

Study on the Expressive Force of Clarinet Performance in Symphony

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Keywords: Clarinet performance, Symphony, Expressive research

Abstract: The clarinet is the most expressive instrument among wind instruments. Its unique personality distinguishes it from all other woodwind instruments, whether it is in terms of sound, timbre, or technical personality, which can always allow listeners to feel its extremely charming and tense performance effect in numerous wind instrument performances or large-scale symphony orchestra performances. The emergence of the clarinet can be traced back to the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. Its sound range consists of three parts: low, medium, and high, each with its own characteristics. The range of the clarinet is also relatively broad, almost covering four octaves, which is difficult for other symphonic instruments to achieve. It is precisely because of the characteristics of range and timbre that the clarinet can play an important role in performance, and its position and role in the band are also relatively important. The timbre and range of the clarinet determine the quality of the performance. Therefore, the clarinet has the nickname of “opera soprano” in the music industry. This article provides a brief introduction to the development of the clarinet and its position in symphony. At the same time, it explores the musical expression and specific application of the clarinet in symphony.

1. Introduction

With the popularization and popularization of wind music in China, symphonic wind music, the indoor performance form of wind band, has attracted more and more attention and love. It has also become one of the important performance forms of the wind band besides military music. At present, military bands all over the world take into account a variety of band forms at the same time, in addition to the two forms mentioned above, there are brass bands, jazz bands, pop bands, marching bands and so on[1]. Clarinet plays a very important role in modern symphony, which can be said to be an indispensable part. Clarinet, flute, oboe and bassoon constitute the four harmony systems of woodwind instrument group[2]. The components mainly include various musical instruments, such as orchestral instruments, brass instruments, percussion instruments and woodwind instruments. At the same time, in order to better present the performance effect during the performance, the band added some musical instruments, such as xylophone and harp, on the basis of the original[3]. It is also a very flexible musical instrument, which can be played with ease, whether it is expressive singing, fast technical phrases, scales, arpeggios, jumping and vibrato. You can also change the intensity of the sound at will, especially the change of fading and fading. The development of clarinet playing skills is changing with each passing day. In recent years, the special skills of clarinet playing have made new breakthroughs[4]. Hua Tongue and Hua Tongue are new playing techniques that appeared at the end of 19th century, and they are known as special playing techniques. Their playing application time is shorter than the basic skills, but they appear frequently in modern works. As a kind of special skills, the playing of flower tongue and elastic tongue has always been the difficulty and focus of clarinet playing. In terms of timbre, the high-pitched clarinet in E-flat is very flexible, and its sound itself is very penetrating because of the sound area. The timbre in the low, middle and high-pitched area is more unified than that in the clarinet in B-flat, and the tension and expressive force of the sound are stronger[5]. In symphonic orchestral works, the voice of E-flat high-pitched clarinet has distinct personality characteristics; In musical instrument control, compared with clarinet in B-flat, it has higher requirements for breath, mouth shape, mouth and voice. In terms of finger skills, because it is smaller than the B-flat clarinet and the key position is more compact, it requires more precise finger control and flexibility when

playing complex and fast music fragments. In the examination of symphony orchestra and wind orchestra, the high-pitched clarinet in E flat also occupies a very important position[6]. There are not many opportunities to learn this instrument as a solo instrument system in China, but more to explore it by combining the control of B-flat clarinet in ensemble and orchestra. This paper will analyze the application of tongue-painting and tongue-playing skills in enhancing the expressive force of clarinet performance, and try to enrich the musical performance of clarinet in more ways[7]. For actual performers, based on the analysis of performance, this article will specifically elaborate on the personalized treatment of the actual performance where the flower tongue and the bullet tongue are located. In summary, we hope to provide assistance to performers who perform flower tongues and flick tongues. While improving their skills, they can also be flexibly applied in real-life performance to enhance the charm of performance. To contribute to the improvement of the application of clarinet performance techniques in theory and practice.

2. The Emergence of Orchestral Ensemble Music and the Development of Symphonic Orchestral Music

2.1 Analysis of Clarinet Performance in Symphony

Clarinet playing technology reached a perfect level in the mid-19th century, but at that time, for the convenience of playing, players would choose clarinets with different modes according to different numbers. With the development of music art, the content of music expression is constantly enriched, and the potential of clarinet is constantly being discovered, with richer expressive force and more vigorous vitality[8]. At present, the clarinet has a range of nearly four octaves, and each range has a different musical style. Clarinet has a deep and rough bass, a pure and vigorous midrange and a round and bright treble, which has important application value in symphony. Clarinet plays a very important role in symphony and is widely used in symphony orchestra because of its unique timbre and range that other instruments do not have. On the one hand, from the clarinet timbre[9]. Because the clarinet's timbre reflects the characteristics close to the human voice in the performance process, the symphony performance can present a more complete and good narrative. From this point of view, the position and role of the clarinet in the symphony orchestra is not accidental, just as Mozart, a famous musician, evaluated the clarinet as “the instrument closest to the human voice”, which shows that the timbre of the clarinet is one of the important characteristics to ensure that it is different from other instruments in the symphony orchestra[10].

