

Analysis of the role of percussion in opera band

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Abstract: *In order to understand the role of percussion in opera bands, this paper will carry out relevant research. This paper first discusses the basic concepts of percussion and opera band and the relationship between them, and then puts forward the basic and special functions of percussion in opera band. Through the research, we know that percussion plays a decisive role in the opera band, which is irreplaceable and plays a decisive role in the quality of performance. Therefore, in order to ensure the quality of performance, we must grasp the key points of the role of percussion, so as to give full play to the role of percussion.*

Keywords: *Percussion; Opera band; Drama play*

1. Introduction

Opera is a traditional art form in China, with rich historical and cultural heritage and unique artistic charm. Therefore, opera was loved by the Chinese public in the early stage, and also attracted a number of people to become opera practitioners. These practitioners gradually formed a team in the continuous performance and communication, which is called opera band. Opera orchestra the advent of opera performance with the standard form, namely performance have the accompaniment and performers, and accompaniment is composed of many kinds of musical Instruments, each instrument shall be the responsibility of the personnel, including the percussion instruments, and percussion performers, thus to bring people in conjunction with the band members of the opera performances of various kinds of high quality. But today, because of long time, so modern drama to the attention of a degree of decline, nature is not enough understanding on drama, a lot of people for the concept of traditional opera are vague, don't know every kind of music in the opera orchestra, including the percussion, such as some people are blind defined percussion music form, the western understanding of the role is very limited, It is also difficult to associate percussion with opera bands. In this case, the drama industry suffered a serious blow, lead to opera culture began passing, starting to be forgotten, the phenomenon is not acceptable for our country, so people to protect the traditional culture, so it is necessary to analyze the percussion role in the opera orchestra, it cannot directly change the status quo, but at least able to make great contribution to opera cultural heritage.

2. Basic concepts and relationships of percussion and opera bands

2.1. Basic Concepts

The basic concept of percussion and opera band is as follows.

2.1.1. Percussion

Objectively, percussion refers to a series of instruments that need to be played by percussion and the performance of such instruments, such as all kinds of drums are the most representative instruments in percussion, and the sum of vocal music produced by drums is percussion. At present, the modern people for percussion impression comes from the west, such as many people know that the drums, is also fundamental to understand by drums percussion, is that some people think that percussion player raised by hitting on the drums and cymbals form of music, and drums from the west, so many people think that percussion also originated in the west, In fact is not the case, percussion originated in China, there are historical records, percussion has been 7000 years of Chinese history, as early as in ancient times there are pottery drum, after developing but also appeared a lot of percussion instruments, and every kind of musical instrument has its own unique way of combat, including play, wipe, knock, shaking, scraping, such as a variety of ways, there is even a form of musical instrument that is compatible with a variety of percussion modes, and the music formed by each instrument under different percussion modes is very

unique and has its own unique charm. Percussion in China's history, percussion originally used for sacrifice, to communicate with "day" can be seen as objects, then is widely used in the hunt, war, such as war between countries always first drum, used to boost morale, with the continuous development of percussion instruments form eventually, increasing, its gradually into the our country some traditional music form, such as the ancient court music, often use bells the percussion instruments to play, this trend has continued to modern times, and from the angle of modern basic in any form of traditional music in China can see the figure of percussion, suggesting a percussion early widespread in our country, just because the percussion in our country has not been clear expression, the concept of Therefore, it has been gradually lost and forgotten in the years and under the impact of the modern international development of Chinese and Western percussion.

2.1.2. Opera Band

Opera orchestra from the basic form and modern pop band of the best known are similar, both contain "singer", "accompaniment organization", but the opera music performed by a band is a drama, so the configuration of the band must meet the demand of opera performances, opera and modern pop music has a great deal of difference between, therefore the opera orchestra on the specific configuration and popular also has the very big difference^[1-3]. Compared to the first pop band, opera orchestra instruments more, accompaniment part of the reason is that of opera performance involves a lot of kinds of musical instruments, second opera orchestra many of the instruments are not at liberty to replace, the reason is that the timbre of the instrument and unique style are playing, do not compatible with most of the instruments, such as gong would not be very compatible guitar, bass and other instruments, only with some traditional music in China, similar to the suona, drums and other instruments, which is one of the features of opera performance, and therefore drama band will need to responsible for such instruments of the performer, the drama of the band is playing attaches great importance to cooperation between players, namely pop band accompaniment to organize and lead singer of the performance is basically parallel, many popular music performances, except a prelude to the rest of the time are vocal and instrumental music, and then seek to cooperate with in this relationship, but different opera orchestra, show the main emphasis on the vocal music and instrumental music, requirements in the gap with instrumental music, vocal music show in instrumental music performance gap with vocal music, thus achieve the goal of mutual cooperation, therefore, there is a great difference between opera band and pop band^[4-6].

