Applications of Classical Singing Techniques to Pop Singing

Case Study: Voice Students and Teachers in Kuala Lumpur

by

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Abstract

This study seeks to know about the applications of classical singing techniques to pop singing. The case study of this research is a voice students and teachers in Kuala Lumpur. This study also is to find out about selected classical singing techniques and pop singing techniques and how classical singing techniques apply to pop singing. It is also to identify which methods of classical singing are appropriate for pop singing. In seeking greater understanding, this research is conducted in qualitative method of interviewing voice students and teachers around Kuala Lumpur who sings both classical and pop singing. As a result, almost all of them realize and agree that some classical singing techniques really benefit pop singing. Some methods are useful and helping singers to improve on their pop singing after learning the classical singing techniques. All of them agree that learning classical singing techniques as a basic for greater foundation such as correct breathing techniques and the use of different voice register can help singers to improve their pop singing too. As a recommendation, singers must know how to make use of what they had learn and must know which methods of singing are suitable for them to use in their pop singing because pop singing comes in different style of singing.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Background of the study

Singing techniques can be learned through variables of sources such as music school, private instructors, books and internet such as *Youtube*. "Singing is a learned skill, and all those with sufficient motivation and intelligence can improve their performance considerably if they commit themselves to it." (Schmidt, 1989, p.3) Learning singing techniques are very important for singers to improve the quality of their singing. This is due to augmentation to the number of singers which will lead to the healthy competitions. Be it opera singers or pop singers, singing techniques are crucial.

Classical singing techniques always relate to Western classical singing or known as opera singing. Learning classical singing requires certain techniques of singing styles such as *bel canto* singing. Singing techniques or vocal techniques includes breathing, support, placement, voice register, ornamentation, pitching, expression and articulation. Singing classical often requires certain discipline or authenticity while pop singing is more to individuality style. There might be different vocal techniques for classical singing and pop singing but it is somehow related to each other.

According to Jonathan Ross Greenberg, classical singing requires certain qualities of singing to count as good but pop singing qualities of a good singer were count as slightly subjective depending on certain listeners but the