

Original Paper

Empathic Communication and Artistic Healing Role of Local Music in Xiamen City under Major Social Events

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Abstract

From local to global, from individual to universal, from singularity to plurality, music not only promotes the deep integration and dissemination of urban culture, giving birth to the theoretical perspective of “music studies”, but also becomes an important symbol and weathervane of a city’s cultural trend. Whether it is a metropolis such as London, Paris or Beijing, or an art city that focuses on the city’s on-the-ground music creation or identity, music is closely connected to the urban cultural space. At the same time, music is also a “holistic effect art”, a language of cultural globalisation. This study will be based on the creation and dissemination of Xiamen’s urban music works under major social issues, taking aesthetic function and artistic healing as the entry point, combining with the case study of Xiamen’s urban in situ music works to explore the current situation of the creation and dissemination of its works, elucidating the social value and artistic healing function of the city’s songs, and rethinking and exploring the relationship between literary and artistic works and the harmonious development of the human society, and the role of the city’s brand shaping and influence on city branding. This research will mainly focus on the literature research method and case study method, using the Internet and electronic resource databases to review the literature, understand the knowledge related to music and art, clarify the development of urban local music and the current status of research, and obtain relevant research information, so as to provide ideas and references for the project research. To analyse the data of urban local music creation and dissemination with appropriate statistical and analytical methods, in order to maximise the function of the data and play a role in the data. Take urban local music as a typical case, investigate it, and give solution ideas and programmes, and look forward to the direction of creation and dissemination of contemporary literary works of urban local music under major social events.

Keywords

City music, Culture Communication, Artistic Healing, Empathic Communication

1. Introduction

Mediumship is a prominent feature of media art compared with traditional art. Under the medium, media art reflects the functions of information production, social mobilisation and identity construction at the levels of artistic creation, dissemination and acceptance (Hu & Chen, 2020). Music art, as a special medium, also has the function of artistic healing (Hu & Chen, 2020). Music art, as a special functional medium, also has the role of art healing. During the Covid-19, Xiamen's local music productions played the function of Art Healing to relieve the public's daily stress and anxiety with good results. Music is an important part of Xiamen's artistic goal of becoming a cultural centre, a city of art, and an island of music, enriching the spiritual and cultural life of the masses, and never failing to create art and literature in the face of major social events. The creation and dissemination of songs is particularly prosperous, during the new crown epidemic, typhoons and natural weather disasters, there are many works rich in national sentiment, humanistic spirit, inspiring works came into being. With beautiful melodies and sincere emotions, these songs conveyed the national character of overcoming difficulties together, and through artistic innovation and interactive communication from content to form, they effectively gathered social consensus and strengthened people's confidence and determination in facing difficulties. In the post-pandemic era, the world's economic and political landscape has undergone major changes. As the concentrated expression of ideology and values and the "superstructure of the superstructure", art, influenced by the economic environment and the superstructure of politics and society, has been transformed in the post epidemic era (Li & Zhang, 2021). Art therapy originated in the West, is the emergence of the Second World War in Europe and the United States, an interdisciplinary nature of the profession (Nie, 2020). Art therapy as a non-verbal means of expression and communication is believed to have the function of revealing the subconscious mind and thus treating the "stressful psychological disorders" caused by the epidemic; and the healing nature of contemporary art itself should be given sufficient attention in the current social and cultural context (Gaia, 2021).

2. Literature Review

Studies by Evans, E and McDonald, P have shown that country-specific situations in turn present distinctive features determined by media industries and technologies as well as other socio-cultural factors (Evans, McDonald, Bae, Ray, & Santos, 2016). It is therefore all the more important to examine how urban music, as a communication medium for fashion, influences the local media culture of cities in the context of digital media, as well as the perception of cultural memory by city dwellers. According to Baudrillard, fashion follows the logic of desire and has nothing to do with utility. And Zhao Zhenxiang's series of studies on fashion communication shows that the progress of media technology is closely related to fashion communication. Media is the skin of fashion, and media is the most important carrier of fashion communication and the most important channel for people to perceive fashion and pay attention to it. The research methodology in the field of fashion communication should

promote interdisciplinarity through theoretical and empirical work (Zhao & Ruan, 2019).

Current research on urban music in the context of major social issues mostly focuses on creative styles, combined with music theory or research analysed from a social perspective. The number of studies focusing on content dissemination is relatively small, mainly focusing on the overall dissemination of the whole society in the context of the Internet, and the research results are scattered, lacking systematic and in-depth analyses of a certain region and a certain group. The research on emotional function mainly focuses on the means of creation and the perspective of presentation.

