

Inheritance and Protection of Hubei Folk Dance

"Macheng Hua Tiao"*

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Abstract—Unique and attractive Macheng Hua Tiao has been preserved through thousands of years of continuous inheritance and development, and has become a favorite dance art of the masses. But the modern civilization changes rapidly, because of the lack of domestic protection mechanism and the continuous impact of foreign culture on Chinese culture, cultural loss phenomenon has become quite serious in our country. This situation makes the people from all walks of life who like and support Macheng Hua Tiao worry about the heritage and protection prospects of Macheng Hua Tiao. Macheng Hua Tiao as a precious intangible cultural heritage, the society and the relevant departments must strengthen their protection and speed up their protection and inheritance to it.

Keywords—*Macheng Hua Tiao; cultural loss; inheritance; protection*

I. OVERVIEW OF MACHENG HUA TIAO

Macheng Hua Tiao is a unique folk dance art of Hubei Province, which is popular with the masses. Macheng Hua Tiao originated in the Mid Tang Dynasty, from the area of Futian River, Shuangmiaoguan and Lianglukou in Beishan Town, Macheng County. Later it was developed to other counties and cities, such as Luotian County and Hong'an County of Hubei province, as well as Xinxian County and Guangshan County in Henan Province, and then they came to Jinzhai County of Anhui province and so on. The Macheng Hua Tiao has a long history and now is spreading throughout the Macheng and Dabie mountains.

Macheng Hua Tiao is also called "Tiao Hualan" or "Tiao Jindan". In Shuangmiaoguan area, Liu genealogy has some records about Macheng Hua Tiao: "Macheng Hua Tiao" was originated from Tang Dynasty, thrived in Song, and inherited in Yuan and Ming Dynasty. Later, in the late Ming and early Qing Dynasty, it was developed and expanded. In the revolutionary age, the famous "Huangma Uprising" was launched on the "red land", Macheng. The birthplace of Macheng Hua Tiao has become the birthplace of the Fourth Army of Red Army. After the art reform, it was called "Macheng Hua Tiao". The flower basket used during the performance gradually became the flower basket seen today, and the Bamboo flower basket was decorated with some colored paper and the basket is usually filled with sweet fruit.

The shoulder pole to pick the flower basket also has a colorful rainbow corolla that posted between the two baskets. Since then, Macheng Hua Tiao show has been more beautiful, and the props look more beautiful. To begin with, Macheng Hua Tiao was chosen by some folk artists to perform in the fields, and later Macheng Hua Tiao has many kinds of performances. With the development of economy, culture and society in the Dabie Mountains, Macheng Hua Tiao as a representative of spiritual culture, often participates in some local theatrical performances. On the stage of the folk art show held in Huanggang in 1954, Macheng Hua Tiao was selected as one of the best folk art programs. Since then, some of the famous masters of music and dance have been rushing to Macheng for investigation, to record the history of Macheng Hua Tiao and sort out the form and characteristics of the performance, which make people understand the artistic charm of Macheng Hua Tiao through their finishing materials. In 1957, Macheng Hua Tiao participated in the first national folk dance festival in Beijing, and entered Zhongnanhai as an excellent program to perform for a special performance of the central leadership. In 50s of last century, Macheng Hua Tiao program, the *Sing siblings in Taoyuan* joined in Hubei province folk dance festival and won the excellent prize. And it was recommended on behalf of the province for participating in the second national folk dance festival, and then won the best program award. In 1978, the performers of Macheng Hua Tiao performed as a mass actor in the movie *Ji Hongchang*. Today, Macheng Hua Tiao has become the folk art song and dance performance that the people in Eastern Hubei Province are very fond of. Macheng Hua Tiao has been widely praised by people from all walks of life for its unique performing style. Macheng Hua Tiao's influence is growing so that it has been incorporated into students' music teaching material for the first time. In 2007, the music teacher Lin Heping of Second Experimental Primary School received the invitation of Huanggang Academy of Educational Sciences in Hubei to compile the Folk dance *Hua Tiao* in the ninth lesson of Huanggang local textbook *I love Huanggang, Writing style*. The course details the history of Macheng Hua Tiao, making Macheng Hua Tiao this folk song and dance known by the vast numbers of teenagers through the music teaching material. What we can see is that Macheng Hua Tiao as a precious intangible cultural heritage is being protected and inherited.

