

VOCAL MUSIC AS A MEDIUM FOR EMOTIONAL TRANSMISSION: THE APPLICATION OF EMOTION PHILOSOPHY IN VOCAL MUSIC TEACHING

CHUNYU TIAN

SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MUSIC, QLU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JINAN, SHANDONG, CHINA.

EMAIL: 17864188870@163.com

Abstract: Our study explored the application of emotion philosophy in vocal music teaching. We utilized surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions to gather data from a group of 18 students. The survey results revealed an average familiarity with emotion philosophy concepts but a strong agreement on the importance of understanding a song's emotions for effective singing. Students perceived their current vocal training to be somewhat helpful in understanding emotional background but felt it focused more on technical skills than fostering emotional connection. Thematic analysis of interview data highlighted several key themes. Students emphasized the importance of imagination and storytelling techniques to connect with a song's emotions. Additionally, they valued understanding the historical context of a work and viewed developing emotional intelligence as beneficial. Integrating philosophical frameworks on emotional expression was seen as a way to gain a deeper understanding of vocal performance. In terms of vocal techniques, timbre variations were seen as a powerful tool for emotional expression. Nuances in dynamics and phrasing were viewed as ways to create specific emotions, and clear articulation was considered important for ensuring listeners grasped the lyrical message and connected with the song's emotional core. Overall, this study suggests that incorporating emotion philosophy concepts and techniques into vocal training has the potential to enhance students' understanding and expression of emotions in their singing.

Keywords: Vocal Music, Emotions, Philosophy, Technical Skills, Timbre.

1. INTRODUCTION

The ability to communicate emotions effectively is fundamental to navigating social interactions and even survival, as highlighted by Durlak (2020). This concept extends beyond basic human interactions, as several researchers have argued that emotional communication forms the basis of social order in both animals and humans. Interestingly, the expression of emotions also plays a significant role in the

performing arts, such as theatre and music. In these artistic mediums, conveying emotions convincingly is often not just desired, but expected from actors and musicians. The significance of this artistic expression of emotions should not be overlooked. Vocal expression, encompassing the non-verbal aspects of speech, and music are both recognized as powerful tools for conveying emotions (Dair et al., 2021). Interestingly, both rely on acoustic signals as their primary means of communication. This shared characteristic unsurprisingly fuels a long-standing theory proposing a close link between vocal expression and music (Helmholtz, 2009; Rousseau, 1966; Spencer, 1857). In his seminal work "The Origin and Function of Music," Spencer (1857) argued for an intimate connection between vocal music (and by extension, instrumental music) and the expression of emotions through voice. He proposed a physiological explanation, suggesting that "the general law that feeling is a stimulus to muscular action" underlies both phenomena. In simpler terms, Spencer hypothesized that emotions trigger physiological changes, which in turn influence the acoustic properties of both speech and singing. This concept, often referred to as Spencer's Law, became the foundation for many subsequent theories exploring the reported similarities between vocal expression and music. Vocal music singing offers a powerful avenue for many individuals to develop their artistic sensibilities and connect with their inner world (Crossley, 2019). Singers utilize the beauty of music as a medium to express a range of emotions through artistic interpretation. By skilfully conveying the intended emotions of a song through vocal delivery, singers evoke feelings in listeners, fostering a deeper understanding of the work's message and creating a sense of emotional resonance. Emotions play a central role in vocal music singing. They are the very essence of singing, as the expression and release of deeply felt emotions form the core purpose and objective of this art form. Therefore, a thorough understanding of the emotions embedded within a song and the ability to master the intricate relationship between singing and emotional expression becomes crucial. With this foundation, singers can then employ various techniques to enhance their artistic portrayal of emotions. Musical expression is a specific mode of communication within human emotional life, arises from the interplay of singing techniques and emotions (Malloch & Trevarthen, 2018). Emotional expression, a dominant force in contemporary music and art, forms the core of the entire singing process. To effectively express emotions through song, singers must draw upon personal experiences and skilfully integrate their voice, breath control, and expressive abilities into their emotional interpretation. This requires visualizing the melody and artistic intent of the lyrics, allowing for a seamless integration of the two. Deep understanding and mastery of the piece, coupled with the ability to synchronize them with personal emotional fluctuations, are essential for singers to

