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Title: Analyzing and Comparing Selected Works for Violin and Piano by Chen Gang, Chen Guoquan and Bright Sheng

ABSTRACT

The cross-cultural music synthesis plays an important element in music creation progress in twentieth century. This dissertation is a research about the development of the use of Chinese folk elements in Western-style composition by Chinese composers. Through analysis the different compositions from traditional Chinese composers Chen Gang and Chen GuoQuan, Chinese-born American composer Bright Sheng, to note the aesthesis variations produced by music synthesis.

The first chapter focuses on the development of Chinese violin music that promote by the efforts of several generations composers. The chapter two is the background introduction of Chen Gang and analysis of his violin piece Morning in the Miao Village. This chapter takes the reader to learn about the earliest establishment of Chinese music that based on the Western practice, and the characteristics of violin piece Morning in the Miao. The Chapter three is the introduction of composer Chen Guoquan and his violin piece Seeing Somebody Off that inspired by traditional Flower Drum opera. The forth chapter is the introduction of Bright Sheng and his violin piece A Night at the Chinese Opera that inspired by the melody of Beijing opera Farewell My Concubine. Through the analysis of this contemporary piece, we can learn about how the Chinese-born American composer pursued his own relationship with music sound based on Chinese traditional opera elements. The fifth chapter is the analysis of Bright Sheng’s piece Three Fantasies. In this piece, Sheng approaches new sonic effect through combining the Kazak and Tibet folk songs with advanced contemporary composition techniques. Finally, the chapter six brings the study to the
comparison of the Chen Gang, Chen GuoQuan and Bright Sheng’s violin compositions. Through the comparison, we can figure out the aspects that result the creations difference between traditional composers and contemporary composer.