

Spring Comes Every Year

Current Situation of Korean Nationality Music in Liaoning Region and Its Development Idea

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Abstract—The Korean nationality has long historic culture with distinct national characteristics. It is an important member of national minority of our country. Liaoning is one of the areas with large population of Korean nationality and relatively complete cultural development. This article discusses current situation of Korean nationality music in Liaoning region and its development prospect in the future, seeks quintessence of Korean nationality music, returns to ideological essence of Korean nationality music, in order to explain the importance to protect music culture of Korean nationality in this region, and then carry forward the spiritual charm of Korean nationality music culture.

Keywords—Korean nationality music; Liaoning region; current situation and development

I. INTRODUCTION

The Korean nationality has a long cultural history. Its music culture is rich and colorful just as “all flowers bloom”. It is of long standing, goes through thousands of years of history and forms characteristics with unique style. The Korean nationality music culture in Liaoning region occupies a decisive position in art and culture of Chinese Korean nationality music. It is rich in regional characteristics and has long history, brilliant with charming fragrance. In recent years, a growing number of musicologists with excellent opinions make outstanding contributions for inheritance and protection of Korean nationality music culture and hope for using it to carry forward unique artistic charm of Korean nationality music. It has positive and profound significance on strengthening the protection of Korean nationality music culture in Liaoning region through researching Korean nationality music in Liaoning region and constructing the concept for future development of Korean nationality music.

The Korean nationality is also called Koryo nationality and Korean nation and mainly distributed in Korean Peninsula, Russian Far East, Northeast China and other countries in the world such as America and Japan. It is one of the important nationalities in East Asia. The Korean nationality is one of the 56 minorities in China. According to statistics of the fifth national population census in 2000 (according to registered residence), the total number of people of Korean nationality in China is 1,923,842. Jilin province has the largest number of people of Korean nationality and the population size has

exceeded one billion. The population size of Korean nationality in Heilongjiang and Liaoning is also considerable, nearly one million.

The common language of Korean nationality is Korean. Now it is commonly believed that it belongs to Altaic family, but it remains to be proven. Korean belongs to phonemic orthography type, with 40 letters as phoneme letters. The language used by Korean nationality in China is standard Korean. Its language accent is close to Democratic People's Republic of Korea in north of the Korean Peninsula. The Korean nationality is one of the main nationalities in East Asia. Through the ages, they live in Korean Peninsula region. Korean nationality in China belongs to immigrant nationality instead of native nationality of China. Since Manchu conquest of China in the 17th century, in order to protect their “place of origin” in northeast China, they implemented forbidden order on Northeast China Region. Changbai Mountain area is also included. The forbidden order was implemented for nearly two hundred years. However, because of natural disaster and cruel exploitation of feudal ruling class in North Korea, in the early 18th century, some Korean people lived in seclusion in Northeast China to make a living. But from this period to the mid-nineteenth century, because of various reasons, with time goes by, most immigrants don't completely settle down in Northeast China Region. Therefore, the population of Korean nationality in China in Northeast China Region during this period is sparse. In the late of 19th century, the Qing Government implemented the policy of recruiting people to reclaim wasteland. Soon afterwards, they set Bureau of Reclamation for immigrants in Yanji, Donggou and Nangang, Bureau of Land Clearance Affair in Jilin and recruit a large number of immigrants, “All who is enlisted in immigrants will be subjects of feudal ruler in China.” Because Japan and Russia eye covetously on Northeast China Region, Qing Government realized that there were few inhabitants round the place, which is very adverse to defense of Northeast China. Therefore, they formally abolished the forbidden order for northeast China that is implemented for more than two hundred years. In 1885, Qing Government zoned the region with length of about 700 li and width of about 50 li in north Shore of Tumen River as special agricultural areas for farmers of Korean nationality. The implementation of this policy makes more and more ethnic Korean people formally immigrate to Northeast China Region. With embezzlement of Japanese invaders for Korean Peninsula, Korean people who cannot stand brutal aggression of Japanese aggressors began to

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crowd into Northeast China Region. "According to statistics, in 1870, there had been 28 villages for Korean nationality to inhabit in the north bank of Yalu River. In 1881, the population of Korean nationality in Yanbian region had reached more than ten thousand. In 1883, inhabitants of Korean nationality in counties such as Jian, Linjiang and Xinbin had reached more than 37,000. During the same period, a lot of farmers of Korean nationality also immigrated to waterfront along the Wusuli River." In 1910, Japanese formally took possession of Korean Peninsula. Large quantities of Korean people who cannot stand brutal oppression and persecution of invaders begin to crowd into Northeast China Region. To 1918, people of Korean nationality in Northeast China Region had reached 360,000. These people constitute population foundation of Chinese Korean nationality in modern and contemporary times. It lays a solid foundation for reproduction of people of Korean nationality in China region later.

