

Emotional Expression and Singing Techniques in Vocal Singing Research



Zhongqiao Sun^{1,*}

¹ Geely University, China

Abstract: In vocal singing, the combination of emotional expression and singing skills is an important part of music performance, emotional expression can be fully demonstrated through singing skills, at the same time, the realisation of singing skills can also promote the enhancement of the level of emotional expression in vocal singing, and the organic combination of the two in vocal singing has an important promotional value in promoting the enhancement of the singing effect. Therefore, this paper discusses the relationship between emotional expression and singing skills in vocal singing, analyses the combination strategy of emotional expression and singing skills in vocal singing, and on this basis further researches the enhancement of emotional expression and singing skills in vocal singing, aiming to provide effective guidance for vocal learners and help them to achieve the perfect integration of emotion and skills in singing.

Keywords: vocal singing; emotional expression; singing skills; relationship; enhancement

Introduction

Vocal singing is a comprehensive form of artistic expression, in which the combination of emotional expression and singing skills is crucial to the singing effect, the singer not only needs to master solid skills to ensure the stability and beauty of the voice, but also through the delicate expression of emotion to impress the audience, although the skills and emotions play different roles in vocal singing, but the organic combination of the two can create a more moving. Although technique and emotion play different roles in vocal singing, the organic combination of the two can create a more touching artistic effect. Therefore, combining the importance of emotional expression to fully analyse its relationship with singing skills can not only effectively enhance the emotional transmission value of vocal singing, but also further promote the steady improvement of singing skills.

1. Exploration of the Relationship between Emotional Expression and Singing Technique in Vocal Singing

1.1. Complementarity between skills and emotion

Corresponding Author: Zhongqiao Sun
Geely University, China

Email: 1523149855@qq.com

©The Author(s) 2024. Published by BONI FUTURE DIGITAL PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED This is an open access article under the CC BY License(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Vocal singing technique is the comprehensive ability of singers in voice control, vocal method, timbre, rhythm and technical performance, etc. These techniques provide a solid foundation for emotional expression. In singing, the use of timbre is especially crucial, and singers can convey rich emotional colours through the meticulous control of timbre. For example, a soft tone can often convey tenderness and longing, allowing the listener to feel the tenderness of the heart; while a strong tone can express passion and anger, causing emotions to surge like a tide. Therefore, the change of timbre is not only the display of skills, but also the transmission of emotions. Dynamic change is also an important part of vocal singing skills, the singer through the volume of the ups and downs, such as crescendo and diminuendo, can enhance the expression of emotion, in the climax of the song, the moderate volume increase not only enhance the intensity of emotion, but also to attract the audience's attention, so that the emotion is more vivid and distinct. For example, when the singer uses the crescendo technique at the most emotional moment, the listener is often infected by the strong emotion, as if they can feel the surge in the singer's heart. Rhythmic mastery is another key factor in ensuring

the vividness of emotional expression. A precise sense of rhythm can provide strong support for the expression of emotion, and appropriate pauses and accents can highlight the focus of emotion and create a more dramatic effect. When singing, the singer can flexibly use rhythmic changes to guide the audience's emotions according to the emotional direction of the lyrics. For example, when expressing sadness or nostalgia, a slightly longer pause and gentle rhythm can deepen the rendering of emotion, while when expressing happiness or excitement, a fast tempo and brisk style can better convey that cheerful mood (Wang Z., 2024).

1.2. The guiding role of emotion

Emotional expression plays a crucial guiding role in vocal singing, especially in the use of techniques. The influence of the singer's emotional input on the singing effect cannot be underestimated. When a vocalist is emotionally invested in the song they are singing, technique tends to naturally improve as they become more focused on vocal expression and move beyond mechanical singing. Such commitment allows the singer to be emotionally guided and flexible in their technique, resulting in a more vivid and sincere performance. In contrast, if a singer relies solely on technique and lacks emotional involvement, the singing will tend to be bland and lacking in impact. Recognising and reproducing emotion is also an important part of improving the quality of singing. Singers need to understand the emotional connotations behind the lyrics and translate these emotions into vocal expression. Without an in-depth understanding of emotions, even with superior skills, the singing may still fail to touch the hearts of the listeners. For singers, every sentence and word in the lyrics carries a specific emotion, which can be precisely expressed through technique, so that the audience can feel the emotional fluctuations. Such understanding and expression not only enhances the depth of singing, but also enables the singer to establish a closer connection between emotion and technique. Individual expression is also an important expression of emotional guidance. Each singer can develop a