Macheng Hua Tiao has been named as the intangible cultural heritage of Macheng City and Huanggang City, and

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was named as the intangible cultural heritage of Hubei in 2006. On April 23, 2008, Macheng Hua Tiao *Sing Siblings in Taoyuan* also as a local art program, was performed in a large theatrical show of CCTV named *Happy China Tour · Charming Macheng*. On June 3, 2008, Macheng Hua Tiao as a unique and attractive folk song and dance of Huanggang, went with the Huanggang art delegation to Finland for c

II. CULTURAL LOSS OF MACHENG HUA TIAO

Macheng Hua Tiao has been growing continuously in the fertile soil among the people for thousands of years. In the background of accelerating the pace of modernization in various industries, Macheng Hua Tiao has been suffering from the strong impact of urbanization, networking and commercialization. Under these circumstances, the phenomenon of cultural loss in Macheng Hua Tiao has gradually become obvious.

The grass roots of Macheng Hua Tiao gradually fade away, instead, they constantly cater to the needs of various stages and commercial needs. With the continuous development of network culture, more post 80's and post 90's just think China traditional culture seems to exist only in the so-called "Chinese-wind" songs, such as Jay Chou's highly sought-after *Dong Feng Po*. More contemporary people obsess with Europe hip-hop culture, Korean and Japanese entertainment culture. How many people can still remember and study Chinese traditional culture in the face of the fast cultural way in today's society? Chinese traditional culture was gradually developed in thousands of years by our ancient sages, and experienced the rigorous test of history and time. They are constantly accumulated and flourished, which is the most precious spiritual wealth of our Chinese nation. Some scholars once said, "what is patriotism?" In fact, patriotism is not what we have imagined that we should pledge our lives. To love our country, first of all, we should inherit and protect our traditional culture. The loss of culture has led to the reduction of moral threshold of the whole society, and fewer and fewer people devote their time and energy to inheritance and research of traditional culture. Today, with the continuous development of the times, Macheng Hua Tiao is necessary to keep pace with the times and absorb the rich nutrients brought from the great integration of world culture. But more importantly, we must maintain the original artistic features of Macheng Hua Tiao but not simply pursue fashionable surface effects. Only by preserving the grass roots of Macheng Hua Tiao, it can keep the artistic features of traditional culture better and more truly reflect the daily lives of masses, so that it will bring more spiritual and cultural feast to the people of Macheng.

From a macro point of view, the threat of cultural loss in China is partly due to the impact of foreign culture on Chinese traditional culture. China has a 5000-year history, and in the long history, inevitably has sharing with the surrounding countries in cultural resources to a certain extent. The course of application for world Heritage on the Chinese traditional culture has been put on the agenda in recent years. However, in the neighboring countries, the work of attaching importance to traditional culture has already been carried out. Chinese people are blind to some traditional cultures that have long been used

to, such as the Dragon Boat Festival and the Mid Autumn Festival. It was not expected that our neighboring countries took over the Chinese traditional culture for the application of intangible cultural heritage as the early bird catches. When other countries passed the application, our countrymen just recognized before protected the traditional culture. Many contemporary young people admire western culture very much. They ignore some precious traditional cultures of our country or have never been conscious of protection. The protection work of culture cannot be done in one day, while it is a process that we need to accumulate and work hard for. Macheng Hua Tiao as a valuable folk song and dance art and precious intangible cultural heritage, its protection and inheritance work shall be started from now.

III. TRANSMISSION OF MEDIA AND INHERITANCE MEANS OF EDUCATION SYSTEM

If Macheng Hua Tiao wants to achieve more long-term development, it must protect and inherit its own unique things. In order to make the audiences in more places even the world's people know the unique charm of Macheng Hua Tiao, we must highlight the characteristics of Macheng Hua Tiao and let this feature be more fully promoted through more extensive channels and more superior mechanism. Only by this way, Macheng Hua Tiao can better display the unique folk culture of Eastern Hubei in front of the world, and show their own grassroots advantages, so as to promote the development of local cultural undertakings better and faster. Only when the broad masses transform from ordinary audiences to real participants, owners and successors of Macheng Hua Tiao, it will have a better future, its name will be more well-known, then our precious heritage of folk arts will go to the world. As the audiences of Macheng Hua Tiao, we have the mission to protect and develop Macheng Hua Tiao on our shoulders.

Although in 2006 Macheng Hua Tiao has been listed in the first batch of Hubei intangible cultural heritage list, the success of application for heritage is only a prelude for heritage and protection of Macheng Hua Tiao. The application of Macheng Hua Tiao can be successful, because it is also a unique Chinese folk dance art that shows the life of ordinary people in Eastern Hubei. The treasure of intangible cultural heritage is that it is a carrier of Chinese history and culture for thousands of years, and has incomparable special value. Through such a good opportunity that we successfully passed the application, we should better exploit the intrinsic greater value of Macheng Hua Tiao. Because of the success of Macheng Hua Tiao's application for heritage, it represents the broad recognition of vast audience in Macheng.

