

朱镕基操琴,为天津京剧院演员伴奏 Zhu Rongji plays erhu together with musicians.

甄光俊 摄 Photograph by Zhen Guangjun

1999年10月16日,朱镕基总理在天津出席世界体操锦标赛闭幕式后,由天津市委书记张立昌和市长李盛霖陪同,在迎宾馆召见天津京剧院的李莉、杨乃彭、邓沐玮、康万生和天津青年京剧团的刘桂娟等中青年演员。当张立昌书记向朱总理介绍杨乃彭时,总理说:"噢,我看过你的戏。"介绍李莉时,总理脱口而出:"尚派。"张立昌又介绍刘桂娟,总理马上说:"她的戏我看过,程派。"朱镕基对此前不曾会过面的中青年演员有如此了解,不单单说明他记性好,更足以说明他对京剧事业是何等的关心。

大家落座后,朱总理首先开口说:"今天晚上把大家请来,松弛一下,我们大家在一起谈一谈,玩一玩。"说话时他用目光四周巡视了一下,发现青年演员刘桂娟坐在了旁边第二排沙发上,很不显眼,便招呼她到前边中间的位子上来。那张沙发旁坐的便是朱总理和张书记,刘桂娟哪里敢去坐!朱总理仍招呼说:"来嘛,我让你坐的。"顽皮的刘桂娟这才站起身来,学着戏台上的腔调说:"如此,我就不恭了。"话音刚落,她就坐到了朱总理的身边。大厅里的气氛顿时活跃起来。经张立昌书记点名,刘桂娟、杨乃彭、李莉、康万生、邓沐玮依次演唱了精心挑选的唱段。在这里清唱,因为不使用扩音器,唱出的声腔原汁原味不失真,朱总理听得特别入神,演唱者每唱一段,几乎都能获得总理的掌声。李莉唱的是《四郎探母》里萧太后那四句慢板,朱镕基听完后感慨地说:"现在尚派演员不多了。"听完康万生的唱,总理称赞他"嗓子真好"。再听邓沐玮的唱,总理说他唱得"特别有韵味"。在场演员全唱过了,朱总理说:"天津还有张克、孟广禄,也唱得不错。"

这天,朱总理的兴致特别高,尽管在场演员全都唱过了,他似乎仍没听够,邀请大家再唱。杨乃彭对总理说:"您想听什么,请您点。"朱总理略加思索后,点了一出《贺后骂殿》。杨乃彭不好意思地向总理致歉说:"这出戏已经多年不唱了。"在场的,也没有人能唱。于是,由杨乃彭改唱《洪羊洞》,朱总理听得很开心,演员们在总理面前也不再拘谨,大家有说有笑地谈论京剧如何博大精

甄光俊

深。这时有人请求朱总理唱一段,朱总理爽快地站起身来,脱去身上的夹克衫,微笑着说:"那好,我就唱一段《乌盆记》吧。"本来安排由杨乃彭操琴为朱总理伴奏,杨乃彭刚要向乐队走去,朱总理拦住他说:"你别走,在这里给我提词。"这样,就由京剧院琴师汤振刚操琴伴奏。朱总理从容地唱起"老丈不必胆怕惊"那段二黄三眼,嗓音特别清亮,唱得有板有眼有韵味,在场的人们一起鼓掌。总理唱完,亲切地对演员们说:"等我退休之后,到天津来跟你们一起唱戏,可以吗?"大家又边笑边鼓掌。

在场的演员们知道总理喜欢拉京胡,便又邀请总理一试身手。总理谦虚地说:"我拉的是二胡,而且只会拉四平调。"演员们推荐李莉唱《贵妃醉酒》里那段"海岛冰轮初转腾",朱总理痛快地说:"好吧。"随即走到乐队中间,接过别人递上的一把京二胡,坐到椅子上,和乐师们合奏起来。朱总理拉得惬意,演员唱得也感觉舒服,总理的琴艺果真名不虚传。接着,刘桂娟又唱了《锁麟囊》里的四平调,也是由朱总理拉二胡伴奏。此时,朱总理的额头上沁出汗珠,随手又从身上脱去毛衣。总理认真地说,这比打网球可累得多!朱总理说他当年在上海曾跟琴师尤继舜学过拉琴,难怪他演奏起来那么得心应手呢,原来得过高人传授。

在朱总理操琴时,有人举起了相机,朱总理真诚又风趣地说:"谁照相,快来照,机会难得。" 有总理的话,在场的演员们都凑上前去与总理合影。总理说他此前看过天津青年京剧团的戏,和京剧院的同志们在一起这还是第一回。一国总理,日理万机,难得消闲,如此平易近人,同大家的距离一下子缩短了。大家沉浸在欢乐的气氛中,不知不觉时间一分一秒地流逝过去。张立昌书

记看看表已经9点多钟,就对大家说,时间不早了,总理还有许多事情要做,今天的小型联欢会就到此结束吧。在场的演员这才依依不舍地辞别朱总理,带着美好的记忆,离开迎宾馆。

