

Classification of Qinghai Tu Folk Songs

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Abstract: Tu folk song is an intangible cultural heritage passed down from generation to generation by the Tu people in northwest China. It is not only an important part of Tu culture, but also a treasure in the treasure house of ethnic music. With its unique melody, rich content and diverse forms, the folk songs of the Tu people show their life customs, emotional expression and aesthetic taste. The purpose of this paper is to classify and study the folk songs of Tu nationality, in order to deeply explore their musical characteristics, cultural connotation and social functions.

Keywords: Tu Nationality; Culture; Folk Songs; Species.

1. Narrative Songs

Ballade occupy a prominent position in the folk songs of the Tu people. They are important carriers of oral history, legends and stories of the Tu people, showing the inheritance of historical events, heroes and folk wisdom of the Tu people. As an important part of the Tu culture, ballade are usually complex in structure and rich in content. Through vivid narration and depiction, the audience is brought into a dramatic story.

The melody of the ballad of the Tu nationality is varied, which has the magnificent momentum of sometimes passionate and sometimes low, and the narrative style of graceful and delicate and deep emotion. They are often in a variety of forms, with the development of the story and adjust the rhythm and emotional expression, so that the listener seems to be in the story, feel the joy and sorrow. The lyrics of ballad are usually in the Tu language, and the unique rhythm and tone of this language add strong ethnic colors and local characteristics to the ballad.

Ballade are passed down from generation to generation in a variety of ways, both orally and through song memory. Many of the older Tu regard ballad as an important means of educating their children and passing on the national spirit, through which children can learn about ethnic heroes, learn traditional morals, and understand social norms. In addition, with the development of modern recording technology, ballade began to be recorded and preserved, providing valuable materials for the study of the history and culture of the Tu people.

2. Songs of Praise

As an important type of Tu folk songs, hymns are a musical form for Tu people to express their respect and praise on important occasions, especially in family gatherings and celebrations. They are usually used to extol the virtues of guests, heroes, ancestors or nature, and show the refined taste and profound cultural heritage of the Tu people through gorgeous words and smooth melodies. Hymns play a vital role in Tu society. They are not only ceremonial performances in social activities, but also carry the functions of social norms and moral education.

The melody of the hymn is usually soft and beautiful, echoing the theme of the praise. Its moderate tone fluctuation and steady rhythm help to create a solemn and warm

atmosphere. The lyrics are refined, the emotions are deep, and they often use the Tu language, which is rich in ethnic characteristics. During the singing process, the singers further strengthened the appeal of the hymn through rich expressions and body movements, making the expression of the hymn more vivid and powerful.

The inheritance of Tu hymns mainly depends on oral transmission, including some famous songs passed down from generation to generation, such as "Sing a song left by an ancestor". These hymns are not only sung at family gatherings and celebrations, but also in learning and educational settings, becoming an important way for Tu youth to understand and respect cultural traditions.

3. Questions Answers and Anzhao

Questions answers song and Anzhao dance song are two forms of interactive and dynamic expression in Tu folk songs, they carry unique cultural functions in Tu people, and show the collective spirit and life wisdom of Tu people through the integration of music and dance.

Question answer song, with its unique question-and-answer way, cleverly combines the spread of knowledge and social interaction. This form of song is usually performed during holiday celebrations, family gatherings, or daily leisure time, and through a question-and-answer format, singers ask each other questions and exchange life experiences, natural knowledge, historical stories, and even social customs and philosophies. The melody of quiz songs is simple and bright, the rhythm is elastic, and the lyrics are usually composed of short words, which is easy for listeners to understand and remember. This kind of question-and-answer interaction not only enhances the fun of the song, but also encourages the participation of the participants, making the question-and-answer song an important way for the inheritance of wisdom and knowledge among the Tu people.

Anzhao dance music is the representative of Tu dance music, closely combined with dance movements, forming one of the most dynamic forms of expression in Tu traditional culture. Anzhao dance is usually performed at collective events such as festivals and weddings. With its bright rhythm and melody, it drives the dancers' pace and reflects the enthusiasm and joy of the Tu people. The melody of Anzhao dance music is varied, both passionate rhythm and light melody, often based on triple time, a strong sense of rhythm, giving people a strong visual and auditory impact. The lyrics

are usually short and are coordinated with the dance movements in a way that repeats and echoes, reinforcing the rhythm of the dance.

4. Love Songs and Work Songs

Love songs and labor songs are the two core categories of Tu folk songs that express life emotion and labor scene. They reveal the emotional world and daily life of Tu people with vivid lyrics and expressive melodies.

