

EXPLORING THE INHERITANCE AND HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF CULTURAL VALUES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FOLK SONGS AND CHORUS

Cruzando a Fronteira: Identidade Cultural e Integração Histórica da Música Nacional e da Música Popular

[10.29073/heranca.v6i1.794](https://doi.org/10.29073/heranca.v6i1.794)

Receção: 06/09/2023 Aprovação: 07/13/2023 Publicação: 10/11/2023

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ABSTRACT

Folk songs and choirs are both ways of presenting musical works, and the participating groups of these two forms of music are more inclined towards grassroots people, recording the characteristics of people's lives and times. It carries the inheritance and historical evolution of cultural values in its development process. This article will analyze the development history and presentation methods of folk songs and choirs, as well as their recording patterns of culture and history. It will also explore the cultural value inheritance and historical evolution reflected in the growth of works from the perspectives of folk songs and choirs.

Keywords: Folk songs; Chorus; Cultural values; Cultural inheritance; Historical evolution

RESUMO

Canções folclóricas e corais são formas de apresentar obras musicais, e os grupos participantes dessas duas formas de música são mais voltados para a população popular, registrando as características da vida e da época das pessoas. Carrega a herança e a evolução histórica dos valores culturais em seu processo de desenvolvimento. Este artigo analisará a história do desenvolvimento e os métodos de apresentação de canções folclóricas e corais, bem como seus padrões de registro de cultura e história. Explorará também a herança de valor cultural e a evolução histórica refletida no crescimento das obras a partir da perspectiva das canções folclóricas e dos coros.

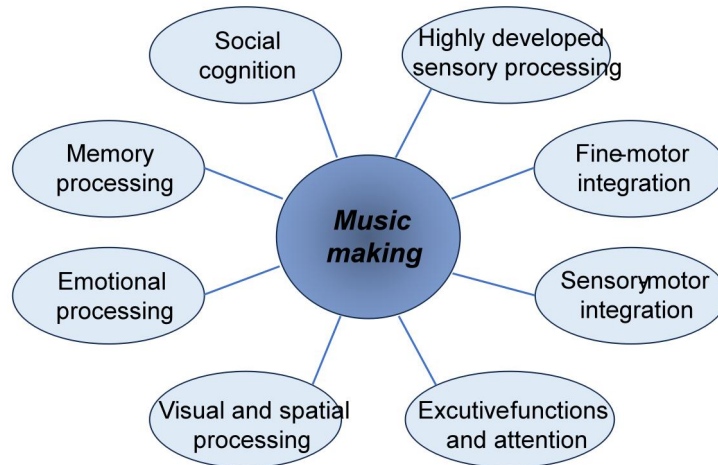
Keywords: Músicas folk; Coro; Valores culturais; Herança cultural; Evolução histórica

1. INTRODUCTION

In the information age of rapid social development, people's demand for spiritual and cultural life is increasing while their living standard of Material culture is improving, and culture shows a diversified development trend. Music works can stimulate emotions, trigger inner resonance and emotion, and help people better understand and express their feelings (Alcock, Wade, Anslow, & Passingham, 2000; Ayotte, Peretz, Rousseau, Bard, & Bojanowski, 2000; Hallam, 2010). According to existing relevant research, the

production process of music can apply to multiple functions of the human body. Figure 1 shows the biological system creators use in music production, which improves personal ability from various dimensions. Therefore, music can improve people's cognitive skills, enhance concentration and memory, and contribute to individuals' overall development and progress (Wilson, 2013; Rickard, & McFerran, 2011). In addition, from a social perspective, music also plays an essential role in cultural exchange, education, and social harmony (Wallach, 2019).

Figure 1 - Information processing systems engaged by music production



Music works are presented in various forms. The six major types of music include classical music, pop music, rock music, hip-hop music, electronic music, and folk music. Each music form has a different style, and Figure 2 shows several main types of music. Folk songs and choirs are essential in cultural value inheritance and historical evolution. Because these two forms of music have a

wider audience and are used mainly by the lower class of society, their creative content also tends to record life and stories (Zhang, M, 2019; Xiong, Z, 2012). Subsequently, widespread dissemination can convey cultural and historical information to the audience and stimulate people's interest and love for traditional culture.

