

Path Choice of College Music Education Reform in New Circumstances

Yajing Zou

Hunan University of Humanities, Science and Technology, Loudi, Hunan, 417000, China

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Abstract: Music, as a popular way of entertainment, has many positive influences on people's spiritual condition. College is the major base of high-end talent cultivation. Its reform and healthy development in an all-around way have attracted vast attention from various social arenas. Reform of college music education plays an important role in enhancing the level of music appreciation and accomplishment of the whole society. This study is trying to analyze the background, reason and concrete path of college music education reform in new social circumstances.

1 BACKGROUNDS OF COLLEGE MUSIC EDUCATION REFORM

Spiritual enjoyment has been attached increasing importance along with social development. Music education in college is crucial to enhance the level of music appreciation of the whole society. A major part of college education is the training of learning methods. Different from other education phases, college education focuses more on guiding students to better use their knowledge and skills. Music education enhances the appreciation level and aesthetic values of students and also helps students to relax and liberate themselves from pressure. Students can thus find their way to express feelings and enrich their leisure time, improving the quality of their lives (Ma Wen, 2014). The impacts of music education on students' lives cannot be measured by scores and credits. In short, music education has significant meanings for student development. The reform of college music education in new social circumstances is a difficult but important task for both education industry and the whole society.

1.1 Analysis of college music education reform from the perspective of education backgrounds

Our education system is typically exam-oriented, considerably emphasizing academic courses over others. Students have been instilled by their parents and teacher that studying is the most important since

their early ages. Study is regarded as the priority task of students, while education of knowledge in other aspects is less important. The courses are also arranged by the schools. During the phases of primary school and junior middle school, study is relatively easy for students (Wang Yang, Chen Jie, 2013). In most of those schools, music course is arranged once a week. But in high school—the most important phase of education, music course is cancelled to spare more time for students to study. It is easy to understand why many students do not know much about music in this situation and simply equal music to pop songs. According to an investigation, 80% students of regular colleges and universities receive no professional music education and vocal training. They have only vague cognition of music and little interest in music education and appreciation. All these factors have negative impacts on the enhancement of the society-wide level of appreciation ability.

1.2 Reform of college music education from the perspective of family and society

The large population of China arouses fierce competitions in every aspect of life. It is also the case in school study. Students whose scores are not good enough will be phased out in exam competitions, which mean they have to find another way, such as music. Music, as a college major, requires lower academic course scores and higher

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education expenses (Zhou Zhengjun, 2005). In a family, parents usually take music as a hobby of their children. Music learning is not encouraged by parents as a major due to two concerns: education expenses and limited job opportunities. Thus, many students learn little and have very weak foundation of music because of this situation in their family. From the perspective of society, there is certain prejudice against music major. When it comes to learning music, the first thing occurred to people is the small probability of being a singing star and limited job opportunities. The cognition of music is utilitarian and superficial. Reform of music education is a reform of not only music courses but also traditional perceptions of music too. Therefore, the music education reform in college is quite urgent and necessary.

2 REASONS OF COLLEGE MUSIC EDUCATION REFORM IN NEW CIRCUMSTANCES

2.1 Music as a reasonable and effective way to express emotions

Music needs to be promoted and inherited in daily life as a common way to cultivate sentiments. People's mood and heart can be eased and comforted by music. Meanwhile, music styles such as traditional music, national music and folk music are mediums to inherit the spirit, culture and history of the Chinese nation. Music is expected to meet people's spiritual needs as well. College students, the future pillar of our nation, should know well about our national music to better disseminate national spirit. They can relieve stress from work and life with the help of music to cope with difficulties and frustrations at the same time. Thus, college music education should advance with time to make music more important in people's lives.

2.2 Lack of interest in music education due to the outdated contents of music courses

There are many optional courses of music appreciation in college, mainly about the appreciation and analysis of national music and traditional folk music. They are designed to help students understand our traditional music. However, a majority of students know little about music as they usually think their favorite pop music or songs

of their idols as real music. They are unable or unwilling to understand and accept traditional and soothing folk music. These types of meaningful music are not easily understood and sensed by students. Many students take these courses casually only for credits. Thus, the aim of music education cannot be achieved at all. The outdated contents of music education are one important reason for the lack of interest and a crucial aspect of future music education reform.