accurately convey the song's original mood. Unlike visual art forms, vocal music lacks the capacity for direct visual representation of the creator's intent. The inherent "silence" and "stillness" within a piece grant singer a degree of freedom in their interpretation (Fu, 2015). This silence is not directly perceptible by the audience; it requires the singer to transform it into a musical image rich in vocal quality and emotional depth. Only through such expressive singing can the emotional needs of the audience be truly met. China's approach to vocal music aesthetics has matured significantly throughout history, particularly during the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties (Fu, 2015). The core principle emphasizes music as a direct expression of human emotions, reflecting the full spectrum of psychological experiences and emotional life. Only music that reveals genuine sentiment is considered truly captivating. This concept reached a new peak during the late Ming Dynasty with Zhangqi's theoretical treatise, "Heng Qu Zhu Tanp." This work elevates the role of emotion, proposing that "singing is a primary means of operatic performance, and its beauty of connotation can be achieved by blending feeling and setting." All art forms draw inspiration from life. Artistic creations disconnected from lived experiences lack depth and permanence. Vocal music is no exception. Each piece reflects the composer's processing of real-life experiences, aiming to resonate with the audience's aesthetic sensibilities. Popular songs like "Eighteen Curves of the Hill Path" exemplify this connection to folk traditions and shared cultural values (Liu et al., 2015).

- *Rationale and Main Objective*

Vocal music has long served as a powerful medium for emotional transmission. However, effectively harnessing this potential requires singers to possess a deep understanding of the emotions embedded within a piece. This study investigates the application of emotion philosophy in vocal music teaching. Our core objective is to explore how incorporating philosophical frameworks around emotional expression can enhance students' ability to connect with and convey the intended emotions within a song, ultimately leading to more impactful and emotionally resonant performances.

2. METHODS

- *Study Design*

We conducted a mixed methods study to explore the application of emotion philosophy in vocal music teaching. This research utilized surveys to assess

students' understanding of emotion philosophy concepts and their perceptions of current vocal training in fostering emotional connection. Additionally, semi-structured interviews and focus groups were performed.

• *Data Collection*

The study employed a standardized survey instrument consisting of 15 questions. Following an information sheet outlining the research objectives, participants provided informed consent and were assured of their right to withdraw at any time. Demographic information was collected through multiple-choice questions before participants progressed to sections assessing their understanding of emotion philosophy concepts and their perceptions of current vocal training in fostering emotional connection. These sections utilized a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5. The survey typically took approximately 15 minutes to complete. Following participation, all individuals received a debriefing and sincere thanks for their valuable contribution (Figure 1).

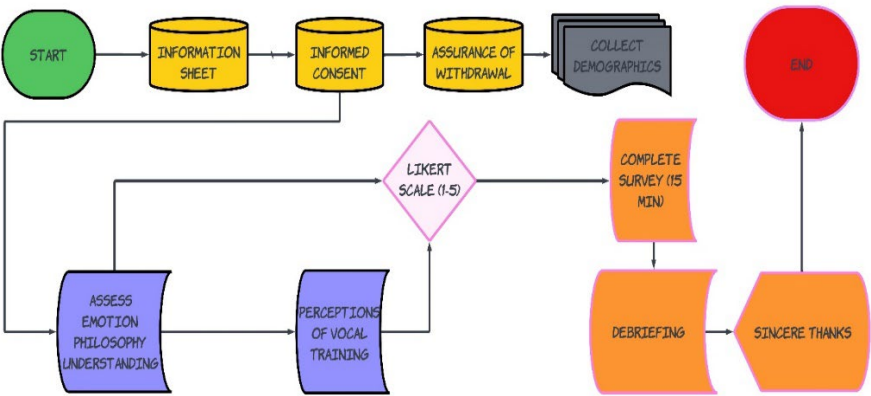


Figure 1: An Illustration Flowchart of the Data Collection through Surveys

Semi-structured interviews, consisting of 10 open-ended questions, were conducted with both students and vocal teachers. After participants reviewed an information sheet outlining the study's purpose and received consent forms with withdrawal rights, the interviews commenced. These discussions explored topics relevant to the application of emotion philosophy in vocal training, including techniques to stimulate students' imagination and creativity, fostering artistic accomplishment, analysing the emotional background of works, and facilitating emotional expression. The interviews typically lasted 25 to 30 minutes and concluded with a debriefing and sincere appreciation for the participants' valuable insights (Figure 2).