Figure 2 - Six major classifications of music



The core elements of historical value are the historical subject and object. Historical significance refers to the historical subject's gradual externalization of its essential power over a long development period and the bestowal of all functions and meanings through the historical object (Chambers, 2013). Because music's Intangible cultural heritage is also the product left by human beings in the long historical practice. The left product is the externalization of human's essential strength, which is finally formed through the continuous connotation given by historical objects (Shahid, & Mohammad,

2017; Chen, Y, 2019). Through understanding these heritages, humans can comprehensively understand and examine the history, such as the level of productivity and social relationships during a specific historical period. After having a sufficient understanding of spiritual wealth, we can further understand the worldview, outlook on life, and values of different ethnic groups in different historical stages, as well as understand the specific group or overall way of life, which can compensate for the shortcomings in the materials and make history more authentic. Ethnic music culture

can reflect the history and prove and experience history, supplementing the record.

In addition to various ethnic groups, many industries or enterprises have customized industry or corporate songs for themselves. Most of these songs are sung in choir form, generally covering content such as corporate spirit, business philosophy, brand characteristics, etc. (Yuan, C, 2023). Therefore, viewing cultural value inheritance

2. DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CONNOTATION OF FOLK SONGS AND CHORUS

PHASE I - DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CONNOTATION OF FOLK SONGS

Folk songs are artistic songs created and performed by working people in their daily lives and work. They are passed down to people through oral transmission and are constantly transformed and improved during transmission (Xiao, P, 2022; Wang, Y, 2022). Folk songs have a strong sense of life, vivid lyrics, and music, distinct styles, catchy and highly infectious. Folk songs directly express people's thoughts and emotions, which can fully reflect a group's aesthetic tendencies, value orientations, and cultural concepts. Folk songs inspire artists to create and are regarded as the foundation for the formation and development of professional musical art.

Folk songs have a development history of thousands of years, originating from life and surpassing life, running through all aspects of people's lives. Furthermore, folk songs have solid regional characteristics, and the

and historical evolution from the perspective of folk songs and choirs can help us better understand and appreciate the unique charm of folk songs and choir art and discover cultural continuity and historical changes from them. At the same time, through continuous innovation and evolution, folk songs and choirs can also keep up with the times, adapt to the needs of contemporary society, and enable cultural values to continue and integrate with modern society.

historical evolution environment of people in different regions is different, and folk songs correspondingly reflect various regional aspects and artistic styles. Especially among ethnic minorities, the creation of folk songs is often like narrative poetry, presenting thousands of years of historical changes, production development, customs, and etiquette knowledge.

One can feel the cultural differences and diversity of different regions and ethnic groups (Feng, Z, 2017; Xu, J; 2019). Folk songs inherit the local language, music style, and rhythm and reflect the local history, tradition, and Social change (Xu, J, 2019). They are usually passed down through oral transmission, passed down from generation to generation, and become an essential component of cultural traditions. Therefore, from the perspective of folk songs, cultural values are protected and developed in inheritance. The genres of folk songs include Haozi (Labor Haozi), Folk songs, and Minor (Xiao qu). Table 1 shows the tonal characteristics of folk songs in different regions of China.

Table 1 - Characteristics of Folk Songs in Different Regions of China

| Types of Folk Songs | Characteristics of Folk Songs |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Sichuan Haozi | Closely combined with the rhythm of labor, it retains the essential characteristics of a leading and harmonious chant and shows the heroic spirit of workers fighting against nature. |
| Xintianyou on the Loess Plateau | The rhythm is gentle and accessible, and the tone is long and elegant, with improvisation characteristics. |
| Tibetan Plateau Folk Songs | A type of folk song with a vast and expansive range, free rhythm, high pitch, and long breath |

| Types of Folk Songs | Characteristics of Folk Songs |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Jiangnan Plain Minor | The melody is delicate, gentle, elegant, and beautiful, with a steady and varied rhythm, and the music is full of poetic and picturesque elements. |
| North China Plain Minor | Originating from people's leisure scenes after work, the melody of the minor is beautiful and smooth, winding and gentle, delicate and moving. |
| Northeast China Plain Minor | The tone is high and clear, the melody is broad, and the aura is extended. The sound is relatively steel, and the song is influenced by local opera. |

In the global scale, folk songs are also an art form with a great cultural heritage. Folk songs can not only reflect the national features of various historical periods but also understand the living conditions of people in the past. The songs of each ethnic group maintain unique characteristics and emotional connotations in their dissemination, constantly evolving throughout history. Unlike other types of songs, folk songs have more substantial regional and folk attributes (Mazumdar et al., 2022; Bai, X, 2022). The development of folk songs worldwide has a long history, from the Homeric epics of ancient Greece to various folk songs in labor. The art of world folk songs also integrates the artistic characteristics of Chinese folk songs, conquering the audience with their lively and simple features (Gunara, Setiawan, & Cipta, 2022).