The so-called "Rely on the media" to pass on and protect "Macheng Hua Tiao" refers to the adoption of various means of communication, such as television, film, radio, books and computer network platform, to expand the impact of Macheng Hua Tiao, so that more people are able to join the heritage and protection team of Macheng Hua Tiao through all kinds of media. Media exists widely in society because of its many functions. From the point of view of inheritance and protection of Macheng Hua Tiao, media can play a major role in inheriting culture and providing entertainment.

On April 23, 2008, Macheng Hua Tiao *Siblings in Taoyuan* as the local cultural program was performed in a large theatrical show of CCTV named *Happy China Tour · Charming Macheng*. The theatrical show made a brief introduction and display of Macheng and Macheng Hua Tiao. The audience can watch the program at home by TV and learn about Macheng and Macheng Hua Tiao. This is a good use of television to promote Macheng, publicity and Macheng Hua Tiao, so that more people understand and protect Macheng Hua Tiao. This practice is a good beginning. In the next stage, we can take a documentary about the history of Macheng Hua Tiao, or a movie based on Macheng Hua Tiao, so that more young people will know the long history of Macheng Hua Tiao. The local broadcasting resources can be also use to make the local people love Macheng more, so as to enhance their awareness of heritage and protection of Macheng Hua Tiao.

At present, the social computer plays an indispensable role in all walks of life, and it is a good choice to use the computer network platform to inherit and protect Macheng Hua Tiao. The network is a magic space, on which people can get all kinds of resources but also can share all kinds of resources with others. Professional forums, professional websites and blogs on various computer platforms have great publicity effects. Internet users from all walks of life can help each other in the forum, so as to answer each other's problems and build up the career through the effort of every ones. Many professional dance websites, such as Chinese Dance, provides a good platform for all kinds of dancing as well as learning and promotion. Micro-blog, which has sprung up in recent years and is growing rapidly, is the personal media for every micro-blog user. Using such a micro media, everyone can be a separate media worker to discuss and evaluate what he likes and cares about. How to reasonably take advantage of the above various kinds of computer networking technology is a problem. The broad workers who support and commit to promote the inheritance and protection of Macheng Hua Tiao should consider about that, and eventually we can use them to promote the rapid development of Macheng Hua Tiao.

Although in modern society, people are more likely to use multimedia such as computer, paper media can still achieve enormous propaganda benefits. As Murdoch, a famous media mogul, says, current network media are only normal accesses people use to get information, traditional paper media will not disappear eventually just like pessimists thought. There's someone said that everyone can make a meal, but cook still exists as an occupation. However, you can hardly or cannot find a book related to Macheng Hua Tiao in the market at present. As a result, Macheng Hua Tiao amateurs find it hard to find any relevant books as reference data when they want to further know about Hua Tiao. What a pity it is! Therefore, departments concerned are expected to compile and publish some books to introduce and interpret Macheng Hua Tiao so as to provide references for people to inquire. Compared with new media such as movies and televisions, paper media, without sound, are not dynamic, but have their own advantages. That is, Macheng Hua Tiao fans can read relevant books at any time and places without restriction. In terms of this, using paper media to publicize, protect and inherit Macheng Hua Tiao is easier with fewer limitations and more economical. Therefore,

it cannot be ignored that paper media including newspaper and book also have great influence on publicity apart from new media like computers.

Education is the foundation of development of various professional domains. In order to truly protect and inherit the art of Macheng Hua Tiao, it has to start from its root—education system. Even though China has a large and complicated education system, it is expected to open up a new prospect gradually only to take the first difficult step, and now someone seems to have broken barriers and successfully made this first step. By means of its increasing influence, Macheng Hua Tiao has been included into the music textbook for students. In 2007, Lin Heping, a music teacher from the Second Experimental Primary School was invited by the Education and Science Research Institute of Huanggang, Hubei province to put the folk dance—*Hua Tiao* into the ninth lesson of the textbook *I Love Huanggang, Writing Style*. This lesson makes a detailed introduction of the history of Macheng Hua Tiao which becomes familiar to people in this way. There is no doubt that it is an excellent approach to develop inheritors of Macheng Hua Tiao, because it is the only way to block the source of the loss of culture from teenage education to show and publicize the traditional splendid folk culture to them. By learning the history together with the performing styles and characteristic of Macheng Hua Tiao from the textbook, students are expected to realize the importance of protecting and inheriting it from the bottom of heart. In addition, by learning and performing, more fresh blood will be injected into Macheng Hua Tiao to remain dynamic and become newer with time. And now, as we can see, Macheng Hua Tiao is being protected and inherited as a kind of intangible cultural heritage.