Art Healing, also known as Art Therapy, is a kind of psychotherapy, and Art Healing mainly provides art materials, activities and experiences as the main way of treatment. As a kind of psychological intervention, the application of Art Healing has become more and more extensive in recent years, and it is mainly applied to the treatment of depression, autism and other kinds of mental health diseases (Geue, Goetze, Buttstaedt, Kleinert, Richter, & Singer, 2010). Art Healing focuses on individuals assessing their emotional state through their own self-expression (Braus & Morton, 2020). During the New Crown Pneumonia pandemic, Art Healing was effective in demodulating the daily stress and anxiety of the quarantined population. Kaimal, Carroll-Haskins, Berberian, Dougherty, Carlton and Ramakrishnan (2020) provide an overview of the potential applications, implications, and theories of change of virtual reality technology through an exploratory and qualitative study of virtual reality tools. The unique aspects of Art Healing in virtual reality are positive emotions, play, exploration, learning, access and storage. Virtual reality technology was also found to have the potential to help people enhance their mental health through creativity, enhanced imagination, interactivity and problem solving.

To sum up, in the face of major social events, the research direction of urban music works focuses on songwriting style, works of their own emotional analysis, the research perspective is not broad enough and rich, the research results lack of systematic, there are few comprehensive analyses of the creation, dissemination, and artistic function of one, there is still room for supplementation and improvement.

3. The Emotional Role of Xiamen's Urban Local Music Works

This study takes the artistic aesthetic function and healing nature of urban local music as an entry point, rethinks and explores the relationship between contemporary art and the sustainable development of human society in the context of the epidemic, and looks forward to the direction of the creation and dissemination of contemporary art and literary works in the context of major social issues. As General Secretary Xi pointed out in his speech at the Symposium on Literary and Artistic Work, "There are a hundred or a thousand ways to create literature and art, but the most fundamental, crucial, and reliable way is to take root in the people and the life. ... We should use the spirit of realism and the sentiment of romanticism to look at the reality, dispel the darkness with light, overcome the darkness with beauty and goodness, and create works of art with the spirit of realism and the sentiment of romanticism. dispel darkness, overcome ugliness with beauty and goodness, and let people see beauty, hope and

dreams just ahead.” The rise of urban songs under major social issues is a concrete embodiment of artistic humanist thinking and humanistic care in the era of intelligent media, and a sign of cultural and artistic progress. The objectives of this study include exploring the universal value of music - the value of the existence of music through the activities of listening to, expressing and creating music, and expressing the ideal world of truth, goodness and beauty through music; and the warmth value of urban local music. With novel and touching detail descriptions, it emphasises the soul touching and heart-wrenching emotional power in the smallest details. Taking humanistic care as the base, it organically integrates the national consciousness and collective needs with the narrative stances of secular life, public happiness and individual feelings, and organically combines the “country” and “family” as well as righteousness, bravery and individual feelings. The unification of “nation” and “family” and narrative subjects such as righteousness, bravery and ethics should become the value concept and aesthetic strategy of urban local music.

In this context, the urban local music “Light Up the City” conveys warmth and love, bringing comfort and encouragement to Xiamen citizens. This piece of music also won the Special Award of Xiamen Internet Culture Festival. The character of a city is not only reflected in the smoke and fire of the city, but also engraved in the expression of each citizen in the face of danger. Because of the artist’s personal experience and empathy, he was able to record the love and light of Xiamen during the special period, and to record a Xiamen full of love, order and hope with lyrics, melodies and images that are true, simple and full of poetry and beauty. From Typhoon Moranti to the Xin Guan epidemic, Xiamen people have demonstrated their self-consciousness, self-possession and self-love to show the unique urban style of a modern city. Whether in good times or bad, whether in calm or in waves, Xiamen people have shown their self-awareness, self-sustainability and self-love.



Figure 1. Cover of the Song “Light Up the City”

In the special context of the times, urban local music has played its own significant “music power”, expressing the voice of the masses, eulogising for positive energy, becoming a special force to inspire people’s hearts, and having a profound education-oriented role. However, there are still many aspects

of the shortcomings of the creation of some works, although the rapid response is in place, but the works lack of depth of thought, one-sided pursuit of the dissemination of benefits, the city should be in the local music creation of a higher cultural and aesthetic standpoint. At the same time, it also puts forward higher requirements and problems for art creators. How to deepen the content, avoid homogenisation and enhance innovation in the creation of urban local music works. And how to optimise the content, integrate the organisation and break down the barriers in the dissemination of urban local music works. Art creators should think more about the artistic function of urban local music works, and how the artistic function can reflect the aesthetic, emotional and healing properties. Rethink and explore the status quo and shortcomings of urban local music, and solve the problem of how to deepen the content of creation, avoid homogenisation and enhance innovation. In terms of communication, how to optimise communication content, integrate communication organisation and break down communication barriers. In terms of artistic function, how to reflect the aesthetic, emotional and healing qualities.

4. The Role of Xiamen's Local Musical Works in Communication

In the face of major social events such as the new crown epidemic, typhoon disaster, geological disaster, etc., the safety and psychological pressure of urban residents are facing serious challenges. The art of music can express human emotions, inspire people's fighting spirit and show the style of the times. In the face of crises and disasters, artists react quickly, and their creations reflect a keen sense of timeliness and form multiple focuses of attention. Urban local music has the creative tension under the stressful stimulus, which demonstrates the professional spirit and sense of mission of art workers. Urban local music songs show to the society the mission consciousness and the spirit of responsibility of the artists, a series of public welfare art works with artistic strokes, cohesion of people's strong spiritual force, fully demonstrates the spirit of solidarity, the spirit of commonwealth and the concept of the community of human destiny. In the face of major social events, the attention and research on urban local music as a carrier is of great theoretical and practical significance.

