

流行韓語音樂

高中的時候，我的朋友介紹我聽流行韓語音樂 (KPOP)。從此以後，我越聽越喜歡。現在，KPOP 是我最喜歡的音樂。雖然我和朋友喜歡不同的歌手（她們喜歡女歌手，我喜歡男歌手），可是我們常常在一起聊 KPOP 的音樂，這樣，我們可以分享不同的韓語音樂。因為 KPOP 的音樂在美國的電台不播放，所以我必須用別的方法來找新音樂。除了跟朋友談談以外，還可以在 YouTube 上找找。YouTube 非常容易用，因為有很多人喜歡 KPOP，還把 KPOP 歌曲的韓語翻譯成英文字幕。所以用這個方式來找新音樂很方便。

在 YouTube 上，我常常看一個叫「Eatyourkimchi」的電台。這個電台是一對住在韓國多年的加拿大夫婦主持的，他們每星期大約會放三段視頻，都是關於一些韓國文化和政治的事。有的是說食物，有的介紹不同的地方或者各種奇怪的產品。視頻做得非常詳實，介紹關於韓國生活的種種，很有意思也很好玩。最近做的一個視頻叫「KPOP 奴隸契約」。我從這個視頻學到為什麼很多人不喜歡 KPOP 行業，因為歌手必須簽署一個嚴格的「奴隸契約」。公司和新學員簽約的時候，得投入很多資金。因此，新歌手開始的時候不可以拿錢，他們要把收入都付給公司償還公司投入的資金。歌手付清了債務以後，才可以開始賺錢。因此，歌手必須越來越受歡迎，才可能賺錢。學員常常是高中學生。他們必須一邊在學校好好學習，一邊去上很多唱歌課，跳舞課和甚至表演課，忙到沒有時間睡覺或者吃飯，然而公司可以隨時打發走學員。還有，學員必須非常努力奮鬥很多年才可以表演。學員熬過培訓期，就可能成為很受歡迎的歌手，有很多歌迷。可是，在韓國成為一名歌手比在美國更難。

雖然 KPOP 這個行業有問題，可是 KPOP 音樂很好聽。雖然歌曲風格都很相似，可是所有音樂流派都是這樣的。我覺得 KPOP 音樂又有剛健的節奏又有豐富多彩和滑稽的音樂視頻。有時候，KPOP 音樂視頻太奇怪了，可是介紹這個視頻給我的朋友，總是很好玩！他們會說「這個是什麼？！很奇怪！為什麼你喜歡看這些視頻？」然後我們會一邊看一邊大笑。即使不常聽 KPOP 的人，也會覺得這樣的音樂可以讓人很快樂。

English Translation

When I was in high school, my friend introduced me to Korean pop music (KPOP). Since then, the more I have listened, the more I like it. Now, KPOP is my favorite kind of music. Even though my friend and I like different singers (she likes female singers, I like male singers), we often talk about KPOP together, as this allows us to share different kinds of Korean music. Because KPOP is not played on the radio in the US, I must find other ways to find new music. Besides talking with friends, you can also use YouTube to find music. YouTube is easy to use because many other people also like KPOP, and there are many songs with English subtitles. Therefore in this way it is easy to find new music.

On YouTube, I often watch a channel called "Eatyourkimchi." This channel is hosted by a Canadian couple who have lived in Korea for many years. They release about three videos per week, which are all about Korean culture and politics. Some talk about food, some describe different places or strange products. The videos they make are all very informative, are about all aspects of Korean life, and are very interesting and fun. Recently they made a video called "KPOP slave contracts." I learned from this video why many people dislike the KPOP industry, because singers must sign a strict "slave contract." When companies and singers sign a contract, a lot of money is invested. Therefore, when a new singer begins (their career) they do not make money, (as) their income goes toward repaying the company. After the singer has paid the debt, then they can begin making money. Therefore, the singer must be popular in order to make money. Trainees are often high school students. They must do well at school while going to many singing lessons, dancing lessons, and sometimes even acting lessons. They are so busy that they do not have time to sleep or eat, but the company can dismiss the trainees at any time. Also, trainees must work very hard for many years before they can perform. If the trainee makes it through the training period,

then they can become very popular and have a lot of fans. However, becoming a singer in Korea is much more difficult than it is in the US.

Although the KPOP industry has a problem, KPOP music sounds good. And although the songs are of a very similar style, all music genres are like this. I think KPOP has upbeat rhythms and the music videos are colorful and funny. Sometimes KPOP music videos are too weird, but showing these to my friends is always a lot of fun! They will say “What is this?! It’s so weird! Why do you like to watch these videos?” And then we will laugh while watching. Someone who hasn’t often heard KPOP would also think it can make people happy.

Vocabulary

流行韓語音樂 (liúxíng hányǔ yīnyuè): Korean pop music
從此以後 (cóngcǐ yǐhòu): Since then
聊 (liáo): Chat
這樣 (zhèyàng): This
分享 (fēnxiǎng): Share it
電台 (diàntái): Broadcasting station
播放 (bòfàng): Broadcast
方法 (fāngfǎ): Method
找找 (zhǎo zhǎo): Look for
容易 (róngyì): Easy
歌曲 (gēqǔ): Song
翻譯成 (fānyì chéng): Translated into
字幕 (zì mù): Subtitle
方式 (fāngshì): The way
夫婦 (fūfù): Husband and wife
主持的 (zhǔchí de): Hosted by
關於。。。的事 (guānyú... de shì): About
大約 (dàyuē): About
段 (duàn): Counter for video
視頻 (shìpín): Video
政治 (zhèngzhì): Political
各種 (gèzhǒng): All kinds

奇怪 (qíguài): Strange
產品 (chǎnpǐn): Product
詳實 (xiángshí): Detailed
種種 (zhǒngzhǒng): Various
奴隸契約 (nú lì qì yuē): Slave contract
行業 (hángyè): Industry
簽署 (qiānshǔ): Sign
嚴格 (yángé): Strict
學員 (xuéyuán): Trainee
簽約 (qiānyuē): Signed
投入 (tóurù): Put in
資金 (zījīn): Funds
拿錢 (ná qián): Take the money
收入 (shōurù): Income
付給 (fù gěi): Paid
償還 (chánghuán): Repay
付清 (fù qīng): Pay off
債務 (zhàiwù): Debt
賺錢 (zhuànqián): Money
唱歌課 (chànggē kè): Singing Lesson
跳舞課 (tiàowǔ kè): Dance Lesson
甚至 (shènzhì): Even
表演課 (biǎoyǎn kè): Acting lessons

隨時 (suíshí): At any time
打發走 (dǎfā zǒu): Dismissed
努力奮鬥 (nǔ lì fèndòu): Work hard
表演 (biǎoyǎn): Performance
熬過 (áo guò): Survived
培訓期 (péixùn qī): Training Period
歌迷 (gē mí): Fans
曲風格 (qū fēng gé): Song style/genre
相似 (xiāng sì): Similar
流派 (liú pài): genre
剛健的節奏 (gāng jiàn de jié zòu): Upbeat rhythm
豐富多彩 (fēng fù duō cǎi): Colorful
滑稽 (huá jī): Funny
總是 (zǒng shì): Always
大笑 (dà xiào): Laugh out loud
即使 (jí shǐ): Even if
主持人 (zhǔ chí rén): Host
可憐 (kě lián): Wretched
壓力 (yā lì): Pressure
接下來 (jiē xià lái): Next
聽著 (tīng zhe): Listen
結束 (jié shù): End