

and has absorbed the rich flavor of the ethnic groups inhabiting the country. The art of traveling actors preserved and enhanced a distinct national character; it had a mass appeal and was based on a colloquial song language, in which all the spiritual power of the song, excellent mastery of the colloquial genre, and acrobatic balancing act were fused. The acting relies on the principle of “one actor, many characters” to convey the full story. Among the numerous local traditions of this genre, the most popular and influential ones should be noted, such as the well-known Chuzhou song tales in China, Beijing singing to the accompaniment of drums, Shandong tales to the accompaniment of a zither, tales to the accompaniment of firecrackers and many others. Songs, recitatives, and recitations fill this type of folk art and are also an integral part of the national culture, significant for the vocal art of the 20th century.

Finally, the songs of the peoples inhabiting the territory of the country are the most ancient mass form of musical creativity, preserving the singing characteristics of each local ethnic community in the greatest completeness.

All three branches of singing in the genres of traditional Chinese arts exist and develop in the space of ancient syncretic culture. It is this quality that radically distinguishes all arts belonging to traditional culture from modern Chinese music.

In the latter, each type of art is separated from the primary syncretism; vocal music becomes a separate area of creativity, the search for one’s own style of singing begins, comprehension and development of its stylistic and technical characteristics. Along this path, the vocal culture of the 20th century goes through stages from completely copying the Western style of singing, which is sharply different from the national way, through the search for common points of contact to the synthesis of national and Western manners. This new vocal practice of the 20th century, which mastered the leading genres of world musical culture, was called “folk music” in China.

The concept reflects, first of all, its national character: new types of singing covered wide sections of the population, new songs “in the Western style” were distributed in school programs. The people learned to sing “in a European way,” to listen and understand the beautiful Italian *bel canto*, which in the first half of the 20th century for China became the ideal of a new vocal language. Mass discussion and “experience” of the problems of vocal music in the press, at symposiums, forums and other open forms accompanied the process of listening to the Western style of vocals and the first experiences of its practical comprehension.

The result of the colossal creative work of Chinese vocalists and composers has become a new genre of opera for Chinese culture, in which music is now a component, along with others, of theatrical synthesis. This way of interaction between the arts also influences the formation of an equally new vocal culture of the 20th century. In the full sense, it not only inherited Chinese musical traditions, but also borrowed a lot from Western practices, which amazed the Chinese with their methodological elaboration, technological availability, and analytical reflection [3, p. 140].

Today, Chinese vocal art strives to fully unite these two layers of Chinese musical culture – the traditional and modern branches. Higher educational institutions have produced a large number of professional vocalists who master an updated-synthesized-singing style.

New vocal music filled the sounding space of mass media, philharmonic halls and leisure establishments. But in their pursuit of technical perfection, in their infatuation with Western “academicized” sound, Chinese singers often lose the national characteristics of their singing. The standards and laws of sound production borrowed from *bel canto* brought the national style, which initially had a colossal variety of styles and techniques, into a certain unified state. The search for ways for Chinese vocal music to enter the universe of world musical culture remains open, and Chinese vocalists have yet to determine their place in it.

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THE INTEGRATION OF BEL CANTO TECHNIQUE INTO MUSIC EDUCATION

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This study delves into the integration of the Bel Canto method into Chinese vocal teaching, aligning the pursuit of emotional expression and vocal technique. Focused on Bel Canto vocal pedagogy, the research explores its implementation in Chinese vocal instruction and its significance in the country's vocal education landscape. An initial examination of the associated prospects and challenges is conducted, accompanied by proposed tactics to enrich and propel the teaching of Bel Canto vocal music in China.

Keywords: Bel canto; music education; cross-cultural integration; diversification; high quality teaching.

The Bel Canto technique, a term translated from Italian as "beautiful singing", represents a pinnacle in the world of vocal performance, embodying a meticulous and expressive approach to music. Originating in the 17th century, this vocal style achieved its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries, leaving an indelible mark on the classical music landscape. The essence of Bel Canto lies in its pursuit of a perfect combination of technical precision and emotional expression, fostering a unique and captivating form of vocal artistry.

The Bel Canto teaching method has influenced vocal techniques in various cultures. In the context of Chinese music, both traditional and contemporary Chinese vocal music unique vocal techniques of bel canto, emphasizing the paramount importance of breath control in vocal performance [1, p. 22]. Additionally, the evolution of Chinese national vocal music has seen the development of new vocal works that incorporate both traditional and Western bel canto singing styles, reflecting the changing aesthetic concepts and social influences on vocal music in China [2].

The Bel Canto technique stands as a testament to the combination of technical excellence and emotional expression in vocal music. Its historical roots, fundamental principles of breath control, vowel placement, and vocal agility contribute to a distinctive and captivating vocal style. As a timeless tradition, Bel Canto remains relevant and influential, shaping the artistry of singers and enriching the world of music with its enduring beauty.

The integration of the Bel Canto technique into music education holds profound importance, offering students a comprehensive and transformative approach to vocal training. Bel Canto's significance in education becomes evident when considering its holistic approach to vocal training. Unlike purely technical methodologies, Bel Canto seeks to cultivate a well-rounded musician by placing equal emphasis on the emotional and artistic dimensions of singing. Integrating this technique into educational settings offers students a unique opportunity to develop a profound connection with the music they perform, transcending mere technical proficiency.