The clarinet is an important member of the woodwind instrument group, located in the second subsystem of the entire symphony band. If the entire symphony band is regarded as a coordinate system, the clarinet has an irreplaceable position. The introduction of the music uses the harp to imitate the sound of the water in the Wanquan River. The violin uses vibrato playing techniques to highlight the sound of the water, and the oboe plays the theme music “Wanquan River” with the addition of triangular iron, making the theme sound brighter. The entire music of this part highlights the emergence of the clarinet theme, with its flexible playing techniques and a series of light notes, showcasing the scene of mischievous young female soldiers playing by the spring and teasing the old squad leader. The clarinet plays this melodious and lively dance melody, aligning the musical image with the character's personality, promoting the development of music and closely integrating the storyline, allowing the listener to deeply reflect on the artistic conception and story context created by the music. And depict the profound connotation of the music.

2.2 Reasonable Application in Symphony Orchestra

Symphony wind orchestra, a musical performance form, usually consists of woodwind group, brass group and percussion group. Compared with the symphony orchestra, there are no stringed instruments. Usually, in a symphony orchestra, woodwind instruments need to play the parts of the strings of the symphony orchestra. These voices are usually performed mainly by clarinets. Because there are far more wind instruments in the wind orchestra than in the symphony orchestra, the pitch of different tonal wind instruments varies unevenly, and many fixed-tone instruments put forward

higher requirements for the overall pitch of the wind orchestra. No matter what kind of musical instrument you play, you must first understand the musical instrument's own interval relationship, clearly know which notes are accurate, which ones are high or low, and even know how high or low, so as to have a general grasp of the musical instrument's intonation. In a band, the expressive power of the clarinet can be maximized. The meaning contained in the clarinet is rich in color and profound. The use of the clarinet can provide a unique interpretation of the main melody through the use of very pure timbre. The clarinet has a very flexible playing technique, which can be easily voiced and express a mischievous and lively atmosphere. Finally, a playful scene is presented. In the later development process of the orchestra, composers basically reached a consensus. Whether it is a work adapted from symphony or created for an orchestra, the clarinet plays a role in string music in symphony, covering almost all the string parts. The clarinet with one or two voice parts is equivalent to the violin voice part, the clarinet and alto clarinet with two or three voice parts are equivalent to the viola voice part, the bass clarinet is equivalent to the cello voice part, and the double bass clarinet is equivalent to the bass cello voice part.

With the diversity of music styles and the rise of national music schools, when composers try to show national characteristics or express unique sound effects with fresh elements, the flower tongue has become a fresh attempt. With the continuous maturity and application of flower tongue technique to various types of music, performers are playing modern music or works with different regional styles. Replacing similar fast and high-frequency vibration effect with flowered tongue will take this skill as the finishing touch to attract the audience during the performance. Clarinet with different huge range spans can play different roles in the performance of symphony orchestra, and treble can express HTC's epic and war scenes through its bright timbre; The richness and beauty of the alto can communicate well with other symphonies and achieve strong blending, so as to better present tactful and desolate music in the process of playing, which can better express the development of the story; The mellow and plump bass can play a good role in the process of playing, which makes the story have a unique mystery and dark side. Therefore, clarinet occupies an irreplaceable position in the symphony orchestra because of its unique timbre and range.

