was more space and development direction for the creation of piano music. The creation of Chinese style piano music entered a prosperous period, and the creation quantity and quality of Chinese piano music were greatly improved. Moreover, the unique Chinese style piano music creation is diversified in themes, styles and contents. It makes good use of traditional Chinese folk instruments and folk music tunes to create the piano music, which truly gives the Chinese style piano music new artistic vitality. In this period, the difference between Chinese piano music and western piano music in the title of piano music is the most obvious Chinese symbol, which integrates the feelings and attitudes of the creators. This is also a period when the style of Chinese piano music is quite distinct.

#### ***4.4 Chinese style piano music creation in the transition period of artistic creation***

In the ten years after the boom of Chinese style piano music creation, China experienced the Cultural Revolution. In this period, the social background tended to be “unified”. The single literary trend of thought makes the creation of Chinese piano music also enter a lost stage. During this period, the model opera became an important role on the art stage. Although the piano music was also created with the help of traditional instruments and ethnic music, the theme, technique and expression of the work were qualitatively changed. It has really formed the Chinese style piano music with symbolic significance and representative significance.

#### ***4.5 Diversified Chinese style piano music creation.***

The creation of Chinese style piano music experienced many periods. After the end of the Cultural Revolution, the creation of Chinese piano music also entered the period of diversified creation under the social background of constant development and change of the society and constant combination and integration of diversified thoughts. The creator consciously uses the western music culture and the Chinese traditional music culture to express Chinese characteristics, and pays more attention to the expression of the artistic conception of Chinese culture in the piano music creation, which well forms the Chinese style and Chinese characteristics. Up to now, the creation of Chinese-style piano music still abides by the diversified creation concept, highlights Chinese elements and Chinese characteristics in a variety of elements, and creates Chinese-style piano music[6].

## 5. Conclusion

The creation of Chinese style piano music has gone through time changes and social changes in features and techniques to form the current unique Chinese style. In the long history of the creation of Chinese style piano music, its development course shows the historical traces of the creation of Chinese piano music. By deeply discussing the creation history of Chinese-style piano music, this paper can have a deeper understanding of the development and reform of Chinese-style piano music, and explore the extension of Chinese-style piano music in the creation and development process of piano music, which is conducive to a detailed discussion and understanding of Chinese-style piano music.

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