Chinese Folk Songs & Kangding Love Song

Folk song has the longest history, simplest structure, richest numbers, and widest spreading musical genre among traditional Chinese culture. It has been distributed to many provinces. The folk songs are originally sang by labor people, more and more people accept the folk songs.

China is a large nation with a diverse array of ethnic groups, each of which has their own unique set of folk songs that constitute a solid foundation of Chinese musical heritage. The co-existence of different artistic forms, such as dancing, instrumental music, and opera, offer a fertile environment for the future development of Chinese music. Professional music is usually created by drawing materials from the folk songs of different ethnic groups. For this purpose, either the whole song can be used and performed or part of the song can be used as the basis for a more original work.

The different ethnic minorities in China all have their own work songs, mountain songs, dance songs, ritual songs and children’s songs. Besides, love songs, narrative songs and religions songs are all give high importance. The folk songs of Han people, which accounts for above 90% of China population.

There are three types of Chinese Folk songs, they are called: hao zi, xiao diao & Shan Ge. Usually, haozi is sung by male labor people, such as “Song for fisher”. Shan Ge are sung by two people, such as “Xiao He Tang Shu”. Xiao Diao with the nice tone, usually girls like sing xiao diao, such as “Purple Bamboo”. There are more than 27 provinces and states in China, different place has different style of folk song.
Kangding Love Song is a folk song originated in Kangding town, Sichuan Province. In the 40s of the last century, Li Yiruo from Sichuan composed a song “Racing Horse in the Mountains”. Jiang Dingxian, a lecturer from the Department of Composition of Chongqing Qingmuguan National Conservatory, scored it and then recommended it to a popular singer Yu Yixuan after renaming it to Kangding Love Song.

Kang Ding Love Song is one of the most popular Chinese folk songs. Its simple melody and vivid rhythm are easy to remember and sing, and its lyrics tell a timeless theme — Love. Kangding Love Song is sung in the international community also has a broad influence, As early as three to four decades in the 20th century on behalf of the United Nations UNESCO has this folk songs as one of the world's top ten folk songs, and use it as China's most important folk Music to the world recommendations; in 90th, the U.S. National Space Agency in the to find human space aficionados, and launched a satellite, the selected representative of the world's most recorded 10 songs, including one in China, it is the song of Kangding Love Song. So, since then, it will fly in the vast universe, the ceaseless search for fellow human beings.

Kangding Love Song for the first time taken the door in May 1949, by the well-known soprano, vocal Music educator, Professor Yu Yixuan, held in Paris, France at Shouchang personal Music. French intoxicated with romantic love songs in Chinese. Cultural exchanges in the future, this is the first folk song several times by Chinese and foreign artists perform, such as the singers Placido Domingo, soprano Kailunaisi Ciprian, etc., which makes it even more beyond. August 18, 2001, the Chinese love songs for the first time named '2001 years of western China Kangding Love Song Festival 'in Kangding Paoma Shan on the singing, which is undoubtedly the cultural significance of Kangding love song into a new historical height.
High upon the mountain side
Floats a cloud so white
There lies peaceful Kang Ding town
Bathed in silver moonlight
Moonlight shines bright
Over Kang Ding town, oh
Lovely maid with a smile so sweet
Li the wood cutter’s daughter
Gheng the blacksmith eldest’s son
Came through moonlight to court her
Moonlight shines bright
Over Kang Ding town, oh
Came through moonlight to court her
He fell in love with her smile so sweet
And her pleasing ways, oh
She could cook and she could sew
Care for him all of his days, oh
Moonlight shines bright
Over Kang Ding town, oh
Care for him all of his days, oh
Lovely maidens of the world
I cannot but love you
Gentlemen folk of the world
They cannot but woe you