2.3 Incompetent college music teachers

Most of college music courses are optional. Teachers of these courses are usually incompetent or not earnest to those courses. On one hand, optional music appreciation courses are of less importance to students. Students usually leave class early or even do not attend class at all. On the other hand, experienced teachers know well students' attitudes. Unconsciously, they take the courses carelessly with little attention to teaching contents and styles. Many teachers are actually very professional, but they do not take course seriously. They only play music or songs to students in class without an explanation of appreciation methods. This kind of teaching is unlikely to function properly. Teachers with little experience, on the contrary, are relatively earnest. However, the lack of teaching experience is an obstruction for them to fully utilize their knowledge in class. College music courses are unsatisfying due to those reasons. Thus, the reform of college music courses needs efforts of both students and teachers. Teachers should improve their competency and attitudes towards music teaching, as the teaching competency of college music courses is another important aspect of music education reform.

3 CONCRETE PATHS OF COLLEGE MUSIC EDUCATION REFORM

3.1 Analysis from the perspective of education departments

Music plays an important role in people's daily life. The ability to appreciate and use music properly needs to be cultivated in music education. Education departments, as a guide of education, should redefine the position of music education. They should also select contents and materials of music education more carefully. Meaningful and

interesting contents and materials make it more fun and efficient for students to learn about music. Education departments then need to make propaganda for the importance of music to reshape the attitudes of students and teachers towards music courses. In order to make music courses more valuable, colleges should reasonably rearrange music courses with the cooperation of teachers and students. Therefore, education departments should launch the reform of music education from a macro aspect to improve the outcomes of college music courses. Thus the ability of music appreciation can be enhanced from all over the society.

3.2 Analysis from the perspective of colleges and universities

The evaluation system of student performance in college is another factor influencing the attitudes of students and teachers towards music courses. Students' performance of optional music courses is generally evaluated through course papers. Many students do not take the papers seriously. Most of them simply copy online resources to their papers. Innovation-oriented talents are not likely to be cultivated in this situation. Therefore, the evaluation system of college students is also an important aspect of college education reform. It is supposed to push students to change their attitudes and improve study efficiency and performance.

Teacher management is also a difficult task for colleges and universities. There are a great number of teachers and not all of them are competent. A strict evaluation system is crucial to guarantee their attitudes towards and quality of teaching. The evaluation systems of teacher adopted by colleges and universities are not consummate. Students are afraid of the possible impacts on their scores when they evaluate their teachers. Thus, evaluation systems of teacher need to be stricter through further study. Teachers then change their attitudes towards course teaching under external pressures. Good performance of teachers in class guarantees the quality of courses to a certain degree.

In short, colleges and universities should improve management mechanisms of students and teachers. College institutions function well only with strict administration. On that basis, students are able to achieve education tasks while music education reform can be implemented.

3.3 Analysis from the perspective of reasonable expenditure of education funds

China, as a developing country, has spent increasing money on education, especially higher education. However, corruption has happened in many colleges and universities. Meanwhile, education resources such as education equipment and software cannot meet the needs of students. Education equipment in colleges and universities needs to be investigated through field trip when education funds are assigned. Thus the authenticity of fund declaration can be ensured. Musical instruments are effective in attracting students' attention and interest in music education. Many students, especially boys, admit they are willing to learn a musical instrument to make them improved and more charming. But their desires are confined by limited education resources, as there are not enough musical instruments for students. Insufficiency exists in the provision of not only musical instruments but also multi-media facilities. Thus, the expenditure of education funds in colleges and universities needs to be strictly supervised. Reasonable expenditure of education funds provides students with more facilities and resources to meet their needs. Thereby more students can advance further in music education. Then the expenditure of education funds actually helps the reform of music education.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Music, as an elegant hobby, is not limited by age, language or national boundaries. A life without music is not complete, so music education is a long-lasting and necessary work. It should be promoted and reformed as a major aspect of quality-oriented education. Thus, our education institutions can be improved to cultivate more top-quality and all-round talents. More people can feel the charm of music by doing so. The reform of music education requires cooperation among relevant parties, including education departments, education institutes, students and teachers. The implementation of music education reform demands efforts in various aspects. It is a difficult task but with a very desirable fruit. With the efforts of all participants, music education reform is going to be a breakthrough for our education system. Appreciation tastes of people will be upgraded while more people can perceive real meanings of national music. Thus, the spirits of the

Chinese nation carried by national music can be fully inherited.

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