In addition, the drama group, there are some difference between the point of view, from the relationship of the band and performance band is in the service of performance, and there are many different kinds of Chinese traditional opera, such as Beijing Opera and shaoxing opera, henan opera has been innovating, different opera performance style is different, with strong local cultural characteristics, so the corresponding drama differences exist between the band, such as Beijing Opera performances JingErHu needs access to, therefore, the opera band needs to have performers performing the Jingerhu, while the Yue opera or Henan opera is generally not applicable to the Jingerhu, so there is no jingerhu performer in the band members. Under this kind of difference, the composition of opera orchestra, although there is a fixed form, but will not cause player restrictions, namely if opera orchestra performing Peking Opera, then add JingErHu player in the band, if the next to shaoxing opera performance, will be associated with shaoxing opera music player of the band, the staff has the very big volatility, this also makes the opera band is a form of playing team formed by convention, which is the biggest difference between opera band and pop band^[7-8].

2.2. relationship

Table 1: Detailed classification of percussion instruments in opera bands

Categories	Detailed classification
Drum	ChanPi drum
	Ttupan
	Flowerpot drum
Gong	The big gong
	Small gong
Cymbal	Copper and brass
	TongNao
	Water cymbal
	Chinese gong chimes
	Beat the cymbals

PS: The actual content is too much to display

There is a close relationship between percussion and opera bands, that is, there are many instrumentalists in opera bands, most of whom are percussion instrumentalists. There are many kinds of instruments involved, mainly drums, gongs, cymbals and clanging bells. These kinds can be further subdivided, as shown in Table 1.

Detailed classification, different percussion instrument have different functions in the middle of the drama performance, each instrument performance is very important, and cannot leave the percussion in any drama performance, if left percussion opera performance will not be able to complete, even chaos, so the percussion player is part of the drama in the band cannot obtain, both close relationship. At the same time, because a opera performance often involves a large number of percussion instruments, so according to the unique cooperation between instrumental music and vocal music in the opera performance, the players of each percussion instrument should be prepared to cooperate with each other. In addition, opera performance in addition to including vocal music, instrumental music, also includes the form, the two elements of drama performances, these two elements also associated with opera percussion band, such as in my acting with percussion to foil atmosphere, have similar performance of drama performances, thus it can be seen that percussion and implement the whole opera performances, therefore, it plays an important role in the opera band^[9-10].

3. The basic and special functions of percussion in opera band

3.1. Basic Functions

In essence, any form of percussion has some of the same functions in any musical performance. Such functions are the basic functions of percussion, including the formation of rhythm, performance and direction, and the transmission of information. These functions are no exception in the opera band, the details are as follows.

3.1.1. Form rhythm

Percussion tone and volume, interval is different from other kinds of Musical Instruments, which makes percussion when playing can bring people a strong sense of rhythm, drum, for example, every time the sound of percussion raised is short, and the volume is larger, voice quality is outstanding, compared with stringed instruments, lingering sound short, almost negligible, Therefore, this kind of sound is more likely to attract people's attention in the performance of all the music, which also brings people a sense of rhythm. Rhythm is very important for any kind of music to play, to say the rules of the music rhythm is, if the music playing from the rhythm, is bound to appear quality problem, give a person a bad listening, such as in the drama play, if the voice and drums at the same time, can produce conflict between, people may be because the drums can't hear, can't hear voices, It is also possible that the performance quality will inevitably decline because the human voice can not hear or hear the drums clearly. On the contrary, if the human voice can perform with the rhythm formed by the drums, the two will form a well-proportioned musical relationship to ensure the performance quality. Therefore, the role of percussion in the formation of rhythm is very important in the opera band. With the Henan opera has been innovating for the games as an example, the prelude part is composed entirely by percussion, rhythm is intensive, so in the process of performing the lead singer (opera singer and performer, is responsible for vocal music performance and form part of the vocal music performance and form performance rate, frequency, singing and so on are all close to the rhythm to complete, so the order of "the games" opera performances are closely, this is also one of the reasons why it can become a classic Henan opera.