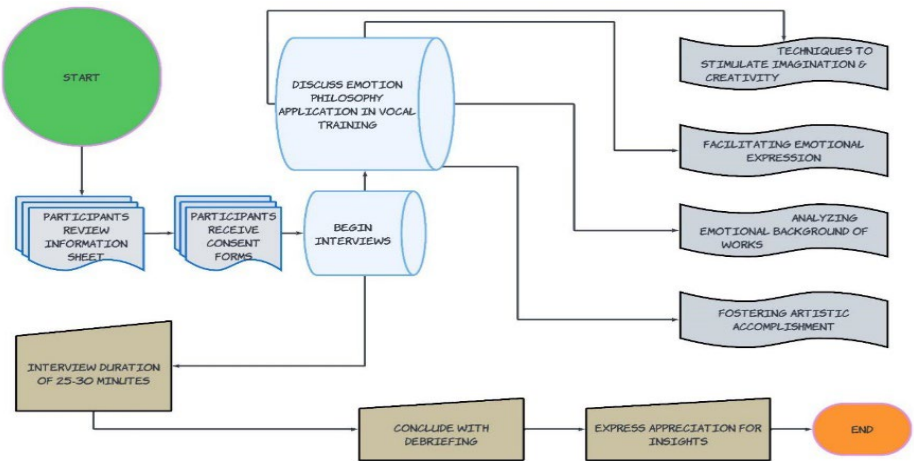


Figure 2: An Illustration Flowchart of the Data Collection through Semi-structured Interviews

Focus group discussions were conducted with groups of 5 to 8 students. Following the presentation of an information sheet explaining the study and the acquisition of informed consent with the right to withdraw, the discussions began. A series of 10 open-ended questions guided the conversation, exploring themes related to students' emotional experiences with songs, techniques for conveying emotions through vocal delivery like timbre and skilled singing skills, and the role of emotional memory and acknowledgement in their performances. These discussions typically lasted 25 to 30 minutes and concluded with a debriefing and expressions of gratitude to the participants for their valuable contributions (Figure 3).

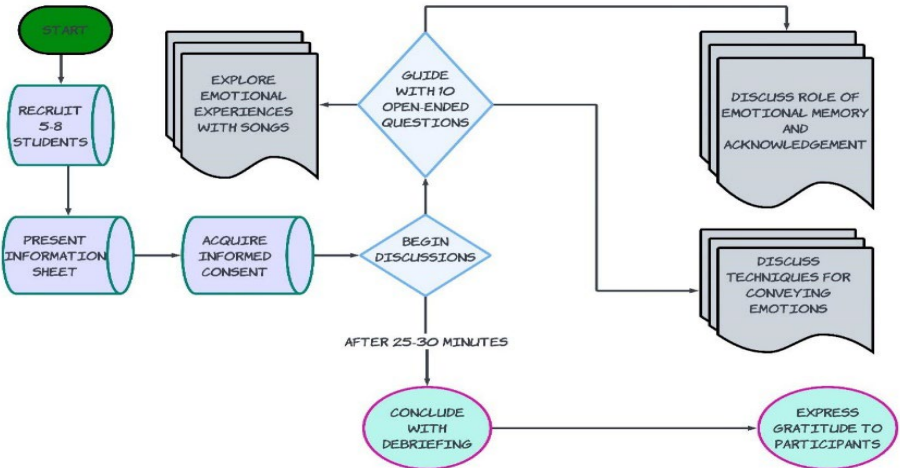


Figure 3: An Illustration Flowchart of the Data Collection through Focus Group Discussions

• *Data Analysis*

Quantitative data, collected through surveys, was analysed using GraphPad Prism version 10.2.0. Descriptive statistics, including means, standard deviations, frequencies, and percentages, were generated to understand students' existing knowledge and perspectives on emotion philosophy in vocal music. Qualitative data, gathered from interviews and focus groups, underwent thematic analysis involving coding techniques. This analysis aimed to identify recurring themes and insights into participants' experiences with emotions in vocal music.