personal style through different interpretations of emotion, which is often based on the mastery of basic techniques. Through their unique understanding and expression of emotion, singers are able to create a distinctive and personalised interpretation that attracts the listener's attention. Whether through variations in timbre or subtle handling of emotion, singers are able to achieve a unique vocal imprint on their artistic expression.

1.3. Interaction between training and practice

Vocal singing skills and emotional expression are interconnected and inseparable, and their enhancement needs to be continually honed through continuous training and practice, with systematic skills training laying a solid foundation for singers. Through the gradual mastery of vocal skills, singers can improve the stability and flexibility of the voice, which creates conditions for the true expression of emotion. During the training process, the singer does not just practise the technique mechanically, but can consciously incorporate emotion into it, exploring how to convey the inner emotion through the use of technique. This organic combination allows the singer to express emotion more freely in actual singing, making the singing more profound and infectious. Emotional expression also needs to be improved through specific exercises. For example, singers can make different interpretations of the same song several times, try to sing with different emotional colours, or through role-playing, put themselves in the situation depicted in the song. Such exercises not only broaden the range of emotional expression, but also help singers to become more comfortable in their technique and to express their emotions more naturally and fluently. Singers can also develop sensitivity and expressive ability to various emotions by singing songs in different styles (Sun, 2024). Feedback and adjustment is also an important part of vocal singing to improve the combination of technique and emotion. After the performance, through self-reflection or feedback from others, singers can effectively identify their deficiencies in technique and emotional expression, and this feedback mechanism prompts singers to

continuously adjust and improve in practice, and to find the most suitable singing style for themselves.

2. The Combination Strategy of Emotional Expression and Singing Skills in Vocal Singing

2.1. Integration of skill training and emotional commitment

In vocal singing, the integration of technique training and emotional input is crucial, which can effectively enhance the expressive and infectious power of the singer, and systematic technique training provides a solid foundation for the singer. By learning and mastering basic skills such as vocalisation, breath control, pitch and volume changes, singers can gain more confidence and flexibility in their singing. With solid skills, singers can more freely integrate emotions into their singing, so that singing is no longer just a display of skills, but a sincere expression of emotions. In the training of skills, singers can choose to sing songs that match their own emotions. This choice can not only stimulate the singer's emotional resonance, but also add conscious emotional expression in the technique practice. For example, singers can enhance emotional expression through different timbres, accents, and rhythmic variations. Such exercises allow the singer to find a balance between technique and emotion, so that the listener can feel the singer's true commitment to the emotion of the song, rather than just the mechanical use of technique. Contextual simulation and role-playing are also important ways to enhance emotional engagement. In practice, singers can envision themselves in the situation depicted by the lyrics, which can deepen their understanding and expression of emotion. Through role-playing, the singer can not only experience the inner world of the character, but also better grasp the emotional tone of the song. This setting of the situation enables the singers to be more engaged in the singing process, thus making the expression of emotion more real and profound (Nie, 2024).

2.2. Deep understanding of lyrics and melody

A deep understanding of the lyrics and melody is an important foundation for the expression of

emotion in vocal singing, and the singer needs to analyse the lyrics in detail and make clear the intention and emotion of the song, so that he can accurately grasp the theme of the song and the direction of emotion. Through this in-depth understanding, the singer can not only clarify the direction of emotional expression, but also make the singing more depth and sense of hierarchy. For example, when singing a love song about loss, the singer needs to feel the sadness and nostalgia conveyed in the lyrics, and transform this emotion into a vocal performance, so as to better impress the audience. The ups and downs of the melody are important carriers of emotional expression. Singers need to flexibly adjust their singing skills according to the ups and downs of the melody and changes in rhythm to adapt to the changes in emotion. In the soprano part of the melody, the singer can use a stronger voice to convey the excitement; while in the bass part, a softer tone can be used to express the inner delicate emotions. This sensitive grasp of melodic changes not only enriches the expressive power of singing, but also enhances the emotional resonance between the singer and the listener. The delicate treatment of emotion is also an important part of the singer's performance process that cannot be ignored. When singing, the singer can flexibly use various techniques according to the emotional needs of the lyrics and melody, such as the use of soft voices, vibrato, or sustained tone and other means to express the delicate changes in emotion (Wang & Zhang, 2024). Through the use of these techniques, the singer is able to convey a profound emotional experience in the nuances of the voice, so that the listener feels a richer emotional level.

