

## On the Visual Image of Color and Music in Lighting Design

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### Abstract

**Color, one of the factors to reveal life, is an important condition for human beings to observe the world and identify things, and is the visual counterpart of all visible light radiation with different wavelengths. Music is a kind of "auditory art", but in the process of appreciating music, music image may be associated with certain visual image. Today's advocating film and television art is a comprehensive art combining visual and auditory. The color and music have played a great role in the formation visual elements with vitality, and creation of the motif reflected by works together with other artistic elements. From the experience of art history, color not only has the function of expressing ideas, but also can show the spiritual power. This feature allows us to use it as a lighting design to stimulate various associations of the audience and form a unique "language" to communicate with the audience. This paper expounds the role of color and the role background music in lighting design in TV programs, and further puts forward suggestions on how to better use color and background music in lighting design, including promoting the effective integration of color and background music style in designing.**

### Keywords

**Lighting design, Light color, Visual Image of Music, Audience.**

### 1. Introduction

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the basic function of stage lighting has changed from lighting to presenting space scene, and now it has focused on imitating nature so as to create the overall stage shape, and during the process the conception on light color has also been developed. Light color refers to the color of light source, is a kind of art form combining light and color, is an important factor in stage lighting design. The effective use of light color can enhance the audience's aesthetic experience of stage performance. It's not just a sensory stimulus and response, but also a kind of artistic experience that generates feelings through the senses, and then triggers reflections and emotional resonance. Similarly, Even though music is abstract and difficult to understand, yet it is also an important and sound element that can express thoughts and emotions as well as shape characters. Therefore, the organic integration of background music and color in drama program is not only conducive to the transmission of drama play, but also has a very positive significance in the theme presentation and style shaping of drama.

The color and sound together construct a vivid audio-visual image space. With the continuous development of lighting technology, color and music plays a more and more prominent role, as the effective integration of different types of color and music not only helps to highlight the theme content of drama, but also can enrich the means of lighting design, and further realize the common development of theater.

## 2. Visual image of Color and Music can Recreate the Action Environment for the Audience

In Rudolf Arnheim's *Art and Visual Perception* (1984), it is mentioned that the most visible phenomenon of vision is movement. It implies that "Events" are more likely to elicit our instinctual responses than "things, and the main characteristic of an "event" lies precisely in its movability. What we really see is not the "event" itself, but the changes that things undergo. Light color activates space and shows the changes of spatial level and time. The flexible use of light color can increase the performance of the stage and give audiences different visual impacts and feelings. Contemporary stage lighting designers have found in the practice of artistic creation that through the change of light color, the space can be activated. Different light color gives audiences the feeling of far or near, light or heavy. More importantly, Through the change of light and color, the audience can feel the changing process of time.

Different from color, the background music is characterized by imperfection. It needs to be split according to the needs of drama, and then to be rearranged and integrated according to the specific content. Therefore, background music appears intermittently in most drama shows, and it is unable to carry out a complete theme expression. On the other hand, Background music can be highly integrated. Once certain degree of integration between the background music, interpretation, and sound are combined, it can achieve the artistic effect of being involved.

In naturalistic drama the lighting and music designers fully consider the color and angle of the light source as well as the visual image of music so as to reproduce the reality as much as possible. To be more accurate, the reality to reproduce is what exists in the hearts of the audience. Lighting design is to find the universal existence in people's understanding of the color and music. For example, the common association of seasons. In spring, people think of green grass and green willow branches. So in most people's experience, spring is an environment with a cyan tendency. In summer, people naturally think of the fiery sun, and it feels like that the whole earth is burning red. Experience tells people that summer is red. In autumn, the wheat ripened, endless golden wheat, immediately appear in front of people. So in everyone's impression, autumn is golden. Then in winter, probably the blue sky and the vast white land became the visual protagonist. Cold blue is thought to be the dominant color of the season.

To create a good sensory experience, it is necessary to help the audience can form infinite associations, to have the feeling of being on the scene, and further generate emotional resonance. The creation of such artistic conception lies in that designers should mobilize the audience's sensory thinking, so that the audience can fully feel the thoughts and emotions contained in the program during watching the program. Only by integrating "emotion" and "environment", can a unique artistic conception be created for TV programs. The reasonable use of background music in the designing can create a different artistic conception and enhance the overall artistic expression of the drama.

No matter what kind of work is displayed on the stage, the function to reproduce action environment has been fully used and confirmed in lighting design. Only when the designers accurately select the color and music, can the audience clearly understand the environment in which the action exists.

