

# On the Integration of Bel Canto and Popular Singing in Vocal Music

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## Abstract

After 400 years of development, bel canto has developed into a mature vocal system of singing art, which is welcomed all over the world. With the development of global economy, popular songs and bel canto are also integrating with each other, singing techniques and performance forms. Absorbing their own characteristics, this paper mainly discusses the integration of Bel Canto and popular singing, hoping to provide some reference for the theoretical research of music circles.

## Keywords

Vocal Singing; Bel Canto Singing; Popular Singing; Fusion.

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## 1. Introduction

From the middle of the 20th century, pop music culture began to spread in China's art circle, and pop music was gradually accepted by the people and enjoyed by them. Most of the techniques and methods used in bel canto come from Europe. In the process of singing, the singer should have scientific and reasonable control of his/her vocal organs, so as to achieve the purpose of singing. The fusion of singing method and popular singing method is to show the emotions contained in pop music works through bel canto singing skills, so as to further meet the aesthetic needs of the public for music.

## 2. Analysis of the specific characteristics of Bel Canto

Compared with other singing methods, bel canto pays attention to the pronunciation of mixed sound area, and the true and false sound should be involved in singing together. The falset part needs the coordination between the head cavity and the chest cavity. The sound produced in this way is clean and resonant, with penetrating power. It requires the use of falset and pharynx together, and the sound strength of the high part cannot be supported by strong breath.

Bel Canto's sound characteristics can be summarized as clear, solid, soft, lively, pure, loose, bright and round. In terms of vocalization, it should have penetrating power and lasting power to ensure the sound is strong, pure, clear, concentrated and bright. Generally speaking, bel canto singers can reach it

To two octaves range, some strength good singer but also can achieve the octave of two and a half, even some difficult song requires the singer from low to high to control the three octaves, in singing, the singer to keep low, medium and high three tone pronunciation harmony, and smooth, and note the connection between the coherent and even, in order to show the bel canto with graceful melody.

## 3. Overview of popular singing

Popular singing was primarily influenced by African-American music, and musicians gave it a distinctive singing style through oral dictation. Popular singing spread from Hong Kong and Taiwan to the Chinese mainland. After that, more and more people accepted popular music works and were willing to learn the singing of popular music works. People often sang popular songs in their daily

life. It can be said that nowadays, singing popular songs has become an indispensable part of People's Daily life.

One of the most important features of popular songs, and one of the most accepted features, is that the lyrics are easy to understand and easy to sing. The lyrics of popular songs and the emotions expressed by the music are closer to the lives of the people. Because of this, popular songs can arouse the resonance of the people and convey the emotions that people want to express in their hearts. In popular song

In the process of singing, the speaker can use sound amplification equipment such as audio to improve the volume of the singer, so there is no need to emphasize the resonance of the human body cavity. It can be said that without sound equipment, pop songs and popular singing would not have developed today. In the process of singing popular songs, the requirements for the singer's voice are natural, with real emotional expression, and emphasis on the singer's feelings towards music. In the singing process, the singer needs to have his own characteristics and attach importance to impromptu stage performance. Usually, popular songs are available to anyone, and are performed mainly as solos, with dance movements according to the content of the piece.

#### **4. The necessity of integrating bel canto with popular singing**

Systemic and fairness of the bel canto voice, singing the output of the emphasis on the process of singing skills, so there is a certain threshold of appreciation for the audience, needs to have a certain music theory cognition can well appreciate the close voice singing, by comparison, less popular singing emphasis on style, pay more attention to emotional expression through the songs, let the song to impress the audience, so it was welcomed by a large audience, in order to make the popular singing better development bottom go to, need to actively learn from other singing, by popular styles constantly absorb new vitality.

##### **4.1 Referring to bel canto can enhance the intensity of emotional expression**

The musical reference of popular songs to bel canto singing can effectively enhance the intensity of emotional expression of popular songs, integrate more musical elements into the singing, enrich the emotional experience of the singer, and enhance the interaction with the audience. Bel canto pays attention to the flexible transformation of melody and rhythm, and brings the audience into the listening situation through intuitive feeling. Popular singing can draw lessons from this feature of guan tone to expand the vocal range of songs, so as to provide more expression techniques for strengthening emotional expression.

