

## All R. Artist 481

### Chapter 481: Dominating the Screen

If this were in a game, question marks from the audience would be bursting around Prince of Lanling's feet...

Male?

Female?

The audience can't figure it out!

Nor can the jury!

The judges are also at a loss!

Even Daddy Yang Zhongming, always with a know-it-all look, can't make an accurate judgment.

The show also inserted an interview with the Swan.

Swan shook her head: "Prince of Lanling is neither the King of Singing nor the Queen."

Is she belittling Prince of Lanling?

No.

The Swan said next, "But that's okay; he's using cheats."

Immediately, the comment section is buzzing:

"Swan: Report!"

“Some Queen openly reported: Prince of Lanling cheats, confirmed!”

“Swan: This guy has a cloning technique!”

“Teacher Wu Long has said it, this is a mixed doubles contest!”

“Other singers are one-on-one, Prince of Lanling is going two-on-one!”

“The cloning technique is cool.”

“...”

Everyone is talking about Prince of Lanling!

From gender to strength!

And when Prince of Lanling announced that the song “Bracing the Chill” was actually composed by Xian Yu, the comment section set off a new round of climax—

“Xian Yu’s new song?”

“I actually heard Xian Yu’s new song in the show!”

“So this is what ‘Xian Yu Is Coming’ means. Damn clickbaiters!”

“Ah ah ah ah, confessing to Xian Yu!”

“It would be great if Xian Yu came as a judge!”

“Give up this thought, Xian Yu won’t come to this show. But it’s not bad for Xian Yu to participate in this way.”

“Did Xian Yu write more songs for Prince of Lanling?”

“23333, Daddy Yang mocked Xian Yu’s lyrics.”

“I feel the lyrics are okay ah, Fish Papa is already beyond proving himself through lyrics.”

“Compared to Xian Yu’s previous lyrics, this time it’s definitely more laid-back, but it doesn’t matter, the melody delivered!”

“If Fish Papa came as a judge, he should be the chief judge, just like Daddy Yang.”

“Was Maestro Junior joking?”

“...”

Discussions about Prince of Lanling’s gender, Xian Yu’s new song, and Prince of Lanling’s beef with Yuan Xi and so on.

All these discussions together stimulate everyone’s curiosity and enthusiasm, so much so that they continued even after the Magician finished singing.

What did the Magician sing?

People can’t even remember.

Not until the fifth singer appeared did the audience’s thoughts return to the competition itself from the discussions about Prince of Lanling.

At this point.

The competition was nearing its end.

At this moment.

Another question from the audience emerged.

What's Prince of Lanling's rank?

Although the answer has had its twists and turns—

Alright.

When Director Tong Shuwen started to play coy, he simply incited countless expletives:

“Quit stalling!”

“Hurry up with the results!”

“I'm itching for action!”

“Playing with audiences is his forte.”

“This director is something.”

“...”

Of course, this director is something.

Although the audience curses, they all do so with a smile.

Because the effect of this director's show is excellent. Every teaser he throws out makes people feel amused rather than impatient.

Eventually, the results came out.

Prince of Lanling and Swan, tied for first!

“6666666666!!”

“Greetings from Great Qin Continent, Prince of Lanling rocks!”

“Greetings from Qi Continent, Swan is invincible!”

“Hahaha, fans of both are ecstatic!”

“This is so coincidental, if it weren’t for the Literature and Art Association organizing, I would suspect it’s part of the show effect!”

“Satisfying!”

“I was just pondering who should be first between White Swan and Prince of Lanling, as I like them both so much!”

“A perfect first episode!”

“I want to mention again to the fans of Yuan Xi, Prince of Lanling and White Swan tied for first place.”

“Unbelievable, two singers who outshone Yuan Xi took the top spot, is this a wealth code?”

“Got it, in the next episode they should find a singer to overshadow, the one who succeeds will be number one!”

“.....”

The audience was all abuzz.

But the commotion was not about dissatisfaction with the results, but satisfaction!

It was well-deserved!

No one thought there was a problem with the outcome!

Of course.

Everyone was anxious about the unmasking segment, which still came as an expected surprise—

The A-list actor, Tan Kai!

The audience didn't expect that Tan Kai could sing, and sing so well!

There were even some who thought that if Tan Kai hadn't performed after Prince of Lanling, he might have advanced!

In the unmasking music segment, Tan Kai shared his final thoughts.

He said with a wry smile, "I thought I could sing for a few more episodes, but then I met Teacher Prince of Lanling, so game over."

The comments followed:

Bracing the chill... bracing the chill... bracing the chill...

That said, the phrase "bracing the chill" paints quite a vivid picture, and the way the title of Xian Yu's song was chosen...

This was the helplessness of the performance order.

Such a disadvantage.

Everyone was discussing Prince of Lanling, so they didn't really pay attention to the Magician's song.

Only the relatively calm judges affirmed the performance of the Magician.

And the show ended.

But the aftershock the show brought was explosively impactful!

On the Starlite Network.

This show called "The Masked Singer" scored as high as 9.7!

The top review on it was:

"The best music program in history, bar none!"

What followed was an endless flood of short reviews.

"Better than expected, Tan Kai is really powerful!"

"Packed with heavyweights, you wouldn't last without real talent. The most impressive was Prince of Lanling!"

"White Swan completely outplayed, Prince of Lanling dominated the whole scene!"

"Using both male and female voices was really impressive, hope Prince of Lanling continues this next show!"

"Robot is definitely hiding his strength, being a musician, I can hear the level of some high notes sung by Robot."

"Piggy Qiqi is pretending again, if it's not Lu Yumeng I'll eat my shoe!"

“Cheating again!”

“Aside from Piggy Qiqi, I can’t guess the others, just like we didn’t expect the Magician to be Tan Kai!”

“Prince of Lanling is too powerful, and I don’t just mean the singing. Prince of Lanling also said that Robot is the King of Singing!”

“Prince of Lanling and Father Yang’s conclusion is correct, Robot is indeed the King of Singing! Robot himself hinted at that!”

“Indeed, looked at it all together, Robot is definitely the King of Singing. Prince of Lanling’s god-level prediction, right there with Father Yang!”

“...”

Making a splash before the air date is one thing.

But whether it can catch on is another.

If “The Masked Singer” didn’t meet audience expectations, any more hype would be meaningless.

In the end, it’s all about the actual effect.

And now, the effect was there.

The discussion!

Endless discussion!

The hot searches on social platforms and blogs were completely taken over!



#TheMaskedSingerLive#

#PrinceofLanling#

#WhoIsWhiteSwan#

#MagicianTanKaiUnmaskingShock#

#YuanXiCritiqued#

#PrinceOfLanlingTwoVsOne#

#IsPrinceofLanlingAManOrWoman#

#RobotIsTheHiddenKingOfSinging#

The top ten hot search spots were all taken by “The Masked Singer”, a legendary case of a show fully saturating the media!

And through the hot searches, we could see...

The discussion about Prince of Lanling was the most!

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There's so much fervor among the audience following the Prince of Lanling's performance, and it's not just because of his outstanding ability to impersonate both male and female singers. It's also because of his offstage demeanor...

The first characteristic.

His black hole-like variety show character.

His style is simply outstanding. While other singers and their managers are passionately discussing, stark cold winds blow in his dressing room, leaving Tongtong, a woman following him, feeling quite miserable.

And he stays so calm.

All other singers would be nervous to some extent. Even the white swan had several deep breaths before stepping on the stage. But the Prince of Lanling showed no emotions.

The second characteristic.

His bold and sharp comments.

When the judges and the white swan criticized Yuan Xi, all other singers remained utterly silent, keeping their mouths shut. But the Prince of Lanling directly counteracted, offending two singing queens at once!

Yuan Xi's fans were all up in arms.

Which normal singer would dare to be so outspoken?

They all fear offending their colleagues!

Not to mention that the Prince of Lanling appears to be not a King of Singing, but perhaps a first or even second-tier singer with a unique voice, yet he dared to behave so boldly.

The third characteristic.

His synchronized speculation with Yang Zhongming.

Everyone predicted that the robot is a first-tier singer, but only the Prince of Lanling and Yang Zhongming predicted that the robot is a King of Singing!

When the official rankings were announced, the robot's words "nearly capsized" implied that he is indeed a King of Singing!

This proved the Prince of Lanling was right!

Countless viewers witnessed his incredible prediction!

With these unique traits, coupled with his stunning performance of mastering both male and female voices at once, he immediately became the most unique among the mysterious singers.

Moreover, he was the winner of the first round!

It's hard for everyone not to talk about these things!

Truthfully, there's always someone standing out in variety shows.

