

The Pros and Cons of the Piano Accelerated Training Model for Art Students

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Abstract: In the Guangdong Province Music College Entrance Examination, piano, as the main and secondary examination subject, plays a pivotal role for candidates. At present, piano candidates are mainly divided into two categories: one is candidates who have learned piano since childhood and have accumulated a deep basic skill and theoretical foundation; the other is candidates who start to practice piano for personal interest or other reasons when they are about to take the college entrance examination. Piano crash course has both advantages and disadvantages for art exam students. The advantage is that crash course learning allows candidates to master certain piano skills and knowledge in a short period of time, and improve their understanding and test-taking ability. The disadvantage is that due to the lack of long-term basic practice and a large number of works training accumulation, candidates may lack depth and breadth in piano performance, and their understanding and mastery of works may not be deep enough. Therefore, among art exam students who choose piano crash course learning, it is necessary to focus on the training and accumulation of works while mastering basic knowledge and skills, as well as deeply understand the connotation of the works. Only in this way can we achieve excellent results in the art college entrance examination and continue to develop on the road of music in the future.

Keywords: Piano Crash Course; Art Exam Students; Advantages and Disadvantages.

1. Introduction

The art college entrance examination refers to the national art professional examination in January every year for candidates of music, fine arts, and sports. In addition, students can also take the single examination of various colleges and universities. By adding the art examination scores and cultural subject scores, they can be admitted to various art universities or comprehensive universities. The main content of this article is the music major in the Guangdong Province art college entrance examination. The content of the music art college entrance examination is: the main examination items: music theory and sight singing and ear training, the major items: vocal music, piano or instrumental music, and the minor items: piano or vocal music. For students majoring in vocal music, piano is a minor; for students majoring in piano, the minor is vocal music; for students majoring in instrumental music, the minor is vocal music. From this, it can be seen that the piano exam is very important. Candidates who start playing piano in high school basically have no foundation. Therefore, many students use the limited time in high school to learn piano. Piano quick success means that students can play piano music that exceeds their level by learning piano in a short period of time. After one to two years of piano learning, they can play music equivalent to grade eight to ten in difficulty. Now many art exam students take the piano quick success mode to participate in the art college entrance examination. Is this kind of quick piano learning model good or bad for art exam students?

2. The Disadvantages of Piano Quick Learning for Art College Entrance Examination Students.

When we learn piano quickly, we often only focus on the surface skills and rules, but ignore the more important internal

guidance. There is not enough time for basic exercises, such as scales, chords, arpeggios, octaves, etc., which leads to insufficient recognition and flexibility of fingers on the piano. When practicing, we often just play the notes mechanically without understanding the connotation of the music. We don't understand the background of the music, nor the life experience of the composer, so we play only empty melodies. Piano practice is a complicated and long process. We can't rush for success.

2.1. Piano Crash Course Makes Students Lack Basic Piano Practice

Why does piano need basic practice and child skills? It is because the hand shape can be fixed, the ligaments of the hand can be stretched, the fingers can be used flexibly, and the left and right hands and the left and right pedals can be coordinated. If the joints and ligaments of the hands are stiff when you grow up, you can't learn piano professionally. Just like gymnastics, it's useless to practice after the body is strong. Therefore, learning piano should start from the most basic. If you don't have the previous foundation, you will find it more and more difficult to go on the road behind. If the foundation is very solid, although the road ahead is difficult, as long as you persist, you will definitely have a bright future. The world-famous pianists Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Debussy, etc., all learned piano since childhood. Lang Lang and Li Yundi, famous modern pianists in my country, also learned piano since childhood. In addition to studying their homework, they practiced piano for 7 or 8 hours every day. Facts have proved that only after a lot of basic piano learning can one play big music and play it as one pleases. However, art students who just started in high school have only one or two years before the college entrance examination, and cannot systematically study the basic piano. Therefore, when they play the seventh, eighth or even tenth grade piano music, they are unable to do it, and it seems very laborious. Their

grades are also much worse than those of students who have been learning piano since childhood, and it is difficult for them to compete, especially in good music schools. Therefore, the lack of basic practice of art students has a great disadvantage.

(1) Quick piano lessons lead to a lack of control over the touch

In basic training, the touch of the piano is very important. Whether a piano piece is played well or not depends on the touch. It depends on the control of the touch strength of the player. Beginners often play all the sounds with the same strength, and cannot go down or up. For example, in the piano piece "Doctor's Etude", there are a lot of P and PP marks at the beginning, and a lot of F and FF marks at the end. This requires a lot of piano practice and exploration. The former touches the keys to play softly, but also makes the tone light and pleasant. This requires a solid foundation and control of the touch strength. However, art exam students often lack practice in this area. When they just start playing softly, in order to make the tone weak, they do not play the piano touch to the bottom, and the tone is very beautiful but not pleasant. When playing F and FF, they often only hit the piano hard, not using arm strength, so it takes several years and a lot of practice to turn this controlled touch of strength into an inertia, and to have a clear sense of touch strength in the brain.

