

Research on the Piano Accompaniment of Fauré's Art Songs

By

.Xiao Yang

Ph.D Candidate, Arts Performance Communication, School of Liberal Arts, Shinawatra University Email: 358544916@qq.com

Dr.Suvida Neramit-Aram

Ph.D, Arts Performance Communication, School of Liberal Arts, Shinawatra University
Email : palphol@siu

Abstract

As one of the most representative composers of art songs in France at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Fauré mainly concentrated in the field of art songs and created several vocal divertiments and three single albums with the title of “20 art songs”. These art songs occupy an important position in the history of European music. Based on this, this paper will take “the piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs” as the research object, from the perspective of musicology, literature, aesthetics, management, philosophy and other disciplines, and on the basis of collecting and sorting literature, field research, questionnaire survey and field interview to obtain first-hand data, study the performance technology, characteristics, influence and value of the piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs, and put forward its contribution, significance and some suggestions on the development of piano accompaniment art in the future.

Keywords: Fauré, Art songs, Piano accompaniment

Introduction

Gabriel Urbain Fauré (1845-1924), as an important French composer at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, his creation involves a wide range of genres, especially in art songs. His more than 100 art songs made him a representative figure in the field of French art songs. His works inherit the musical tradition of the classical and romantic period, with smooth lyricism and unique elegant and noble temperament of France. In the arrangement of changing tonality and characteristic harmony, he always pursues the purity, so the integration of poetry and music is the main feature of Fauré's art songs. It is precisely because of this temperament that made him stand out among many composers. Therefore, Fauré's art songs are worthy of in-depth study.

Statement of the problem

The research takes piano accompaniment in the Fauré's art songs as an object, focusing on the characteristics and changes of music forms, that is, analyzing the changes of musical elements such as middle note, melody, harmony, rhythm, speed and intensity in piano accompaniment, and what functions they take in the presentation of artistic songs. These specific analysis play a guiding role for realistic singing and performance.

Research question

On the basis of discussing the achievements of piano accompaniment for art songs at home and abroad, this paper focus on piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs through quantitative and qualitative studies, and draws inspiration from them. It will focus on the following questions: How to realize the effective combination of Fauré's art songs and piano accompaniment; How to promote the piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs to the teaching field

Variables of the research

In this research, independent variables are: Fauré's creative ideas; Characteristics of Fauré's art songs; Music style of the times; Music communication mode; Singing of art songs

Dependent Variables: Musical composition for piano accompaniment; Promotion of piano accompaniment. The conceptual framework was shown in the following figure.