IV. ESTABLISHING SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT MECHANISM AND INTENSIFYING PROFESSIONAL TEAM CONSTRUCTION AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Protection and inheritance of Macheng Hua Tiao is a daunting but great work that cannot be completed through its free development in a short time. Any successful work or project is closely associated with a set of scientific management mechanism which, hence, is the premise and guarantee for the further development and inheritance of Macheng Hua Tiao. Therefore, under the current big background and guided by scientific outlook on development, it is urgent for departments involved to establish a scientific management mechanism for the protection and inheritance. In this section, with the basic purpose of protecting and inheriting Macheng Hua Tiao, some suggestions are put forward as follows.

First, divid the work of protecting and inheriting Macheng Hua Tiao into parts and allocate them to the concrete personnel involved to ensure the comprehensive development of it. Departments involved shall make the work more concrete and more detailed, taking into account of the possible problems in the work and personnel in charge shall give a full consideration of all aspects to ensure the comprehensiveness of the work. In addition, performers of Macheng Hua Tiao pay an important role in its protection and inheritance. Therefore, based on the practical situation, the work of protecting and inheriting Macheng Hua Tiao shall be concretized to each village,

community even each performer group. Besides, nowadays, in the communities of new rural areas apart from large, middle and small sized cities, residents are willing to learn and perform different types of song and dance to enrich their spare time and spiritual life. They are fond of practicing all kinds of dance in the square. It is believed that people are willing to get involved in the protection and inheritance of Macheng Hua Tiao under gradually scientific management and they are bound to put Macheng Hua Tiao on the stage.

Second, establish a scientific development assessment system to ensure sound, normal and sustainable development of Macheng Hua Tiao. Once the work of protection and inheritance is initiated, it is an inevitably challenge for all to consider how to realize a sound, normal and sustainable development of Macheng Hua Tiao. To achieve the purpose, a scientific development assessment system for Macheng Hua Tiao is required to be established and perfected. Under the great impact of internet culture, current various kinds of art of singing and dancing are developed intermingled and uneven in the quality. Some vulgar ones hinder the sound development of the society instead of enriching the spiritual culture of people. Macheng Hua Tiao, as an intangible cultural heritage and valuable folk art of singing and dancing, has to find its own right place in the commercialization surge of art of singing and dancing. And it is better to keep its original characteristics of grassroots and popularity to get close to the ordinary life of people, and must not chase after fashion and trend to avoid to lose its original nature and become a “David's deer”. A scientific development assessment system has to arm itself with a development benchmark of the industry of Macheng Hua Tiao to provide a reference to prevent people who learn and perform Macheng Hua Tiao from deviating its primary track of unique characteristics.

Third, hold the principle of “people first” and implement effective incentive mechanism to improve the positivity of people from all domains. Each group or organization shall need an effective incentive mechanism. In order to encourage people to join the main group of protecting and inheriting Macheng Hua Tiao, an overall incentive mechanism shall be established based on the principle of “people first”. Only in this way can enhance the enthusiasm of the performers, learns and participants of Macheng Hua Tiao. Departments involved can hold a serial of contests related to Macheng Hua Tiao to stimulate people to participate in its protection and inheritance by setting material and spiritual awards. Additionally, some awards shall be offered to those who are proficient in Macheng Hua Tiao to encourage them to make more efforts or compile relevant books to publicize Macheng Hua Tiao. Moreover, departments involved shall organize relevant personnel to visit the birthplace of Macheng Hua Tiao to encourage those who truly know its history and performance to come out of the village to explain to the public. Only in this way—work along all lines can people from different fields be fully mobilized to learn, protect and inherit Macheng Hua Tiao.

V. CONCLUSION

For all professional domains, it is necessary that a leader of this field to run ahead and guide others so as to achieve a good result, so does the work of protection and inheritance of

Macheng Hua Tiao which requires a group of professionals to take charge of and contribute ideas. Hence, it is urgent to intensify the team construction. Department involved can sign with dance departments of some relevant colleges and colleges on specific talents training by set up courses related to Macheng Hua Tiao to cultivate professional talents. On one hand, some of relevant colleges and universities can initiate some projects studying Macheng Hua Tiao which is expected to provide a good platform and bound to achieve good results to form a professional team gradually; on the other hand, folk artisan and relevant people having a good command of Macheng Hua Tiao can publicize it by opening Hua Tiao studying classes and recruiting students, etc. Through their teaching, more amateurs are likely to become professionals. By intensifying the construction of professionals, the work of protection and inheritance of Macheng Hua Tiao is expected to be performed with higher standards and quality so as to create a better development prospect for it.

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