If everyone is mediocre, then the show will really "chill down."

The Prince of Lanling's presence is literally a hot topic generator!

The show itself is already spectacular, with his uniqueness and personality, how can it not attract attention?

"Phew!"

After watching the show, Gu Dong also heaved a deep sigh.

Even her, who knows Lin Yuan inside out, feels somewhat shocked at this moment.

She didn't expect that Mr. Lin could sing so well, even perfectly mimicking a female voice...

But it seems that Yuan Xi's fans have gone overboard. Do they know who they are dealing with?

Gu Dong was very upset.

They say one fan is worth ten haters!

Wait till Mr. Lin unmask himself, let's see how your idol apologizes then!

By then, you'll know whether Mr. Lin is qualified to comment or not!

Dare to claim that Admirable Fish isn't Maestro?

Please, what era is this?

Don't tell me people really think that Admirable Fish isn't the "Maestro"?

Maestro is recognized by awards, but more often than not, it is also recognized by popular opinion.

In the eyes of Qin, Chu, Qi, Yan citizens, Admirable Fish is the Maestro. This is an indisputable fact.

Moreover, isn't the number of Maestros that Admirable Fish has outshined countless?

The back-to-back wins in 'Battling the Gods' Championship, aren't they convincing enough?

Didn't you see the audience agree through the bullet comments, that if Admirable Fish were a judge, his position should be the same as Father Yang's?

Not to mention, this show originally planned to invite Teaching Admirable Fish to be a judge, it's just that Teaching Admirable Fish declined the offer.

...

Once Lin Yuan realized he had a rasp in his voice, he strenuously practiced his raspy voice for several days following.

However, when the show officially aired, he also checked the online reactions.

As he is participating in the show, he cares about it and also wants to see what the netizens think of him.

But Lin Yuan found out that there weren't many people criticizing him.

On the contrary, there were many who praised him.

Some people even became his fans.

Lin Yuan was quite thrilled: "It looks like Tongtong's worries were needless, this world still allows us to tell the truth."

Telling it as it is.

Lin Yuan didn't mean to attack Yuan Xi, he simply expressed his honest thoughts.

If a Qi singer who goes by Yuan Xi invited him to sing a duet, Lin Yuan would say the same thing.

Upon careful reflection.

Lin Yuan has collaborated with many singers, and they were all quite gentle.

Don't say things like the King and Queen of Singing are different.

Even when Lan Yan, a King of Singing at that time, was recording "Red Sun," the process went very smoothly.

But, when Lan Yan had shortcomings, Lin Yuan pointed them out without mincing his words, without any hesitation, as he thought it was for the singer's benefit.

Didn't Lan Yan appear upset.

Which suggests that just like first and second-tier singers, the King and Queen of Singing also have a very broad-minded personality.

As for Lin Yuan's singing skills...

Admittedly, Lin Yuan's singing skills are not at par with the King and Queen of Singing.

But that does not imply that Lin Yuan is not eligible to evaluate singers who are more talented than him.

Lin Yuan's understanding of music is thorough.

It's like those coaches in the sports world.

Their skills might not be as good as their athletes.

But the athletes' training still requires the guidance of coaches, without which it would be unmanageable.

Because coaches don't make a living through skills, but through the overall perspective.

Thinking like this might be a bit inflated, like self-praise.

But Lin Yuan has Yang Zhongming's character card, he has a reference.

Most of the time, Lin Yuan's judgement of music actually aligns highly with Yang Zhongming's perspective.

Aside from checking out online comments, Lin Yuan also paid attention to some analytic posts.

There's an analysis that Lin Yuan agrees with.

It was presented by a user named “Fire Dance Phoenix Flame”:

“In terms of capability, I personally feel the white swan is the strongest; it’s hard to predict the robot since it’s hiding its actual strength. Then comes the widely discussed Prince of Lanling, who is indeed badass.”

“It’s common sense that a person can’t have two voices, that’s what Father Yang said.”

“If someone gives you this feeling, it can only show that this person has mastered two vocal ranges, making it complete and pure, hence, compared to falsetto, the Prince of Lanling should be among the front-line singers of Blue Star, or even number one!”

“However, the Prince of Lanling’s shortcomings are also obvious, his singing skills might not be on par with the King or Queen of Singing.”

“It can’t be judged more accurately because the song ‘Bracing the Chill’ doesn’t truly exhibit too much singing skills.”

“So based on this, I can predict, if the Prince of Lanling continues on the same pattern without delivering any fresh surprises, then he may last several rounds in the competition but certainly wouldn’t make it to the end.”

“...”

This person confirmed Lin Yuan’s strength and also pointed out his weakness.

Amidst the widespread praise for the Prince of Lanling, the cold water splashed by this person made many people shift from awe to calmness.

It makes a lot of sense.

Lin Yuan gave him a thumbs up.

Unfortunately, there’s something new about himself.

Let alone if three voice ranges are fully combined, it can create an amazing show in the subsequent competitions.

Limited to the raspy voice that Lin Yuan is currently practicing and has already gotten proficient at, it's sufficient for him to continue battling fiercely in 'The Masked Singer.'

"I should consider selecting a song for the next round..."

Chapter 483: Piano

Of course, the next song for the performance needed to be considered.

Because the recording for the second round was about to begin.

The production crew had already sent out the recording notice.

Lin Yuan would have to rush to the music center for rehearsal tomorrow and start recording that evening, so the selection of his next song was urgent.

He analysed himself:

"My husky voice is caused by a disease, not naturally raspy, although I could make it extremely raspy for some rock songs, but it seems unnecessary for now..."

There are light and heavy degrees of husky voice.

Lin Yuan thought, it was like the difference between red wine and white wine.

For instance, a singer called Bruce Liang.

His voice is charming but not too intense, just like red wine, which needs to be savored.

As for white wine, or the heavy husky voice, it was like there was phlegm in one's throat—



Note that this is not derogatory.

This kind of heavy husky voice, like white wine, can portray a strong sense of the vicissitudes of life. When taken to the extreme, it can be terrifying!

For instance...

Anyway, Lin Yuan leans towards the former.

His husky voice gives more of a feeling of red wine.

If he were to forcefully sing an extremely raspy song, although he could do it, it would just be that familiar feeling of rock and roaring.

But it wouldn't be stable.

Lin Yuan wouldn't have a firm grasp.

It's better to wait until he becomes thoroughly proficient before trying.

There's a lot of potential for improvement in all three of Lin Yuan's voice types.

So Lin Yuan decided to sing a song that suits his atypical husky voice; the main thing was that it should bring out the feeling of a husky voice.

Of course.

The distinctive features of both male and female voices could not be lost.

Because Lin Yuan needed the audience's votes, and for now, the audience was quite fond of Lin Yuan's effortless switch between male and female voices; there hasn't been any sign of tiring of it yet.

It may even never get tiresome, at most, the sensory stimulus would decrease.

Thinking along these lines, Lin Yuan gradually made up his mind; he directly placed an order for a customized song with the System.

Later.

Lin Yuan headed straight to the company.

Once he arrived at the company.

As soon as Lin Yuan got into the office, Ol' Zhou hurriedly rushed over.

“Lin Yuan, there’s something I want to ask you.”

“What is it?”

Ol' Zhou coughed, “There might be some information that can’t be disclosed, have you watched The Masked Singer?”

Lin Yuan nodded.

Ol' Zhou chuckled, “You must have watched it because that Prince of Lanling who was singing—his song was written by you—”

As he finished speaking, Ol' Zhou stared closely at Lin Yuan, seeming to want to discern something from Lin Yuan’s face.

“Huh?”

Lin Yuan looked back at Ol' Zhou with a puzzled expression.

Did Ol' Zhou figure something out?

However, Ol' Zhou seemed to panic a bit, "Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to stop you. Although according to company rules, when our company's songwriters write songs for people from other companies, they have to report it to the company. But you don't need to do that, on this side, the company is definitely turning a blind eye."

Ol' Zhou was afraid that Lin Yuan would misunderstand that he came over because he was expressing the company's dissatisfaction.

But factually speaking, even if the company was discontented, they wouldn't dare speak out too much.

This 'Maestro Junior', in a certain sense, was Starlight's Crown Prince, the higher-ups had to respectfully tolerate his antics.

Moreover, haven't there been many company rules violated by the Maestros?

The majority of music company rules are invaluable in the eyes of a Maestro.

"Oh."

Lin Yuan explained, "It's not exactly against the company rules."

Ol' Zhou was taken aback, then suddenly widened his eyes, "You mean, Prince of Lanling is our company's singer?!"

Lin Yuan: "Sort of."