(2) Quick piano learning leads to lack of finger flexibility in candidates

For students who are just starting to learn piano in the art college entrance examination, their age is generally around 15 to 17 years old. At this time, the body's bone age has been fixed, so the plasticity of the fingers is not as easy to change as that of children. Therefore, the fingers of art students are relatively slow and stiff. Especially when playing large works, the hand shape is indeed not as easy to use as the child's skills, and the fingers are quite slow to move. They usually increase the strength and speed to practice piano music, and have no time to practice finger flexibility and arm relaxation. However, they only practice piano music for a long time, and their arms and wrists are sore. Such long-term use of the wrong method to practice the piano is a great harm to the hands.

2.2. Piano Crash Course Makes Students Lack the Accumulation of a Large Number of Works

From ancient times to the present, piano works are divided into many styles such as classicism, romanticism, impressionism, etc. Classical music refers to the mainstream European music from 1730 to 1820. Classical piano composers include: Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, etc. The classical music style is a high degree of unity of reason and emotion. For example, Beethoven's "Pathetique", Mozart's "Piano Sonata in D Major", Haydn's "Piano Sonata in C Major", etc. Romantic music refers to the music style from 1820 to 1918, and pianists include: Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, etc., such as Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude", Liszt's "Second Hungarian Rhapsody", Schumann's "Scenes from Childhood", etc. Impressionist music refers to the music style of the 19th century, represented by Debussy, and representative works include "Sailing". Piano music can also be divided into different structures: symphony, fantasy, serenade, rhapsody, rondo, variation, sonata, requiem. Learning piano requires a lot of practice of piano music of different styles. Only with quantitative accumulation can there be a qualitative leap. For example, playing the "Piano Sonata in D Major" can make

you understand that the sonata is a multi-movement instrumental suite, which consists of three to four movements contrasting with each other; playing the "Gissep Rondo" can make you know that the rondo is a piece of music composed of the same main part and different interludes appearing alternately, with the elegant style of court aristocrats; practicing the "Second Hungarian Rhapsody" will make you know that the rhapsody is a piece of music with folk song characteristics; practicing Schubert's "Serenade" will make you understand that the style of the serenade is a lingering, melodious and pleasant piece of music, a piece of music expressing love for a lover. However, students taking art exams have limited study time and do not have time to practice so many pieces. They can only start with the exam repertoire, practicing these pieces every day and repeatedly. But when it comes to the exam, they can only achieve correct pitch and continuity, and they definitely cannot make it sound good. Only through the accumulation of a large number of works in the technique and in the brain will it be possible to accurately understand the composer's intentions and play good piano music.

2.3. Piano Crash Course Leaves Students No Time to Understand the Deep Thoughts of the Work

To play a good work, we need to understand the personal experience and social background of the composer, but art exam students do not have time to understand the background of the composer and the work. A piece of music is often the experience of the composer's inner experience. We can play better by understanding the connotation and feelings of the composer's work. For example: The piano music "Shanwa" in the art college entrance examination is a Chinese piano piece. It is the work of Zhang Chao, a famous modern pianist and composer in my country. Zhang Chao is from Yunnan, a Hui people, and was born into a musical family. He learned piano at the age of seven and performed piano solo on stage at the age of ten. His works are rich in the style of ethnic minorities. "Shanwa" describes the children of ethnic minorities in Yunnan. They live in the deep mountains and forests, free, lively and cheerful, happy and happy. There are a lot of appoggiaturas at the beginning of the music, and the span is very large, sometimes high and sometimes low, which creates a beautiful and ethereal picture of the mountains and forests, making people feel like they are in the beautiful scenery of Yunnan. After understanding these, you will know how to play appoggiaturas, such as Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words". Mendelssohn was a romantic composer. Songs Without Words was written by Mendelssohn during his trip to Italy in October 1830. He enjoyed the beautiful environment during the trip and was happy because of the trip. The song is a melodic and singing piano piece. It is a polyphonic piano piece consisting of an exposition, development, recapitulation and ending. There are two main melodies mixed together in the piece. When playing, the two melodies are clearly expressed. This depends entirely on a full understanding of the composer's inner experience and emotions. It requires reading a lot of information and practicing the piano purposefully. However, art examination students do not have enough time. They would rather strive for more time to practice the piano and have no time to understand the musician's life and creative background. As a result, the works played by art examination students are dry, fail to reach the composer's artistic conception, and lack resonance.

2.4. Piano Crash Course Makes Students Lack Stage Performance Experience

In piano crash course, students may focus more on learning skills and repertoire, but lack in-depth understanding and practice of stage performance. Stage performance is not only a display of skills, but also a kind of artistic expression and emotional communication. Therefore, students who lack stage performance experience may find it difficult to truly integrate into the music and express their emotions and personality when playing. For art college entrance examination students who have just started to learn piano in high school, since they play big works at the beginning and have no foundation, they will inevitably have a lot of pressure in their hearts and fear that they will not play well.