II. EXPLORATION ON DEVELOPMENT FOOTPRINT OF KOREAN NATIONALITY MUSIC IN LIAONING REGION

The Korean nationality is good at singing and dancing. It has a long history of national music culture. Korean nationality in Liaoning region is mainly descendant of Korean nationality that migrant to China in the second half of the 19th century. Most of the forms still follow related patterns and contents of the Korean nationality in Korean peninsula. According to musical forms, it can be divided into several types such as ballads, instrumental music, dance music and dramatic music.

A. Ballads of Korean Nationality

In Korean nationality, they often call folk songs as ballads. Folk songs of Korean nationality have beautiful melody, smooth and euphemistical, clear and cheerful, abundant feelings, full of expressive force and appeal. It can reflect national music value in Korean nationality music and it is very precious. Ballads can embody characteristics of personality of Korean nationality as well as the harmony and unity between it and nature. In aspects such as contents and forms, ballads of Korean nationality can be divided into "traditional ballads", "nursery rhyme", "miscellaneous songs", "new ballads" and "labor ballads". It draws materials widely and mainly reflects daily life, work and rest, custom and human feelings as well as love. The form of "traditional ballads" was the most popular in people of Korean nationality at that time. Triple time is the representative rhythmic pattern in Korean nationality music. This rhythmic pattern makes up the unique musical form that is called "long and short" in Korean nationality music. The production cause of rhythmic pattern of traditional music in Korean nationality has close relationship with rhythm combination of syllables of life language in Korean nationality. In language of Korean nationality, waving note is the unique rhyme characteristics of its language. Korean nationality music also uses this language feature. In singing, it often uses the way of waving note with distinct characteristics. The representative works of ballads in Korean nationality mainly have Arirang, Doraji and Ballad of Selling Cloth.

B. Instrumental Music of Korean Nationality

According to related records of historical data, there are about more than 60 kinds of traditional instrumental music of Korean nationality. Most of the instruments follow and inherit instruments in Sui, Tang and Song dynasties of our country. Representative musical instruments include hit and strike type such as Kayagum and geomungo; string instruments such as haegeum and ajaeng; wind instruments such as hichiriki, short flute, vertical bamboo flute and suona horn; percussion instruments such as long drum, round drum, big gong, small gong and timbrel. Most instrumental music performers of Korean nationality have excellent skills and are good at skills of playing relevant musical instruments such as glide and trill and thoroughly understand tuning system of related instruments. People are most familiar with kayagum and long drum.

Kayagum means lyre from the country of Gaya confederacy. According to legend, it is made by king of the country of Gaya confederacy who imitates Guzheng of ethnic Han in China. In Korean, it is called "가야금" (ga ya gao), also known as kayagum. It is mainly spread in three provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning in northeast China. The appearance of kayagum is similar to Guzheng and its shape is close to rectangle. The panel of it adopts fortune paulownia wood and the baseboard adopts chestnut wood. The bridge and other decorative parts adopt woods such as locust tree, grapefruit tree, ebony wood or rosewood. It has a history of more than 1,500 years before present.

Long drum is also called Jianggu. It is a kind of membranophone of mixed beat. In Korean, it is called "장구". It is commonly used in accompany and instrumental ensemble in musical performance of Korean nationality. The total length of long drum is about 60 to 70 centimeters. It is mainly made by birch, Chinese toon or aspen wood. Sometimes it is also made by a variety of woods. The drum cavity at both ends is relatively thick. The cavity is hollow. The drum waist in the middle is relatively thin in solid state. It was spread to Goguryeo dynasty at that time from east part of Tang Dynasty of China at the beginning of the 11th century. So it has a long history.