3. RESULTS

A total of 18 participants were involved in the study (N=18). The age range distribution was fairly even, with 44.4% (n=8) falling between 18-22 years old, 33.3% (n=6) between 23-27 years old, and 22.2% (n=4) being 28 or older. The group was predominantly female (83.3%, n=15) with only 16.7% (n=3) being male. In terms of vocal training experience, 27.8% (n=5) had 0-2 years, 44.4% (n=8) had 3-5 years, and 27.8% (n=5) had 6 or more years of experience (see Figure 4)

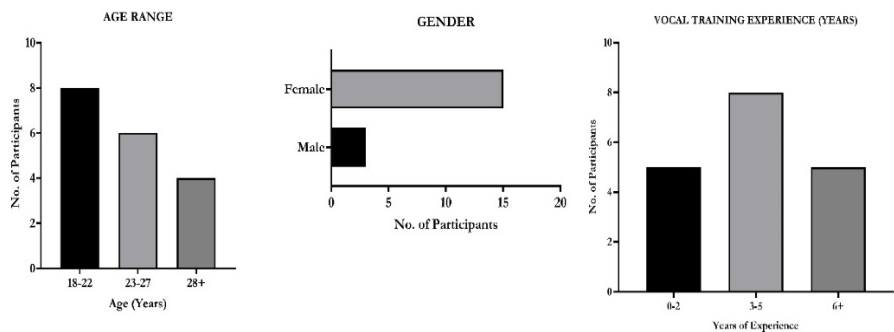


Figure 4: Participant Demographics Based on Age, Gender and the number of years in vocational training experience

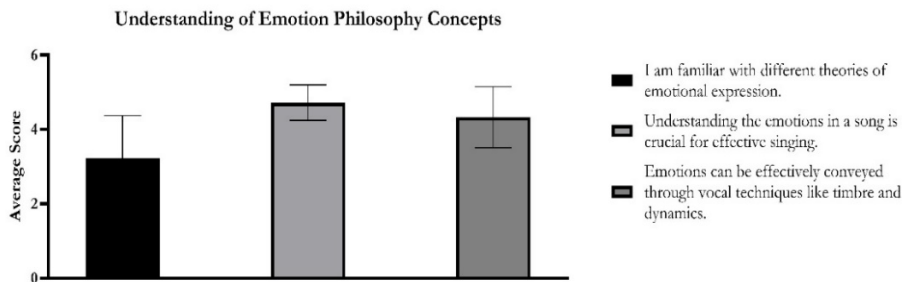


Figure 5: Students' Understanding of Emotion Philosophy Concepts (Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree)

In Figure 5, students’ understanding of emotion philosophy concepts revealed a neutral familiarity (Mean: 3.22, SD: 1.15) with different theories of emotional expression. However, they strongly agreed (Mean: 4.72, SD: 0.48) that understanding the emotions in a song is crucial for effective singing, and believed emotions can be effectively conveyed through vocal techniques (Mean: 4.33, SD: 0.82).

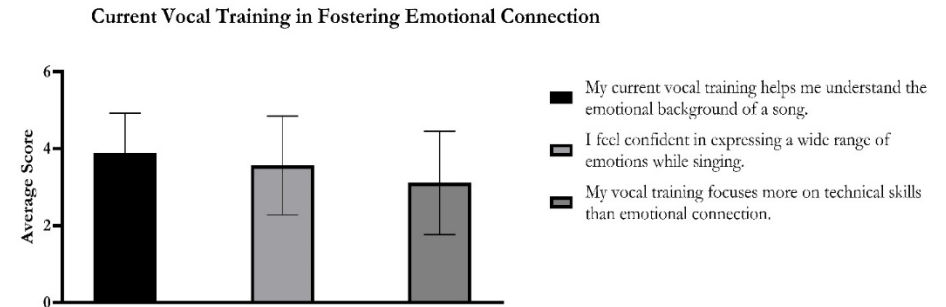


Figure 6: Perceptions of Current Vocal Training in Fostering Emotional Connection (Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree)

In Figure 6, Students reported a neutral agreement (Mean: 3.89, SD: 1.03) that their current vocal training helps them understand the emotional background of songs. While they felt somewhat confident (Mean: 3.56, SD: 1.28) expressing a range of emotions while singing, their responses (Mean: 3.11, SD: 1.34) indicated a perceived stronger focus on technical skills compared to fostering emotional connection in their current training.

