

Presentation of Batak Songs at Champion Cafe During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the presentation of Batak songs at Champion Cafe during the covid-19 pandemic. This study uses qualitative research methods with qualitative descriptive type. Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews and documentation. This research method is a qualitative research with descriptive type. The results of the study prove that 1) The existence or existence of the Batak trio in the champion café during the Covid-19 Pandemic experienced a setback, it can be seen from the lack of singing sessions, the closing hours of operations became faster, the reduction of players and a decrease in the interest of visitors to come to see the Batak trio at Champion Cafe. 2) The presentation of songs by the Batak trio at the champion cafe during the Covid-19 pandemic experienced a setback, in terms of the form of presentation of Batak songs, which started as a full band to become an acoustic, could affect the songs that were sung. So that makes the singer's lack of enthusiasm and their space in pouring the atmosphere of the song that is sung. 3) The response of visitors to the Batak song presented at the champion café during the Covid-19 Pandemic remained enthusiastic and responsive even though during the Covid-19 Pandemic the presentation of the Batak song experienced a setback.

Keywords: Presentation, Batak Song, Covid-19

Introduction

Every human being has a level of need in various aspects of life, ranging from physical and spiritual needs, biological needs and psychological needs. One of the needs that cannot be avoided by every human being is a psychological need, namely the need for inner satisfaction or mental satisfaction, which is related to art. According to Christiani (2021:109), art is an alternative therapy that is used as a media approach and a medium for expressing the heart's content into a work of art. Art is a work created by humans with aesthetic or beauty elements that are poured into it through painting, dance, and music.

Music is an art that is used to express the contents of the human heart and mind. This is in line with Khoiriyah's opinion (2017: 82) that psychologically music is closely related to human psychic functions such as mood, perception and abstraction. Music is one piece of art that spreads throughout the universe, filling all space, even to the narrowest of gaps. (Eya, Journal 2014) Through music we can express all our inner feelings such as sadness, joy, hatred, anger, disappointment, love and other feelings related to our inner instincts, creating a piece of music in the form of singing (vocals) or playing an instrument. music (instrumental).

Vowel comes from the Latin *vocalis* which means to speak or to speak. The term vocal in the art of music is the strains of notes that come out of the human mouth or in another sense also called singing. This is related to Milyartini (2017: 33) in his journal said that "*Vocal technique is a method or way of singing that is carried out in regular steps so as to accompanies a good goal*". good cause. Same thing in journals Haezarni (2019:169) who said that "*Vocal technique is a way to produce sound that is good and right, so the sound that comes out sounds clear, beautiful, melodious, and loud*". Which means Vocal technique is a way to produce a good and correct voice, so that the sound that comes out sounds clear, beautiful, melodious, and loud. Vocal is the most popular type of music, because it can be done anywhere and anytime without additional musical instruments. In everyday life, people who use vocals are also called singers. Singers are people who use their voices as a musical instrument. In the community, many people which makes singing

wrong one profession, or what is often called a singer, which singer is a professional in the field of vocal processing or in terms of sing.

Talking about singers is certainly not complete without speaking in a cultural context. Singers are not only part of music but also part of culture. It is said that the singer is able to express what is happening in the social system and plays an important role. As in Batak culture weddings, singers also participate in perfecting the music presented. The singer is someone whose job is singing. Singers can work as single singers (soloists), or are members of groups, such as duets, trios, vocal groups, and choirs.

Singers in the form of a trio often appear in the Toba Batak region, one of the ethnic groups who live and come from the northern part of the Tapanuli region. The term trio in Batak popular music is three vocal presenters who are included in the vocal music grouping. The members are only women or only men or a combination of men and women. In the presentation, each person has a certain voice, carrying three voices, focusing on a harmonious mix, or a harmonious balance between the voices of each singer or between the voices of each singer.

Champion Cafe is one of the cafes that serves live music which is located on Dr. Mansyur Street No.134 Padang Bulan Selayang 1, Medan Selayang District, Medan City, North Sumatra. Champion Cafe has two floors that serve *live music* with a different flow on each floor. The first floor presents *live music* by carrying the concept of *allround* (covering all sorts of music) *famous* songs or contemporary hits. Unlike the case with the second floor, which presents *live music* by carrying the concept of Batak songs. Champion visitors who like Batak songs can enjoy this entertainment on the second floor.

Based on initial observations, researchers saw that the existence of the Batak trio before the COVID-19 pandemic at Champion Cafe was well recognized and well scheduled, judging from the interest of visitors who came to enjoy and listen to old Batak songs to the latest Batak songs. The implementation of Community Activity Restrictions (PPKM) during the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected musicians, especially the Batak trio at the champion cafe, which reduced the enthusiasm of the community or visitors so that live music activities, especially the Batak trio, were temporarily closed.

Based on the background of the problem above, the author is interested in conducting a research entitled "The Existence of the Batak Trio at Champion Cafe During the Covid-19 Pandemic".

Research Method

This research is a qualitative research with descriptive type. Moleong (2017:5) explains that "The collection of qualitative research data is based on a natural setting, using natural methods, and is carried out by people or researchers who are naturally interested". The location and place of the research took place in Champion café, Medan City and this research was carried out in September-October 2022. The sample in this study was 17 people. Sugiyono (2019:85) explains that purposive sampling is a sampling technique based on certain considerations/criteria.

