

An Analysis of the Role and Importance of Popular Music in College Music Education

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Abstract: This paper discusses the role and importance of popular music in college music education. With the change of the times, pop music has become a widely popular form of music among students, and its position in music education has become increasingly prominent. This paper first analyzes the basic situation of popular music education in Chinese universities, the characteristics of music education for college students, and the importance of music education in college education. The results show that this study can better meet and cater to the needs of college students, and can play a role in pleasuring the body and mind and relieving the learning pressure, and provide a certain reference for promoting the diversification and development of college students' music education.

Keywords: Pop music, university education, role, importance.

1. Introduction

Since the 80s of the 20th century, pop music has gradually revived and developed in China, and its development speed, scale and variety are overwhelming. Pop music is not only widely loved by young people, but also quickly becomes the "main battlefield" of Chinese culture. It is only in recent years that pop music has become a subject and has entered schools. At present, more and more music and art colleges and universities have incorporated it into the system and teaching of higher education [1].

Popular music originated in the United States and includes many forms such as 'blues', 'jazz-pop', 'rock 'n' roll', 'country songs', etc. The New Grove Dictionary of American Music defines the meaning of "pop music" as "pop music, a genre of music that includes many styles and is easily understood by most people, and for its appreciation requires no musical knowledge or sound." Musical skills [2]. In some ways it is very different from classical, folk and jazz music. Pop music is generally not long. Highlighting the melodic lines, vocal works are mostly harmonic and the voice is relatively limited and simple. "

Pop music belongs to the popular culture of the masses, it is highly entertaining, can also express well, serious and important themes, and can achieve high artistic appreciation and expressiveness. Since the rapid development of mass media such as film and television, radio, newspapers and magazines, as well as the Internet, everyone has breathed the breath of pop music to a greater or lesser extent. College students, in particular, have a special affection and great interest in popular music. On the streets, on the bus, on the campus, we see students listening to pop music with various music players. This shows the students' love for this new wave of music [3-5].

Music education is an important part of university teaching, and the application of popular music to university music teaching can realize the innovation of music teaching methods, and can also improve the interest and enthusiasm of college students in music learning, and increase their understanding of popular music culture, which is also beneficial to promote the long-term development of college music education.

Therefore, pop music should be reasonably integrated into college music teaching to promote the improvement of college students' musical literacy.

2. The Basic Situation of Popular Music Education in Chinese Universities

(1) The basic establishment of the discipline of popular music

After more than ten years of hard work, some music and art colleges in China have successively opened pop music-related majors. In 1993, the Shenyang Conservatory of Music established a major in popular singing, and in 1993, the Beijing Institute of Modern Music established a major in pop music singing, music performance and composition. In 1994, the Central Conservatory of Music established the China Modern Electronic Music Center. In 1998, the School of Popular Music of Nanjing University of the Arts began to set up the major of popular music arrangement, and in 2000, it set up the major of popular music composition, pop music singing and performance, and pop music performance. The Vocal Department of Xi'an Conservatory of Music began to set up a popular singing major in 2000; Sichuan Conservatory of Music established the School of Popular Music in 2001; In 2003, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music established the Department of Modern Instrumental Music and the Department of Music Engineering. Wuhan Conservatory of Music established the Academy of Performing Arts in 2003; In 2005, Xinghai Conservatory of Music officially changed the name of the Department of Social Music to the Department of Popular Music; At the same time, many other art academies and normal universities have also established departments related to popular music. Although the names of the departments of various colleges and universities are different, and the majors and names are also different, the establishment of popular music disciplines in China's colleges and universities has been basically established.

(2) The professional direction of popular music in Chinese colleges and universities is gradually standardized and complete

With the establishment of disciplines, the division of popular music departments and the attribution of professional directions are gradually scientific, standardized and clear in the continuous exploration and development. Based on the situation of various institutions, pop music singing and performance today generally includes singing (popular music singing), musical theater performance, and modern singing and dancing (popular singing and dancing) [6].; Popular music performances include jazz performances, pop music performances (pop percussion, synthesizers and keyboards, saxophone, electric guitar, electric bass, brass, etc.); Pop music composition includes composition, production, sound directing, recording engineering, and music literature; The theoretical research of pop music includes the study of the history of popular music, music analysis, criticism and criticism. The professional structure is gradually complete and rational [7-8].

(3) The current situation of popular music education in Chinese universities

It is no accident that popular music education in colleges and universities has developed rapidly and vigorously for more than ten years, and there are two factors: internal and external. First of all, under the basic national policy of rejuvenating the country through science and education, colleges and universities have continuously expanded the number of students enrolled and formed many new growth points for disciplines, which has provided good external conditions for the development of popular music education. On the other hand, pop music, as a global irresistible cultural trend, has had a tremendous impact on the penetration of the development of pop music in China. In just 20 years, the development process of developed countries for nearly 100 years has been completed [9]. Popular music, which is the internal driving force of its own development, has become the internal cause of its development, and the two have jointly promoted the development of related disciplines in China's higher education. With the rapid development of popular music education, we have achieved a lot of experience and results, but there are also many problems that need to be solved urgently, which have become the key to the development of this discipline in a more in-depth direction.