Table 1: Stimulating Imagination and Creativity

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
Importance of Storytelling	"Imagining myself in the shoes of the character helped me connect with the song's emotions."	Empathy and Embodiment: This theme highlights the importance of stepping outside oneself and embodying the emotions of the song's character. This aligns with emotion philosophy theories that suggest emotions involve not just feelings, but also bodily responses and appraisals of situations. By imagining themselves in the character's situation, singers can access a wider range of emotional experiences to convey through their singing.
Visualization Techniques	"Using visual imagery allows me to feel the mood and express it through singing."	Cognitive Appraisal: This theme reflects the role of cognitive appraisal in emotional experience. Visualizing imagery associated with the song's emotions allows singers to interpret the situation and evoke the corresponding emotional response, ultimately expressed through their vocal delivery.
Expanding Artistic Horizons	"Exposure to different art forms sparks new ideas for emotional expression."	Multimodal Expression of Emotions: Emotions can be expressed and understood through various art forms. This theme aligns with the concept that emotions are not limited to a single mode of expression. Exposure to diverse art forms broadens singers' emotional vocabulary and provides them with new tools for conveying emotions through their singing.

In Table 1, students emphasizing storytelling ("imagining myself in the shoes of the character") and visualization techniques ("using visual imagery") to connect with a song's emotions. Additionally, exposure to diverse art forms was seen as sparking new ideas for emotional expression during singing.

Table 2: Fostering Artistic Accomplishment

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
Understanding the Work's Context	"Knowing the historical background deepens the emotional impact of the song."	Emotion and Context: Emotions are not experienced in isolation; they are influenced by the context in which they occur. Understanding the historical and cultural context of a song allows singers to interpret the emotions within the framework of the composer's intention and audience expectations.
Developing Emotional Intelligence	"Building awareness of my own emotions allows me to portray them more authentically."	Emotional Intelligence and Expression: Emotional intelligence refers to the ability to understand, use, and manage one's own emotions in positive ways. This theme highlights the importance of self-awareness for effective emotional expression. By understanding their own emotional landscape, singers can access and express emotions with greater authenticity.
Integrating Philosophical Concepts	"Learning about emotional expression theories gives me a deeper understanding of vocal performance."	Philosophical Frameworks for Understanding Emotions: Emotion philosophy offers various frameworks for understanding emotions. This theme reflects the potential benefit of incorporating these frameworks into vocal training. By studying philosophical theories, singers can gain a deeper understanding of the nature of emotions, which can inform their approach to emotional expression in their performances.

In Table 2, analysis highlighted themes around considering the work's context ("knowing the historical background"), developing emotional intelligence ("building awareness of my own emotions"), and integrating philosophical concepts on emotional expression for a deeper understanding of vocal performance.

Table 3: Analysing Background and Facilitating Emotional Expression

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
Importance of Emotional Analysis	"Identifying the key emotions in a song is crucial for conveying them effectively."	Emotion Recognition and Expression: A core aspect of emotional experience is recognizing and interpreting emotions in oneself and others. This theme highlights the importance of identifying the key emotions within a song for effective emotional transmission. By recognizing the intended emotions, singers can consciously choose vocal techniques and delivery styles to convey them to the audience.
Vocal Techniques for Emotional Expression	"Using dynamics and phrasing helps me paint a picture with my voice."	Expression of Emotions Through Vocal Techniques: Emotion philosophy acknowledges the role of physiological changes in emotional experience. This theme reflects the understanding that vocal techniques such as dynamics and phrasing can be used to manipulate vocal qualities and create a physical expression of emotions that resonates with the listener.
Emotional Memory and Connection	"Tapping into personal experiences allows me to sing with greater emotional depth."	Emotional Memory and Artistic Expression: Emotions are often linked to personal memories and experiences. This theme highlights the concept of emotional memory and its potential to enhance artistic expression. By tapping into personal experiences that evoke similar emotions to those conveyed in the song, singers can access a deeper well of emotional authenticity in their performances.

In Table 3, students emphasizing the importance of emotional analysis ("identifying key emotions") for effective expression. Vocal techniques like dynamics and phrasing were seen as tools to "paint a picture with voice" and connect with the song's emotions. Additionally, tapping into personal experiences ("emotional memory") was viewed as a way to sing with greater emotional depth.