The global Mastering of a Music City report in 2015 notes that the concept of music cities has penetrated the global political vernacular because it delivers "significant economic, employment, cultural and social benefits" (Baker, 2017). The term "empathy" was first used in psychoanalytic studies to refer to a person's ability to recognise, share and respond to the emotional experiences of another person, and was translated into English as "Einfühlung" by the psychologist Edward Titchener in 1909. "Einfühlung" into the English word "empathy" in 1909 (Beyond the Tower of Babel). In the case of empathy, it is the ability to recognise and share another person's emotional experience and respond to it (Ioannidou & Konstantikaki, 2008). Under the psychological mechanism of empathy, people are able to give more respect and understanding to others, which helps people learn to switch different positions when they look at things. Under the perspective of empathy, we spread emotions through the music media, strengthen humanistic exchanges, adhere to the correct value orientation and

self-confidence and calm guidance of public opinion, the national character through the generation of cultural memory, precipitation for the Chinese nation's spiritual wealth to be inherited. Not only relying on cultural carriers, to create a symbolic synergy to spread the image of China (Zhao & Mao, 2021).

First of all, literature and art works can unite social power in playing the unique role of art. Art is capable of feeling for people, arousing collective consciousness and reaching group consensus at the level of individual emotion and social value, thus generating a strong sense of identity, belonging and healing, and allowing people to get rid of their worries, detach themselves from reality, and enter the ideal world for a short period of time. Urban local music is a kind of artistic and cultural work that develops in response to the times, and in playing its unique role in art, it gathers social strength and brings artistic inspiration and spiritual impetus to the fight against epidemics and the prevention of epidemics.

Secondly, the healing nature of literary works should be given due attention in the current social and cultural context. The influence of anti-epidemic literature and art works can be further expanded through dissemination, and the richness and innovation of the healing function of art can be realised through dissemination and diffusion, which is conducive to consolidating the will of the group, stimulating the sentiment of the nation and inspiring the fighting spirit of all the people, and fully demonstrating the spirit of helping each other in the same boat and the concept of the community of human destiny. Song is a popular art, and its effect is often intangible and subtle. In the context of the new era, city songs have become an important carrier for city brand promotion. With its unique art form and infectious power, it skillfully integrates the image, culture and history of the city and conveys the voice and soul of the city to the outside world. The creation, launch and dissemination of a city's theme song will undoubtedly expand the local popularity and reputation, enhance people's pride and sense of achievement, and attract more foreign tourists and businessmen. The theme song named after the city is a good vehicle to promote the city. At a release ceremony held by the Publicity Department of the Xiamen Municipal Committee and the Information Office of the Xiamen Municipal Government on 3 August, the Xiamen city image film "We Are Xiamen" (Season 3), accompanied by the familiar song "Xiamen Kind of Like a Song", was officially launched. From Gulangyu Island in the morning light, towards the taxi driver taking a nap by the side of the road, and then meet with the family smiling and waving in the evening sun, with the camera walk, the audience into the beauty of Xiamen everywhere visible, palpable human feelings.

With the arrival of the 5G era, the city's music culture and integrated media cross-border union, giving rise to a new trend, online music education and online concerts and other forms of effective extension of the city's music culture industry chain. With the further application of 5G technology, the traditional music culture industry has been upgraded and transformed, breaking through the boundaries of space and time and broadening the communication space. Fusion media has profoundly influenced the development of urban music and culture industry, realising the two-way interaction between economic and social benefits. At the same time, it provides new ideas and realisation forms for music creation

and dissemination. Urban local music provides ideas and directions for the creation of literary and artistic excellence with “Chinese characteristics, Chinese style and Chinese style”. Literary and artistic works trigger the public’s resonance with spiritual culture, tell the story of the anti-epidemic, spiritual culture is an important part of a country’s core competitiveness, the status and role in the competition for comprehensive national power is becoming increasingly prominent. This research will take the aesthetic function and healing nature of music as the entry point, rethink and explore the relationship between contemporary art and the sustainable development of human society under the epidemic, look forward to the direction of the creation and dissemination of contemporary literature and art works under the epidemic, and provide references for the creation of literary and artistic works with “Chinese characteristics, Chinese style and Chinese style”. It provides reference for the creation of literary and artistic works with “Chinese characteristics, Chinese style and Chinese style”.

Finally, a systematic analysis of the functions of creation, dissemination and emotion of literary and artistic works can help to enhance the international influence of China’s image. The rapid development of global Internet technology has created a brand-new communication environment and audience, with a larger amount of information, faster communication speed, and a completely different way of receiving information. This study can provide references on how to disseminate China’s voice, present China’s story, and highlight China’s determination and strong spiritual power in the prevention and control of global epidemics.

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