The criteria that will be sampled in this study are: a) Male and Female b) Trio Batak singer c) Singer at Champion Cafe d) Willing to be a sample in the study. Data collection techniques were carried out by means of observation, interviews and documentation, while the next stage was to analyze the existing data and then systematically arranged and analyzed so that conclusions could be drawn. The data processing process begins by grouping the data collected in observations, interviews and documentation as well as notes that are considered supportive in this research and then classified and analyzed based on the research interests described in the form of scientific papers, then classified according to the content or material of the data.

Discussion

Champion Cafe Profile

This research was conducted in September 2022 at Champion cafe, Medan City. The Champion café was first established in 2014, starting from the owner who loves football. Champion Cafe is one of the cafes that serves *live music* in the city of Medan. The 1st floor is served by full band live music that carries the theme of topforty music that is currently hits without any musical genre restrictions and on the 2nd floor Champion Cafe carries live music with the theme of Batak Song music. So, the 2nd floor is devoted to visitors who like Batak songs.

The writer observes that Champion Cafe is a clean cafe and has a good room arrangement. Champion Cafe also applies to waiters (waiters) to be alert, catch and fast in entertaining and also serving guests (audiences) who come.

Serving Batak Songs at Champion Cafe During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Based on the results of observations that researchers have carried out while in the field, researchers see that in the presentation of Batak songs at the champion cafe from year to year also experience development and progress. The researcher saw from the presentation of songs from the Batak trio that filled in with the times and the songs that were hits at that time. Following visitors' requests, the Batak trio had to continue to upgrade their songs, such as Hurippu Dos Rupa Tu Roha, Mardua Holong, Free Do, Holan Ho, Ilukki Ma Paboahon, Sopanagaman, Ingkon Ho, Holong Na Ias, Cintaki Cinta Mati, Holan Diangan -angan, Sidoli Pargojek, Pariban from Jakarta, Dihoma Salelengna, Too Sadistic Carami, Sirang Do Hape Ujungna, The Third Person, Origin Ma Bahagia, Tartipu Au, Manggadeng Kenangan, Young Entrepreneurs and Batak songs that were hits at that time. Not only Batak trio songs must be able to master national songs such as There is Missing You, I'm Not a Door, I Want Real Love, Akum Akin Cinta, I'm Not Willing, Why, Hate But Miss, Let Me Be The One Who Gives Up, Let Me Alone, Let Me Alone, Love And Gems and other songs.

The songs that are sung are one of the attractions for visitors who want to hear the song sung live even though not by the original singer but by the trio. In the presentation of songs, the accompaniment music is not only accompanied by mediocrity, but there are also some accompanying songs that make their own arrangements that create a new atmosphere in the songs sung. So that between the trio and the accompaniment there is good cooperation in creating a new atmosphere for certain songs.

Another supporter of progress in the presentation of songs is the costumes worn by the trio of Batak singers. Not only the voice but also the costumes worn must be good and well-organized, from head to toe and not random so that it gives an interesting assessment of the Batak music lovers who see it. Then what supports the lively appearance on stage to be more spectacular and very interesting is the use of lighting. Champion cafe always provides the best in terms of stage facilities so that the Batak trio who are filling in are also enthusiastic about doing their work. The existence of the covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2022 made a decline in the presentation of songs. In the beginning, singing and accompaniment using a full band turned into acoustics that reduced the trio's spirit in singing and the lack of stage action or space that is usually done when singing using a choreo, turned into not using a choreo due to the lack of adequate space considering that the trio and the accompanist had to step down. stage in entertaining the visitors present.

The reduction in personnel was forced to do because the accompaniment music turned into acoustics. it happens because the fee given is not able to balance as the champion usually gives. Because the company has to keep running, so the fee reduction was carried out. This has resulted in a very drastic and very influential decrease in the presentation of Batak songs at champion cafe



Figure L.3.1 Researcher with Champion Cafe manager

(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)



Figure L.3.2 Researchers interviewing Champion manager Cafe
(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)



Figure L.3.3 Researcher with Opung Bela Manurung
(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)



Figure L.3.4 Researchers interviewing Opung Bella Manurung
(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)



Figure L.3.5 Researcher with Nita Sinaga
(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)



Figure L.3.6 Researchers interviewing Nita Sinaga
(Source: Documentation of Cahyani Yesika Br Silaban, September 2022)

Conclusion

Presentation of the song by the Batak trio at the Champion Cafe during the Covid-19 pandemic experienced a setback, in terms of the form of presentation of the Batak song which started as a full band to become an acoustic, can affect the songs that are sung. So that makes the singer's lack

of enthusiasm and their space in pouring the atmosphere of the song that is sung. Visitors' responses to the Batak song presented at the champion cafe during the Covid-19 Pandemic remained enthusiastic and responsive even though during the Covid-19 Pandemic the presentation of the Batak song experienced a setback. From some of the conclusions above, the researchers put forward the following suggestions: With the Champion Cafe, the Batak song will be preserved so that the Batak song will not be extinguished as time advances. To the champion cafe to continue to support the development of Batak music so that Batak music continues to be played and the existing facilities are increasingly improved. The younger generation is also expected to have enthusiasm and curiosity about Batak songs. Not only knowing but being able to develop Batak songs as a Batak ethnic identity.

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