3.1.2. Performance conductor

In fact, in the midst of any music playing percussion could have the function of the command, the rhythm of the percussion the rhythm of the form to the whole music concert repertoire paragraph breaks, will have obvious difference before and after each segment of rhythmic beats within paragraphs appear, such as a drama performance before playing one of the paragraph, will pop up an emphasis, The appearance of this stress is to tell other players that the performance of the paragraph is about to enter, and there will be another stress after the performance, which means that the performance of the paragraph is about to end. Therefore, percussion plays a role of performance command. It is important to note that the opera orchestra playing percussion in command role performance is more complex, different from other music forms such as pop music, the opera percussion band is not only by way of accent played command, will also command through different percussion sound, such as may occur before a song playing paragraph continuous stress, and every time a pounding percussion instruments is different, if it's purely based on stress to determine whether to enter the play of the paragraph, it is easy to lead to

play, but if combining tone can accurate judgment, which assumes that a total of 33 stress, 32 stress by drum before class, 33rd and stress is through the waves, there is a distinct difference in timbre, which also allows other players to be prepared when they hear the gongs and not be misled by the drums. Table 2 shows the functional elements of percussion conductor in opera band.

Table 2: Functional elements of percussion conductor in opera band

Effect of element	Mechanism of action
The accent	Make a distinction according to the volume
	Make distinctions according to the stress nodes
Tone	Make distinctions according to timbre differences
	Distinguish according to tone difference and weight

3.1.3. Transfer of information

Percussion has the function of conveying information in music performance, which is two-way, that is, internally it can convey information to other players, conduct other players, and also convey information to the audience, so that they can feel the atmosphere and emotion of music performance. As for the internal function of percussion conveying information (i.e. performance direction), it has been discussed above, and the external function of conveying information is mainly introduced here: First, percussion message foreign object is the audience or audience, its message is mostly told them to play for at some stage, and the forecast is about to enter the next phase, namely drama play, when percussion player on a paragraph after stress, listeners or viewers know this paragraph has been finished, and then when the percussion player hits the stress before the next passage, they know that they're going to start playing the new passage, so that they're prepared and they're more focused on the drama, and it's good for them to have a good experience. Second, percussion way pass information to the audience and the audience does not rely on a certain stress, in most cases are passed through a series of sound information, this way can let them know the next play paragraph mood and emotion, etc., such as through a series of dense blow to make a sound, can let a person know playing next paragraph tense, they can also imagine the emotions of the characters, allowing them to appreciate the music more deeply. Table 3 shows the common ways of conveying atmosphere and emotional information by percussion in opera bands.

Table 3: Common ways of conveying atmosphere and emotional information by percussion in opera bands

Way	Atmosphere and Emotion
Intensive play	Tension and emotion
Interval playing	Surprise atmosphere and emotion

3.2. Special Functions

The special role refers to the unique role of percussion in the opera band. This kind of role is difficult to reflect in the performance of other music forms, basically does not exist, so it is special. There are five main special functions, namely, onomatopoeia, singing accompaniment for literary and opera, action accompaniment for martial arts, solo performance for martial arts, and song and dance accompaniment. The specific contents are as follows.

3.2.1. Onomatopoeia

Drama performance a lot of the connotation of the element, in addition to the most basic elements of music, there are a lot of plot elements, and these elements in the opera plot is embodied by percussion, this is the other forms of music does not have, such as opera performance similar to opera performances, but does not exist in opera percussion to onomatopoeia highlight plot elements way of playing, basically, they are performed directly by the way of real recording, so onomatopoeia is a special role of opera performance. Percussion onomatopoeia role in the opera has a lot of, for example, by the sound of the gong to thunder, that is the sound of the gong sounds alone is harsh, and very suddenly, compared to other percussion instruments, finish to a certain extent, these characteristics are consistent with the basic nature of thunder, so this way of onomatopoeia in many similar plot of the drama performance is very common, and through this way of onomatopoeia, can stimulate people's image phenomenon, that is, gongs imitate thunder, can let people imagine that the story is happening in the dark weather, or even it is pouring rain, so that people can better feel the drama, highlighting the story elements. In addition to thunder, a variety of percussion music in the opera performance can also simulate other sounds, such as the intersection of guns and hooves, etc. The specific use of what kind of percussion music to simulate what kind of sound completely depends on the needs of the plot, but any use of onomatopoeia is to

highlight the plot elements, so that people can better substitute into the opera performance. Table 4 shows the common onomatopoeia and connotation of percussion music.

