

The Impact of Nordic Nationalist Music on European Music

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Abstract

Tracing back to history, the awakening of Nordic national democratic consciousness originates from the rise of national democratic and independent movements in various Nordic countries. Artists and writers were the first to capture the concept of national democracy. Under the domination and oppression of foreign culture for a long time, they are eager to get rid of foreign culture, so they establish their own national culture. Therefore, Nordic nationalism music gradually rises. During this period, these artists collected the culture and folk materials of their own nation and expressed them in the form of music, so as to express the people's life and historical relics of their own nation, which had an extremely profound impact on the development of music in Europe.

Keywords

Nordic nationalist music, European music, The impact.

1. Introduction

For a long time, Europe has been the cradle of music, with a very rich form of music and a long history of development. After the development of the baroque period, the classical period and the early stage of the romantic music, it can be considered that the reasonable music is quite outstanding and mature in the same type of music. However, the pace of music development has never stopped. With the vigorous development of the national democratic movement, the national style was finally reflected in European romantic music and classical music works in the second half of the 18th century. The pioneers of these works are also well-known artists such as Bartok, Chopin, Sinomanvsky, Liszt and so on. Through adjusting the tone, rhythm, mode and structure of music, they have created national music that can show the national culture. Perhaps what they could not imagine was that this kind of national music not only enriched and prospered the music jungle in Europe, but also had a great impact on the development of European music in the future.

2. The Rise of Nordic Nationalist Music

The "Nordic" in "Nordic national music" is also different from the Nordic in our understanding. It refers specifically to five countries: Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. It also encloses the Faroe Islands near it. Although the total area is only 1.3 million square meters, but since ancient times, here is the cradle of music, a rich music kingdom. The meaning of "national music" here is the music of all nationalities, representing the culture and life of the whole nation. It is a kind of cultural form which is shared by the nation where the music is located and inherited together, and contains the music form of the whole national emotion. The production of national music in Nordic is inseparable from the historical environment of Nordic. The Nordic countries have long been dominated by foreign cultures. The long-term cultural oppression makes the people here eager to get rid of the cultural shackles and develop their own cultural forms. Therefore, under the circumstances that the Nordic national democracy movement is particularly high, the national music also comes into being in practices.

3. Representatives of Nordic Nationalist Music

In essence, the rise of Nordic nationalism music is closely related to the historical environment of northern Europe. Due to special geographical reasons, northern Europe is located in the marginal zone, so it is relatively barren economically and politically. On the contrary, the politics, economy and culture of Western Europe are relatively developed, so the huge power difference makes northern Europe unable to get rid of the control of Western Europe. Until the 19th century, with the beginning of the Renaissance and the deepening of the first industrial revolution, the bourgeoisie also began to develop rapidly in Europe. For these reasons, northern Europe has the opportunity to develop its own art and culture, and gradually get rid of the control and influence of Western Europe, so as to show its national emotions and culture. It was in this particular period and in the wave of the democratic revolution that the Nordic nation music witnessed constant development. During this period, a group of famous musicians were born, among which Finnish musician Sibelius and Norwegian musician Grieg are the most representative.

Jean Sibelius, a famous Finnish musician, is an important representative of nationalist music and romantic music in the late period. He studied violin and music theory in his early years, graduated from Helsinki Conservatory of Music, and then went to Berlin and Vienna for further study. His music works are full of fervent patriotism and strong national characteristics. His main works are the symphony *Finlandia*, Symphony No. 7, four symphonic legends (*Swan of Tuonela*), violin concerto, symphonic poem *Saga* (Ancient History of Iceland), *Valse Triste* (dramatic music), String Quartet and music for Shakespeare's play *Storm*; In addition, he also wrote a large number of classical songs, piano music and so on. One of the greatest nationalist music works is *Finlandia*, which is a sound poem composed of Finnish folk songs and stories as well as sad melodies. Sibelius had two emotions on the road to music. The first was the fear of the fate of the nation and the boundless love of his country. The other is the infinite yearning and deep love for music. Sibelius was born in Finland and was influenced by music since childhood. He also studied in famous art schools such as music academy in Vienna and music academy in Berlin. After the end of his study and life, Sibelius returned to Finland with feelings for the country and worked in teaching and music creation at the Helsinki Conservatory of Music. It can be said that Sibelius' music accomplishment is extremely noble, his music creation is extremely rich, including drama, chorus, symphony, violin, piano and other forms of music. Among them, "*Finlandia*" and "*Violin Concerto in D minor*" and many other music works have become excellent works recited throughout the ages. Full of deep love for the nation and endless yearning for music, Sibelius worked tirelessly and tirelessly in the study of music. He hoped that he could use his own musical language to express national feelings and make Finnish music stand in the forest of world music with his own efforts.