朱镕基总理喜爱京剧,非今日始。青年时代,他特 别喜欢京剧, 因爱而看而学, 下过不少功夫, 他不光爱 唱,还爱拉胡琴,或唱或拉,都有一定的造诣。后来身 居要职, 政务缠身, 难得空闲, 但对京剧的热情依然如 故,只要有机会,总会情不自禁地去凑热闹,过把戏瘾。 1990年他在上海当市长的时候,上海国际票房成立,人 们邀请他来参加票戏活动,朱市长写信给国际票房的汪 道涵、李储文两位理事长, 欣然接受邀请, 愿以一般会 员的身份,尽可能去参加票戏活动。同年4月、国际票 房为庆祝上海海外联谊会成立4周年,举办了一次以戏 会友的大型演唱会, 何时希、邓宛霞等海内外京剧爱好 者和知名的京剧演员共聚一堂、丝竹妙歌、自娱自乐。 正在出席市人代会的朱镕基市长,也以普通会员的身份 前往参加。上海京剧院的著名演员夏慧华, 盛情邀请朱 市长操琴, 为她演唱的梅派《贵妃醉酒》唱段伴奏, 朱 市长高兴地移座到乐队席,操起一把二胡,与乐师们一 道合奏起来,朱市长以娴熟的琴艺与演唱者配合得十分 默契,将演唱会推向高潮。

朱镕基到中央工作后,公务更加繁忙,而他对京剧艺术的热情不减。1993年6月,他在给上海国际票房理事舒适复信时,附去人民币200元,郑重地申明,这是他作为国际票房的一名会员,补交他调动工作后所欠的会费,由此可见他对业余票戏活动是何等的支持和认真。

(此稿由《天津老年时报》供稿,特此致谢)



朱镕基总理与天津京剧院演员交谈 甄光俊 摄 Zhu Rongji chats with members of Tianjin Peking Opera Troupe.

Photograph by Zhen Guangjun



朱镕基总理与浙江京昆艺术剧院的演员们亲切交谈

Zhu Rongji chats with actors of Zhejiang Opera House of Beijing Opera and Kunqu Opera.

Premier is a Beijing Opera Fan

by Zhen Guangjun

Premier Zhu Rongji, one of the busiest top government leaders in China, is publicly known for his personal character and his famous face, but few know Zhu is a super fan of Beijing Opera.

Zhu's passion for China's national opera started in his youth. He loved it so much that he put in a lot of effort to learn how to sing arias and play the *erhu*, a typical two-stringed bowed musical instrument for Beijing Opera. He was quite good at aria singing and *erhu* playing are. Since he started to work as a government official, heavy official duties have prevented him from spending time on his hobby. Nevertheless, the Premier still nurtures his passion for the opera. Whenever a chance rises to satisfy his yen, he tries to take it and enjoy the fun of the opera with other fans.

In 1990 when Zhu Rongji was mayor of Shanghai, Shanghai International Beijing Opera Fan Club came into being. Zhu was invited to take part in club activities. He wrote to the club leaders saying he gladly accepted the invitation and would do his best to attend club activities as a regular member. In April that year, the club organized a large Beijing Opera concert in celebration of the fourth anniversary of Shanghai Overseas Society. This concert was to invite professional performers and aficionados to meet each other. Fans from both home and abroad gathered together with Beijing Opera professionals to amuse themselves. Zhu Rongji, while attending Shanghai People's Congress, came to attend the gala as an ordinary fan. He was invited to play an accompaniment for Xia Huihua, a famed actress with Shanghai Beijing Opera House. Happily, he walked to the band and sat down with the musicians. He played the *erhu* masterfully, going along nicely with the performer.

Since he came to work in the state government, he has always

been tied up by heavy work. Yet his love for the Beijing Opera never ceases. In June 1993 after he had come to work in Beijing, he wrote to Shu Shi, director of the Shanghai International Beijing Opera Fan Club. And he submitted 200 yuan, saying it was his payment of the overdue fee for his membership.

On 16th October 1998, Zhu Rongji came to Tianjin to attend the opening ceremony of the World Gymnastics Championships. In the evening after the ceremony, he met with a group of top-notch Beijing Opera professionals in Tianjin Guest House.

The Premier showed keen interest at this get-together with the performing artists. from the talks with the premier, they were surprised to see that the Premier knew so much about Beijing Opera and he even remembered "who had played what part" in popular repertoires. After all actors and actresses sang some arias, the Premier asked for "encores". Feeling at ease in the Premier's presence, they happily did it. They also invited the Premier to sing and try the *Jinghu* known as Beijing Opera fiddle. Readily the Premier accepted the invitation but said he could only play *erhu*. Amazed at his good singing and skill in playing *erhu*, the artists applauded with admiration. When the camera was held to capture the moment of the Premier playing *erhu*, he signaled to all to join and witticized: "Come on, come on, this is a rare chance."

Time flew before everyone realized it. The artists had a wonderful time with the Premier. They learned from this short get-together that the Premier was so amiable and easy of approach. When time came that they had to say goodbye, they couldn't bear to leave. In the end they parted from the Premier with the fondest memories.

(Translated by David)