2.3. Improvisation and feedback mechanisms

Improvisation and feedback mechanisms play an important role in vocal singing, providing singers with an effective way to improve their emotional expression and use of skills. Improvisation training enables singers to play more freely during the singing process, enhancing the immediate expression of emotions. By reacting instantly to the music, singers can explore different emotional levels and expressive

techniques, and this flexibility makes singing not only limited to pre-set techniques, but also able to show more creativity and individuality in live performance. For example, when a singer feels a particular emotion during the singing process, he or she can improvise new timbral changes or rhythmic adjustments to make the performance more vivid and infectious. Recording and reflection is an important means of self-improvement for singers. By recording their own performances, singers can listen back and analyse their own performances, identifying deficiencies in emotional expression and technique. This feedback mechanism not only helps singers to recognise more clearly how effective they have been in combining technique and emotion, but also motivates them to make targeted improvements the next time they sing. Performers can focus on certain details, such as changes in timbre, the flow of emotion, and overall expressiveness, which in turn creates a virtuous feedback loop (Liu, 2024). The audience's reaction is also crucial in live performances, and the performer can adjust his or her emotional expression and technique according to the audience's emotional feedback. This interaction not only enhances the singer's commitment, but also makes the performance more vivid and expressive. For example, when the audience shows strong emotional resonance, the singer can further deepen the emotional input, and even adjust the rhythm and intensity of the singing according to the atmosphere.

3. The Way to Improve Emotional Expression and Singing Skills in Vocal Singing

3.1. Systematic training and practice

Systematic training and practice is an important way to improve skills and emotional expression in vocal singing. Participating in professional vocal courses provides a systematic learning platform for singers. In these courses, singers are able to learn basic skills such as vocal technique, breath control, pitch and timbre changes under the guidance of experienced teachers. This professional guidance not only helps singers to build a solid foundation of technique, but also avoids common mistakes,

ensuring that they are more confident and flexible in their future singing. Regular practice is the key to consolidating technique. By establishing a regular practice routine, singers can engage in daily vocal exercises, such as scale work and legato work, which help to improve vocal stability and flexibility. In this process, singers can also gradually incorporate emotional expression so that the combination of technique and emotion becomes more natural. For example, when practising scales, singers can try to sing with different emotional colours, so as to develop sensitivity to emotion and the ability to express it. Experimenting with different styles of songs is also an important way to improve vocal expression. Singing in classical, pop and folk styles requires singers to use different techniques and emotional expression. By singing in different contexts, singers can not only enrich their expressiveness, but also understand the emotional connotations conveyed by various styles (Wu, Liu, & Liu, 2024). Such diverse attempts broaden singers' musical horizons and enhance their adaptability and creativity among different styles.

3.2. Combination of deepening of emotional expression and technique

The deepening of emotional expression and the combination of techniques are crucial in vocal singing, which enhances the expressive power of the singers through a variety of ways, and the interpretation of lyrics is an important basis for emotional expression. By analysing the lyrics of the songs and understanding their emotional connotations and background, the singer is able to convey the emotions better. By transforming the emotion in the lyrics into a concrete situation, the singer can enhance the sense of immersion when singing, so that the audience can feel the real emotion of the song. For example, when singing a song about loss, the singer can imagine that he or she has experienced a similar situation, and thus naturally show that kind of emotion in the singing. The vivid expression of emotion can be achieved through rich timbre changes, dynamic control and expression changes, the singer can use the voice of the strong