Ol' Zhou burst out laughing, "Well then, there's no problem. No wonder I felt like Prince of Lanling's character seemed a bit like yours, haha, one behaves like those with whom one associates, what I actually wanted to ask you was this, because the artist department is making a fuss, several agents from Zhao Jue's side have asked me to inquire about Prince of Lanling's news, they want to poach Prince of Lanling!"

Lin Yuan: "..."

The company really is all-pervasive.

Ol' Zhou lamented, "I didn't know we had such a person in our company, someone who can sing in both male and female voices at the same time, the effect of directly recording a song may not seem obvious, but the effect of a live performance would be absolutely explosive!"

Indeed.

If songs were directly published, listeners would just think it's a duet between two people, and then the shocking feeling would be lost.

"Since it's like this, I'll notify the people in the artist department first, by the way, will you still write songs for Prince of Lanling in the future?"

"I will."

"Understood."

Looks like this Prince of Lanling is Xian Yu's latest favorite.

Ol' Zhou left laughing, but his footsteps paused slightly as he was walking out the door.

Strange.

Why did Lin Yuan's voice seem different to before?

Never mind.

Ol' Zhou didn't think too much about it and left directly.

...

After Ol' Zhou left.

Gu Dong arrived quite quickly.

She seemed a bit excited, "Mr. Lin, have you seen the news?"

"What news?"

"They're all reports about The Masked Singer."

Gu Dong showed Lin Yuan her phone.

"The Masked Singer premiere, mysterious singer Prince of Lanling shocks the entire audience!"

"Kings and Queens of Singing gathered, White Swan and Prince of Lanling equally outstanding!"

"Prince of Lanling of indeterminate gender!"

"Prince of Lanling's combination of male and female voices, that's very The Masked Singer!"

"...."

Turns out Gu Dong had collected some media reports about Prince of Lanling.

"I got it."

Lin Yuan didn't pay much attention.

Gu Dong took back her phone, excitedly asking: "Have you decided on the song for the next round?"

“I have.”

“Can you reveal what kind of song it’ll be?”

Lin Yuan thought for a while and said, “Kind of a breakup song.”

“Breakup?”

So, it was a love song?

Gu Dong pondered, then asked, “Finally, another question, what will the song for the next round be called?”

Lil Goodoong looked curious.

Lin Yuan smiled and without hiding anything, he said two words:

“Boy.”

Gu Dong murmured, “Boy?”

Lin Yuan nodded.

He thought of Bruce Liang’s husky voice, so naturally, he thought of this song named “Boy.”

Lin Yuan personally liked this song quite a bit.

But Lin Yuan was aware that this song didn’t have a strong competitive edge, it seemed unlikely that he could take the first place relying on this song.

Having said that.

The show had only recorded up until the second episode; facing all the variables of the stage, Lin Yuan wasn't hoping to take the first place every episode.

That wasn't realistic.

Furthermore, Lin Yuan's singing skills were limited now, so he would choose a song that he felt comfortable singing as his work, just treat it as an occasional caprice, who would want to compete just for the first place, who doesn't have a few songs that they merely want to sing?

Of course.

Presently Lin Yuan certainly wasn't willing to be eliminated, so he planned to add some ingredients to the performance of the second episode, to ensure that even if he didn't take the first place, his final ranking would not be too bad—

He planned to play the piano in the second episode.

Chapter 484: Professional Level

The next day.

Lin Yuan put on his Prince of Lanling's costume and headed towards the music center by car.

Qin Continent was the Land of Music, which convenient for Lin Yuan since he did not have to go to other continents.

Most impressive music programs were basically held in Qin Continent.

Driver's seat.

Gu Dong, with his sunglasses on, said: "Today we're not going through the underground parking lot, but straight from the main entrance. Shooting starts directly from getting off the car."

"Sure."

Lin Yuan had no objections.

When the car stopped at the entrance, Lin Yuan looked out the window and noticed numerous spectators assembled outside the barricade line at the entrance of the music center.

Two members of the program crew in suits approached and opened Lin Yuan's car door.

As soon as Lin Yuan stepped out of the car, countless screams erupted around him:

"Prince of Lanling!"

"Go for it, Prince of Lanling!"

"I will always support you, Prince of Lanling!"

"..."

With the first broadcast of "The Masked Singer", Prince of Lanling, as the most trending topic, was already familiar to the audience.

Perhaps some people came specifically for Prince of Lanling today.

Even if everyone didn't know who was under the mask of Prince of Lanling.

Lin Yuan waved to the crowd and then entered the concert hall under the guidance of two program's bodyguards.

Shortly after Lin Yuan, the Swan arrived.

There were also tremendous cheers, no less passionate than those for Lin Yuan, amongst which a person shouted:

"I will always support you, Swan!"



The same guy who shouted he would always support Prince of Lanling.

Tongtong had been waiting at the entrance: “Prince of Lanling, let’s go to the rehearsal hall first...”

“Okay.”

Lin Yuan was leading the way.

Tongtong kept pace: “Have you seen this season’s music charts? The song “Bracing the Chill” has shot up to the fifth place. It’s unfortunate that our program was broadcasted a week after the competition started, otherwise the ranking would be even higher. But there’s still a long month ahead, so I guess getting into the top three shouldn’t be a problem. The only difficulty would be getting the champion song because the first two songs are Maestro’s masterpieces.”

“Okay.”

Yes, “Bracing the Chill” had joined the season’s competition.

When new songs appear, they are generally added to the music season competition. Under normal circumstances, it’s not impossible for “Bracing the Chill” to take first place, but unfortunately, Maestro had also participated in this competition.

Once Maestro makes a move, it’s difficult for other songs to get a chance.

Even if “Bracing the Chill” had a nice melody and the songwriter was Xian Yu, it still couldn’t cover up the inferiority of the lyrics.

Moreover, the melody was only nice. It really depended on what song it was compared to.

If compared to songs like “Red Rose”, it was obviously inferior. Now that was a real trendy hit!

A good live reaction?

That was because the live performance of “Bracing the Chill” was stunning. One person was able to perform two different voices; it was so shocking that it made your scalp tingle.

But...

When everyone listens to music on their player, there’s no visual effects to enhance the experience; they couldn’t see a person singing with two different voices.

Even if they knew beforehand that the two voices were sung by the same person, the shock value would be much less.

So Lin Yuan didn’t care whether he was first or not.

He originally participated in the competition, not for the competition ranking——

Although they seem the same, they are actually very different.

The biggest difference being:

If he wasn’t up for the competition, but purely aiming for the competition’s ranking, Lin Yuan would definitely not use “Bracing the Chill” to compete.

The same logic applies.

For today’s competition, if Lin Yuan was only vying for first place, he wouldn’t have chosen the song “Boy”.

...

The rehearsal lasted for an entire hour.

When he felt that he rehearsed sufficiently, Lin Yuan stopped rehearsing.

Because the singers who were going to record the second episode tonight needed to maintain their freshness and passion for the song.

It was pointless to go on singing the same song over and over.

Moreover, the song was quite long, playing the piano continuously would also be tiring.

Leaving the rehearsal room.

Tongtong leaned in towards Lanling Wang and apologized in a whisper:

“I need to apologize for something. Before the first episode was aired, I kept asking the program crew to cut out the part where you were evaluating Swan and Teacher Yuan Xi, but the director’s team insisted on keeping that part, which resulted in you being criticized by Teacher Yuan Xi’s fans...”

“It’s fine.”

Lin Yuan casually replied.

Indeed, Yuan Xi’s fans hated him.

But judging from the broadcast of the first episode, people who like him were also not few.

Of course, there would be some disputes in between.

Back in the dressing room.

There was still some time before the competition.

Lin Yuan simply took out his mobile phone and started surfing the internet.

News about “The Masked Singer” could be seen everywhere on the Tribe and Blog.

At this moment.

A live stream recommendation online caught Lin Yuan's attention.

The live stream was titled "Leng Quan Predicts Ranking in the 2nd Episode of The Masked Singer".

He clicked on the live stream.

The host was a man who was discussing while facing the camera:

"I might join the judging panel for the third episode, I have no time for the second episode, I can only do a live stream to predict for everyone, first of all I'm not sure about the substitute singers' skills, so excluding them, based on the performance of the five contestants left from the first episode, I think the first place in the next episode will be either Swan or Robot. Because it's apparent that Robot was hiding his skills in the first match, he's probably a King of Singing from Blue Star. He should really blow off steam in the second match."

"Prophet Leng Quan?"

Tongtong suddenly leaned in, then subconsciously said.

It seemed that this live stream host was quite famous.