C. Dance of Korean Nationality

Although Chinese Korean nationality is the descendent of ethnic Korean people who emigrate from Korean Peninsula to Northeast China Region, Korean nationality has a long history and thick cultural atmosphere. Dance of Korean nationality truly reflects hard-bitten, introverted and strong character of ethnic Korean people and forms its particular music personality. Group dance of Chinese Korean nationality has agile and cheerful rhythm. Most reflects that ethnic Korean people yearn for good life, full of thriving vitality. Meanwhile, it also embodies excellent indomitable and united national quality of people of Chinese Korean nationality. Ethnic Korean people have similar development history with most of the nations in East Asia. After experiencing primitive tribes and fishing and hunting life, they begin traditional farming life. Therefore, in early stage, Korean nationality also takes agriculture as the main production mode. This kind of

production and life style is also naturally reflected in traditional dance of Korean nationality. Generally speaking, except for singing, people also express their intense feelings through “dance”, the means of expression by using body language. It is called “gesticulating with hands and feet”.

D. Dramatic Music of Korean Nationality

Dramatic music mainly has forms such as folk play music, Pansori music, Shantai opera music. In folk play music, it main focuses on music and dance. At the same time, it also contains some actions, lines and dialogues. The contents are similar to false face and mainly reflect folk customs and daily life of people at that time and inherit performance ways of masquerade music and puppet show in three kingdoms period of China. Pansori is representative type of drama in Korean folk art forms. It appeared in the 18th century. Later it is spread to Northeast China Region with immigrants from North Korea. The word of “Pansori” is transliteration of Korean language. It means the song sung in public place. The performers of Pansori center on singing and adopt the performance way of rap. Usually a person can perform the plot that several characters appear and comparatively complicated large-scale works. Representative works have the Tale of Shim-Chung and Chunhyang. Shantai opera refers to Nuo opera in Korea’s Yi Dynasty. It is a kind of art form performed by people with false face. Initially, it is a performance that a person asks a question and answers it himself. The main purpose is to reflect conditions of the people to person in power. Afterwards, it adds the composition of dialogue and begins to take shape. Its performance is full of the style of laugh and banter.

III. PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN NATIONALITY MUSIC IN LIAONING REGION

The music art of Korean nationality is the representative of Korean ethnic culture. It is a kind of effective way to deepen understanding for Korean nationality through understanding Korean nationality music and then Korean ethnic culture. Deep analysis on Korean nationality music can help us to understand the state of daily life of ethnic Korean people, correctly master artistic style and characteristics of Korean nationality music and aesthetic value of national art, and then better protect culture and art of Korean nationality music.

Liaoning is called Liao for short. There are fourteen prefecture-level cities under its administration. It is the only coastal province in northeast China and also one of the earliest provinces that opens port in modern times. There are a large number of populations of Korean nationality in Liaoning region. Although the number is not as large as that of ethnic Korean people of 720,000 in Yanbian area in Jilin, because of its advantaged geographic position and economic development conditions, the number of ethnic Korean people that live in Liaoning region is also considerable. Compared with other regions in Liaoning, except for the provincial capital Shenyang city, the number of ethnic Korean people in East Liaoning is comparatively large, with Dandong and Dalian as representatives. Because Dalian is close to sea area of Bohai Sea and the sea separates it from Korean Peninsula, in late Qing Dynasty, large quantities of fishermen from North Korea

came here to live and multiply. Dandong is the largest border city in China. It is separated from Sinuiju, the second largest city in North Korea by the Yalu River with width of about one kilometer. It is the main destination of immigrants of Korean nationality in the late 19th century and the early 20th century. Dandong city has built Chinese Korean middle school and culture and art museum. The Korean nationality music in Liaodong region mainly follows contents and forms of Korean nationality music in China. There are large numbers of agglomerations of Korean nationality in the area under administration. There are special ethnic schools such as Shenyang Chinese Korean middle school and Dandong Chinese Korean School. In Dandong Chinese Korean School, the main departments include primary school, middle school and senior high school. Except for relevant course contents required by the country, meanwhile, they also open national characteristic courses such as Korean. The establishment of these schools can better protect Korean ethnic culture, including Korean nationality music.