##### **4.2 Draw lessons from bel canto to make up for the shortcomings of bel canto**

Bel canto singing need long time of singing skills training, is the important groundwork for the singer phase, although popular singing as bel canto demanding on singing skills, lack of singing basis, however still feel difficult in contact popular singing for the first time, especially in high singing tune, rhythm and melody songs change fast. Reference bel canto singing can solve the problem of singing skills to a large extent, because of the bel canto emphasis on style and voice, people who lack the bel canto training can only sing some songs melody changes is small, narrow range, on the emotion of the song of professional vocal music training will be one less flexible, using bel canto as basic training, to train the singer's vocal skills, to master how to control breath and resonance, so as to enhance the credible degree of the emotion to the song, a lot of popular songs also has the characteristics of large range across, only has the strong ability to transfer the emotion of the songs.

#### **5. Analysis of the mutual fusion between bel canto and popular singing**

##### **5.1 The vocalization method is highly scientific**

No matter what style of vocal music, if you want to act out perfectly, so the singer will have to use the scientific method for voice, this principle in bel canto or are applicable in the popular style, the

singer must on the basis of scientific vocalization, pass to express emotions to the audience. In recent years, popular singing

Some of the techniques of Bel canto began to be integrated with some of the techniques of bel canto, such as the increase of the vocal technique and the gradual improvement of the singer's control over the breath, etc. By analyzing some talent shows and competitions about vocal music in recent years, we can clearly see that the music works chosen by the singers who are popular with the audience are full of profound lyrics and excellent melody

A beautiful piece of popular music. Factors, in addition to work is even more important aspect of the methods and skills is the singer is very prominent, they are used in the process of performing music, the voice is very scientific method, it is to a great extent, significantly enhance the appeal of singing, allow it to pass very sincere affection to the audience. Bel canto, meanwhile, in the process of continuous progress and development, also gradually close to the people's life, in the present, there are a lot of consistent with the public aesthetic of vocal music art is created, the vocal music works with age vitality, promote the bel canto stage performance, work also had greater penetration in melody.

## **5.2 Complementarity and mutual integration between the two singing methods**

The requirements of popular singing for the vocal cords of singers are relatively low, which is consistent with the public's aesthetic appreciation of music. However, the bel canto deserves to be absorbed and used for reference in the following three aspects.

### **4.2.1 Breath of the singer**

Bel canto is quite strict in the aspect of breath. What bel canto requires is that the singer's vocal range is broad and the vocal area is unified. In terms of state, the singer needs to take a deep breath, lower the throat position, fully open the throat, and use breath as the support for singing. In terms of breathing, bel canto adopts the lumbar and abdominal breathing method. In the process of singing, the diaphragm is pushed downward through the combined action of the lumbar and abdominal muscle and diaphragm, so as to improve the volume of the singer's chest and strengthen the resonance of the chest. When singing to the climax of the work, the singer needs to enhance the strength of the waist and abdomen up and down, forming a antagonistic effect, so as to use breath to complete the singing. The effective application of this technique in bel canto in the singing of popular songs can make the originally difficult high-pitched part more sonorous and solid, the singer's timbre can also become more shiny, and the naturalness and fluency can be greatly improved in the process of the conversion of true and false sounds.

### **4.2.2 Articulation and pronunciation of the singer**

Bel canto requires mellow and soft sound, while articulation requires clear articulation, vowel conversion of lyrics and lip movements during articulation without destroying the integrity of music. The requirement of oral form in popular singing is consistent with that of ethnic singing, and sometimes it is more advanced, paying attention to the clarity of articulation. If you want to interpret a vocal work perfectly, it is very important to pronounce words clearly, that is, to accurately grasp the pronunciation and pronunciation. If the requirements of articulation in bel canto are effectively applied in the singing process of popular songs, then popular singers can further express their feelings in their works.

### **4.2.3 The singer's resonance**

When performing vocal works with bel canto, great importance should be attached to the resonance. Specifically, the singer should expand or adjust the resonance space of himself through "opening", so as to make the sound transmitted farther and improve the aesthetic feeling of timbre. The resonance cavities mainly used include oral cavity resonance, head cavity resonance and chest cavity resonance. Compared with bel canto, popular singing is relatively less used for resonance. It mainly uses microphone and audio equipment to expand its volume. If the application of resonance in bel canto

can be effectively integrated into the singing of popular works, then the magnetic voice of the singer can be enhanced.

## 6. Conclusion

To sum up, with the rapid development of China's music culture, popular and bel canto as the current two important forms, there exist certain differences and similarities, and realize the fusion of both fits the characteristics of cultural diversity, but also the future trend of the development of music culture, to promote the sustainable development of the construction of spiritual civilization of our country has a positive meaning and the key role.

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