Tongtong saw that Lin Yuan had no response, he started explain: "Leng Quan is a music critic. He had accurately predicted the champion of 'Bloom' three times consecutively, earning him the title of the Great Prophet of the music industry amongst netizens."

Prophet?

That's interesting.

Lin Yuan couldn't help but be intrigued. After the first episode was aired, he was also called a prophet.

Leng Quan's live stream went on:

“First and second place will either be Swan or Robot, depending on who performs better. Next let's predict third and fourth place. I think it must be either Piggy Qiqi or Prince of Lanling...”

“What about Prince of Lanling?”

Suddenly someone asked in the bullet screen.

Leng Quan glanced at this bullet screen message and smiled: “After the first episode was aired, there has been a lot of discussion about Prince of Lanling online lately. But you guys are greatly mistaken. Prince of Lanling is not as strong as you all imagined. Professionals can hear it; his singing is only at a second or third-tier level...”

Tongtong was taken aback.

He quickly sneaked a peek at the Prince of Lanling.

Prince of Lanling had no reaction.

Of course it was hard to see any reaction from behind the mask.

Unless Prince of Lanling dramatically leaned back.

Lin Yuan: “...”

In fact, Lin Yuan didn't have any psychological fluctuations.

However, this person was quite ambiguous.

A second-tier was second-tier, and third-tier was third-tier, what did he mean by saying Lin Yuan had second or third-tier singing skills?

Lin Yuan was definitely a solid second-tier singer.

Otherwise, he would never have won the first place in the first episode.

At this moment.

The program crew's camera lens, also turned to shooting Lin Yuan watching the live stream...

Chapter 485: The Wind Has Changed

In the live stream, Leng Quan's voice rang out loud: "Someone said the Prince of Lanling is the winner of the first episode after all. That's true, he indeed won the first round, but you need to understand that both the Swan and the Robot were just testing the waters in the first episode. They didn't perform at their absolute best as the Kings and Queens of Singing wouldn't easily reveal their trump cards. Prince of Lanling, however, used his trump card right off at the first round, and that was his dual voice tone. It sounded impressive the first time, but if he employs the same strategy in the second round, neither the judges nor the jury would give him as high a score as he got in the first round."

With that said,

Leng Quan sneered:

"However, the audience seems to like this tactic quite a bit; therefore, it's plausible for Prince of Lanling to secure third place with the audience's support. That is, assuming Piggy Qiqi doesn't make a big splash in the second round. If Piggy Qiqi does step up her game, and assuming none of the other singers make mistakes, Prince of Lanling might be forced into the fourth position. And if a wildcard contestant happens to be exceptional, Prince of Lanling might fall further behind to the fifth place and become a contestant on standby..."

Swish swish swish.

The barrage was plentiful.

The vast majority agreed with Leng Quan's statement. In fact, not only did Leng Quan think so, but there has also been a shift in the direction of public opinion towards Prince of Lanling over the last

few days. According to these analyses, aside from his ability to sing in two different tones, Prince of Lanling doesn't have other advantages!

And moreover...

The advantage of having two voice tones will inevitably diminish as the competition progresses, because he won't be able to rely on that one trick to win the competition forever!

"Heh heh."

Leng Quan sneered, shaking his head. "Prince of Lanling's true colors will be exposed in the second round, and as the competition goes on, his true form will gradually come to light. For those who don't believe me, just wait and see. As for why I seem to belittle Prince of Lanling so much in the barrage, I apologize. I'm not belittling him, I'm merely stating facts. But I do admit that I don't like him as I'm a hardcore fan of Teacher Yuan Xi. I'm truly appalled by his comments about Teacher Yuan Xi."

"Teacher Prince of Lanling."

Tongtong's face was somewhat grim: "Turn off the live stream, don't let it affect your mood for the competition. Leng Quan is merely making predictions, and he's often inaccurate..."

"Hmm."

Prince of Lanling agreed.

The expression behind the mask was unreadable, but Tongtong felt Prince of Lanling must have been angry, and immediately treaded lightly. The tension in the room desperately intensified, as if buffeted by a growing cold wind.

However, Tongtong had misunderstood.

Lin Yuan wasn't that angry.

If Lin Yuan were really angry, he would've turned around and picked a winning song to slap back immediately. But he didn't want to change his original plan over something like this, as that would disrespect his choice of work.

"Teacher Prince of Lanling."

A staff member from the production company came knocking at the door with a lottery box, which somewhat eased the tension in the room.

Tongtong quickly said, "I'm unlucky in draw. I ended up right behind Teacher Swan last time. How about you draw the lottery this time, Teacher Prince of Lanling?"

"Alright."

Lin Yuan turned off the live stream and stood up to draw the lot.

The number six ball.

It was Lin Yuan's turn to perform as the sixth artist today.

Tongtong sighed in relief. The live stream was finally off. Leng Quan's words were too harsh. It seemed that Prince of Lanling had offended quite a few people with his critique of Teacher Yuan Xi in the first episode...

Meanwhile,

The stage up front.

Even though the curtain has not yet been opened, the audience in front of the stage has filled every seat, and an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation hangs in the air over the audience.

The bright red curtain of the stage was suddenly drawn!

Shooo!



Amid the background music of the show, host An Hong entered the stage.

After the opening remarks.

Host An Hong smiled and said, “After the broadcast of the first episode, our show has received an unprecedented response, which has drawn even more attention to our second episode. I believe this is both pressure and motivation for our singers. We look forward to the singers giving more brilliant performances today. Now let’s invite our first performer and also the first wildcard challenger of our show; the name of the singer is Pufferfish...”

Pufferfish?

Wildcard challenger?

The audience couldn’t help but feel curious.

In the spotlight of the stage, wildcard challenger Pufferfish made her appearance.

With her slender waist, dress designed like a gown, and a mask with a hint of playfulness, she was very likely a female singer.

When Pufferfish began to sing, the audience was immediately electrified!

Such intense firepower!

The act kicked off with a high note!

A very explosive female voice!

The singers backstage also looked up at the high-definition TV on the wall to assess the strength of this wildcard contestant.

“Not bad,” murmured Swan.

Robot nodded: "Such a singing skill is top-tier."

Piggy Qiqi stood up nervously: "A strong opponent has shown up! Her singing style is similar to mine, she must be a singer I know..."

The Wanderer sighed: "Looks like I'm out of luck today."

"..."

Prince of Lanling didn't utter a word.

Tongtong tried to keep the atmosphere lively: "The new singer is pretty good, huh? Does her voice sound a bit like Zhao Ying Ge?"

"Hmm."

Prince of Lanling nodded in agreement: "There are indeed some similarities. Zhao Ying Ge tends to show off her skills too much. High notes and explosive power are her strengths, but she has been relying too heavily on these in recent years. However, on this stage, a contestant like her is quite good since she knows how to fully utilize her strengths during the competition."

Lin Yuan also suspected that Pufferfish was Zhao Ying Ge.

Zhao Ying Ge is a singer from Starlight and has collaborated with Lin Yuan before, so he had a familiarity with her voice.

However, there was something a little different about the voice of Pufferfish which was why Lin Yuan couldn't confirm.

Huh?

After he finished speaking, Lin Yuan suddenly noticed an unnerving silence.

It was only when he looked up did he realize that the cameraman was staring blankly at him.

The look in Tongtong's eyes was even more desperate—

Tongtong was utterly desperate!

She couldn't believe that after criticizing Yuan Xi in the previous episode, Prince of Lanling had now fired shots at the popular female singer Zhao Ying Ge!

Dude!

Can you be a bit more low-key?

How many more big-shot celebrities are you planning to offend?

After all, Zhao Ying Ge was once a champion of "Bloom" and her career has been going great ever since!

She might not be as successful as the Queen of Singing Yuan Xi, but as a top-tier singer now, she possesses significant popularity and could be easily reckoned as a big name!

Did you watch the live stream earlier for nothing?

All because of that one critique you gave on Yuan Xi in the first episode, Leng Quan has been mocking you relentlessly. You heard all of it during the live stream.

He has been belittling you, hasn't he?

If you continue to criticize more big names like Zhao Ying Ge, what's going to happen?

Once the episode is aired, won't Zhao Ying Ge's fans go berserk at you?

If this part isn't cut out, Tongtong could almost imagine what Zhao Ying Ge's fans would do after this episode airs...

One simply cannot offend these celebrities.

Chapter 486: Turned into a piano concert

On stage.

Pufferfish finished singing.

After the judges gave their feedback, they went straight to guessing Pufferfish's identity:

"You are Zhao Ying Ge!"

Pufferfish laughed and said, "That's right, I am Zhao Ying Ge!"

Holy cow!

He confessed so quickly?

He didn't follow the script!

