

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF JAZZ IN CHINA

Li Junhao, I. V. Zubrylina, Candidate of Pedagogy
Belarusian State Pedagogical University named after Maxim Tank,
People's Republic of China, Republic of Belarus

Abstract. This article explores the deep-rooted reasons for the introduction of the saxophone to China, origins and development of jazz culture. It clarifies the logic of the origin and development of jazz through the penetration and self-identification of jazz tradition. It describes the distinctive features of Chinese jazz art and analyzes the factors that allowed the saxophone not only to take root in China, but also to contribute to the development of a unique saxophone style "with Chinese characteristics".

Keywords: jazz, the saxophone, Chinese musical culture, jazz tradition.

ЗАРОЖДЕНИЕ И РАЗВИТИЕ ДЖАЗА В КИТАЕ

Ли Цзюньхао, И. В. Зубрилина, кандидат педагогических наук
УО «Белорусский государственный педагогический университет
имени Максима Танка»,
Китайская Народная Республика, Республика Беларусь

Аннотация. В этой статье исследуются глубинные причины появления саксофона в Китае, истоки и развитие джаза. В ней проясняется логика происхождения и развития джаза через проникновение и самоидентификацию джазовой традиции. В нем описываются отличительные особенности китайского джазового искусства и анализируются факторы, позволившие саксофону не только прижиться в Китае, но и способствовать развитию уникального саксофонного стиля «с китайскими особенностями».

Ключевые слова: джаз, саксофон, китайская музыкальная культура, джазовая традиция.

The development of China's jazz tradition is a bright story that demonstrates a wonderful blend of cultural exchange and musical innovation. This article explores the origins and development of the saxophone in China in light of the rise of jazz. In the early 20th century, with the influx of Western jazz recordings, a fascinating musical transformation began in China's major cities, such as Shanghai. This transformation not only attracted local musicians and audiences, but also created a unique jazz style based on traditional Chinese music. Despite the stormy times, the Chinese jazz tradition has flourished and become an integral part of the Chinese music culture.

The saxophone, as an indispensable instrument in jazz, was introduced to China with the introduction of jazz, and along with the opportunities and challenges of history became a household name as a Western musical instrument that has taken the country by storm.

The history of the saxophone can be traced back to the early 19th century, when the Belgian musician Antoine-Joseph Adolphe Sax invented the instrument. He designed the first saxophone, which was patented in 1846. The saxophone was originally designed to complement the bass part of an orchestra. Over time, the saxophone grew in popularity and is widely used in a variety of musical styles, including classical, jazz, and pop [1]. Its unique sound and playing style have attracted many musicians and listeners, making it one of the most popular instruments in the world. During the development of the saxophone, there have been continuous improvements and innovations, including the addition of tone holes and improvement of tone colour, making it continue to play an important role in the field of music.

After the introduction of the saxophone, many late romantic composers expressed great support for the instrument, but very few works were really written for the saxophone. The saxophone missed out on the golden age of the classical period because it was born later. The first use of the saxophone was in George Krntner's opera *The Last Jew*. Later the French army began experimenting with the use of the saxophone in national military bands, thus combining a woodwind instrument with brass, a successful combination that prompted wind bands across Europe to begin experimenting with the saxophone. As the saxophone's fame grew, many instrument makers realised the business opportunities and set up saxophone manufacturing companies.

Later, at the beginning of the 20th century, when European marching bands toured North America, some saxophone players settled in Louisiana in the United States and drove the locals to love this instrument, making it take root in the United States at that time, while jazz music developed rapidly in the United States and became popular all over the country. Jazz brought the saxophone into thousands of homes, making the saxophone get unprecedented development. In jazz music has experienced the "big band" period of cool jazz, free jazz period finally to Latin jazz, jazz music resounded around the world, the saxophone became an indispensable and important member of jazz, and then the development of saxophone style is more diversified, went to the pop, thus saxophone is active all over the world.

The development of the saxophone in China has suffered for historical reasons, but its gradual establishment in Chinese academic music has triggered research exploring the factors that have contributed to its changing status in the country's public consciousness, culture, and educational policies. Existing studies have traced the development of the saxophone in China, mainly based on historical and cultural contexts, through archival materials and interviews.

Saxophones used to appear in Shanghai dance halls in the 1930s and 1940s in China, but after the liberation, the saxophone was regarded as an unpopular instrument and disappeared for a while, and there was a break in its development until after the reform and opening up, when more and more people learnt the saxophone, and the saxophone

appeared frequently in all kinds of media and performances. Nowadays there are also a considerable number of primary school students who play the saxophone in primary school campuses in Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an in China.