It is the responsibility of many art workers to prosper music art of the Korean nationality and carry forward ethnic music culture of Korean nationality. It is also the crying need of carrying forward Korean nationality music to protect and develop music culture of Korean nationality. The author thinks that if music art of Korean nationality in Liaoning region wants permanent development, it shall mainly consider aspects such as fundamental research, inheritance and development as well as policy discussion.

A. Fundamental Research

Before discussing inheritance and future development of any national art, it is necessary to understand historical development and concrete forms of this class of art, including its artistic contents. Except for routine understanding of situation and content of music culture, nowadays art workers shall also pay attention to further understand deep connotation of culture included by Korean nationality music. For fundamental research of Korean nationality music, art workers shall carefully analyze from various aspects by classifying them, browse historical facts, make on-the-spot investigation and then sort them in detail and record them full and accurate in written form. They can better carry forward Korean nationality music culture in Liaoning and endow its with unique regional characteristics through better and accurately mastering basic contents of Korean nationality music culture, then grasping connotation of Korean nationality music culture and philosophical thoughts reflected by them, “discard the dross and select the essence”, carrying out second processing and creation for Korean nationality music, which can conform to development of times as well as not deviate from deep-seated ideological connotation of its music culture.

B. Inheritance and Development

The popularization and development of any artistic form cannot do without the help of education. In order to protect ethnic music, the form of intangible cultural heritage, and make it do not disappear from the scene because of the development of times and narrow popularization scope, the best way is to bring it into daily education. It needs to depend

on specialized subject setting of higher education. Meanwhile, it shall also consider the role that it plays in basic education. In Korean schools of Liaoning region, they can open courses related to Korean nationality music, let students understand common sense related to Korean nationality music in daily learning, such as representative theme forms of Korean nationality music, relevant knowledge and performance way of music instruments of Korean nationality. Non-Korean schools in some places can consider putting contents that narrate Korean ethnic culture in local area into characteristic regional textbooks and applying contents related to Korean nationality music in characteristic culture and sports education in schools, such as Korean long-drum dance, Fan Dance and singing of ballads. It can enrich students' daily school life as well as spread Korean nationality music culture. In relevant colleges in Liaoning, except for dance major in professional art colleges learns Korean dance, other majors can also open courses to learn Korean musical instruments and music singing. At the same time, they can also bring specialized elective courses related to Korean music culture learning in courses of colleges that open Korean course. It helps students to understand cultural customs and tradition of nations in Korean Peninsula and then better learn and master this language. In educational field, strengthen the publicity of Korean ethnic culture and cultivate relevant high-quality talents so that it will have the effect of half the work with double results for inheritance of Korean nationality music.

C. Policy Discussion

Any artistic form of culture cannot separate from the general background of era development. Powerful support of government policy is also the important dependency of its development. It plays a positive effect on developing Korean ethnic culture and music through strengthening spiritual civilization construction of Korean nationality culture in Liaoning region and establishing related public art institutions and literature and art organizations, such as set up libraries of Korean ethnic culture in agglomeration of Korean nationality, Korean ethnic Mass Art Centers and Cultural Palace of Nationalities of Korean nationality, song and dance troupe of Korean nationality. Related cultural development policy of government serves as strong backing. It is the position to better carry forward spiritual civilization construction of Korean ethnic culture and the material basis to develop music culture of Korean nationality. And then they can hold local large recreational activities, such as singing and dancing performance as well as communication and learning of music culture. In order to develop music culture of Korean nationality in Liaoning area, they can integrate economic development situation and carry out multilevel, multidirectional and multiform cultural exchange, in order to raise popularity and influence of music culture of Korean nationality in this region. Under the premise of keeping the original music culture elements and music culture nature as well as ethnic music characteristics unchanged, operate through standardized market-oriented means to realize the embodiment of corresponding market value.

“The stones of those hills may be used to polish gems”. It is the responsibility and mission of art workers in this region to

inherit and carry forward music culture of Korean nationality in Liaoning region and return main ideas of Korean ethnic culture and make efforts to condense spirit of music culture of Korean nationality as well as continuously explore quintessence of Korean nationality music. It is the requirement of the era as well as nationality to carry forward ethnic music culture and inherit classics of ethnic music culture. The author firmly believes that through unremitting efforts of art workers from generation to generation, the beautiful yearning for inheriting and carrying forward music culture of Korean nationality will be realized just as “spring flowers bloom in the world”.

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