The panel of judges was momentarily taken aback.

It was the first time a singer had confessed so bluntly who they were, everybody couldn't quite believe it.

Without wasting any more time.

The second singer to perform was Vagabond.

Vagabond's performance was quite similar to the last one, very decent but ordinary.

The reactions from the judges and audience were muted.

The third singer immediately brought the audience back to life.

Swan took the stage!

What surprised many was that Swan was playing and singing herself in this performance!

She had prepared a piano!

After Swan finished singing, the four judges joked, “Starting to pull out new moves, you play the piano quite well! Definitely better than most singers.”

“Not bad at all.”

Swan responded confidently: “I was just giving it a small try. My real skill is yet to come.”

She still had many tricks up her sleeve!

After a little more interaction, the host took over the stage.

The next performer was Robot.

If it were someone else, they might not be able to follow up after Swan.

But Robot would!

He was King of Singing!

However, when Robot started his performance, the audience was amused...

Piano!

It's piano again!

The King and Queen of Singing, unexpectedly prepared the same kind of performance, both involving self-singing and piano playing for today's competition!

And...

Just like many people predicted before the show.

Robot exploded!

He played the piano at a swift pace, the big screen focused on his piano playing, giving off an incredibly cool vibe!

The rhythm of the song was fast.

The melody was extremely catchy.

After he finished the song, the audience broke out into the loudest applause, Robot's performance was the best so far!

"No need to guess anymore!"

"If he's not King of Singing, I'll eat shit!"

"My God, his piano skills are incredible!"

"Swan's piano playing can't compare to his, this round seems to be dominated by Robot."

"If Swan had known the competition's piano skills were this good, she probably wouldn't have chosen to play the piano this round."

“A perfect combination of voice and piano!”

“...”

Including the judges, everyone gave a thumbs up!

Wu Long exaggeratedly touched his own heart: “This is a counterattack against us judges. Last round we all agreed that you were first-rate, this round you used your real skill to tell us, you were intentionally hiding your power last time!”

“Oh boy!”

Robot laughed proudly, speaking in a quirky dialect: “How does Teacher Wu Long know that I’m not hiding any skills this round?”

The audience got excited!

He’s this good, and he’s still hiding his skills?

Anyway, Robot was still quirky, but with this sentence, the King of Singing’s domineering aura had indeed been revealed!

“I get it.”

Mao Xuewang winked and said, “The big trick always comes last. However, your piano skills have given you away.”

Robot shook his head: “Don’t scare me, not many people know I can play the piano.”

The audience laughed heartily.

Next to him, Liu Xu commented: “Swan’s piano skill is in the upper-range among singers, but your piano skill is excellent even among singers, it’s almost professional.”

That's high praise!

Almost professional level!

Over ninety-five percent of singers don't have this level of skill!

This round, the show reached its peak!

Backstage waiting area.

Piggy Qiqi covered her masked face: "I thought it was a good thing that I drew the fifth out of the hat, but why did I have to follow Teacher Robot!"

Piggy Qiqi is in the same situation as the Magician from the last round!

She's having a hard time taking over the stage from the King of Singing!

However, there is no other choice; when push comes to shove, she just has to plough through it.

After she finished her song, all the judges were shaking their heads.

"You were nervous."

"Your heart wasn't strong enough."

"You were clearly affected by the presence of the robot."

"You performed a bit off today."

Piggy Qiqi started crying. Even though her face was obscured by a mask and her tears were invisible, her shaky voice couldn't hide her emotions.



A good session of evaluation unexpectedly turned into a large scale consolation session.

However, this is quite a common scene in variety shows anyways.

...

Backstage.

Tongtong sighed, saying: “The Magician was right. Drawing lots is a form of metaphysics. If she was following the wanderer...”

Tongtong suddenly closed her mouth!

My goodness, that was a close call to offend someone!

If my words were broadcasted, I would have offended so many people!

However, Lin Yuan naturally added: “If she followed the Wanderer, Piggy Qiqi’s performance would have been better. But, this is no big deal. The only solution when this happens, is to catch up with him.”

Tongtong was silent.

Still so daring, that’s just like you!

But aren’t your words a bit too arrogant?

Catch up with him?

Is it that easy to catch up after the King of Singing finishes his song?

Okay then.

Prince of Lanling has already demonstrated to the audience in the last episode how to take over after the King of Singing finishes his song.

So, while the words are crude, the logic isn't.

If you drew a bad lot and your previous opponent is too strong, then you just have to keep up with him.

“Please prepare, Prince of Lanling...”

The programme team's reminder came through the loudspeaker.

Lin Yuan and Tongtong both stood up to go to the waiting area.

And with the introduction by the host, Lin Yuan finally stepped onto the stage.

“Prince of Lanling!”

“Prince of Lanling!”

“Prince of Lanling!” Despite the various voices online, there was still a large portion of the live audience who supported Prince of Lanling.

Not everyone blindly follows the crowd.

Some audience members genuinely love Prince of Lanling's magical falsetto!

However...

What the audience didn't expect was that before Prince of Lanling even started singing, a piano was slowly raised onto the stage through a lift.

The four judges laughed.

The panel of judges exchanged glances.

The audience was a bit stunned.

A piano?

Another piano performance?

The Swan played the piano, the robot played the piano, and now Prince of Lanling wants to play the piano too?

Did they agree to make this a piano-special episode today?

The problem is...

If we're talking about piano playing, the robot had already performed exceptionally well!

Even the Swan was overshadowed by the Robot!

The judges had publicly commented that the robot had a close-to-professional level of piano skills...

And yet, Prince of Lanling dares to play under these circumstances?

Backstage.

The Swan shook her head:

"He has no choice. Before the competition, no one knows how the other singers would perform. The piano was pre-rehearsed, it's hard to change plans at this point."

The Swan's agent consoled: "Your piano playing was also great!"

The Swan shrugged: "I'm not so ungracious. I admit when I'm beaten. Had I known the Robot would play the piano so brilliantly, I wouldn't have attempted to 'show off my slight skill before an expert'."

The agent's assistant said: "So, this round isn't looking good for Prince of Lanling..."

The Swan laughed: "Even if his piano playing is not up to par, it doesn't really matter. Prince of Lanling's level of falsetto is undeniable. Advancing should be a piece of cake. At least in the initial rounds, no one can easily eliminate him."

Did Prince of Lanling reveal his trump card in the first round?

What does it matter? Some people's trump cards are such that even if you know about them in advance, you still can't think of a way to deal with them.

Chapter 487: Wind, Rain, Snow

"As if it were planned."

Back in the dressing room, the robot looks at the man sitting in front of the piano on the TV and chuckles :

Why is everyone suddenly playing the piano!

Next room.

Piggy Qiqi has calmed down.

She said bitterly, "This is normal. There is always self-play and self-singing in competitions. The piano and guitar just so happen to be the instruments with the highest presence on stage. But after this episode, probably no one will dare play the piano lightly."

The robot's piano skills are too strong!

Other singers playing the piano will find it hard to reach the robot's level, and they will likely be compared subconsciously by the audience with the robot, which might expose their shortcomings.

At this moment.

On stage.

Lin Yuan doesn't look at the packed crowd below.

With his mind completely on the piano, he stretched out his fingers and slammed down the keys in a crisscross manner!

A virtuosic passage!

The power of his fingers and wrists applied simultaneously on the keys. They were heavy tones, yet they were rapid, as if the subsequent sound was constantly chasing the echoes of the previous sound.

Heavy!

Powerful!

All the audience's heartbeats accelerated subconsciously, feeling as though these piano notes held some inexplicable attraction.

This piano...

The eyes of the jury simultaneously focus on Lin Yuan, savoring the exquisite points in his performance.

Jury seats.

The four judges' expressions gradually became serious.

Lin Yuan closed his eyes and his hands began to whirl at high speed, still in a crisscross virtuosic passage!

Double octaves!

This is showmanship!

Blatant showmanship!

Even though this process was very brief, it was undeniably an intense show of skill. In just tens of seconds, Lin Yuan had captivated everyone's attention!

“Hu...”

Lin Yuan took a breath, clearly transmitted through the microphone.

This was only the warm-up, just to gather the audience's attention.

In a pianist's solo performance, it's a common opening technique, just that non-professional pianists might find it hard to achieve this effect.

After the warm-up, the piano sound softened, like the extreme stillness after intense movement.

It was as if the explosive sound of the piano just now had never happened.

The band joins in.

A female voice resonates, like the breeze fluttering in the soul:

“Once, by chance, he and she fell in love, in a time when there's no hesitation; assuming they understood, so they loved heartily, hands clenched tightly, and the determination and future in their hearts...”

