

Summary

The opera "Regret for the Past" is (in my knowledge) China's first lyrical opera, which has its innovative significance in terms of music structure, character setting, their psychological depiction, vocal artistic expression and symphonic effect. The opera adopts the expressions and techniques of Western romantic opera, but it also integrates the aesthetic habits of Chinese opera. It is a combines Chinese and Western opera and is part of a trend, followed by many Chinese composers. I was personally touched by the main female part of the opera, because I find it similar to the part of Madame Butterfly in Giacomo Puccini's brilliant work. I decided to compare both characters, analyzing the dramatic, musical and cultural aspects and trying to understand the process of assimilation of European cultural heritage in the developing Chinese culture, the impact of European opera on traditional Chinese opera and integration of Chinese and European musical heritage.

Giacomo Puccini is an important representative of Italian realist operas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a genius, passionate about depicting female characters at the bottom of society (vide "Traviata"). The opera "Madama Butterfly" is one of his masterpieces and a great lyrical tragedy. In the opera, he uses rich and vivid musical language, innovative melody, superb orchestration and harmony technology, exquisite and profound protagonists, lyrical and dramatic vocals, which fully reflect the brilliant characteristics of his creation.

This thesis takes the heroines in these two operas as the main research objects. After a brief introduction, justifying the scope of the thesis, I outline (in chapter II) the development of Italian and Chinese opera, I analyze (in chapter III) the extramusical factors affecting the formation of music, like politics, culture, religion, geography respective. Then I analyze the operas "Regret for the Past" and "Madama Butterfly" from these four aspects. This is one of the innovative aspects of the thesis.

The most important part of the thesis is the analysis of the main soprano parts (including singing skills, emotional expression, artistic processing) which are crucial for the musical, dramatic and esthetic aspect of the work. Through the comparison of Chinese opera and Western opera, I hope to present my opinions and suggestions for the development of Chinese opera based on the successful experiences of western opera.

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