Chinese folk songs are widely distributed, mainly because there are many ethnic

minorities in China, and each ethnic group has a brilliant cultural heritage. Figure 3 shows folk songs from different regions and ethnic groups. The increasing recognition of folk song choir as a form of expression has also indirectly driven the development of folk song choir, enabling it to remain unchanged in various singing forms. In addition, folk songs are highly infectious in the transmission process, mostly from life and labor scenes. Therefore, performing folk song harmony singing can maximize the harmonious efficiency between various music parts, enhancing their artistic and aesthetic taste. The folk song chorus needs to bring forth new works and present diversified singing and creation forms to promote exchanges between ethnic cultures, meet the development of hook in a multinational state, and improve the weight and popularity of the folk song chorus in college music education.

Figure 3 - Different Forms of folk song presentation



After the reform and opening up, from the ideological awakening of some intellectuals at the beginning to the ideological awakening of all people, we are conscious of our own shortcomings and the direction of future development (Cui, Z., & Chen, C., 2023). New folk songs refer to adding elements

such as pop and fashion to the original folk songs, and most of the songs are combined with popular music (Lu, W; 2017). New folk songs are top-rated in the 21st century, and the birth of new ones has made more young people like folk songs. People were better able to comprehend and appreciate their

cultural heritage thanks to increased information accessibility, which encouraged them to actively engage in folk music-related activities and cultural events. Figure 4 shows the definition of the development form of

contemporary folk songs, and the development history is divided into four stages based on the characteristics of each period.

Figure 4 - Definition of the Development Forms of New Folk Songs



The cultural value of new folk songs is mainly reflected in the inheritance and promotion of excellent traditional Chinese folk songs. Classic folk songs are rooted in the soil of traditional culture of various ethnic groups and regions in China, with profound artistic heritage and accumulation and solid artistic vitality. The new folk song has a beautiful and smooth melody, elegant language, and fashionable performance. It allows people to enjoy the beauty in both auditory and visual

aspects through its new singing forms and dance effects. Moreover, what belongs to the nation is what belongs to the world. The trend of integrating new folk songs into the international music culture will have a positive impact on strengthening international communication and dissemination, promoting and promoting Chinese folk song art, and enhancing the visibility and influence of traditional Chinese cultural and artistic forms.

PHASE II - CULTURE AND HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC

Choral singing originated in Europe and gradually evolved as a form of religious mass singing. The earliest choral singing to enter China was mainly formed through invasions and missionaries and developed step by step based on local races, artistic development, local characteristics, and other factors (Rossing, Sundberg, & Ternström, 1987; Morris, Ternström, Lovetri, & Berkun, 2010).

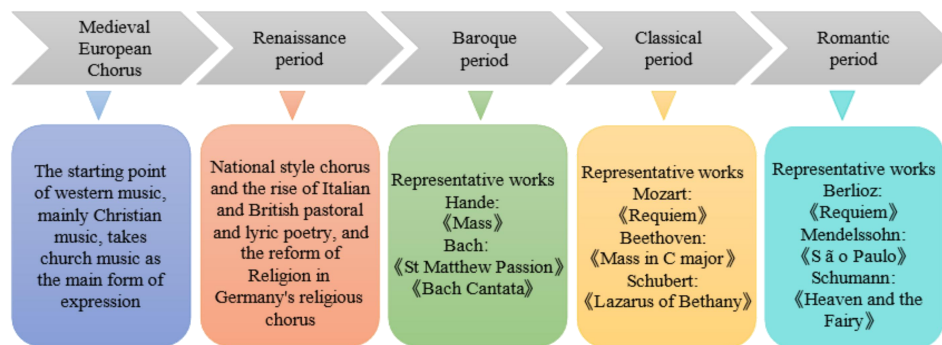
The chorus is the foundation of Western classical music and one of the ancient genres in music culture. Western choir art, as an ancient form of musical expression, has been following the development trajectory of music and classical composition styles since the birth of the choir until the mid-20th century. After World War II, especially at the end of