Then, a magnetic male voice sounded, like the raindrops falling:

“Cannot forget, your love, but the conclusion is hard to change, I couldn’t make you stay, less like him, who can give you a future to look forward to, naive boy...”

The audience’s eyes brighten.

Even though they have already heard Lin Yuan’s singing style in the first round, hearing him repeat this genre again with a different song still impresses them.

Lin Yuan is showing off!

“I wanted to ask, is your sorrow no more, like the sea lying under the sunlight, like colors painted with heart...”

Female voice... male voice... female voice... male voice!

High-frequency transitions!

Seems like a new song?

On the judges’ panel, the four judges thought so, then they all raised their eyebrows.

There’s no issue with the new song.

It’s not that Lin Yuan sang anything wrong.

This high-frequency transition is cool.

But, how was he going to continue, since there were only two voices and no third voice—

Suddenly, Lin Yuan leaned forward, the piano notes intensified, and at the same time, a slightly raspy voice abruptly resonated:

“Make you smile, brave!”

A husky voice appears!

The third voice!

It perfectly blended with the previous two voices, achieving almost a “trio” effect—

Mao Xuewang was dumbfounded.

Liu Xu was also shocked.

Wu Long’s mouth dropped open.

Yang Zhongming abruptly sat upright.

In the backstage area.

All the singers were dumbstruck.

Where did this voice come from?

Why does he have a third type of voice?

What kind of freaky throat does he have!

Even the audience in the auditorium started to fidget slightly.



Everyone felt the emergence of the third voice, but their feelings were not as intense as the professionals. They just felt like Prince of Lanling's voice seemed infinitely variable?

On the judges' side.

Many people looked shocked.

Although it was also a male voice, it was completely different from the previous magnetic baritone. This time it was a very beautiful husky voice!

A bit depressed, a bit vicissitudinous.

But it gives people a feeling of a rich story!

Lin Yuan's husky voice completely came out, like a blade suddenly drawn in the dark: "I miss you now, I miss you when I wander, all regrets are not the future, all love will inevitably be hurt in the end..."

The female voice is the wind.

The male voice is like rain.

Husky voice is like snow.

From the softness of spring wind to the crispness of raindrops, and finally turning into the husky voice's cold and vicissitudes, the notes seemed to dance around him.

"Thud."

Lin Yuan's singing paused, leaving only the piano sounding like a monologue. on the eighty-eight piano keys, ten fingers were ten jumping spirits, each with a different pace.

A full minute.

But nobody found it too long.

It was as if they could never get tired of these piano tones.

Professional Level piano skill!

The robot backstage blinked.

It did not match up.

The room next door.

Swan muttered to herself: “Why on earth do I want to play the piano...”

The other singers shook their heads.

After the Robot, any singer who wants to play the piano, they would definitely think twice.

But after Prince of Lanling, no singer would dare to play the piano on The Masked Singer’s stage!

Unless they are as good as Prince of Lanling, with professional-level pianist skills!

Yes!

Many people heard it!

Prince of Lanling’s piano skills are better than the Robot’s!

In a certain interlude of the piano sound, Lin Yuan’s voice began to ring again. It was still the husky voice, but it was with a heavier pronunciation:

“Now I just hope that the pain comes more swiftly, since I can’t go back...”

The piano sound turned light.

Lin Yuan, with his eyes closed, lightly hummed.

The female voice like wind chimes, began to brush against his face again.

The male voice like raindrops, started to ring again.

The husky voice like falling snow, served as the finale.

This song, ended.

The scene was extremely quiet.

Some audience members displayed thoughtful expressions.

In contrast, the judges were nearly unanimous in their shock, and in the judges' area, four faces each showing a different reaction.

Applause started to ring.

If you listen carefully, it was clear that the applause from the fifty judges was the loudest, even drowning out that from the audience.

When the applause subsided.

The host walked onto the stage and asked: "Is this another new song written by Xian Yu?"

"Yes, it's called Boy."

Lin Yuan got up from the piano, bowed to the band and the audience below, feeling that he had performed quite well.

“Wu...”

The host was preparing to call the judges.

But before the host’s voice fell, Wu Long was already staring intently at Prince of Lanling, and was the first to speak:

“Last time, you got the first place, but all my votes went to Swan and Robot; this time, you probably won’t get the first place, but these hundred votes of mine are all yours.”

Chapter 488: Rankings Published

Each judge has one hundred votes to distribute freely. Under normal circumstances, the judges will distribute votes based on the quality of each singer’s performance.

But...

If a judge really likes a specific performance, they could give all their votes to that one singer!

That’s the judges’ prerogative.

If all four judges give all their votes to one singer, that singer will instantly gather four hundred votes!

But, that’s highly unlikely...

Mao Xuewang looked at Lin Yuan: “Teacher Wu Long is quite harsh. I don’t have the courage to give you all my votes, but your performance today really surprised me. Is that really a human voice?”

Lin Yuan was silent.

It should be, right?

Mao Xuewang couldn't possibly guess any incredible fact from Lin Yuan's silence.; he simply exclaimed, "I thought your falsetto had reached its limit with two voices. I didn't expect that you have a third falsetto!"

"And there's the piano!"

Liu Xu added from the side, "If this were a piano competition, you'd definitely be the champion. Your piano skills are at a professional level!"

"Indeed!"

Wu Long couldn't help but interject, "The level of a professional pianist, no doubt. It's even a level higher than the robot's piano playing. Many audience members might not feel it, but I really want to tell the audience that Prince of Lanling's piano skills should be added to his score. Of course, the song is also excellent, but choosing this song is a disadvantage. Some audience members might not resonate with this style of music. This is actually a common problem in music – whether the quality of a song should be judged by its degree of popularity..."

Then it was Yang Zhongming's turn.

Yang Zhongming looked at Prince of Lanling, there was a certain strangeness in his eyes. He shook his head and said, "It's a pity. The song is good, and the piano is absolutely impressive. But you shouldn't have chosen this song for this stage; the audience might not like it."

Lin Yuan replied, "I know."

Yang Zhongming asked, "And you still chose it?"

After some thought, Lin Yuan replied, "Um."

Yang Zhongming started laughing, "Very good."

He didn't say anything else.

Wu Long then seriously added, "For this round, Prince of Lanling is my top choice."

Liu Xu also smiled, “For me, it’s a tie between Prince of Lanling and the robot.”

Mao Xuewang hesitated a moment before saying, “I’m a bit unsure about this round, not sure what criteria to use for evaluation.”

Yes.

The criteria were tricky to establish.

Prince of Lanling’s three different voices and piano skills all add points. The current question is – how many points should he get?

Quite a dilemma.

The same dilemma was present among the jurors.

But that is no longer Lin Yuan’s concern.

He bowed and left the stage.

Host Anhong started reminding everyone to vote.

Fifteen minutes later.

Backstage in the hall.

The singers gathered together.

The Swan took the initiative to talk to Lin Yuan, “You’re my number one.”

“Thank you.”

Lin Yuan was a bit surprised.

He didn't initially aim for the first place in this round, otherwise he would not have chosen "Boy." Competitive songs are more appropriate for competitions like this.

In fact.

On Earth, Bruce Liang was also eliminated in the first round of Singer, but interestingly, Liang was the top pick among the singers themselves.

"You really sang well."

The robot gave Lin Yuan a thumbs up, "Especially the piano, I'm really impressed!"

Lin Yuan just smiled.

At the entrance.

The director Tong Shuwen came in with a weird expression, "Everyone, the results for this round are out. The results for today are radically different from the first round. So different that I doubt my own eyes..."

Everyone was stunned.

Hugely different from the first round?

Doesn't that mean there will be a massive shift in the rankings?

"As you're thinking, this round, every singer's ranking has changed. Let me first announce who is eliminated."

For those about to be eliminated, waiting means torment.

The Wanderer immediately showed a grateful look.

Everyone knew that The Wanderer would certainly be eliminated this round.

The reactions of the judges, the jury, and the audience had made this clear.

“The singer who received the sixth number of votes in this competition is...”

Tong Shuwen quickly announced without any suspense, “Regrettably, Piggy Qiqi, you’re eliminated.”

The Wanderer, who was all set to stand up, paused upon hearing this.

Piggy Qiqi was the last place. Unexpectedly.

Piggy Qiqi laughed, “Everyone, I’m going to reveal my identity in a moment. I won’t cry this time. After all, I’m a top-rated singer. You all must be very curious about who I am, right?”

Everyone laughed, no longer feeling sad.

It was both surprising and reasonable for Piggy Qiqi to be eliminated.

Her performance indeed fell short.

The Robot felt somewhat guilty and hugged Piggy Qiqi, “Keep it up.”