and weak, fast and slow changes, combined with facial expressions and body language, to create a more vivid singing effect. For example, when the singer raises the volume and speeds up the tempo during the emotional climax, it can effectively enhance the tension of the singing; while in the softer passages, moderately lowering the volume and slowing down the tempo can convey a gentle emotion. This multi-layered expression makes singing not only a display of skills, but also an in-depth transmission of emotions. The training of emotional commitment should not be neglected. In practice, singers can consciously invest in their emotions, choosing songs related to their own experiences to enhance the authenticity of their performances through the sincere transmission of emotions. Regular practice of emotional expression, such as role-playing or improvisation, can significantly improve a singer's ability to express emotion. Through this kind of training, singers are able to show themselves more confidently on stage, making singing not only the use of skills, but also the true expression of inner emotions (Sha, 2024).

3.3. Strengthen training feedback and self-reflection

Feedback and self-reflection is a key part of the vocal singing enhancement process, which can effectively help singers optimise their performance. Through the playback of recordings, singers are able to carefully analyse their own singing, including the use of techniques, the conveyance of emotions and changes in timbre. This process enables singers to clearly identify their own strengths and weaknesses, so as to develop targeted improvement programmes. For example, a singer can note on playback whether a passage is rich in tone and emotion, and make adjustments in future practice to ensure a more affective performance. It is also vital to seek advice from professionals. Seeking feedback from professional teachers or peers can provide singers with different perspectives and insights. Not only does this external feedback help singers identify blind spots in emotional expression and technique, but it also directs their attention to details that they

were not aware of. Through the advice of others, singers are able to look at their own singing from a broader perspective, which can lead to targeted enhancement programmes and facilitate more comprehensive progress. The use of audience feedback in public performances should not be overlooked. In live performances, singers can instantly adjust their emotional expression and technique based on the audience's reaction. Audience emotional feedback provides important real-time information to singers, enabling them to make flexible adjustments during the performance. If the audience shows strong empathy, the singers can further deepen their emotional input; conversely, if they find that the audience's response is lukewarm, the singers can adjust their emotional expression and try different singing styles (Wang & Chen, 2024). This real-time interaction not only enhances the expressive power of singing, but also strengthens the connection between the singer and the audience.

Conclusion

In conclusion, emotional expression and singing skills in vocal singing are inseparable and complementary. Through systematic skills training, in-depth emotional understanding and effective feedback mechanisms, singers can find the best combination between the two, thus enhancing their singing ability. In the future, with the continuous development of vocal education, exploring the combination of emotion and technique will continue to provide singers with new perspectives and practical directions, contributing to the inheritance and innovation of music art.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest to this work.

References

- Liu, Z. (2024). Research on emotional expression and singing techniques in vocal singing. *Masterpieces*, 2024(23), 42-44.
- Nie, W. (2024). Research on the expression of emotion in vocal singing. *Drama House*, 2024(24), 112-114.
- Sha, M. (2024). Expression of emotion in vocal

- singing: Taking the vocal work 'Ballad of Yellow Water' as an example. *Voice of Yellow River*, 2024(14), 154-157.
- Sun, Y. (2024). Research on the application of piano art instruction in the key ability of vocal accompaniment. *Art Appreciation*, 2024(26), 158-161.
- Wang, B., & Zhang, B. (2024). Sound and emotion mingling: A study on the interaction between vocal technique and emotion expression in vocal singing. *Daguan (Forum)*, 2024(08), 42-44.
- Wang, T., & Chen, X. (2024). Analysing the expression of emotion in vocal singing. *Music Life*, 2024(07), 90-92.
- Wang, Z. (2024). Exploration of effective collaboration and co-operation between vocal singing and piano accompaniment. *Journal of Qiqihar University (Philosophy and Social Science Edition)*, 2024(09), 128-131.
- Wu, Y., Liu, M., & Liu, C. (2024). Exploration of the integration path of artistic skills and emotional expression in ethnic vocal singing. *Tomorrow's Style*, 2024(15), 13-15.

How to Cite: Sun, Z. (2024). Emotional Expression and Singing Techniques in Vocal Singing Research. *Journal of Global Humanities and Social Sciences*, 05(12), 437-442.
<https://doi.org/10.61360/BoniGHSS242017271203>