HiLL PUBLISHING

Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science, 2024, 8(8), 1860-1863
https://www.hillpublisher.com/journals/jhass/
ISSN Online: 2576-0548
ISSN Print: 2576-0556

Application Analysis of Cello in Chinese Modern Original Musical Plays

Jie Xu

Jeonbuk National University, Jeonju 54896, North Jeolla, South Korea.

How to cite this paper: Jie Xu. (2024) Application Analysis of Cello in Chinese Modern Original Musical Plays. *Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Science*, 8(8), 1860-1863.
DOI: 10.26855/jhass.2024.08.009

Received: July 8, 2024
Accepted: August 5, 2024
Published: September 3, 2024

***Corresponding author:** Jie Xu, Jeonbuk National University, Jeonju 54896, North Jeolla, South Korea.

Abstract

With the rapid development of society, modern Chinese original musicals have gained popularity among audiences. The cello serves as both a middle and bass instrument in Western orchestral music, underscoring its intrinsic value. It plays a crucial role in enhancing paragraph cohesion and emotional expression, effectively conveying the core themes of musical works during performances. This unique characteristic of the cello allows it to seamlessly integrate with the narrative-driven nature of musicals, not only emphasizing the essential elements of the soundtrack but also enhancing the overall presentation and atmosphere of the production. This paper focuses on the application of the cello in modern Chinese original musicals, exploring the fundamental concepts and key characteristics of musicals, analyzing the role of the cello within this context, and examining its collaboration with other musical instruments. The aim is to provide valuable reference materials for related research.

Keywords

A musical; Cello; Application analysis

1. The basic concept and main characteristics of the musical

1.1 The basic concept of a musical

Musical is a very comprehensive stage art performance, it has a typical story color, including a large number of singing, dancing, dialogue, and other ways, its artistic expression is similar to drama, but it needs strong musical cooperation, which makes the artistic style of musical is similar to opera. Musical art style is more comprehensive and can meet the needs of different people watching. The musical is also an important manifestation of Western art forms, with its comprehensive and urban style artistic elements, so that musical has obvious "drama", "music" and "dance" and other basic characteristics. Among them, "drama" is the main carrier to promote the storyline, while "music" is the soul to improve the artistic appreciation value of musicals, and "dance" can give viewers a greater visual shock, which makes musicals widely used in Western countries.

1.2 The main characteristics of the musical

The musical is a comprehensive performing art, which contains a large number of artistic elements so that different artistic elements can be organically combined so that the audience can feel the visual and auditory shock. In the early stage, the musical was considered to be an evolution of opera, but there are certain differences between musical and opera, especially in singing, musical not only has classical bel canto artistic expression, but also a large number of modern popular performances methods, and even some artistic methods such as dance and acrobatics will be added. However, there are more dance elements in modern musicals, which makes the expression of musicals more diverse and colorful. With the advancement of contemporary society and the progress of science and technology, stage

performance art has undergone significant transformations. Modern musicals primarily reflect the evolution of our times, seamlessly integrating various contemporary artistic styles. They allow audiences to perceive the world in a more intuitive and vivid manner, providing a genuine aesthetic experience (Xiao Dan & Zhang Lizhong, 2023).

1.3 The main history of musical development

From the analysis of the early development of the musical, it is found that the *Show Boat* is an important process to promote the development of modern musicals, which marks the musical has become an independent performing art, so that more viewers can understand and love the musical, and gradually become an important part of the stage performing art. Through the analysis of the origin of musicals, it is found that it was first born in the 19th century, when stage art gradually rose, black drama, comedy can find out the creation style of musical, but about the specific origin of musical way and date, there is no unified statement in the academic circle. At present, the international academic community on the specific origin of musicals more of a view is originated in the 20th century, but the early development process can be traced back to the United Kingdom, only in the 20th century in the United States gradually popular, become a mainstream art style.

The main development process of musicals is directly related to the development of The Times, especially in the 19th century, after the long-term development of the world economy, people's living standards were greatly improved, and the audience also had more requirements for stage performance, which creates a good background for the development of musicals, and gradually improved in the 20th century. It has become an important stage performance method. Since the Second World War, the creation style and elements of musicals have ushered in a period of rapid development, especially in the 1960s and 1970s, rock music has gradually become a typical representative of pop music, making musicals more artistic and entertaining habits, and gradually becoming an important stage performance art with easy to understand language, gaining more praise from audiences (Cheng Yuhao, 2023).

Through the analysis of the development of musicals, it is found that many classic plays have been created in musicals from the earliest without fixed plots and even containing a large number of other performance ways to the modern and complete performance ways, e.g., *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *The Sound of Music*, etc. These classic plays are dedicated to the audience's extraordinary viewing experience so that the musical continues to expand the scope of influence (Zhang Shuna, 2018).