First, piano crash course often focuses on the rapid mastery of skills, while ignoring the training of music expression and stage performance. This training method may lead to students' improvement in skills, but lack of confidence and experience in stage performance. Secondly, students who take piano crash course often do not have the opportunity to participate in various concerts, competitions and performances, and lack the opportunity to show themselves on stage. Stage performance experience requires continuous practice and accumulation, and students who lack practical opportunities naturally find it difficult to gain enough stage performance experience. Thirdly, students who take piano crash course may improve in skills, but when facing the audience, they may perform poorly due to lack of confidence. Stage performance requires full self-confidence and a stable mentality. Students who lack self-confidence often find it difficult to perform at their best on stage.

3. The Benefits of Piano Crash Course for Art Exam Students

Piano crash course is a course for beginners to learn piano and play piano music that is higher than their level in a short period of time. Everything has its pros and cons, just like a double-edged sword, with both advantages and disadvantages. The same is true for piano crash course. Although crash course piano has a bad effect on students' long-term development, it is the only best way for art exam students to cope with the art college entrance examination. Art exam students who start learning music in the first year of high school only have two years to practice piano; art exam students who start learning piano in the second year of high school only have one year to practice; if art exam students who start learning piano in the third year of high school only have half a year to practice. So it is very difficult for them to complete a piano piece for the college entrance examination in just one or two years. Therefore, art exam students often learn piano pieces for the college entrance examination from the beginning. Many music students who are admitted to higher education institutions also started learning piano in high school. After entering college, they work very hard, and some students even surpass many piano majors who have been practicing since childhood. It seems that as long as you are interested in music, time and age have become secondary issues. Through piano crash course, some students have been admitted to their ideal universities and achieved their original goals. Therefore, accelerated piano learning is also beneficial to art examination students to a certain extent.

3.1. Strong Comprehension Ability in Piano Learning in High School

For art exam students who have learned piano since childhood, some of them may have played the piano for more than ten years when they were young, but they still cannot understand the meaning of the works. Due to their limited comprehension ability at a young age, they cannot control their piano practice well, learn the piano without a goal, and practice the piano passively, which leads to slow progress in piano learning. However, art exam students who learn piano in high school are different. They have a good comprehension ability. They can learn piano music through various multimedia. They can understand the thoughts and feelings of piano music better than young children, and can express piano music with their own understanding. This is a realm that children cannot reach when learning piano. They can spend a month to play the piano music of grades 7 and 8. They learn piano with a purpose and can complete the piano music for the college entrance examination in a very short time. Some beginner art exam students can play better than art exam students who have practiced piano for a period of time. Therefore, strong comprehension ability is an important advantage for piano quick learning, and comprehension-based practice can achieve twice the result with half the effort.

3.2. More Diligent and Hardworking in Piano Learning in High School

For those art exam students who started learning piano in high school, they are usually more diligent and hardworking than those art exam students who have been learning piano since childhood. This is because they are well aware of the gap between themselves and those classmates who have been learning piano since childhood, and they are also well aware that their time is very limited. Therefore, they will work harder and devote a lot of time to piano practice to make up for their shortcomings.

For these students, piano was originally a lacking subject, but through crash learning and practice, they successfully improved their piano level. Through continuous practice and hard work, they gradually narrowed the gap between themselves and others, and even surpassed those art exam students who have been learning piano since childhood in some aspects.

This diligent and hardworking spirit not only enables these art exam students to make great progress in piano, but also makes it more conducive for them to be admitted to their ideal higher education institutions. Because the art college entrance examination is not only an examination of students' artistic skills, but also an examination of their comprehensive quality and degree of effort. Through crash learning piano in high school, these art exam students not only improved their piano level, but also demonstrated their diligence, hard work and fighting spirit, which will become their precious wealth in their future study and life.

4. Conclusion

There are both advantages and disadvantages in the impact of piano crash course on art exam students. From the perspective of the long-term development of piano, haste makes waste, and piano crash course may have an adverse effect on the finger shaping of art exam students. Although some art exam students have achieved good results in crash course learning, they may encounter some difficulties on the

road of piano development in the future. In addition, older piano learners rarely become excellent pianists, which also shows the adverse effects of piano crash course on art exam students. However, for the results of the art college entrance examination, piano crash course is undoubtedly the best way. Because art exam students need to master a lot of piano skills and knowledge in a short period of time in order to get good results in the exam. Therefore, art exam students need to weigh the pros and cons when choosing whether to do piano crash course. If they decide to choose piano crash course, they need to continue to practice and study hard after entering college to make up for the shortcomings of crash course learning. At the same time, they also need to realize that piano crash course is just a temporary measure to cope with art exams, not an ideal method for long-term piano learning.

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