



Comprehension of Singing and Vocal Art

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Abstract: For the future singer and vocal teacher, it is important to understand the words of the outstanding Italian teacher Francesco Lamperti: "Singing with soul is a wonderful excitement that comes from the wonderful abilities of our nature and from the ability to identify with the role being played".

Keywords: vocal art, solo (single), ensemble (group), choral, vocal apparatus, genres and techniques, strong technical base, bright performance skills, troubadours, minstrels, Confucius, melody.

Nowadays, interest in vocal art is extremely high. The problem of development and training of the singer, improvement of his performing skills is of great interest. Vocal art is a type of musical performance based on the mastery of the singing voice. Vocal performance can be solo (single), ensemble (group), choral (mass).

Main vocal styles

- Classical (academic) singing. Characteristic for opera and operetta, musicals, romances.
- Jazz vocals. As a result of the fusion of colorful African rhythms and musical traditions inherent in European countries, this style appeared in the USA at the end of the 19th century.
- Pop singing.
- Folk singing.

The process of comprehending the art of singing is a very exciting, but complex, long process that requires mutual understanding from both the teacher and the student, a lot of spiritual and physical strength, patience in order to achieve the desired result, namely beautiful timbre sound, professional voice, bright musical impression.

Many people ask the question: where does singing begin? And this is a very correct question, especially for those who have already connected or are just going to connect their lives with vocal art. So where does the history of vocal art begin?

Of course, from our Voice. From the birth of the first baby and the first cry on earth, the ability to control the vocal apparatus began to develop. It is interesting to note that the baby's cry corresponds to 435-440 Hz, that is, the tone "La" of the first octave. And already in the first years of life, a person's voice reaches a range of 5-7 tones. Let us turn directly to the history of vocals and to singing as a means of expressing emotions, feelings and moods in an artistic context. Of course, over the course of many centuries, vocal performance in different parts of our vast planet has undergone various modifications, acquiring new colors, forms, structures, and thanks to these changes, modern vocal art has an unimaginable number of genres and techniques.

It is the concept of "vocal-performing culture" that integrates numerous components of professional

singing and is a defining indicator of a good singer and gifted musician. When we talk about a high level of vocal and performing culture, we mean a strong technical base, bright performance skills, and a general feeling of proportionality of all musical elements and quality characteristics, combined into an artistic integrity.

The formation of a high vocal and performing culture of students is the main result of educational activities in the field of vocal art and pedagogy.

If in our time a singer is a profession that means mastery of the vocal apparatus and years of training, then in ancient times - troubadours, minstrels, and even very simple people, for example, a mother who lulls a child and gently hums a lullaby, without special training, with the help of the sounds of the voice, they simply sought to convey their feelings and make a pleasant impression on the one to whom these feelings were intended.

In ancient times, singing was of a folk and religious nature and did not require didactic preparation. They sang "naturally", spontaneously simple melodies or choral prayers in temples to the accompaniment of instruments.

It is said that Confucius, having accidentally heard the chant attributed to Li-Bo, whose antiquity is estimated at fourteen centuries, was so amazed that he refused food, drink and sleep for seven days. After that, he formulated his famous teaching, which he spread by singing his prescriptions to the tune of Li-Bo's melody. With his voice and his five-string ivory guitar, he converted vast China to his faith. And he did it without learning to sing in any school.

The first documentary mention of the existence of vocal art as a separate genre in music appeared only at the moment when the song entered the church. The priests borrowed much from the folk repertoire. Due to the strong influence of the church at that time, the song constantly evolved, forming a kind of symbiosis of religious and secular elements.

The first professional singers were the minstrels, who from the 14th century acted as so-called professional musicians who earned their living by playing musical instruments and singing.

Opera comes with the beginning of the 16th century. At that time, the main performers were castrati, or sopranists. Composers often wrote one melody, and they themselves decorated it with trills and passages. This music was supposed to delight the audience's ears, take them to the "transcendental world" and entertain.

In the 30-40s of the 19th century, one beautiful singing was not enough, and representatives of pure bel canto gave way to tenors, and later to baritones. Later and to this day, vocal art undergoes many changes: new genres, new manners and styles of singing appear, such as jazz singing, pop singing, folk or ethnic singing; modern musical styles that originated in African American culture: soul, hip-hop, rap, rhythm and blues; a variety of sound production techniques, such as growling, screaming, makeup, screaming, harshness.

Music everywhere and at all times has endowed and will continue to endow us with new and new genres and styles, but the main thing is that modern people always have something to say using this unimaginably rich and amazing instrument - the human voice.

Under the production of voice means the work on the development and improvement of special skills for the work of professionals - actors, singers, lecturers. The importance of solo singing in the system of higher musical and pedagogical education is undeniably great: in the solo singing class, not only the process of professional voice setting takes place, but also the relationship with other types of arts - painting, literature, theater, which leads to enrichment and the formation of a creative personality. In the solo singing classes, the student's voice data, vocal ear, the ability to feel and flexibly lead a musical phrase, expressive intonation, nuance, as well as a bright, emotional presentation of the word are developed; such important performance qualities as a sense of style, knowledge of genre specifics, and a detailed reading of the author's intention are laid down. An important link for the development of individuality is the disclosure of the internal personal qualities of the student, his fantasy, imaginative thinking, temperament, character.

A correctly delivered voice is a voice with a beautiful timbre, a wide range, and clear diction. The main difference is that such a voice is not subjected to the consequences of many hours of stress.

Methods of work in the solo singing class can be different, but the main ones are strengthening singing breathing, mastering techniques, training the articulatory and speech apparatus, expanding the range, involving resonators in the work, and performing in a high position.

The human voice is a musical instrument, complex and fragile. To master this tool, you need to know its features.

We must remember that we hear ourselves and our voice in a completely different way than the people around us. This is because the voice affects our hearing both from the outside and from the inside. And musicians-instrumentalists hear their performance in the same way as the listeners. Therefore, vocalists should record the sound of their voice on a tape recorder or computer for self-control and improvement of vocal hearing.

Vocal hearing implies the ability to control one's performance and understanding of the work of the organs of voice formation. Listening to singing or speech, we can characterize the voice as light, flying or heavy, light, bright or dull, strong or weak, flat or rounded, open or covered.

If nature has awarded a person with a beautiful voice, this does not mean that he is a wonderful singer. High-quality performance requires a professional school, as well as a healthy body, constant rehearsals, emotionality and musicality.

In this regard, the problem of creating modern educational and methodological support in the field of vocal education arises. The introduction of new ideas, the improvement of educational programs, the enrichment of the library fund with collections of vocal music, the publication of articles, manuals and anthologies, the accumulation of an archive of materials on concerts, competitions and conferences held - these sections are significant for compiling an integrative base that ensures the success of the educational process.

In connection with the modernization of higher professional education, the education system at Herzen University is becoming more flexible and diversified, new basic and optional educational courses, new directions, profiles and specializations are emerging. Thus, the modern musical and pedagogical educational space is expanding, enriched with new ideas and creative projects.

By instilling the vocal and performing culture of modern youth, we thereby contribute to the common national cause of the revival of true spiritual values, a high level of education, respect for the human person, traditions and cultural heritage.

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