

## A Study on the analysis of Whitney Houston, the healer of the world-based on Shin Jae-hyo's gwangdaeron (clown theory)

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to find out why Whitney Houston gave healing to people around the world based on Shin Jae-hyo's gwangdaeron (clown theory). In Korean music, gwangdae (廣大, the title of clown) is a nickname dedicated to outstanding artists. Not only is it a clown that cannot be a person, but it does not give a clown a nickname for doing art activities. This is why Shin Jae-hyo, a pansori (Pansori epic chant) theorist and critic in the late 19th century of the Joseon Dynasty, presented the virtues of outstanding artists. There are four outstanding clown conditions claimed by Shin Jae-hyo: appearance (人物), words (辭說), perfect vocal music (得音) and wonderful movements (neoreumsae). These conditions show how difficult it is to be a gwangdae (a prominent artist), or an accomplished artist. We think Whitney Houston is a famous singer who fits these conditions. In her heyday, she was optimized for Shin Jae-hyo's clown theory, while her post-2007 moves are regrettable. However, it is clear that he is a singer who fits well with the title of America's greatest clown. In conclusion, I felt that the best emotion through music was the best healing, and that the best singer was becoming the best healer.

**Keywords** Whitney Houston, Shin Jae-hyo's gwangdaeron (clown theory), healing music

### INTRODUCTION

People are moved by art and healed at that moment. Therefore, all works are neither praised as art nor respected as artists. In Korean music, gwangdae (廣大, the title of clown) is a nickname dedicated to outstanding artists. Not only is it a clown that cannot be a person, but it does not give a clown a nickname for doing art activities. We think Whitney Houston is a famous singer who fits these conditions.

#### What is Shin Jae-hyo's gwangdaeron (clown theory)?

Shin Jae-hyo (1812-1884) organized pansori and founded and sponsored educational institutions to produce many pansori masterpieces. He is from Gochang, Jeollabuk-do in Korea, and in 1876, he donated his personal wealth in the 13th year of King Gojong's reign to save those suffering from a poor harvest. So, in recognition of his service, he received a government post. He brought women of special occupations, such as shaman and gisaeng in the period of Joseon Dynasty, to the artistic stage.

There are four outstanding clown conditions claimed by Shin Jae-hyo: appearance (人物), words (辭說), perfect vocal music

(得音) and wonderful movements (neoreumsae).

#### Appearance (人物)

The appearance spoken here does not just mean the outward beauty, but the inner true beauty means the artist's first condition. That is to be human before you become an artist. There is no need to assess her appearance as a movie star. A history of participating in charity shows that one's inner character has a great side to it.

#### Words (辭說)

Words are a clear delivery of what is intended. It is not enough to express all the situations of pansori only by singing, so it uses the editorial to explain the situation. Her song, "My Love is Your Love," has a cool voice and clear pronunciation that sounds like a low-pitched version of an editorial. In other words, her rich breathing is the best technique for making perfect pronunciation.

#### Perfect vocal music (得音)

The perfect vocal music refers to the highest level of vocal representation of all situations in pansori, a UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage. This means a state of the highest level in which people can freely express various situations, such as happiness, anger, sadness and joy. Singing ability is not just a skill to sing well. There is a definite connection between outstanding artistry and impressing. Because excellence is made by long training and hard work. Voice training, the more the perception and conscious control of the voice, furthermore, the

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more intense the voice training, the wider the voice range becomes; the stronger the vocal strain (Leeds, 2001). She started singing in the choir at the age of 11 and since her debut at the age of 20, no one has questioned the world's best singer.

#### **Neoreumsae (wonderful movements)**

Neoreumsae (wonderful movements) means expressing appropriate facial expressions and movements with songs about the situation. It also means that the dramatic material is outstanding. This is a necessary element to express emotions more deeply. She has already worked as a fashion model and movie star, so she excels in expressing her emotions. When she debuted in 1985, the New York Post praised her for her balanced manner and gestures as well as her voice.

#### **Biography of Whitney Houston**

Whitney Houston (1963-2012) was born in New Jersey in the U.S. She is called the voice of God, the voice of heaven, the diva of pop, the legend of pop. In 2010, she posted 415 awards in the Guinness Book of World Records. She debuted at the age of 20 and has sold 170 million albums so far. The 1980s was a time when the existence of a female black solo artist became taboo. Married to 1992 R&B singer Bobby Brown, who died on March 22, 2012, her popularity played a role in breaking the glass ceiling of black female singers.

God is always said to be fair to people, so it seems that he does not to give people as much happiness as the public love of top stars. We often see that the early rise in life has brought people down to distraction and debauchery. The irreparable voice of drug and alcoholism seems to have put her further into despair. She chose South Korea in 2010 as the first leg of her world tour for a comeback. At Olympic Park Gymnastics Stadium, she sang in the warm welcome of 11,000 fans. It did not disappoint fans with its relaxed and mature atmosphere, although it did not show the explosive tone of its heyday.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The study evaluated Whitney Houston based on Shin Jae-hyo's theory. It is not common to evaluate American singers based on Korean music theory. We think the singer who fits Shin Jae-hyo's clown theory is a perfect artist. As the best singer, she comforted and healed many people. Her music touched the world and being touched by music means that it is healing music. The notion of music as therapy is based on ancient cross-cultural beliefs that music can have a "healing" effect on mind and body (Thaut, 2015).

People in non-English speaking countries can't understand the lyrics of English songs well, but I think it is the power of her excellent singing ability that can impress the music.

It's not easy to have excellent singing skills as a singer, but it's even more difficult to keep up with them. Moreover, it is very difficult to preserve the status and presence of a perfect artist. She was a world-class artist, but she collapsed because of her lack of strict self-management. In her heyday, she was optimized for Shin Jae-hyo's clown theory, while her post-2007 moves are regrettable. However, it is clear that she is a singer who fits well with the title of America's greatest clown.

In conclusion, we felt that the best emotion through music was the best healing, and that the best singer was becoming the best healer.

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## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors have no conflicting financial interests.

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