As we all know, professional music education in China's colleges and universities has always been dominated by the Western classical music education system. Value judgments, academic standards, and aesthetic standards are all based on this. The existing music education system in China is rooted in Western classical music education ideas, teaching methods, curriculum systems, etc. It has had a profound impact on music education and the promotion of music culture in China. At present, although the discipline of popular music has been initially established in China's colleges and universities, because the discipline of popular music in colleges and universities is separated from the Western classical music education system, and the vast majority of teachers have received Western classical music education, both the way of thinking and the knowledge structure still retain the inherent habitual mode. As a result, the concept and structure of pop music education are dependent on the traditional classical music education system, and there is a lack of discipline construction and independence of educational concepts [10].

Secondly, with the establishment of pop music majors in colleges and universities, there is no consensus in the academic circles whether it is the name of the department, the major, or the name of the major, as well as the connotation,

concept, and scope of the name. The ambiguity of the name definition affects the accuracy of the teaching positioning. For example, the definition of pop music, popular music, and modern music, and the determination of their connotation and extension, etc. Different understandings of names have formed the diversity of educational orientation and names of colleges and universities, which has caused certain difficulties in the standardization of discipline construction. In addition to the ambiguity of the name, there is also a ambiguity in the positioning of the content of pop music teaching. It is a common phenomenon that teachers generally follow the traditional teaching mode for teaching. The training objectives, syllabus, and teaching plan basically follow the content or way of thinking of Western classical music education. There is a large distance between the teaching content of pop music and the social practice of pop music, which is fundamentally a problem of the educational orientation of pop music.

3. Characteristics of Popular Music in Music Education for College Students

Pop music is one of the more "grassroots" forms of music in many art disciplines. Modernity, popularity, diversity and aesthetics are the general characteristics of contemporary pop music. In addition to all its general characteristics, pop music has the following characteristics for contemporary students, especially college students.

(1) Pop music is easy to understand and entertaining

Most pop music has light and beautiful melodies, relaxed and lively rhythms, life-oriented and popular language, moderate vocal range, simple and easy-to-learn singing methods that do not require too much professional training, and extracurricular life is also rich and colorful, such as participating in music clubs, singing competitions, art festivals, parties, birthdays and other activities. It has also become an indispensable program for college students to have fun. Students can vent all their joy and depression through the stereo and microphone, which is an effective way to relax. Its content often vividly reflects the spirit of the times, is close to the social psychological situation, and shows the rich human nature, which is easy to arouse the inner resonance and the desire to sing. This is a closer approach to music for students who do not have a deep knowledge of music theory and do not know much about musical expression techniques.

(2) The audio-visual effect of pop music is strong

The college student is in adolescence, and there are significant changes in body posture and secondary sexual characteristics. The development of the gonads causes a series of endomorphic and neurotransmitter changes. With the maturation of the sexual organs, the sexual center in the brain will be excited, and the strong visual impact of pop music is in line with the sensory stimulation, fashionable makeup and trendy dance sex movements they are seeking. The stage design, the rendering of lighting, sound, and control, the modernization of packaging, and improvisational performances make it easy for the audience to resonate. With its straightforward language, simple musical form, and emotional content close to life, pop music truly reflects the joys, sorrows, and sorrows of ordinary people's daily life. Coupled with the accompaniment full of electronic sound effects, the unconventional rhythm and the anti-classical music theme of the orchestration, the obscurity of the theme

is in line with the psychological characteristics of today's college students. The content is rebellious, rebellious, and rebellious. Its life-like performance form is highly interactive, making people unconsciously integrate into it, and can release their excitement and desire from repression, so it is loved by college students.

(3) The variability of pop music

To meet the emotional consumption needs of college students, since it is popular, it has many changing characteristics, this year is the "northwest wind", next year is the "Kazakh Wave" pop music "change" speed is in line with the young people's hunting psychology. At the same time, with the acceleration of the pace of life, the commodity market is expanding. In a materialistic society, modern people are always looking for a kind of spiritual home that can be relied on, to obtain a kind of convenience of emotional consumption, pop music just carries the pure happiness in the process of life, and its non-utilitarian perceptual nature satisfies people's emotional and spiritual needs. It is not difficult to find from the popular music they like that love, life, family affection, friendship, unemployment, peace, human rights, and war are all the themes they are concerned about. A manifestation of the awakening of college students' self-consciousness reflects their self-determination, self-appreciation, and different or ingenious way of thinking.

4. The Importance of Popular Music in Music Education in College

(1) To meet the development needs of university music education

In recent years, with the continuous development of society, music education in China has also received extensive attention, and the cause of music education in universities has also become more complete. However, there are still some problems in the actual music teaching, such as the lack of basic music knowledge of college students, the lack of attention to music teaching by teachers, etc., which proves that traditional music teaching can no longer meet the needs of students and music development. As an important component of music culture, the application of popular music to university music education is an important trend in the development of music education in China, and it is also an inevitable requirement for the development of music culture. The application and development of popular music can guide university music education in a healthier direction and play an important role in promoting the long-term development of university music education.