the 20th century, choral singing showed a leap in development and diversified styles, breaking the boundaries between elite, mass, and folk art. It underwent tremendous changes and regained its important position in the field of music both in terms of difficulty and breadth of development. Figure 5 shows the development history of the Western Choir, showcasing various stages of development and the characteristics of choir repertoire. Western music originated in ancient Greece, but there are few historical materials on the Music of ancient Greece. Hence, the Middle Ages is an important starting point for studying Western music. In the Middle Ages, all kinds of European music institutions were affiliated with churches, so Christian music was the primary form of music during this period. For European civilization and even world civilization, the European Renaissance

is a great historical event with great significance for the cultural development of Europe and even humanity. The characteristic at this time is the addition of instrumental music, many small notes, and a fast rhythm. Choral music in the Renaissance is a crucial point in the development of Western choral music. It enabled secular and religious choral music to develop together, reaching the peak of polyphonic choral music in the 16th century, showing the artistic charm of secular choral music with national style and worldly spirit, and reflecting the Humanism thought of the Renaissance. After

entering the Baroque period, due to the birth of opera and the development of instrumental music, vocal and instrumental music began to supplement and influence each other independently as two significant branches of music. Until the Classicism and Romanticism periods, many music masters emerged, promoting vocal music development and enriching the existing form of chorus art. Opera reached its peak in the development of music during the Romantic period. As an essential component of opera, the choir plays a critical role in the dramatic function of opera.

Figure 5 - History of Western Choral Art Development



The chorus is a comprehensive art integrating Musical composition, music performance, and music education. The chorus's singing requires the cooperation of multiple singers to convey a kind of team spirit and collective identity jointly. Figure 6 shows four common forms of the choir: children's, men's, women's, and mixed. Chorus emphasizes the counterpoint of harmony and the balance between parts, emphasizing the color of the sound (Tian, X, 2022; Yu, C, 2022). Regardless of the form of a choir, each singer has their unique voice

and role, but it requires harmonious choir techniques and coordination to form a unified sound and effect. This spirit of unity and cooperation also reflects society's values and people's pursuit of harmonious coexistence. At the same time, the choir can also provide audiences with a better understanding of historical events and characters by interpreting historical themes, thereby increasing their knowledge of historical evolution, which is of great significance for the inheritance of cultural values.

Figure 6 - Four Common Choir Forms



PHASE III - DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CONNOTATION OF FOLK SONG CHORUS

The creation of choirs requires the presentation of music, and the result of contemporary Chinese folk song choirs is closely related to folk song choir activities. Folk song choir activities also influence people's music and cultural life.

The folk song chorus, a musical form, has been famous in China since the 1990s. Its creation technique inherits the musical composition form after the May Fourth Movement. It connects various elements in

folk song creation employing echo, breaks the traditional folk song form, and endows the chorus with new ideas and audio-visual innovations (Nie, J, 2014). Table 2 shows the history of the development of the Chinese folk song chorus. Chinese folk song chorus development began in the 1940s and went through the embryonic, developmental, and mature stages. After the 1990s, folk song chorus, which was created by drawing on the materials or characteristics of Folk music of all ethnic groups, has made a qualitative leap under the superposition of quantity and has also made a tremendous breakthrough in creative thinking.

Table 2 - Representative Works of the Development Stage of Chinese Folk Song Chorus

| Development stage | Period | Representative works |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Budding stage | After the 1940s | 《In the Border Region in July》 《Supporting the Army with Flower Drums》 《Dialogue Song between Fishermen and Boatmen》 |
| Development period | After the 1950s | 《Thirty Mile Pu》 《Orchid Flower》 《Tea Flower Ballad》 《Walking to the West Gate》 |
| Maturity period | After the 1970s | 《Bok choy》 《Yimeng Folk Song》 《The Sun Comes Out in Joy》 |

Folk song choir not only combines the characteristics of Chinese and Western culture and art but also well integrates the charm of folk songs themselves. Not only does it have the national style characteristics represented by folk songs, but it also perfectly matches the characteristics of folk songs in melody and rhythm (Gao, W, 2020; Liu, H; 2016). In the development of Western

music, due to the emergence of polyphonic music, choirs with vocal combinations gradually emerged. With the choir ' s development, folk song choir works have steadily been adapted and created using folk song themes. Through the nationalization of art, the choir's development has increasingly diversified. While inheriting ethnic music, it

also promotes the widespread dissemination of ethnic culture worldwide.

