

Abstract

Cantonese Opera, one of the fourteen types of operas common in Guangdong province, is one out of three hundred and fifty types in China. Cantonese Opera is popular in Guangdong province, Guangxi province, Hong Kong, Macao and the regions of overseas Chinese in Southeastern Asia countries. There are some academic departments and institutions specialized in Cantonese Opera studies in Hong Kong and Mainland China, however, the development of Cantonese Opera has been downplayed and ignored in Macao.

Cantonese Opera performance in Macao has come down in a tradition which first in Hong Kong and Mainland China, but with a local peculiar development track. This thesis analyzes the development of Cantonese opera in Macao from the following directions:

1. the origin, development and system of Macao Cantonese Opera;
2. the ritualistic performance (*Shengongxi*);
3. the bloom and decline of Macao Cantonese Opera;
4. Macao Arts Festival; and
5. Establishment of Cantonese Opera associations.

The study attempts to analyze the history and present development of Cantonese Opera in Macao and to provide references for Macao Cantonese opera study, creative work and appreciation.

Key words: Macao Cantonese Opera the ritualistic performance (*Shengongxi*)
association religious culture Arts Festival