Love songs are a direct way for young men and women of Tu nationality to express their inner feelings. They play an important role in Tu people's expressions of yearning of pure love and sadness of love frustration, in the form of sweet melodies and delicate lyrics. The structure of love songs is usually simple, mostly in four sentences, the first two sentences often describe the natural scene with *Bi xing* technique, and the last two sentences express their feelings and sincere feelings. The love songs of the Tu people are sung in various forms, including solo singing, duet singing, and even group harmony, which shows the rich emotional expression of the Tu people in emotional communication. In Tu culture, love songs are not only the expression of personal feelings, but also the resonance of group feelings. They become an important medium for people's emotional communication in traditional weddings and festivals. In terms of content, love songs can be divided into antithetical love songs, traditional love songs and modern love songs, each of which reflects the emotional needs and expressions of Tu youth in different times.

Labor songs, like symphonic poems of life, reflect the labor wisdom and rhythm of life of the Tu people. These songs have concise and powerful melodies, bright rhythms, and straightforward lyrics, full of praise for labor and love of life. The singing of labor songs is often accompanied by the movement of labor, such as farming, weaving or herding, and the perfect combination of music and movement makes the work more enjoyable and reduces the physical burden. The classification of labor songs is based on the types and scenes of labor, such as farm songs, construction songs, pastoral songs, etc. Each song truly reproduces the life scene of the Tu people in different labor scenes. In singing, labor songs are mostly impromptu, the lyrics are casual, the melody changes with the movement, this way of impromptu singing fully reflects the musical talent and life wisdom of the Tu people.

5. Children's and Religious Songs

The singing form of Tu children's song is lively, vivid metaphor, very interesting, and the content is interesting, profound meaning, although it is a children's song, it is generally sung by the old people to the children, which can be described as an intellectual song. The contents of children's songs are mostly folklore and stories, which enhance children's interest and sense of identity in the Tu culture through the combination of fun and knowledge. The content depicts the characteristics of some small animals that children love to see, combined with people's imagination, and compiled into smooth sentences for singing, these lyrics have a long history like other traditional lyrics in Tu folk songs.

The inheritance and educational function of Tu children's songs cannot be ignored. For example, the song "Burou Yo". The local word "Burou" in "Burou Yo" means "calf", and this folk story mainly revolves around the story of cows and calves. The calf had sucked up the cow's milk and wanted to

go to the mountains to find grass and drink the sweet spring water. The cow told the calf that the tigers and wolves on the mountain were too fierce to go up, but the calf ran up the mountain by itself, ignoring the mother's advice. At last the cow was eaten by the Wolf to protect her calf. Deeply regretting, the calf cried and talked to the soul of the cow, hoping that the soul of the cow would be reincarnated to the Shambhala, and that if there were a second time, it would listen to the mother.

The religious songs of the Tu nationality closely combine music with religious experience, which not only provides spiritual support for religious ceremonies, but also deepens the believers' understanding and perception of religious concepts. The existence of a large number of religious songs of the Tu people is inseparable from the religious belief of the Tu people, among which religious music is closely related to Tibetan and Mongolian Buddhist music in terms of Musical Instruments, tunes and ritual functions. There are religious songs in wedding scenes, call songs, catechism songs, and hymns.

6. Traditional Wedding Songs

The traditional wedding song is a very important part of the traditional culture of the Tu people. It is not only a form of music, but also an important carrier of the spirit, belief and value orientation of the Tu people. Traditional wedding songs are rich in content, including astronomy, geography, history, religion, mythology, life customs, etc., with a strong cultural color. Wedding songs accompany the whole wedding process. The lyrics and melody of these wedding songs are basically fixed. With the process of the wedding, the lyrics are often used to describe the beauty of the bride with popular and image metaphors, and use humorous words to stir up the warm atmosphere of the wedding. Different occasions need to sing different types of songs, there is a certain regularity.

The Tu wedding can be roughly divided into two parts, the first part is the feast held in the wife's home, the Tu people called "Mazii"; The second part is the feast held at the man's house, which the Tu call "Hurin".

The sending song, also known as the "send the girl song", is sung by the bride's relatives and friends or sisters before she goes out. These songs are usually full of the bride's sorrow for leaving home and blessings for the new life, the melody is warm and slightly melancholy, the lyrics are symbolic and metaphorical ways to express the deep affection for the bride and the hope for the new life.

Wedding songs are sung by the bridal procession on the way to marry the bride. These songs are filled with joy and anticipation. The melody is light, and the lyrics are mainly praise for the groom and wish for the couple's bright future. The wedding song is designed to inspire the bridal procession and convey the joy of the couple's marriage. In some areas, the singing of wedding songs is combined with dancing to form a lively procession that attracts onlookers and well-wishes from villagers along the way. In the wedding ceremony, these different types of songs are intertwined to form a coherent and layered musical narrative, which is both the adherence to traditional customs and the expression of the spirit of the Tu culture.

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