Piggy Qiqi smiled, “It’s okay. You guys are the main players. Remember to win the contest for us!”

“Main players? Contest?”

The Robot blinked.



Tong Shuwen cleared his throat and said, “This news hasn’t been announced yet. How did you know, Teacher Piggy Qiqi?”

Piggy Qiqi chuckled, “I guessed, but it seems like I got it right...”

Everyone was intrigued.

Tong Shuwen coughed, “Then let’s announce the next ranking. Wanderer, you are ranked fifth this time. As you are a provisional contestant, you will be eliminated this round...”

“Finally, I can breathe a sigh of relief.”

Wanderer got up, laughing, “I’ve gotten fifth place twice, that doesn’t sound too bad, right?”

Everyone nodded, feeling a hint of sadness.

Tong Shuwen paused before announcing, “Next, the fourth place in this round is...Swan!”

The singers were stunned.

Swan was stunned, too.

His ranking was too low!

The atmosphere became subtly awkward.

Swan suddenly said, “Although it was unexpected, it’s the unpredictability that makes the competition interesting. How many votes did I get?”

Tong Shuwen said,

“Swan, you received 380 audience votes, 40 public jury votes and 50 jury votes, bringing your total to exactly 510 votes...”

The audience votes were not many, and the jury votes were also lacking. The public jury votes were okay, though.

Shrug off Swan’s shoulders, “I accept this result, but I aim for first place next time.”

Piggy Qiqi immediately said, “Sis, I totally respect you!”

Robot chuckled, “I also want to be first next time.”

“Just wait and see,” Swan retorted.

Tong Shuwen said, “Next, we will announce the third place. This person’s votes are a little strange. He was the favorite singer in the last round, but he got fewer audience votes this time...”

All eyes turned to Prince of Lanling.

As expected.

Tong Shuwen recited, “Prince of Lanling, the third in this round, won 308 audience votes, 33 public jury votes, and 200 jury votes, totaling 574 votes!”

“Hmm.”

Lin Yuan nodded, this result was within his expectations.

The audience votes were low, the public jury votes were okay, and the jury votes were half of the total jury votes.

In other words.

The jury recognized him as the first this round.

There must have been some advantage in his piano and husky voice.

But it seemed the audience couldn't quite get it.

The third place, as predicted by the so-called prophet, but Lin Yuan himself also guessed this ranking.

"To be honest."

Swan said to Lin Yuan, "This time, you were better than the last time."

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan also thought he did better this time, whether it was in terms of difficulty or performance.

On the other hand.

Lin Yuan knew some truths, but he couldn't help but take risks and wanted to sing some songs that might not create a lively atmosphere.

If it wasn't for his husky voice, he might have been fourth?

It was still a bit risky.

He shouldn't take any more risks in the next round, he should aim for first place. After all, it's a competitive show, the atmosphere needs to be upheld.

"Next, I will announce the first place for this round..."

Everyone's eyes fell on Robot. Although Pufferfish also did well, making an excellent debut, the performance of Robot was what the audience responded to most enthusiastically.

As expected.

Tong Shuwen read out Robot's name,

"Robot received 455 audience votes this round, 45 public jury votes, and 130 jury votes, for a total of 665 votes..."

Robot stood up, performed a goofy spin, and almost stumbled.

Everyone laughed. Robot was always this pleasing. Even the flaunting after winning first place didn't produce any animosity.

Pufferfish, on the other hand, scored 594 votes in the first round, placing second for the round.

"Just arrived and already placed second, congrats!" Everyone congratulated.

"Thank you."

Pufferfish grinned, she was very pleased with the result.

The rankings were clear now.

Robot was the undisputed winner.

The substitute singer Pufferfish made an impressive debut.

Prince of Lanling, the winner of the first round, dropped to third place.

Swan, who tied for first in the first round, shockingly fell to fourth.

The two dominators of the first round shared a common misfortune.

However, everyone could sense that the next round would be a storm on the horizon!

Meanwhile.

Wanderer and Piggy Qiqi made their way to the stage to unveil their identities.

As expected, Piggy Qiqi was actually Lu Yumeng, a first-tier female singer!

On the other hand, Wanderer turned out to be Ding Qin, a first-tier male singer who had retired from the music industry for many years. He was already 48 years old at this point.

It can be foreseen.

Once this round is aired, it will undoubtedly stir up a whirlwind of attention and discussion!

Chapter 489: Trigger the Gold Treasure Chest

“Everyone.”

After they removed their masks at the front desk...

Director Tong Shuwen signaled to pause the shooting, then began to speak, “Continuing from our earlier topic, even if Lu Yumeng didn’t bring it up, I was planning to discuss the upcoming competition format with everyone...”

Piggy Qiqi had already revealed his face.

Tong Shuwen didn’t hold back: “Lu Yumeng guessed right. There will be a team battle in The Masked Singer. In the next two rounds, if none of you are eliminated, you will automatically form the first team of this program!”

“Two rounds?”

The Swan keyed in on the crucial point.

Tong Shuwen nodded, “The selection of each team will need to go through four rounds of challenges. You’ve already gone through two rounds consecutively. Two more rounds will make a month. At that time, we will begin to select the second team. Our principle is each team will have five members, and will definitely include one King and one Queen of Singing. Of course, if the King or Queen get eliminated early, we won’t flout the rules just due to their titles.”

“Interesting.”

The Robot remarked with a smile.

Tong Shuwen sighed, “The number of singers applying for this program is overwhelming. We still haven’t closed the application channel yet, so we’re not sure how many teams there will ultimately be. What we do know is that there will be two replacement singers in the next round. It will still follow the format of a six-person ranking battle where the last one is eliminated and the remaining five are safe.”

“There are no undecided spots?”

“Correct, there are no undecided spots in the third and fourth rounds. However, in the fourth round, we will give singers who have performed fewer times a chance to perform extra. It’s not possible to let replacement singers pass directly because of their outstanding performance in one round. They must also perform an extra song for score determination...”

This was to ensure fairness.

Replacement singers join midway. The Prince of Lanling and his group had already performed for several rounds. It wouldn’t be fair if replacement singers can advance directly after winning just one round. The program rigorously pursues fair competition rules.

“.....”

After Tong Shuwen finished explaining the situation, everyone chatted a bit before they all left. The first round didn’t have a chatting segment. This was only after everyone found out that there would be team battles later on. They wanted to get to know each other better since they might become teammates, provided they weren’t replaced by the replacement singers in rounds three and four.

Lin Yuan didn't go to the company.

He went straight home.

He needed to seize the time to practice his singing skills. While this might seem like cramming for a test, he had to practice his singing skills diligently. The more he can improve, the better...

"The Swan is strong."

"The Robot is strong too."

"Even if we're only comparing singing skills with Pufferfish, the replacement singer who just appeared today, I'm not a match. What's more, it's obvious that Pufferfish is a professional singer who is very good at competitions. This kind of opponent is a formidable threat to even the King and Queen of Singing. Add to that the unknown strength of the replacement singers that will appear later, the difficulty is really increasing step by step."

Lin Yuan was well aware.

His singing skills were indeed not good enough. Even though he still has a grasp on getting first place now, with the intensifying competition, it's only a matter of time before he gets eliminated, especially since the King and Queen of Singing haven't fully shown their strengths yet.

He had some tricks up his sleeve!

But others might also have theirs!

The only thing Lin Yuan regretted was that even though there were countless stage-shaking songs in the system's music library, and even nuclear-level pieces that could easily stun the audience, due to his own limitation in singing skills, Lin Yuan couldn't master many of the songs. So, he could only choose some songs that were not as difficult to sing. Wasn't the choice of singing "Boy" also a helpless move due to these circumstances?

A talented woman is hard put to it without rice!

He could even build fighter jets and cannons if necessary, and even nukes if he had to. But the problem was that Lin Yuan could build them, but he couldn't use them himself!

Who could he vent his frustrations to?

His spirit was willing, but his flesh was weak!

Sometimes, Lin Yuan would lament, "If my voice wasn't damaged, after several years of training, based on the original host's talent, even if I'm not the King of Singing by now, at the very least, I would have had the singing level of a top-tier singer. And that would be just fine as a top-tier singer can master the vast majority of challenging songs..."

Singing skills require constant refining.

Other singers have been constantly refining their skills, which is why their singing abilities are constantly improving. Lin Yuan's talent was very scary, he had the singing skills of a second-tier singer during his college years. Normally, he would at least be a top-tier singer, if not the King of Singing by now.

But his voice had failed him.