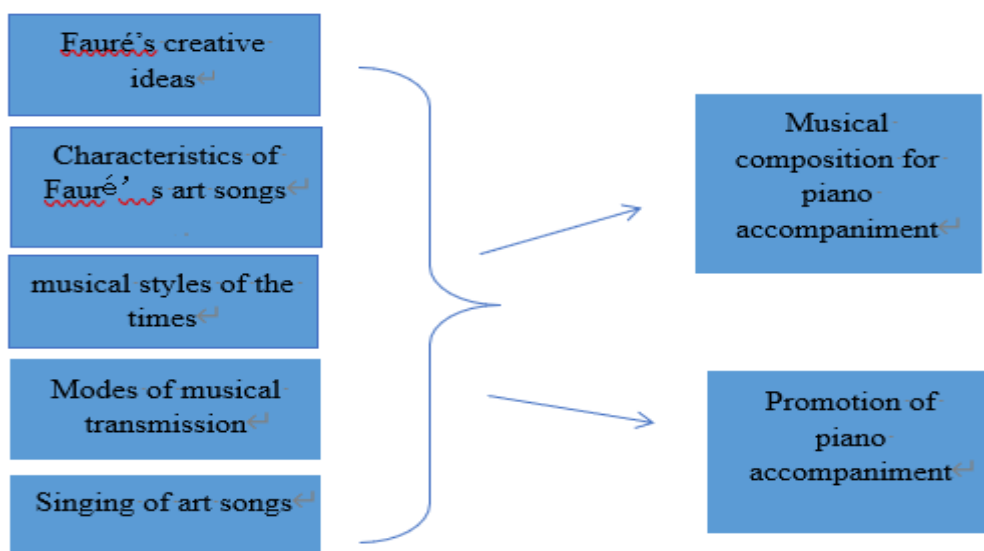


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

Research hypothesis

- H1A** Fauré's creative idea has a positive impact on the music composition of piano accompaniment
- H2A** The characteristics of Fauré's art songs have a positive impact on the music composition of piano accompaniment
- H3A** The music style of times has a positive impact on the music composition of piano accompaniment
- H4A** music transmission mode has a positive impact on the music composition of piano accompaniment
- H5A** The singing of art songs has a positive impact on the music composition of piano accompaniment

- H1B** Fauré's creative concept has a positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment
- H2B** The characteristics of Fauré's art songs have a positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment
- H3B** The music style of times has a positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment
- H4B** The music communication mode has a positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment
- H5B** The singing of art songs has a positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment

Research methodology

Guided by materialist conception of history, this paper adopts the method of combining history and theory and concluding points from history. This paper attempts to put literature collection, reading and analysis, field research, questionnaire survey and field interview into implementation to obtain first-hand information. Through quantitative analysis, to demonstrate whether the above hypothesis are tenable.

Technical Routes

With the guidance of exploring the development law of Chinese art songs, this paper determines the interview object and research content by collecting the relevant literature on piano accompaniment of art songs at home and abroad. Through the field investigation, questionnaire survey and interview with well-known performers, singers, college teachers and students and ordinary interest lovers at home and abroad, this paper analyzes history and current situation of piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs, summarizes its development rules and the causes of styles in different periods, and knows the role and influence of piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs today. Finally, it attempts to reveal the future direction of the development of piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs, so as to provide theoretical support for its follow-up development.

Population and samples

The research objects of this study mainly focus on composers and performers who have been engaged in the creation and performance of art songs for a long time, as well as college teachers with senior experience in this field. At the same time, through targeted interviews with some school students, this paper would comprehensively investigate, collect and sort out their family background, study experience, art experience, professional title and position, teacher inheritance relationship, representative achievements, scope of activities, honors, main contributions and relevant thinking, and obtain relevant data and materials for the research on piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs.

Design of qualitative research

The design of the questionnaire is based on the problems studied in this paper. On the basis of literature analysis, it draws lessons from successful experience and maturity scales, and respects the wishes and privacy of the respondents and interviewees. Abide by the academic ethics norms, according to the general procedures and basic requirements of social investigation, combined with the research status and development situation of piano accompaniment of Fauré's art songs, repeatedly analyze and compare on this basis to obtain the questionnaire Research Questionnaire of Piano Accompaniment of Fauré's art songs. Data

were obtained through questionnaire survey. The constructed questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data from the sample. The questionnaire converts the research questions related to the development of piano accompaniment in art songs into questions that can be accurately measured and quantified. The answers to each question are set into five categories and given different codes. The questionnaire objects can only choose from the above five answers. The interviewees only need to tick \checkmark in the appropriate check. The interview questions are designed according to the research hypothesis, and the question types are designed as closed-ended questions. Make 400 questionnaires and set the crowd as college students, students majoring in vocal music and piano in professional music colleges and performers. The questionnaire is distributed online and collected within one day. Sort out all answers, code and analyze all data and information.

Validity and reliability of the research

Validity analysis

In this study, the focus is on the construct validity, which refers to the ability of the items to measure the variables that are to be measured. This study uses the collected data to test the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to prove the construct validity of the scale.

KMO and Bartlett tests			
	KMO sampling suitability quantity		0.959
Total questionnaire	Bartlett sphericity test	approximate chi-square	9325.316
		DOF	1780
		Significance	0.000

Figure 2. KMO and Bartlett tests

The results of the validity analysis of the total questionnaire in the table show that the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) sampling aptness measure of the questionnaire is 0.959, Bartlett spherical value is 9325.316, and the corresponding significance level is 0.000 which is less than 0.05. This indicates that the definition and measurement tools are relatively mature, both of which are generally accepted by the academic community and the questionnaire has high validity.