Table 4: Common onomatopoeia and connotation of percussion music

Onomatopoeia	The connotation of the
Wind, rain, thunder	Image expression
The clatter of knives and guns and clubs	The plot express

3.2.2. Singing and accompaniment in literary opera

Percussion is an important part of the drama performance in accompaniment, but in different opera paragraphs, percussion accompaniment of use is different, namely literature show parts of opera performances, the performers need to use a variety of singing, in part to meet the needs of the plot and style of acting performances, the purpose is to express emotions in plot, And the correct use of percussion music for the accompaniment of the performer singing, can better highlight the emotion of the characters. First of all, the performers on the stage to complete to shape their own role of comprehensive, complete, one should pay attention to their own expression, action, NianBai, singing, do a good job to let the audience know the character of personality traits, psychological condition, etc. Can also have a certain knowledge of the plot, so that the audience can experience the emotional drama literature show part, let the audience feel the immersive, but rely on performers in these shows individual is difficult to guarantee the degree of emotional expression is sufficient, therefore, need to use percussion to further promote the emotional expression, such as percussion accompaniment, at the right time can make this kind of emotion is more outstanding, such as literature shows the performers singing changes, mainly highlights the fright emotions, at this time, through the percussion accompaniment can make the audience faster and more accurate to know the characters of the current existence of this situation, so in the opera singing accompaniment percussion plays a role can not be ignored. Second, although percussion is an important element of literature show some foil emotion, but not on behalf of the percussion of literature show emotion has a leading role, on the contrary literature shows dominant emotional element is a performer, foil, foil emotions so percussion what depends on literature, the performer's singing, percussion players into "and" the performers have enough communication, we should make a thorough study of the opera repertoire, and cooperate with each other well, and then pay attention to the emotional changes of the performers in the stage performance, and set off the emotions through the correct way. Thus it can be seen that percussion in opera into "have to" singing in the band accompaniment, the addition of it can let the audience feel better drama literature show part of the emotional attitude, this is opera performances at the core of quality indicators, if you can't clear the expression of emotion, so will affect the integrity of the drama performance, That is, from the perspective of opera performance as a whole (opera performance does not only include the literary part, but the literary part is closely related to other parts), if there is a problem in the emotional expression of the literary part due to percussion performance, it may lead to a disconnection between the literary part and other parts, and the audience will feel foggy, which will greatly affect their perception. Therefore, the percussion players should pay attention to this point in the accompaniment of the singing in the literary opera. It is important to note that the literature for literature performers performing process is a standard pattern, characters and smile are the basic requirements, but for percussion players, into the emotional expression of no fixed way, changes can occur at any time, so the percussion player ready to switch at any time to play way, in order to deal with in the middle of the performance, Convey the beauty of opera.

3.2.3. Action accompaniment in the fighting field

Percussion instruments in Chinese operas is another big part of opera performances, this part of the very few singing, or no singing, is not without sound, just don't need to "sing"), through various actions to perform, but need to performers such as opera among the three british war lu bu, four performers play liu bei, guan yu, zhang fei and lu bu, one of the three, As one of the three performers on the action to be subtle, showed three people together, and as a hostile "lyu3 bu4", performers should seize lyu3 bu4 character image, with the unique way to deal with three people, so as to fully will show the scene of three British war lyu3 bu4, four performers in the whole process has its own action, And each performer is responsible for a lot of movements, performance has a certain degree of difficulty. According to the characteristics of the percussion instruments in Chinese operas show, you can see that most of that part of the show is action, there is almost no singing, so compared with the literature, percussion instruments in Chinese operas show itself in the form of is relatively drab, although the exact action can deliver emotional, intuitive rendering atmosphere, but it's easy to let a person feel fatigue, boredom, this case will need to solve this problem by percussion, that although there is no singing, percussion instruments in Chinese operas performance, but the action of the performers represent the rhythm of the drama