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One of the primary benefits of incorporating Bel Canto into education is the enhancement of students' vocal skills and musicality. The rigorous training associated with Bel Canto refines students' vocal techniques, enabling them to produce a rich, resonant sound. Through the meticulous practice of breath control, vowel placement, and vocal agility, students develop the ability to navigate complex musical passages with ease, showcasing a heightened level of technical proficiency. This enhancement in vocal skills contributes not only to their performance capabilities but also to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the nuances within classical compositions.

Moreover, the integration of Bel Canto into education plays a pivotal role in the development of discipline, focus, and self-confidence among students. The demands of mastering the technique require dedication and perseverance. Students learn to discipline themselves in terms of practice routines, vocal exercises, and the adherence to the nuanced principles of Bel Canto. This disciplined approach not only refines their technical abilities but also instills a work ethic that is transferable to other aspects of their education and personal growth. As students witness their progress and the tangible results of their efforts, their self-confidence grows, further contributing to their overall development.

Bel Canto's emphasis on emotional expression and connection with the music also serves to broaden students' horizons. By immersing themselves in the rich heritage of classical music, students develop an appreciation for the cultural significance and historical context of the pieces they perform. This cultural connection fosters a sense of identity and belonging, instilling in students a profound respect for the traditions that have shaped the course of musical history.

Incorporating Bel Canto into education is not merely about imparting technical skills; it is about nurturing a lifelong love for music and cultivating well-rounded individuals. The integration of this technique encourages students to explore the depths of their artistic potential, fostering a sense of creativity and expression that extends beyond the confines of classical repertoire.

The Bel Canto teaching method has been widely utilized in the instruction of vocal music, with its influence extending across different musical genres and cultures. In the context of Chinese music, both traditional and contemporary Chinese opera have integrated unique vocal techniques of Bel Canto, emphasizing the importance of breath control in vocal performance [3]. Furthermore, the incorporation of Western music elements into Chinese pop music has led to the integration of Bel Canto vocal techniques, showcasing the method's adaptability and influence across diverse musical styles [2].

The evolution of Chinese national vocal music has seen the development of new vocal works that incorporate both traditional and Western Bel Canto singing styles, reflecting the changing aesthetic concepts and social influences on vocal music in China [4, p. 240–251]. This demonstrates the method's adaptability to evolving musical landscapes and its ability to transcend cultural boundaries. Furthermore, the significance of thorough vocal training in the preparation of music teachers has been emphasized, highlighting the method's relevance in music education and pedagogy [3, p.101–115].

Bel Canto has left an enduring legacy, influencing not only opera but also shaping the broader landscape of classical music. The emphasis on vocal beauty, expressiveness, and technical mastery has inspired generations of singers and continues to be a foundational element in vocal training. Bel Canto's historical significance lies in its contribution to the elevation of singing as an art form, emphasizing the intrinsic beauty and emotional power of the human voice in the realm of classical music.

The fundamental principles of Bel Canto technique play a pivotal role in promoting a healthy vocal production and facilitating expressive singing. Breath control, a cornerstone of Bel Canto, ensures a stable foundation for vocalization. By engaging the diaphragm and supporting the breath from the lower abdomen, singers cultivate a consistent airflow, preventing strain on

the vocal folds and promoting endurance. This foundational breath control contributes to overall vocal health by reducing the risk of vocal fatigue and injury.

Vowel placement in Bel Canto encourages an open and relaxed throat, preventing tension that could lead to vocal strain. By shaping vowels with precision and maintaining space in the back of the throat, singers create a resonant and rich tone without undue stress on the vocal mechanism. This contributes to the longevity of the voice and prevents the development of harmful vocal habits.

Vocal agility, honed through practices like coloratura and legato singing, enhances the flexibility of the vocal instrument. These exercises promote a supple and responsive voice, minimizing the risk of stiffness and promoting agility across various registers. The intricate vocal passages also contribute to improved coordination between the breath, vocal folds, and resonators, fostering a more agile and controlled vocal technique.

Forward placement, focusing on projecting sound into the mask and resonators, aids in healthy vocal projection. This technique encourages singers to use their natural resonating spaces effectively, resulting in a clear and focused tone without the need for excessive force. As a consequence, singers can communicate effectively without straining the voice, contributing to both vocal health and expressive delivery.

Incorporating Bel Canto technique into educational settings offers a multifaceted approach to vocal training, fostering the development of essential skills and qualities in students. The benefits extend beyond the realm of vocal technique, encompassing musicality, discipline, focus, self-confidence, and an appreciation for classical music and cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the integration of the Bel Canto technique into music education is of paramount importance, as it goes beyond the acquisition of technical skills to instill discipline, focus, and self-confidence in students. This comprehensive approach enhances their vocal abilities, deepens their connection with classical music, and contributes to the development of well-rounded musicians. By embracing Bel Canto, educational institutions provide students with a transformative musical experience that extends far beyond the confines of the classroom, enriching their lives and fostering a lifelong appreciation for the beauty and artistry of vocal music.

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