The first person to bring the saxophone to China was saxophonist Charles-Jean-Baptiste Souallñ in 1856, who came to China to perform in Shanghai. According to Carl Engel [2, p. 217], Souallñ not only performed in Shanghai, but also gave three concerts in Hong Kong in August 1856, prior to his performances in Shanghai. Therefore, it can be said that Hong Kong was the first stop for the saxophone to enter China, but it was the performances in Shanghai that really came to the attention of the Chinese people and began to develop. And while the initial development of the saxophone in China can be learnt through the newspapers of the time, when some Chinese had reservations about the saxophone, the reports were based on the sensory experience of the saxophonist after playing, and everyone's sensory experience of the saxophone is different, so there will be some differences. Although Suare was a pioneer in bringing the saxophone to the Chinese people, he did not really allow the saxophone to take root in China. The saxophone was officially put into use in China in the late Qing Dynasty. At the end of the Qing Dynasty, the Qing government established the first Western-style band. The saxophone was included in the establishment of that band. Later on, China was in a constant state of war, in which the saxophone struggled to develop.

In 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. After decades of war, China was extremely economically backward. The development of music and art suffered an unprecedented blow, leading to slow development. After liberation, China was heavily influenced by the music, culture and art of the former Soviet Union, and believed that Western culture was "harmful" and would make China backward. As a result, China began to boycott Western music, and Western instruments such as the guitar disappeared in China for a time, losing the opportunity for development. The saxophone was also included in the boycott and was considered an "unhealthy" instrument. This caused a break in the development of the saxophone in China.

It was only after the reform and opening up of China in 1978 that the Chinese began to re-embrace Western musical instruments. As a result, the saxophone has re-entered the Chinese scene after a 30-year absence.

In the 21st century the development of the saxophone in China was more rapid. With the rise of China's economy and the opening up of its culture, more and more young people have become interested in Western music. The saxophone, as one of its representative instruments, has also received much attention.

The development of Chinese jazz has gone through many stages too, from the early days of swing in Shanghai and Wuhan, to the later days of free jazz, to modern jazz. During this long process of development, Chinese jazz has gradually matured by combining with local Chinese art, and has also shown its unique charm on the international stage.

Chinese jazz is a unique fusion of traditional jazz and Chinese folk art, resulting in a jazz style with Chinese characteristics. Chinese jazz uses traditional Chinese instruments such as the erhu and pipa to infuse jazz with a unique sound. In terms of scales, Chinese jazz adopts the traditional Chinese pentatonic scale, which blends with the chord structure of jazz to create a rich and varied musical language. In terms of themes, Chinese jazz has extensively explored classical themes in its artistic creation, enriching the themes of jazz and giving them deep cultural connotations. Chinese traditional music elements are skilfully integrated into jazz compositions, reflecting Chinese history, culture and society, making Chinese jazz more culturally resonant. This fusion and innovation not only provides a unique and rich musical experience, but also gives Chinese jazz a distinctive national character [3].

Chinese jazz also embodies respect for and inheritance of tradition through fusion with Chinese regional music, making the melodies of the musical works richer and deeper, and presenting the audience with a musical journey across time and space. For example, the combination of Jiangnan music and jazz, the organic combination of Sichuan Opera and traditional jazz, the combination of Northwest music and jazz, the combination of Henan Yu Opera and jazz, the combination of Northeastern duo and jazz, and so on. This fusion journey not only breaks the boundaries of music, but also becomes a bridge of cultural exchange. In the process of fusion, tradition and modernity are mixed with each other, and eastern and western musical elements complement each other [4, p.182]. This multicultural exchange has not only made exciting achievements in the form of musical expression, but also provided a new field for cultural inheritance and innovation. Therefore, the fusion of jazz and Chinese regional music is not only an exchange of music, but also a dialogue of cultures, jointly playing harmonious notes and a symphonic movement of multiculturalism.

So, in the origins of the Chinese jazz tradition, we witness the saxophone as an integral part of jazz, accompanying the development of jazz throughout. We have seen the fusion of musical elements from the East and the West, as well as innovative practices in the context of China's unique culture. This cross-cultural exchange has not only expanded the styles and forms of Chinese music, but has also injected new vigour and inspiration into the development of jazz around the world. As this tradition continues to enrich and evolve, we look forward to seeing it continue to play an important role in Chinese musical culture, bringing more exciting musical expressions to the world.

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