Chinese folk song choir is a form of expression in the art of choir, which mainly involves re-creating ethnic music materials to form a musical structure of a choir. Due to the diverse conditions of folk songs, each part of the choir needs to be arranged according to the characteristics of the folk song, especially in terms of the color of the harmony. It is necessary to highlight the features of folk songs and promote the melody to become more prosperous from a single one. The selection of folk song materials can be based on the original work for choir arrangement, or one of the elements can be used for creation. The resulting pieces are generally mainly mixed and simultaneous choir works. In recent years, there have been original ecological choir works, which are all characteristics highlighted in the development of the Chinese folk song choir. Traditional Chinese themes such as horns, folk songs, and minor tunes can be displayed in the choral

repertoire. In addition, Chinese opera and ancient poetry, as musical products at a particular stage in the development history, have also continuously innovated in their performance forms. These traditional Chinese artistic expressions that reflect the characteristics of the times and people's lives borrow the thinking of Western composition. Integrating conventional Chinese opera or poetry into the choir, using ancient instruments to restore the charm of old Chinese opera, using materials for secondary creation, and relying on the accompaniment of traditional Chinese opera to efficiently adapt and present the choir repertoire, breaking through the barriers between Chinese and Western cultures in choir creation and increasing the historical significance of the repertoire (Yue, S & Qiang, L, 2016). Figure 7 is a real-life photo of the large-scale Guilin landscape performance "Impression · Liu Sanjie." The version innovatively combines classic mountain songs, ethnic customs, and the Lijiang fishing fire that Liu Sanjie left in people's minds, achieving a new artistic mode.

Figure 7 - Live Performance of "Impression·Liu Sanjie"



In the development process of Chinese choral music, many pieces are based on ancient music, most of which come from the choral repertoire. Many Musical compositions combine folk music with the form of a chorus, perfectly integrating the voice with the

performance of the band, and at the same time, add the voice singing with oriental characteristics, incorporating the national features into the chorus works and strengthening the integration of chorus art and national culture.

3. CULTURAL VALUE INHERITANCE AND HISTORICAL EVOLUTION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FOLK SONGS AND CHORUS

PHASE I - FOLK SONGS

The essence of social development is the long path of cultural accumulation, and the

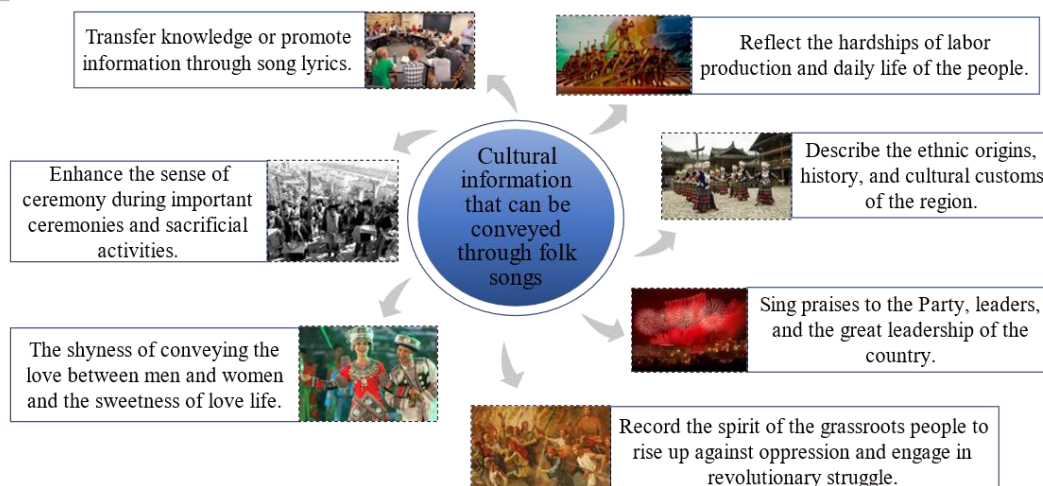
overall cultural expansion of a country is also composed of different ethnic cultures. Each ethnic culture also has unique regional and historical characteristics, which can be combined to become the pillar of a country's social civilization. Folk songs reflect the life and spirit of the working people and are often seen as a source of inspiration for artists to

create. Viewing cultural value inheritance and historical evolution from the perspective of folk songs can help us better understand and appreciate the unique charm of folk song art and discover cultural continuity and historical changes from it.