Reliability analysis

In this study, the above two points are used as the basis for purifying the question items.

	Clone Bach Alpha coefficient	Number of project
Total Questionnaire	0.965	17

Figure 3. Clone Bach Alpha coefficient

Questionnaire Data Analysis

Correlation Analysis

The two variables of Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient need to meet the following basic conditions: both variables are continuous interval data; both variables obey normal distribution; and the relationship between the two variables is linear.

Table 1: Correlation analysis

	Fauré's creative concept	Fauré's art song characteristics	Musical style of the times	Music dissemination methods	Singing of art songs	Musical composition of piano accompaniment	Promotion of piano accompaniment
Fauré's creative concept	1						
Fauré's art song characteristics	0.715**	1					
Musical style of the times	0.536**	0.713**	1				
Music dissemination methods	0.772**	0.753**	0.566**	1			
Singing of art songs	0.803**	0.886**	0.632**	0.807**	1		
Musical composition of piano accompaniment	0.792**	0.838**	0.656**	0.832**	0.855**	1	
Promotion of piano accompaniment	0.817**	0.824**	0.652**	0.819**	0.847**	0.892**	1

As shown in Table 1, there are significant positive correlations between Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, musical style of the times, music dissemination methods, singing of art songs and musical composition of piano accompaniment with correlation coefficients of 0.792/0.838/0.656/0.832/0.855 respectively. And there is a significant positive correlation between Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, musical style of the times, music dissemination methods, singing of art songs and musical composition of piano accompaniment with correlation coefficients of 0.817/0.824/0.652/0.819/0.847 respectively.

Regression Analysis

Taking Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, musical style of the times and music dissemination methods as independent variables and the musical composition of piano accompaniment as dependent variable, this paper makes multiple linear regression analysis.

Table 2: Regression analysis of music composition of piano accompaniment

Model	Unstandardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	t	Significance	R ²	F	P
	B	Standard error	Beta					
(constant)	-.019	.126		-0.153	.879	0.824	383.432	0.000
Fauré's creative concept	.170	.035	.182	4.884	.000			
Fauré's art song characteristics	.219	.043	.250	5.033	.000			
Musical style of the times	.120	.038	.093	3.132	.002			
Music dissemination methods	.301	.038	.300	7.915	.000			
Singing of art songs	.204	.060	.186	3.424	.001			

It can be seen from the above table that Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, music style of the times, music dissemination methods and singing of art songs have a significant positive impact on the musical composition of piano accompaniment with R² of 0.824, indicating that the interpretation degree of independent variable to dependent variable is 82.4%, and the degree of fitting of independent variable to dependent variable is relatively good. F value is 383.432, and p is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, indicating that the established regression equation is effective. The final regression equation is the musical composition of piano accompaniment=0.170 * Fauré's creative concept +0.219* Fauré's art song characteristics+0.120*music style of the times+0.301* music dissemination methods +0.204* singing of art songs, which verifies the hypothesis H1A-H2A-H3A-H4A-H5A.

Taking Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, musical style of the times and music dissemination methods as independent variables and the promotion of piano accompaniment as dependent variable, this paper makes multiple linear regression analysis.

Table 3 Regression analysis of the promotion of piano accompaniment

Model	Unstandardized coefficient		Standardized coefficient	t	Significance	R ²	F	P
	B	Standard error	Beta					
(constant)	.194	.123		1.577	.116	0.818	368.561	0.000
Fauré's creative concept	.258	.034	.288	7.609	.000			
Fauré's art song characteristics	.185	.042	.220	4.356	.000			
Musical style of the times	.127	.037	.102	3.391	.001			
Music dissemination methods	.236	.037	.246	6.379	.000			
Singing of art songs	.166	.058	.158	2.849	.005			