Table 4: Students' Emotional Experiences with Songs

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
Connecting to Personal Narratives	"Songs that remind me of personal experiences evoke strong emotions when I sing them."	Autobiographical Memory and Emotion: This theme highlights the link between autobiographical memory and emotional experience. Emotion philosophy suggests emotions are often triggered by memories of past events. Songs that resonate with personal experiences can activate these memories and evoke corresponding emotions in singers.
Emotional Impact of Lyrics and Melody	"The combination of powerful lyrics and a moving melody can bring me to tears."	Multimodal Integration of Emotion: Emotions are often triggered by a combination of sensory inputs. This theme reflects the concept that lyrics and melody work together to create a multi-sensory experience that evokes emotions in singers. Understanding how these elements work together can aid singers in interpreting and conveying the intended emotions.
Evoking Empathy for Characters	"Singing from the perspective of a character in a song allows me to feel their emotions."	Perspective Taking and Empathy: Emotion philosophy explores the concept of empathy, the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. This theme highlights how singers can develop empathy for characters in songs, allowing them to connect with and express the character's emotions.

In Table 4, discussions highlighted the power of personal connections. Songs that mirrored personal experiences ("personal narratives") evoked strong emotions. Participants described how the interplay of powerful lyrics and moving melodies created a potent emotional impact ("tears"), while singing from a character's perspective allowed them to empathize and express the character's emotions.

Table 5: Techniques for Conveying Emotions Through Vocal Delivery

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
The Power of Timbre	"Using a bright, clear timbre can convey joy, while a darker, breathy tone can express sadness."	Physiological Changes and Emotional Expression: Emotion philosophy acknowledges the role of physiological changes in emotional experience. This theme reflects the understanding that vocal techniques such as timbre manipulation can influence vocal quality and create a physical expression of emotions that resonates with the listener. Timbre variations can trigger responses in listeners that align with the intended emotions.
Nuances of Dynamics and Phrasing	"Subtle changes in volume and phrasing can create a sense of urgency or longing."	Expression of Emotions Through Musical Parameters: Music communicates emotions through various musical parameters beyond just melody. This theme highlights the importance of dynamics and phrasing in emotional expression. These techniques allow singers to manipulate the intensity and flow of their delivery, shaping the emotional impact on the audience.
Articulation and Storytelling	"Clear articulation helps listeners understand the lyrics and connect with the emotional message."	Cognitive Appraisal and Emotional Expression: Emotion philosophy suggests that emotions involve not just feelings, but also cognitive appraisals. Clear articulation ensures listeners understand the lyrical content, allowing them to interpret the situation and experience emotions based on the conveyed message.

In Table 5, discussions explored techniques for conveying emotions. Timbre variations were seen as powerful tools, with a bright timbre expressing joy and a darker tone conveying sadness. Nuances in dynamics and phrasing were viewed as ways to create emotions like urgency or longing. Finally, clear articulation was highlighted for its role in ensuring listeners grasped the lyrics and connected with the emotional message.

Table 6: Role of Emotional Memory and Acknowledgement in Performances

Theme	Quotes	Explanation (Emotion Philosophy Connection)
Accessing Emotional Memories for Authenticity	"Tapping into past experiences that evoke similar emotions allows me to sing with greater depth."	Emotional Memory and Artistic Expression: Emotions are often linked to personal memories and experiences. This theme highlights the concept of emotional memory and its potential to enhance artistic expression. By accessing personal experiences that resonate with the emotions conveyed in the song, singers can connect with the material on a deeper level and deliver a more authentic performance.
Importance of Acknowledging Emotions in Performance	"Acknowledging the emotions within myself allows me to express them more convincingly."	Self-Awareness and Emotional Expression: Emotional intelligence refers to the ability to understand, use, and manage one's own emotions in positive ways. This theme reflects the importance of self-awareness for effective emotional expression. By acknowledging and understanding their own emotional responses to the song, singers can consciously choose vocal techniques and delivery styles to convey those emotions with greater authenticity.
Impact of Emotional Connection on Audience	"When I feel the emotions in a song, I believe the audience feels them too."	Emotional Contagion and Performance: Emotion philosophy explores the concept of emotional contagion, the tendency for emotions to spread from one person to another. This theme highlights the potential for singers' genuine emotional connection to a song to trigger a similar emotional response in the audience, creating a powerful performance experience.

In Table 6, we emphasized the role of emotional memory in creating authentic performances. Singers discussed how accessing past experiences that mirrored the song's emotions allowed them to sing with greater depth. Acknowledging their own emotional responses was seen as crucial for convincing expression, while a genuine emotional connection with the song was believed to resonate with the audience and create a powerful experience.