performance, also determines the degree of the emotion of the characters, such as when the performer of the action strength increases, increases the extent of the representative of the emotion, the audience can also from here to understand the change of the emotion, with an eye to this percussion cooperate with performers action on the change of rhythm in play, for example, during the performance, the performer suddenly opens his eyes in anger, and the representative character is very angry. But before this, the performer is relatively calm. Therefore, the percussion music should be played at the moment when the performer changes his expression, and the representative character's emotion changes. Overall, percussion instruments in Chinese operas relies mainly on the action to perform, and actions than singing performance more tension and rhythm, but also more intense, so the percussion player should focus on the action of percussion instruments in Chinese operas performers change, this change not only including changes in body, but also the expression of performers, even the opening and closing eyes, face, for example, This requires the percussion player to play at the same time, in order to closely observe the performance process, so as to make the perfect integration of percussion and martial performance, guarantee the quality of martial performance. Overall, percussion role in opera percussion instruments in Chinese operas shows clear, is also very important, can foil better the performer action efforts and through action want to express emotion type, degree of emotional, percussion instruments in Chinese operas show percussion play more difficult, however, to play, players must be familiar with the whole process of show enough.

3.2.4. Solo performance in the battlefield

Opera percussion instruments in Chinese operas show itself and can be divided into two parts, one is percussion instruments in Chinese operas movement performance, the other is percussion instruments in Chinese operas drama performances, the latter is usually occur in the percussion instruments in Chinese operas performers appearance, at the same time equipped with NianBai, but separate NianBai is monotonous, so you need to music to foil, but here is the most commonly used music percussion, and the percussion performance at this time was called martial solo performance. For percussion instruments in Chinese operas played on many opera masters all think is very important in our country, such as Mr Li said that "game play drums, JinJie off", it will be visible percussion as opera "bones", and as Mr Mei lanfang also recognizes importance to percussion and its effect is the expression that "percussion can strengthen the exaggerated sexual performance and actions, let people pay more attention to the performance, and in special cases can make the performance not monotonous ". Mr. Mei Lanfang's expression includes the single performance of martial arts, so percussion plays a very important role in the single performance of martial arts. To the "divergence" as an example, the opera percussion instruments in Chinese operas drama performances of singing, NianBai rarely, performer nor the stage at the beginning, after the stage is only for simple action performances, and opera plot is set in a dark environment, artistic conception expression required action, and this requirement cannot be reached through simple action, namely the performer if slow action, can only meet the requirements of static, unable to move, give attention to two or morethings vice versa, so by percussion can make up for the defect of the traditional opera performances in the percussion is mainly responsible for the static part of the performers to be responsible for moving parts, combination, complement each other, to combine the activity, in the process of percussion have played an important role to the buildup of, make more complete and wonderful opera performances.

Overall, opera artistic expression has a variety of forms, and any form is in order to better show emotions and values, etc., thus to attract audience attention, struck a chord with the audience, which is in all of opera performance goal, and to do this, simply by singing or performing difficult, especially in the percussion instruments in Chinese operas the sound performance of sparse, This kind of phenomenon is more prominent, but percussion can through the way of playing alone to foil drama atmosphere, make content more rich opera performances, don't let the audience feel boring, boring, also can let the audience better generation into the drama, so pay more attention to their own opera percussion player in band playing action, must be in the right time for right to play, to be fully aware of the impact of a drum and gong on performance, do their own work.

3.2.5. Singing and dancing accompaniment

Opera performance still has a lot of song and dance elements, that have since ancient times, such as pear in singing and dancing in the tang dynasty, after the development of opera in singing and dancing in the form of a more diversified gradually, no longer as a single element in the drama performance, also combined with other elements, one of the most common is the combination of song and dance and drama and percussion, this has almost become the "iron triangle" in modern opera performance, that is, the plot is the basis of opera performance, which determines the movements and specific ways of song and dance performance, and the movements and specific ways of song and dance performance can be set off by

percussion music, while percussion music can make the plot more prominent. As can be seen from the relationship, percussion in the drama performance can be used as a musical accompaniment, play the role of cohesion song and dance and drama, its role embodies has many forms, such as by percussion accent to express the change of the plot, so the percussion player to realize their own responsibility in the performance, do a good job, musical accompaniment play quality guarantee.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, percussion is an important part of opera performance, as well as the indispensable structural basis of opera band, which is directly related to the quality of opera performance, that is, good percussion performance can enhance the atmosphere of opera, more intuitive emotional expression, so that the audience can better into the context created by opera. At the same time, percussion is also the rule of orchestra performance, has a leading role, so percussion is very important.

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