Firstly, folk songs, as an art form that expresses folk life, emotions, and values, carry rich cultural connotations. Through the form of songs, folk songs convey the unique cultural characteristics of ethnic groups, regions, and social groups and reflect the local history, traditions, and Social Change (Shi, J & Ning, Q, 2022; Shan, W; 2022). They are usually passed down through oral transmission, passed down from generation to generation, and become an essential component of cultural traditions. Therefore, from the perspective of folk songs, cultural values are protected and developed in inheritance. Secondly, folk songs reflect the process of historical evolution and social progress. In different historical periods, the content and form of folk songs change with the development of social environment and culture. By studying folk songs from different periods, we can learn about historical events, social phenomena, and people's ideological changes. Folk songs can reflect historical

situations such as social unrest and stability, war and peace, poverty and prosperity. Through folk songs, we can perceive the context of history and people's memories of the past. In addition, folk songs also carry national identity and cultural pride. Folk songs can represent a nation or region's unique style and characteristics and convey Cultural identity and identity. By singing folk songs, people can express their love and pride in their own ethnic and cultural traditions, promoting the spirit and cohesion of the nation. At the same time, the exchange and reference of folk songs between different ethnic groups have also announced the inheritance and development of cultural values. Figure 8 shows the cultural connotations that folk songs can convey, including the reflection of the hard work of laborers; Conveying the shyness and sweetness of love life; Showcasing the great spirit of revolutionary struggle; Singing praises to the Party, leaders, and the motherland; Folk songs that narrate the history of ethnic origins; Used for ceremonies and sacrificial activities, as well as imparting knowledge and promoting content, etc. (Nelmira, Efi, Elida, Adriani, & Sandra, 2022; Rocío, Dorothea, & Johanna, 2010).

Figure 8 - Cultural information that can be conveyed through folk songs



PHASE II-CHORUS

From the perspective of a choir, we can think about and explore the inheritance and historical evolution of cultural values from the following aspects.

As a form of cooperation and team performance, Chorus emphasizes the interaction and collaboration between individuals and the joint. Each member has their voice and role in a choir, but it requires

close cooperation and partnership to create a harmonious overall effect. This spirit of collaboration embodies the cultural values of teamwork and harmonious coexistence and carries the historical evolution of social unity, cooperation, and mutual assistance in its inheritance.

As a form of musical performance, Chorus has rich cultural connotations and emotional expression. Chorus can convey and express various cultural themes and values. The selection and interpretation of choral repertoire can showcase the characteristics and styles of different cultural backgrounds and historical periods, such as patriotism, humanitarian spirit, and longing for peace (Muqing & Jaipak. 2022). The audience can feel the depth and breadth of culture through choir singing, further inheriting and promoting cultural values.

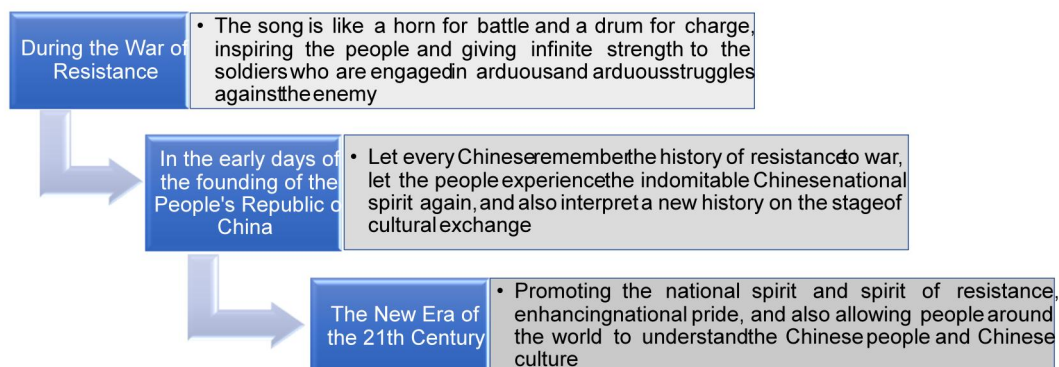
Choirs can choose historically significant repertoire, such as choral works that reflect revolutionary struggles, national liberation, historical figures, etc. Through singing, they can convey historical memories and lessons, helping people to have a deeper understanding of historical evolution.