## 3. Visual image of Color and Music can Convey the Emotion of the Work to the Audience

In today's lighting design, color is not only used to reproduce the environment of action, but also more importantly to load the emotion. The symbolism of color is well known. For example, red is a color associated with strong emotions. It represents love, revolution, and danger. Warm

yellow is a color of gold, is a color of the sun and creation, it symbolizes joy, wealth and glory. Green represents hope, lightness, as well as jealousy and suspicion. Blue symbolizes a fresh, clear, logical attitude. People have a variety of wonderful feeling experience that are linked together with color. As Rudolf Arnheim argues in *New Treatises on the Psychology of Art* (1994), the human body has a direct response to color. For example, red gives a person fervent with sense of vigorous, blue gives a person quiet and serene, purple gives a person restlessness and sense of success, black gives a person deep with sense of mystery and so on. When people receive color stimuli, the typical characteristics are passivity of the observer and directness of experience. Therefore, in the lighting creation, what the designer can use is "color language" to arouse all kinds of emotional experience in the audience to achieve communication.

When color reveals the emotion of the work to the audience, the creator uses light color to present the tone of the whole stage space to help externalize the inner thought and emotion of the work, and as a result it can externalize the inner thought and emotion of the work into the overall or partial color tendency on the stage. When the audience receives the stimulation of color, it will trigger some emotional experience in their heart to read the psychological state to be presented by the work at this moment. For example, in religious stage plays, designers designed a row of lights into a transition from white to gold, symbolizing the character's path from ordinary to holy and then to Buddha. This is the light color changes in contrast to reveal the layers, which are built between the story and the audience, so that the latter's heart resonates. Therefore, it is confirmed that the "expressive meaning" of light color is further manifested when light color conveys the emotion of the work to the audience.

Music can play an auxiliary role in the regulation and control of program rhythm. Timely introduction of background music can enhance the sense of rhythm of the program and realize the complementarity of background music and drama theme. For example, most background music is based on the content and characteristics of the show. These background music are not only very iconic, but also significantly enhance the rhythm of the program

#### **4. Visual image of Color and Music can Convey the Spiritual Content of the Work to the Audience**

The lighting, like the rest of the work, is always created around the central idea, general emotion and spiritual content of the work. This creation is based on the totality of the work. In this overall perspective, the unique language of light color can express accurate interpretation and explanation of the spiritual content of the work. And the role of this light color is different from the previous two functions. It transcends the limits and frames of prescribed situations, and it is the visual end of the overall meaning of the work. It is the role of light color in the creation of works that makes the expression of light color more unique and important.

For example, in the Southern Liaoning opera "Fengtian Falls the Son", lighting designer deliberately tries to match the stage scenery and the psychological changes of the actors, and therefore, the lighting is interspersed with red, orange and yellow to outline the layers of the whole scenery. A cold light source has been used to focus on the point, highlighting the tension that followed the gunfire. Finally, in order to show that the hero died in tears and blood, the fixed light changed from white to a red blood path. The above applications of light color are used to show the atmosphere of the scene and the psychology of the characters, and drive the mood of the audience. Therefore, in stage lighting design, it is important to pay attention to the artistic integration of emotion expression and light and color. The artistic control of light and color can be bright and dark, cold and warm, complicated and simple under the condition of mastering the whole plot of the stage and other factors. The ups and downs of emotional expression and the infectivity of artistic expression are integrated together to foil the whole plot and the inner world of the characters.

Music is not only a sound art, but also a language to convey thoughts and feelings. Compared with other art forms, music can achieve a more intuitive transmission of thoughts and feelings. Therefore, the application of background music in drama play can not only enhance the artistic effect, but also fully express some ineffable emotions and enrich the connotation of drama.

## 5. Conclusions

To sum up, the inseparable relationship between lighting design, light color, visual image of music and audience is clear. In the process of explaining and conveying the spirit of the work to the audience, light color and music have the unique significance. They make the way of communication between the works and the audience more diversified and deeper, especially in promoting the psychological power of the works has a broad prospect. In stage lighting design, with the symbol or meaning of light color and music designers can render the story, interpret the emotional changes of characters and set off the scene atmosphere. It is worth noting that as a lighting designer, the focus on color and music is not only to pursue one-sided lighting effects through a certain color, but how to use a lot of colors and the rhyme of music to make them more pleasing to the eyes and the ears. The color of stage lighting is "living color" and "talking music" The application of color and music is a complex artistic creation process and a perfect embodiment of artistic accomplishment and technical experience.

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