2. Application analysis of cello in Chinese modern original musical plays

2.1 Role and function

Because musical performance requires a large number of Musical Instruments, and cello because of its unique sound quality, making it an important part of musical performance, cello can improve the performance of musical performance from the root. First of all, the cello can focus on the emotional expression of the musical, so that the musical is more enjoyable. For example, the use of cello in *Wang Er's Long March* can express the inner activities and scenes of the characters. Combined with the unique melody of the cello, the audience can feel the inner fluctuations and struggles of the performers, thus playing a stimulating effect and having important stage value and cultural inheritance value (Chu Yuanyuan, 2021). Another example is the use of cello and other instruments in the performance of *Nie Xiaoqian and Ning Caichen*, which can also show the expression of love and sadness in the plot so that the audience can feel the unique charm of the musical more directly (Zhao Fei, 2021). Secondly, the cello can also play an important role in the switch of plot content, so that each performance content can be effectively connected, effectively improve the performance of the musical, and form a perfect resonance with other instruments, so that the overall performance of the musical has been sublimated. The unique timbre of the cello can also complement the content and scene of the musical and create a better viewing effect for the audience. For example, when the musical describes a quiet and desolate scene, the cello can use its unique timbre to create a corresponding scene performance for the musical, and in the cheerful plot, it can also highlight the playing effect of other instruments, effectively controlling the overall performance effect and rhythm of the musical. Cello plays a significant role in promoting musical performance, achieving the best effect of the plot and style of performance, and can bring unexpected performance effects, especially original musicals, to the audience (Liu Yuchen, 2022).

2.2 Technical expression and performance method

Cello is a classical instrument in the Western tradition, which plays a significant role in promoting the development of musical theater. Due to the relatively short development time of modern musicals in China, in order to improve

the artistic performance effect and inside information of original musicals in China, it is necessary to focus on the analysis of instrument performance and plot content, create more cello performance ways, so that the performance effect of musicals can be comprehensively improved. The superb skills of players can be better displayed. First of all, when performing a cello performance, players need to have a deep understanding of the overall structure and rhythm of the cello, focus on improving playing skills, and perform corresponding movements according to different performance pieces, so that the audience can feel the unique way of playing the cello, highlight the layered and dynamic sense of the musical, and enable the audience to concentrate on watching the musical performance. Thus affecting the audience's perception and understanding of timbre (Han Peijie, 2023). While controlling the rhythm and structure of the cello performance, the performer should also deeply analyze the main expression content of the composer, combine the unique timbre of the cello, and do a good job in coordination with other music, not only to give play to the advantages of the cello's timbre but also to achieve the improvement of the overall performance effect (Qu Yuanyuan, 2020). Secondly, according to the content of the original musical, the performer should integrate more folk music elements and skills into the performance activities, and give full play to the charm of excellent traditional music culture, so that the characteristics of the original Chinese musical can be fully displayed. Performers should also realize the mutual integration of traditional music elements and Western music elements according to the audience's artistic aesthetic mode, and realize the combination of Chinese and Western musical performance, so as to promote the effective dissemination of traditional cultural elements (Zhang Dan, 2022). When performing musical performances, performers should also show the main plot content of the musical and control the rhythm of the performance. In view of the characteristics that cello players need to have strong playing skills, players should practice cello playing skills for a long time and make relevant exercises for different scenes, so as to better bring out the unique charm of the musical and master accurate intonation and rhythm. Constantly enrich the timbre of the cello, so that the audience can better feel the background and plot changes of the musical, and lay a good foundation for the creation of high-quality musical performance (Ren Zhenhua, 2019). Finally, cello players should have a strong ability to perceive music, through the transformation of playing skills, and perform high-quality musical pieces, to achieve the organic integration of character emotion and music performance. Performers should also pay full attention to the story of the original musical, do a good job of controlling the overall performance rhythm, and then better play the ensemble and improve the cello performance level (Zhao Na, 2023).

3. The accompaniment of the cello and other instruments in a musical

3.1 Cello is paired with violin in a musical

In musical performance, the violin is a frequently used instrument that holds a significant position in instrumental music and plays a vital role in modern musicals. Cello and violin played in concert in musical plays can achieve good performance results. Cello and violin use with each other can directly enrich the overall level of the musical but also show the expressive force of the musical so that the audience feels a different musical. For example, when carrying out the performance of *Nie Xiaoqian and Ning Caichen*, it is necessary to use the cello and violin to cooperate with each other, so as to form a good performance effect. And performers need to play the cello's deep tone characteristics, but also with the violin to show the bright use of each other, to achieve the overall level of musical performance to improve. By strengthening the use of cello and violin together, the audience can better feel the development of the storyline of the musical. No matter whether the storyline is sad or sweet, the cello and other instruments need to cooperate with each other to show it.

3.2 Analysis of solo cello in musical plays

Modern musical performances often involve cello solo, which is a test of the performer's cello skills, and it is necessary to express the content of the plot in a quiet environment, render and expand the emotional motivation of the musical, and attract the audience to invest their emotions in the musical plot. In the cello accompaniment, it is necessary to consider the requirements of the storyline of the musical, to increase the overall performance of the musical, to highlight the layered and three-dimensional effect of the musical, and to unify the performance rhythm of the musical, the performer should also focus on improving the control of the storyline of the musical, and skilled mastery can greatly improve the purity of the cello performance (Shi Yiwen, 2021).

4. Conclusion and suggestion

To sum up, the cello is an indispensable and important instrument in modern musical performance, its deep and expressive timbre adds a rich level and connotation to the musical. Nowadays, with the continuous innovation of Chinese modern original musical performance, we should strengthen the optimization and promotion of cello performance. This not only means that we need to continuously improve our playing skills and improve our playing level, but also to deeply study and excavate the unique role of the cello in the musical and explore more diversified playing methods and performance techniques. By strengthening the optimization of cello performance, we should also give full play to the important role of cello in musicals, present a higher level of modern musical works for the audience, and play a certain far-reaching significance in improving the artistic level of China's original musical and promoting the innovative development of musical art, so as to bring wonderful performances to the audience. The players should focus on improving the cello performance level, focus on improving the playing skills, pay attention to the cooperation of the overall performance, better play the advantages of the cello timbre, and fundamentally change the performance and creation style of modern Chinese musicals.

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