Figure 9 shows the famous Chinese anti-Japanese war song "Yellow River Cantata," which consists of 8 movements performed in various forms such as female chorus, mixed chorus, duet, and rotation. This song was created during the War of Resistance Against Japan. At the beginning of its creation, it enthusiastically praised the long history of the Chinese nation, accused the aggressors of brutality, and showcased the heroic scenes of the Chinese people fighting bravely against the Japanese aggressors. It depicted a magnificent picture of the Chinese people defending their motherland and resisting the aggressors tenaciously. Until the peaceful era, the "Yellow River Cantata" was still frequently performed in various evening parties and competitions, and its significance has also changed in different periods. Figure 10 shows the connotation of the "Yellow River Cantata" in different periods.

Figure 9 - Manuscript for the score of the Yellow River Cantata

Figure 10 - The Connotation of the Yellow River Cantata in Different Periods



Many enterprises or organizations create and distribute corporate or industry songs, mainly composed of choral works. Promoting the performance of corporate or industry songs by corporate or organizational personnel in

the form of choirs plays a role in promoting the spirit and culture within the enterprise or organization. Firstly, the choir can improve the aesthetic level of employees. Enterprises guide employees to understand the world

and perceive corporate culture through music in the form of the choir, allowing employees to receive particular artistic baptism at the spiritual level and fully demonstrate humanistic care; secondly, enhancing the cohesion of enterprise employees through singing. Because choir is not a solo performance, it requires the participation of numerous individuals. Therefore, when employees experience the charm of music, they can also learn teamwork. Enterprises enhance team cohesion through choir in daily rehearsals, allowing employees to fully feel the power of the team, thereby enhancing their sense of ownership. Thirdly and most importantly, the choir can promote corporate culture. Throughout the history of music development in China, it reflects unity and diversity. As a widely used temporal art, music has multiple functions. Especially in a choir, unlike other forms of singing, it not only enhances cohesion but also plays a good promoting role in the promotion of the enterprise. They were using training to make employees aware that corporate culture is simple but tedious and that it is difficult for corporate culture to penetrate employees' hearts. Chorus has inherent advantages in promoting corporate culture. On the one hand, it can directly reflect the connotation of corporate culture. On the other hand, it can be expressed in a relaxed and enjoyable way that employees love, making them more willing and easy to accept, thereby enhancing their understanding of corporate culture.

4. CONCLUSION

This article analyzes the characteristics and development history of folk songs and choirs, as well as the aspects of their integration. It also explores the inheritance and historical evolution of cultural values from the perspectives of folk songs and choirs.

Folk songs originate from life and are a direct expression of the thoughts and emotions of the people. They have a robust regional style and can demonstrate cultural differences

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When the corporate culture deepens into employees' hearts, the enterprise will radiate new vitality, emitting vitality from the inside out, thus making the enterprise more potential for development.

The inheritance and development of choirs are also a part of the inheritance of cultural values and historical evolution (Jeanette & Zara, 2023). Ensembles from different periods and regions will exhibit unique characteristics and styles regarding repertoire selection, singing style, and innovative arrangement. By comparing and studying the historical evolution and evolution of different choirs, one can understand the changes in society and culture and the role of choir art in this process.

In summary, from the perspective of a choir, it is possible to delve into the inheritance of cultural values and historical evolution. Compared to other music dissemination activities, a choir is an art form with many participants and a wide range of participation. This activity has become an indispensable and essential way to develop and inherit ethnic music. Through choir singing, cultural popularization can be increased. By conveying cultural connotations, interpreting historical themes, and showcasing team spirit, cultural values and historical evolution can be integrated into it, and the power of music can infect and influence the audience, achieving the goal of better inheriting and promoting the culture.

between regions or races through their musical style or lyrics. The chorus is a comprehensive art that showcases regional culture through various means, such as music and dance, originating from classical music and often appearing in representative performances. In recent years, the diverse development of music culture has gradually integrated the elements of folk songs into the choir, forming a new presentation style that reflects the growth and richness of the times and can continue its cultural value in a more suitable form for the new era.

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