3. A Study on the Expressive Power of Clarinet Performance in Symphony

3.1 The Role of the Trellis in Symphony Orchestra

With the development of military bands, wind ensemble music has gradually emerged. As mentioned earlier, during the Renaissance, the performance of wind instruments began to appear among nobles and civilians. Nobles will organize bands to play music for social occasions, and civilians will also organize bands to entertain themselves for interest. The appearance of these combinations has paved the way for the rise of wind ensemble. The music played by the early symphonic band was mainly orchestral arrangement, and the composer encountered the problem when arranging the music, which part replaced the most important violin part. At this time, the "Bohm clarinet" came out soon. Compared with the previous clarinet, the Bohm clarinet is easier to play, which makes the player make a great breakthrough in technology. Especially favored by composers, clarinet is very expressive in timbre, and each range has its own characteristics. The sound in the bass area is low, melancholy, tense and full, and the midrange is warm and sweet with metallic color, which is very suitable for the lyrical high-pitched area with mellow, bright and glorious timbre, and has a proud temperament. The high-pitched area is like a sharp whistle, full of passion and motivation, and bright and bright. In the actual performance process, we usually see some new members of the band who dare not play confidently, and the main reason is that they do not know how to count the beats. If you keep playing, it's okay, but when it comes to resting for a few bars and needing to enter, it's either late or early. Therefore, if encountering new works during rehearsal, it is necessary to carefully count the bars and small beats. After rehearsing many times, it is necessary to pay attention to where the melodic or characteristic instruments are played, and then mark or remember them. In formal performance, one can have sufficient psychological preparation, and the performance will also be natural and smooth.. The adapted clarinet parts almost cover all

string parts. The clarinet with one or two voice parts is equivalent to the violin voice part, the clarinet and alto clarinet with two or three voice parts are equivalent to the viola voice part, the bass clarinet is equivalent to the cello voice part, and some flute and oboe sentences have also been moved into the clarinet voice part. Among a large number of works adapted from orchestral music, a representative one is Shostakovich's "Festival Overture", where the large violin melody is handed over to the clarinet voice, as show in Figure 1.



Fig.1 Shostakovich's "Festival Overture"

Subsequently, the clarinet quickly played the phrases that rolled up and down, and the atmosphere was very warm. The theme of the sub-part is as broad as a song. The bass clarinet of clarinet family replaces the cello to present the singing like an alto singer. This beautiful theme is then transferred to the clarinet to play, which is even more touching and full of pride and happiness.

3.2 The Application of Playing the Tongue in Clarinet Music

The bass clarinet has undergone many reforms and updates from the early 18th century to today, basically following the trajectory of the clarinet, but its development process is vastly different from that of the clarinet. The head and whistle of the bass clarinet are larger and wider in size, allowing for a more exaggerated and tense tongue flicking effect. The difficulty of playing is easier compared to the B-flat clarinet. The tongue application in the bass clarinet is more extensive compared to other types of clarinets. The accompaniment type is commonly used in regular beats, backbeats, and alternating beats. The successful application of tongue flicking techniques in the bass clarinet also draws on the experience of bass saxophone and forms a unique style of clarinet. The tongue playing

of the bass clarinet allows the performance of the clarinet to be closer to the plucking of the string bass, endowing the wind instrument with a novel musical expression and constructing a similar effect to the string playing techniques. This has a very positive impact on clarinet music. Symphony instruments, as a means of conveying musicians' ideas, have distinct characteristics of the times and musical personalities. The musical personality of instruments is expressed and reflected by the people or objects in the music. The use of clarinet in symphonic bands can promote the portrayal of musical personality through different arrangements and models.

Usually, clarinet tenors express passionate musical emotions through high and intense timbre, which can well express angry emotions in music, thus adding some colors to epic scenes. It can be said that good clarinet performance is a kind of enjoyment of beauty, and it is an art that relies on music to convey emotions. The marks and symbols in music are dead, but the performer's performance is alive. As a clarinet player, he should deeply understand the intention of the music creator and express it through superb performance and rich expressions. Many composers are loved by people because of their excellent works and their complete interpretation with many conductors and performers. The elastic tongue used in alto clarinet and bass clarinet is similar to that used in bass clarinet. The application of tongue-playing skills is sometimes grasped by the performer, and sometimes it can be improvised, which belongs to the second creation after understanding the work. The effect of this kind of slapping whistle is to increase the charm of playing and highlight the sense of movement and rhythm. Playing the tongue, a special playing skill, provides more possibilities for clarinet music.

4. Conclusions

With the emergence of symphonic orchestras, the clarinet truly established its position in the orchestra. The clarinet has replaced the string voice in orchestras due to its strong expressive timbre, wide range, and strong flexibility in performance. Enable composers to fully utilize their writing skills and no longer be troubled by technical barriers in wind music creation. The innovation of techniques has driven changes in music; The demand for diverse music promotes the birth of techniques. The application of snap tongue and flower tongue has formed a new type of clarinet sound effect that differs from traditional techniques, extending the range of clarinet sound. With the continuous development, clarinet players should adhere to the attitude of serving music in the face of new skills, and actively use them without ostentation; Be bold and innovative, not rigid and old-fashioned In addition, the flexibility and rich musical expression of clarinet make it one of the important voices in the symphony orchestra. When we study and use clarinet, we must grasp the skills well, and through continuous exploration and research, the clarinet art will be interpreted more deeply by the people.

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