For a long time, Grieg has been praised as "*Chopin of the North*", which shows his profound musical attainments. Born in Norway, Grieg studied music at the famous Leipzig Conservatory of Music. In the 1960s, Grieg fought side by side with Norwegian national music advocates and began to struggle for the rise of national music. Similarly, as a member of Nordic, it seems that everyone is full of strong national thinking, and Grieg is no exception. As a famous musician, although he often needs to go abroad to visit and study, his music works can be seen everywhere with national thoughts, reflecting strong patriotic feelings and national consciousness. He had said that his fate was bound up with that of his country. He would rather not write, or even lose his arms, if he had to be separated from his country. Nowadays, the Norwegian Conservatory of Music, as we all know, was founded by Grieg. In his life, Grieg created many high-level music works, such as *Lyric Music* and *Pelkingt*. Both vocal and dramatic works were widely sung in Norway. If there is an indispensable person in the history of Norwegian music, that person is Grieg. He not only influenced the development of Norwegian

national music, but also had a far-reaching impact on music creation in other European countries.

Although Grieg and Sibelius are people from two different countries, they have many similarities. Born in Nordic Europe, they both love music and go abroad to study music. They also experience the oppression of Western European culture. They also love their own country and their own nation, and hope to develop their own national music. Maybe it is these common points that are the key for them to make their thoughts and national thoughts stand out in the world in the form of music. All their lives they have worked hard for the nation music. They are deeply changing the national music while also invisibly affecting the development of European music.

4. The Impact of Nordic Nationalist Music on European Music

Generally speaking, the influence of Nordic nationalist music on European music is far-reaching. Whether from the genre of music works, or from the creation content of music works themselves, from the use of music language and the change of artistic style, there are many changes in both before and after.

4.1. More Abundant Music Themes

In the early days, Nordic culture had been oppressed by Western Europe during that period, so the content of music subject matter was very limited. At that time, the political and economic environment decided that the music theme at that time was often to serve the rulers or praise God, which was in the Baroque period and the classical period. With the advent of Romanticism, personal expression, expression of thoughts and emotions, and the use of musical techniques are gradually reflected in music works. For music of northern European nations, their music themes are endowed with distinct political tendencies due to long-term foreign oppression and tyranny. During this period, many works were based on the historical legends and struggle stories of the country, among which Finlandia was the most representative one. In addition, many music works are created to show the people's life of the motherland, great rivers and mountains, and express their strong patriotic feelings. There are also works that only express the author's own feelings and feelings of life. This makes the national music richer and more diverse in content, no longer limited to a certain type. Gradually, their creative ideas are also more broad, making the European music more rich in subject matter and content, and many famous works with various styles were born.

4.2. The Music Genre Is No Longer Limited

After the Nordic national music, European music creation has become more colorful in style. On the basis of the original classical Western European and Romantic music genres, a popular and nationalized music form was added. In the course of the development of Nordic national music, the creators began to integrate dance and opera into the creation of symphony and opera, and created a series of famous orchestral and Piano works, such as Grieg's Norwegian Peasant Music. Since then, these creations have also been regarded as independent music genres. This form of music creation in Nordic has greatly inspired later European musicians, who broke the limitation of forgetting music genre and enriched their own creation. Subsequently, a series of musicians boldly created more musical genres, leaving behind a number of famous musical works. This trend also laid the foundation for the development of Romantic music in the future. It can be said that the influence of Nordic national music is very great.

4.3. More National Characteristics in Musical Language

In the classical period of Nordic music history, it can be said that music language is very limited. During that period, ninth chords, chord of the eleventh and a lot of other chords are not usable without resolution. However, the development of Nordic national music has broken the

shackles of the past. This not only extends the language of musical harmony, but also uses the chord language that was not used before. And a large number of variable and decorative tones are used to enrich the development of musical tunes. In addition, in the creation of music sentences, they do not excessively pursue the balanced length, but pursue varied and various types of music sentences and music rhythm, thus adding the musical form and mode with national characteristics. Finally, when choosing music instruments, they will try their best to use instruments with national characteristics. Such creation deeply inspired the later romantic period and impressionist music, both of which fully embodied national characteristics and humanistic thoughts.

4.4. More Authentic and Natural in Music Style

In terms of music style, it breaks the previous rule of emphasizing unification and pursues more the reflection of real natural state. Although conditioning balance is a major feature of music creation style in the classical period, Nordic national music pays more attention to the exploration of unusual things because of the pursuit of national character. They express the desire of the country and people to get rid of the rule of Western Europe for many years in the form of music. Therefore, their music style is also more inclined to express the pursuit of freedom and diversity, eager to reflect the real life of the people. The music style of Nordic national music set a good example for the music creation style of Italy, France, Spain and other countries after that, thus making a model for the prosperity of European music in practice.

5. Conclusion

Theoretically, the development of culture is often closely related to its era. As a part of culture, music is inevitably closely related to The Times, reflecting the characteristics of the whole era. Moreover, a culture or a form of music cannot survive alone. On the one hand, the music form of Nordic nationalism reflects the strong national feelings and patriotism of these artists and writers, which influences the development of music form after Europe. On the other hand, it is also because of its attachment to Europe, the grand music forest, that it can be preserved for a long time.

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