(2) It is conducive to promoting the reform of university music education

Popular music has obvious characteristics of the times, and has a close connection with practical life, its application to college music education, can provide a steady stream of rich materials for the development of music teaching, and the emotions expressed and displayed in popular music are also more diverse, through the study of popular music, can make college students get more sense of achievement, which is very beneficial to promote the reform of college music education, can promote the improvement and optimization of the university music education system.

(3) It is conducive to stimulating students' interest in music

In college music education, the traditional music teaching content has shown a lag, which is difficult to meet the learning needs of contemporary college students, and these backward

music teaching contents cannot stimulate students' interest in music learning, which is not conducive to the development of music education. The application of popular music to college music education can expose college students to new popular music content and effectively arouse students' emotional resonance, which is very important to stimulate students' interest in music learning, and can also effectively promote the improvement of the quality and efficiency of college music teaching.

(4) It is conducive to strengthening the interaction and communication between teachers and students

Teachers are the leaders of music education in universities, and in traditional music teaching, students often think that there is a big generation gap between teachers and themselves, which is mainly caused by the traditional music teaching content, which is often relatively old, resulting in students' wrong perceptions. The application of pop music can effectively eliminate the generation gap between teachers and students, and at the same time, it can effectively shorten the distance between teachers and students, increase the interaction and communication between teachers and students, enable teachers to better understand and grasp the actual learning needs of students, and effectively promote the development of music education in universities.

(5) It is conducive to cultivating students' appreciation ability and musical literacy

In fact, pop music is also easy to understand, so applying it to college music teaching can make college students understand it better. Through the study of popular music, we can enrich students' music learning experience, effectively cultivate their music appreciation ability and music literacy, and promote the improvement of college students' musical creativity, which can not only promote the overall learning and development of college students, but also cultivate more high-quality music talents for social development, which is very beneficial to promoting the positive development of society and culture.

5. Basic Strategies for Popular Music Education for College Students

Many in China's education community have to admit that it is unrealistic to prevent pop music from entering students' musical lives. Rather than letting the field of pop music run wild, leaving students blindly "not rejecting" and even being adversely affected, it is better for music teachers to carefully select useful materials in this field and guide students to a healthy track. Only by identifying the combination of pop music and college students' education can we guide students to treat pop culture correctly and create a harmonious interaction between teachers and students. This is not a matter of catering to kitsch, nor is it simply following the crowd, but it is a selective and purposeful introduction into the classroom of music that is healthy and uplifting, suitable for the physical and mental characteristics of young people, and has a certain ideological and artistic nature.

(1) Respect and guide students' choice of pop music

According to an international survey conducted by the authoritative research agency "American Music", modern pop music accounts for more than 90 percent of the mass entertainment with its more popular entertainment methods. In today's era of cultural diversification and economic globalization, most people call for an open-minded and integrated approach to pop music. It is necessary to

fundamentally understand the positive impact of pop music on the socialization of college students and fully recognize its educational function, so that we may have sufficient understanding of its important significance and role in quality education in higher education.

(2) Cultivate students' correct aesthetics

In general, the judgment that "popular songs are low-grade and vulgar and have low multi-artistic value" is to the point in judging contemporary popular songs. Most folk songs and classical works of art are "real gold" and "pure gold" that have been scooped up through the long river of history, while popular songs have not been washed and contain a lot of "mud and sand." But not all pop songs are "defective". Teachers should carefully select works that are positive in their teaching, have a bright rhythm and have a certain philosophical meaning, and are conducive to the physical and mental health of young people for them to appreciate, and should cultivate their correct musical aesthetics in daily education and teaching.

(3) Use popular music to stimulate students' interest in learning traditional music

Pop music is a cultural phenomenon, with its popularity and entertainment as its main value orientation, and it is beyond reproach that it is loved by college students, but the characteristics and taste of pop music itself cannot bear the heavy responsibility of music education that is constantly pursued to a high-level aesthetic realm. In the music textbooks for college students, it is necessary to scientifically understand the characteristics of pop music and listen to and appreciate some pop music with certain artistic value, but it is not blindly indulged in pop music, so it is a useful attempt to let pop music into the classroom. Schools and teachers should analyze and carefully select the popular music selected for the textbooks, and the selection criteria should be "ideological and artistic as perfect as possible" and have a certain educational value, so that students can enjoy some popular songs with high ideology in the music classroom.

6. Conclusion

Popular music plays a vital role in music education at the university, not only in terms of students' interest and engagement, but also in its ability to expand the horizons and fields of music education. By introducing popular music, we

are able to better meet the diverse musical needs of students, stimulate their enthusiasm for learning, and cultivate their musical literacy and aesthetic ability. Popular music has also injected new vitality and creativity into university music education, and promoted the updating and innovation of teaching methods and contents. In the future practice, we should further deepen our understanding of the application and significance of pop music in college music education, continuously explore teaching models and strategies suitable for students' development needs, and make greater efforts to cultivate music talents in the new era with comprehensive music literacy.

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