These years when his voice failed him, Lin Yuan's singing skills remained stagnant, still at the second-tier singer level. Even though the system had compensated Lin Yuan with a female voice and a husky voice, their help in the upcoming battles was less concrete than proper singing skills.

However, not all was lost.

The compensation with a female voice and husky voice might not be as helpful as singing skills in the competition, but singing skills can be improved, whereas a natural female voice and husky voice are not possible to be trained technically. One must have a long-term vision.

Lin Yuan comforted himself.



While the competition hadn't yet heated up, he wanted to get better results. He wasn't satisfied with coming in third this round, but he was the one responsible, as the song choice wasn't suitable for a competitive stage.

This was normal.

The Swan, who is an established Queen of Singing, surprisingly got fourth this round. The root of the problem was the same as Lin Yuan's. However, the Swan didn't get high votes from the judges, which was because of the piano—

Lin Yuan's piano skills were too good!

The Robot's piano skills were not bad either!

After comparing all three of them, the Swan, whose piano technique was okay originally, suddenly appeared inferior. The judges surely didn't give her too many votes due to this reason.

It could be foreseen.

In the next round, the Swan will definitely do the same as Lin Yuan, she will not choose songs that are not strong in competition anymore. It would be too embarrassing if the Queen were to be eliminated before the team selection is over.

Having completed the summary.

Lin Yuan prepared to enter the System's Virtual Space to train his singing skills. Suddenly, an electronic sound rang in his ear, and the mechanical voice of the System sounded, "Congratulations to the host for achieving the prerequisite condition to open the Gold Treasure Chest..."

Lin Yuan was stunned.

Of course, he didn't forget that he still had a Gold Treasure Chest. But he couldn't open this Gold Treasure Chest himself, it required certain conditions to be triggered. The System had not told Lin Yuan what the prerequisite conditions were to open this chest.

“Passion for Competition!”

The System seemed to guess Lin Yuan’s thoughts and explained, “This stems from the host’s desire for victory. Although music may not have a hierarchy, competitions are bound to have winners and losers. The host’s passion and pursuit of music is the prerequisite condition for the second Gold Treasure Chest to be opened. Shall I open it now?”

“Open it!”

Lin Yuan didn’t hesitate!

This timing couldn’t be better! The prerequisite is related to music, which means that the reward in this Gold Treasure Chest must also be related to music. Lin Yuan needed more tricks up his sleeve!

Yes!

Though he had already predicted that ‘Boy’ had a low chance of getting first place, the final third-place ranking still frustrated him a little. He suddenly understood the feelings of both Fei Yang and Chen Zhiyu from before.

“Shush!”

Bright golden light seemed to flash before Lin Yuan’s eyes, then his breathing suddenly quickened. The reward from the second Gold Treasure Chest appeared...

Chapter 490: Singing Skill Book

[Ding Dong!]

[Your Gold Treasure Chest has been opened for you. Congratulations, Host, for obtaining the Mysterious Singing Skill Book. This book will enhance your singing skills comprehensively after use. It also comes with a Super High Pitch Blessing. You’ll have to discover the details of the enhancement on your own.]

[Ding Dong!]

[The Skill Book has been placed in the Host's backpack. It can be used at any time and shows quick effects. Would you like to use the Skill Book now?]

“...”

Lin Yuan's little heart trembled slightly. He wished he could lean over and give this Gold Treasure Chest a big kiss. A Gold Level chest always reveals legendary treasures!

Singing Techniques Up!

And with high notes!

Without hesitation, Lin Yuan used the Skill Book. Then, he felt a chilling sensation in his throat. When this sensation disappeared, Lin Yuan attempted to shout:

“Ah!”

It was a very high note.

And he hit it with ease.

Lin Yuan got excited. He usually couldn't reach such high notes. Suddenly, his lung capacity had improved tremendously. Lin Yuan couldn't help but want to try an even higher note. So, he gradually raised his pitch:

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

The last note sounded like the call of a dolphin, a highly admired dolphin note that many enjoy. However, it's essential to explain that many singers can produce this dolphin note because of their natural talents.

But dolphin notes have levels.

These notes result from a powerful gust of breath blown from an extremely small gap between the vocal cords and throat. Not only is this a colorful and amusing way to sing in high pitch, but it's also the highest frequency that a human voice can reach. So, some cannot sing this note, some can produce it but can't control it, while others can control it freely. Lin Yuan's dolphin note is exceptionally strong, not only can it be controlled freely, but the overall tone is also stunningly beautiful. Even compared to Jiang Kui, who is also highly skilled at these dolphin notes, Lin Yuan's skill leaves him in the dust...

Terrifying indeed!

Subsequently, Lin Yuan began to experiment with more techniques, including challenging ornamentation from bel canto. He began learning these techniques in high school as a vocal major. Even though he knew the techniques for producing the sounds, he couldn't sing them because he is a baritone, and even the female voice produced by the System was a mezzo, this is his most comfortable vocal range. But now, this range was being extended to almost five octaves—

He can nail ALL high notes!

And they are pure and authentic!

Many people can sing high notes, but some are actually forced and lack authenticity. It is a common singing trick to squeeze the throat and strive for higher pitch and end up sounding like a castrato. Here, the intent is not derogatory, just describing what it sounds like.

Lin Yuan could do that in the past.

But what's truly impressive is hitting high notes authentically, because an authentic note is a voice that is resonating with emotion and full, rich texture, produced by the vocal cords at the exact closing point, perfectly supported from the chest.

The two are not the same.

The excitement Lin Yuan now feels is probably comparable to having received a Transformer toy, he kept exploring his high notes in his room, his voice shifting from male to female, he was having a whale of a time.

“Whew...”

After playing for nearly an hour...

Finally, Lin Yuan stopped because his throat was a bit tight, it was his brain reminding him not to overdo it. Even with a good high note range, he couldn't abuse it. Although Lin Yuan didn't feel like stopping.

At this moment...

He was like a kid with a new toy, and he wanted to play nonstop until he got bored. He might not even get bored because he had admired tenors since he was a kid and now he himself could sing in a tenor's range!

And even a soprano's range!

High notes do not equal singing ability, but this Skill Book doesn't only enhance high notes. Lin Yuan can clearly feel that his overall singing skills have improved. This is a comprehensive enhancement of his skills by the System, perhaps also related to the changes brought by increased lung capacity.

From this moment on!

Lin Yuan's singing skills won't hinder him anymore, and the increased lung capacity that comes with high notes has strengthened his overall voice control. This is an excellent cycle of singing skills improvement.

What are singing skills?

In a general sense, singing skills are a composition of elements such as pitch accuracy, vocal range, volume, timbre, voice quality, resonance, breath control, and pronunciation, as well as a sense of rhythm. Most second-tier singers have a pretty good command over these basic skills. Factors like timbre and voice quality are more dependent on innate talent than effort, and this is not something Lin Yuan needs to worry about.

His natural talent is unbeatable!

As for his current level of singing skills, even Lin Yuan himself can't clearly quantify it. The only thing he's certain of is that he can now stand toe-to-toe with the top champions without his singing skills dragging him down.

Lin Yuan even has a feeling:

He could win the championship in a show!

He quietly adjusted his goals for the competition. His eyes gleamed as he looked out of the window, there were so many songs to choose from for the next round.

You must know...

Lin Yuan now has the ability to master most songs. Many songs he hadn't considered choosing can now be performed. There's an arsenal of songs to pick from.

And he can handle them all!

If a comparison were to be made, Lin Yuan feels his vocal range is no less than the renowned singer of Earth, Teacher Zhang Yusheng. Of course, the two have completely different timbres. This comparison only pertains to their vocal ranges while singing.

"Hm?"

Perhaps because his throat was feeling tense, Lin Yuan tried humming a few notes. He discovered his voice began to slide, bouncing between authentic and non-authentic sounds, making him sound

a bit crazy. This made Lin Yuan laugh unconsciously. The joy of having a good voice truly couldn't be understood by ordinary people.

He can play freely and uninhibited!

This spurred an idea in Lin Yuan.

Without continuing his fun – not because Lin Yuan didn't want to, but because he received a phone call from the film set: "Mr. Lin, our preparations for the movie are complete. We're ready to start filming 'Spiderman'."

"The preparations are done?"

Faster than Lin Yuan anticipated.

Considering the film cost over 100 million in budget, but didn't go over too much, Lin Yuan nodded: "Tomorrow I'll visit the set, though I might not be able to stay long."

Time was a bit tight.

Lin Yuan still needed to practice singing.

The System gave great singing skills to Lin Yuan, but he still needed to practice control to familiarize himself better with his capabilities. Every upgrade from the System had potential for further improvement. This was the part under Lin Yuan's control—

He can still get stronger!