It can be seen from the above table that Fauré's creative concept, Fauré's art song characteristics, musical style of the times, music dissemination methods and singing of art songs have a significant positive impact on the promotion of piano accompaniment with R² of 0.818, indicating that the interpretation degree of independent variable to dependent variable is 81.8%, and the degree of fitting of independent variable to dependent variable is relatively good. F value is 368.561, p is 0.000 which is less than 0.05, indicating that the regression equation established is effective. The final regression equation is the promotion of piano accompaniment = 0.258* Fauré's creative concept + 0.185* Fauré's art song characteristics + 0.127* music style of the times + 0.236* music dissemination methods + 0.166* singing of art songs, which verifies the hypothesis H1B-H2B-H3B-H4B-H5B.

Value judgment

The reason why Fauré's art songs can become a classic of French art song creation lies in: Firstly, the perfect combination of poetry and music. Fauré's art songs inherit the characteristics of the perfect combination of poetry and music in French art songs, which makes the rhythmic relationship between music and poetry closer and the musicality of French be fully demonstrated. He depicts the inner feelings of the characters through the subtle changes of strength, rather than deliberately depicting the sound. His delicate compositional style allows the listener to bring their imagination to the composer's outpouring of musical themes, which is why later generations call Fauré's art songs musical literature. Secondly, elegant, simple and natural salon style. Fauré's art songs are not influenced by German art songs, which is inseparable from the fact that French art songs have no connection with folk songs from the

beginning, but take poetry as the source of inspiration. Fauré fully demonstrates this elegant temperament in the creation of art songs. He carefully reads the poet's heart and expresses the artistic conception of poetry more appropriately through music. Fauré's elegant national character predestines him to a less overt style in his art songs. And as a composer who mainly writes art songs, it is rare to find a gentle and elegant style in art songs. Thirdly, the perfect combination of piano accompaniment and vocal. Fauré's skillfully uses various performance of piano to depict the character emotion or reality of life integrated with the artistic conception of poetry with skillful and concise composition skills, and fully expresses the far-reaching artistic conception of the song. He sets off the lyric melody with delicate and changing harmony, ingenious and changing rhythm and varied figure, and skillfully combines the stress of music melody with French intonation. He raises the piano accompaniment of French art songs to a new level.

Conclusion

Art songs are the most direct and profound form of music expression, and piano accompaniment is an important part of art songs. This paper analyzes the piano accompaniment of Gabriel Fauré's art songs in detail through quantitative research, explains the importance of piano accompaniment of his art songs, and discusses the possibility of further dissemination.

Reference

- SOLOMON, J. (2010). The Reception of Ancient Greek Music in the Late Nineteenth Century. *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, 17(4), 497-525.
- Yeoland, R. (2017). Robert Schumann and the French lied. *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of Music*, 48(2), 207-224.
- MALUQUER, J. (1996). Gabriel Fauré, una sonrisa indulgente. *El Ciervo*, 45(539), 25-28.
- Roman, Z. (2007). Gradus ad Parnassum: Selected Early Songs of Gabriel Fauré in the Socio-Cultural Context of His Time. *Studia Musicologica*, 48(1/2), 5-44.
- HOWAT, R., & KILPATRICK, E. (2014). Gabriel Fauré's Middle-Period Songs, Editorial Quandaries and the Chimera of the 'Original Key'. *Journal of the Royal Musical Association*, 139(2), 303-337.
- Banjo, A. (2008). THE POLITICS OF SUCCESSION CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA: THE CASE OF TOGO. *International Journal on World Peace*, 25(2), 33-55.
- Rumph, S. (2015). Fauré and the Effable: Theatricality, Reflection, and Semiosis in the mélodies. *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, 68(3), 497-558.
- Aaron Copland, Gabriel Fauré, a Neglected Master, *The Musical Quarterly*, Volume 75, Issue 4, Winter 1991, Pages 48–50.
- Julie McQuinn, Voice Lessons: French Mélodie in the Belle Époque, *French Studies*, Volume 65, Issue 4, October 2011, Pages 544–545.