4. DISCUSSION

Our survey results revealed a neutral familiarity with emotion philosophy concepts but a strong agreement on the importance of understanding a song's emotions for effective singing. Students perceived their current vocal training to be somewhat helpful in understanding emotional background but felt it focused more on technical skills than fostering emotional connection. Thematic analysis of interview data highlighted several key themes. Students emphasized the importance

of imagination and storytelling techniques to connect with a song's emotions. Additionally, they valued understanding the historical context of a work and viewed developing emotional intelligence as beneficial. Integrating philosophical frameworks on emotional expression was seen as a way to gain a deeper understanding of vocal performance. Focus group discussions explored students' emotional experiences with songs and techniques for conveying emotions. Songs that resonated with personal experiences evoked strong emotions, and the interplay of powerful lyrics and melodies was described as creating a significant emotional impact. Singing from a character's perspective allowed singers to develop empathy and express the character's emotions. Effective vocal performance hinges on emotional authenticity. Singers must be personally moved by a song's emotional core to create a truly captivating artistic experience for the audience. In vocal training, cultivating students' observational and experiential awareness is crucial. This includes personal experiences, emotional connections with loved ones, and indirect learning from literature and media. Richer emotional life translates into a wider range of expression, ultimately leading to compelling performances. Modern multimedia tools can further enhance this process. Exposing students to diverse musical styles and periods allows them to grasp the nuances of emotional expression in different genres. For example, when teaching Schubert's "Trout," instructors can use visuals depicting the trout's peaceful existence. This imagery complements the narrative of the song, highlighting the contrast between the trout's innocence and the cruelty it faces. Through sound effects and animation, students can develop an emotional connection with the trout, enabling them to embody the composer's evolving emotions during the performance. Understanding context is crucial for singers. Without thorough analysis of a piece's emotional core, students struggle to grasp the intended sentiment (Ling, 2023). Imagination alone is insufficient for mastering genuine emotional connection. Effective analysis involves identifying the work's emotions - anger, joy, patriotism, etc. - through various media like stories or short films. This allows students to integrate themselves into the work and deliver a more compelling performance. For example, exploring multimedia resources about "The Butterfly Lovers" helps students feel the characters' profound love and pain. Similarly, understanding the story of "Meng Jiangnu" fosters empathy for her plight. Analysing the historical context and emotional intentions behind a piece empowers singers to deliver a richer artistic expression. As the saying goes, "a better understanding results in more profound love." Through in-depth analysis, vocal instructors can elevate students' understanding and ignite their desire to express emotions authentically, leading to more impactful performances. Vocal development is a continuous process that requires a multifaceted approach. Students should actively engage with diverse

forms of art, including music from various cultures and artistic schools. This broadens their artistic horizons and enriches their performances (Chen, 2022; Utz & Lau, 2013). Literary accomplishment is a crucial foundation. Many vocal works, like "Ulysses' Homecoming" or "The Marriage of Young Blacky," draw inspiration from literary sources (Fu, 2015). Singers unfamiliar with these works, such as "The Song of Burying Flower" from "Dream of the Red Chamber," may struggle to capture the emotional nuances and historical context. Exposure to literature deepens a singer's emotional wellspring, enabling them to convincingly portray a wider range of emotions. Effective vocal performance extends beyond emotional expression. Appropriate physical movement enhances the emotional impact of the music (Malloch & Trevarthen, 2018). Incorporating dance forms like folk dance or ballet into vocal training can strengthen a singer's body language and expressive power. Singers breathe life into vocal works through their own "instruments" - their voices. This process requires creativity and imagination to rekindle the work's vitality (Fu, 2015). For vocal students, cultivating these qualities is essential. Imagination plays a vital role in regulating a singer's mental state throughout performance. It fuels emotional expression, understanding of the work's background, and ultimately, the singer's interpretation. Effective teachers guide students to use association and imagination to overcome the monotony of vocal training. This allows students to master vocal control, transitioning between powerful, narrative, or poignant delivery to achieve the desired sound. Imagination helps singers envision the emotions, setting, and characters within a song, leading to a deeper understanding and interpretation. Singers leverage imagination before even producing a sound. They envision volume, timbre, and placement, using this mental image to guide their vocal production and subsequent refinement. Italian singer Luciano Pavarotti exemplifies this: "before sound production...the voice not sung yet has reached my ears, and I know its condition." Creativity, coupled with imagination, allows singers to make bold emotional choices, inspiring audiences during their "second creation" of the work. Teachers cultivate creativity by encouraging students to analyse and discuss questions from various perspectives. Through this iterative process, students develop their creative spark, which can then be refined through stage experience. This continuous exploration leads to a higher level of artistic achievement in their emotional delivery. In terms of vocal techniques, timbre variations were seen as a powerful tool for emotional expression. Nuances in dynamics and phrasing were viewed as ways to create specific emotions, and clear articulation was considered important for ensuring listeners grasped the lyrical message and connected with the song's emotional core. Finally, students emphasized the importance of emotional memory and self-awareness for authentic performances. Tapping into personal experiences and acknowledging their own

emotional responses were seen as crucial for convincing emotional expression. A genuine emotional connection with the song was believed to resonate with the audience, creating a powerful performance experience. Timbre, the unique quality of a singer's voice, plays a crucial role in conveying personality and emotions within a song. Singers can manipulate timbral changes to express a range of emotions (Mo, 2022). For instance, the strong and bright timbre of the "Internationale" and "March of the Volunteers" effectively embodies the passionate, powerful emotions intended by the composers. Conversely, in "Green Leaf's Affection to Roots," Mao Amin utilizes a soft and magnetic timbre to express the love and devotion conveyed in the lyrics. Therefore, a singer's ability to accurately capture and manipulate timbral changes throughout a song becomes a vital tool for embodying the song's emotional core. For novice singers, emulating the vocal techniques and pronunciation of established singers can be a valuable learning tool. This approach can provide inspiration and accelerate skill development without leading them astray. However, as singers progress beyond the initial learning stage, excessive imitation becomes counterproductive. It can stifle the development of a unique vocal identity and hinder creative expression during performance (Kai-xi et al., 2021). According to Kai-xi et al. (2021), singing is a unique art form that utilizes sound to convey a range of human emotions, from joy and anger to sorrow and delight. To achieve this effectively, singers must strive for a harmonious balance between technical mastery and emotional expression. In the realm of artistic vocal expression, even the most beautiful melody or captivating timbre falls short without strong technical skills. A singer's technical ability serves as the foundation upon which emotional interpretation rests. Singers must effectively utilize their vocal skills to translate the song's inner essence and evoke genuine emotions within the listener. Vocal technique is a lifelong pursuit for singers, encompassing a vast and intricate body of knowledge. Mastering these skills necessitates consistent practice and dedicated training throughout a singer's journey. Emotional expression within a song, whether it be a gentle melancholy, a profound sadness, or an uplifting surge of inspiration, requires singers to skilfully wield their vocal technique. This allows them to convey the song's inner essence and evoke a deep emotional response within the listener, fostering a truly immersive listening experience. Art transcends everyday life, drawing inspiration from it while offering a more elevated experience (Linstead, 2018). Just as in life, perception and emotional expression are fundamental aspects of the artistic process. Singers, in their creative endeavours, rely heavily on both perception and emotional memory (Schiavio & Benedek, 2020). By actively engaging these faculties during the singing process, singers can tap into the intended emotions of a song and evoke corresponding feelings within themselves. These internal experiences then translate into a more authentic and

impactful performance. The artistic impact of singing hinges upon the depth of a singer's emotional expression (Hakanpää, 2022). The more profound the emotional connection a singer conveys, the more vivid and engaging the musical delivery becomes. Emotional expression permeates an entire song, serving as a guiding force that shapes the singer's performance. It is not only the foundation of singing, but also its ultimate purpose. Friedmann (2018) postulated that a well-crafted song transcends mere sonic quality. Beautiful tone serves as a tool for painting a vocal image, capable of transmitting a range of deep emotions and evoking profound musical enjoyment. The pinnacle of a singer's artistry and skill lies in the ability to deliver a song with the same emotional resonance and inflection as spoken language. Throughout the singing process, emotional expression reigns supreme. It is the very soul of a song. Only by dedicating attention to refining emotional expression can singers capture the essence of a piece. This requires a nuanced understanding of the song's underlying meaning.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study explored the application of emotion philosophy in vocal training. While students demonstrated a neutral understanding of these concepts, they recognized the importance of emotions in singing. Analyses revealed themes around using storytelling and emotional intelligence in performance. Thematic discussions highlighted techniques like timbre and dynamics for emotional expression, and the importance of emotional memory and self-awareness for authenticity. These findings suggest that integrating emotion philosophy into vocal training could enhance students' ability to understand and express emotions in their singing.

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