

# Research on Improving the Effective Strategies of Piano Teaching

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**Abstract:** Based on literature analysis and systematic investigation, this paper analyzes the existing problems in piano teaching in colleges and universities: single teaching mode can hardly arouse students' interest; the course content is not reasonable, which is not conducive to the overall development of students; emphasizing the piano playing skill, and neglecting the comprehensive accomplishment training; the tendency of examination-oriented is serious, deviating from the goal of art education; the evaluation system is not perfect and lacks the mechanism to stimulate students' potential. Aiming at these problems, this paper proposes strategies to improve the effectiveness of piano teaching: students are taught according to their differentiation, focusing on the cultivation of practical ability and innovative spirit, paying attention to the rational mobilization of psychological factors in piano performance, integrating multiple teaching methods and artistic thinking, integrating piano teaching resources based on information technology.

## 1. Introduction

The piano is a classical music that originated in the West, and is popular in the world of music and art. It has a very high artistic status and is called the "king of musical instruments". The purpose of piano teaching in colleges is to enable students to master more skills in piano performance, learn more performance knowledge, help students build comprehension, observation and innovation, cultivate students' self-learning habits, and lay a good foundation for learning piano and improving artistic accomplishment in the future, realize the value of their life and improve the quality of their life. Effective piano teaching can strengthen students' basic knowledge of music, promote the actual performance of piano performance ability, and contribute to the comprehensive development of students' music literacy. As the cradle of cultivating technical talents, colleges and universities should have the concept of innovative teaching, and stimulate students' potential to learn piano with innovative teaching. This requires reasonable arrangement of teaching content, changing teachers' teaching concepts, and achieving the goal of improving students' artistic quality by perfecting teaching mode. Based on the current situation of piano teaching in colleges and universities, this paper proposes strategies to improve the effectiveness of piano teaching, and points out the correct direction for piano teaching reform and innovation.

## 2. Teaching Methods of Piano in College

Teaching methods refer to the teaching methods, ways and means adopted by teachers and students in the specific teaching process in order to achieve common teaching goals. According to the needs of piano teaching content and teaching objectives, teaching methods that are often applied to colleges and universities include: the expository method, the discussion method, the model method, the exercise method, the appreciation method, the practice method and the internship methods, etc. Scientifically and rationally selecting and effectively using teaching methods requires teachers to master various teaching methods under the guidance of modern teaching theories, comprehensively consider the characteristics of various teaching methods, reasonably select appropriate teaching methods, and optimize combinations. A brief description of several main teaching methods is as follows:

(1) The expository method. This method is the most basic teaching method. Teachers use

language and appropriate teaching means to convey knowledge information to students, promote their understanding, inspire their thinking and develop their abilities. Teaching methods are more common in piano teaching. Teachers should consider students' comprehension and acceptability. Through vivid depiction and inspiring induction, the deductive knowledge of piano performance is imparted to students. Teachers should pay attention to the accuracy, clarity, brief nature, vitality and intelligibility of language.

(2) The discussion method. This method is an information exchange activity between teachers and students. Teachers and students are both mutual subjects and objects, mutually restricting and complementing each other. Discussion Based on the correctness and scientific nature of the basic knowledge, teachers should impart the piano playing skills to the students, so that students can understand clearly the requirements of each stage of the piano teaching. Teachers should focus on the leading role of them and the main role of students, mobilize the initiative and consciousness of students, and explain the controversial issues in a timely manner.

(3) The model method. This method means that teachers use the actual piano playing demonstration to let the students observe and imitate, thus gaining perceptual knowledge. Especially in difficult explanations, students can capture the emotions and styles of music and improve the literacy of music under the guidance of demonstration performance. As a piano teacher, demonstration performance is indispensable in teaching. It is an important way to stimulate students' interest in learning. It can also enable students to effectively feel beauty, experience beauty and appreciate beauty. Teachers and students resonate in the appreciation of music works.

(4) The exercise method. This method is a teaching method in which the students under the guidance of the teacher carry out the operations of consolidating knowledge and applying knowledge repeatedly to form skills. In piano teaching, the training of students' playing skills is an important part of the teaching content. The piano playing action belongs to the category of motor skills, so that students can master the correct playing action. In addition to the teacher demonstration, the student practice is also very important. Practice should be targeted and planned, and be gradual so that students can develop good habits.

(5) The appreciation method. The appreciation method is a kind of method which gives priority to appreciation activities. Teachers create certain scenes or art forms in teaching, so that students can cultivate their temperament, correct attitude and interest through the experience of objective things. The appreciation method in piano teaching produces different forms according to the different objects of appreciation. In general, it is most effective for teachers to let students enjoy the recordings of famous artists. The combination of appreciation and other methods can make students have a strong desire for knowledge.

(6) The practice method. Practice is the main way to test the teaching results, and it is an effective way to strengthen the piano training ability. Under the background of the continuous improvement of piano teaching level and the constant standardization of teaching classrooms, the practical method has brought new teaching perspectives and thinking to piano teaching, which has improved the teaching ability and teaching efficiency of piano teachers. Teachers should use the teaching resources in the school to create a practical platform for students, provide more opportunities for piano practice; expand the practice channels outside the school, and provide students with more diverse channels of piano practice.

### **3. Existing Problems of Piano Teaching in College**

The development history of piano in China is relatively short. With the continuous development of education in China and the diversification of teaching methods, piano teaching has been introduced into higher education and has shown good development momentum. Behind the rapid development, there are also many problems that need to be solved, which are briefly summarized as follows:

(1) Single teaching mode can hardly arouse students' interest. The simplification of teaching mode is a common problem in teaching and is influenced by traditional education methods. The piano is an elegant playing instrument, and the piano playing process is more complicated and

diverse. Learning piano performance is a very difficult task. At present, the most widely used piano teaching in colleges and universities is the demonstration teaching, that is, the teacher first explains the theoretical knowledge in the classroom, and then gives the students a demonstration performance, and finally, the students carry out their own exercises. But such a single teaching mode does not stimulate the students' learning interest, and cannot well solve the problems that arise during the student's performance.

(2) The course content is not reasonable, which is not conducive to the overall development of students. There are still serious problems in the content setting of college piano teaching. The whole curriculum system is not closely connected and the level is not clear, and the students' choice is rather confusing. In order to highlight the unique teaching style, some colleges and universities set up some difficult courses, so that students are more difficult to learn, and the teaching effect is not obvious. Some colleges have set piano teaching as an elective course, and students' enthusiasm for piano learning has decreased. Some colleges have separated piano teaching from other subjects, and students are prone to go overboard on one or some subjects. These are not conducive to the overall development of students.

(3) Emphasizing the piano playing skill, and neglecting the comprehensive accomplishment training. Playing the piano as a way of expressing music art requires not only superb skillful playing skills, but also a comprehensive musical culture literacy. When you play emotions in playing, you can achieve the artistic edification effect with moving music. Traditional piano teaching pays too much attention to the cultivation and training of piano playing skills. It ignores other music culture theory courses such as harmony and music history, which leads students to lack the necessary cultural heritage and inspiration, and lack emotion and soul when playing. This kind of teaching does not meet the requirements and development of the times, and it cannot cultivate art talents who truly have profound cultural connotations.

(4) The tendency of examination-oriented is serious, deviating from the goal of art education. The goal of art education is to popularize the basic knowledge of art, improve artistic accomplishment, better the aesthetic psychological structure, exert imagination and creativity, cultivate people's emotions, and perfect personality. Although quality education is emphasized at the national level, exam-oriented education has always been the main tone of domestic education. It is the ultimate goal to achieve high scores and pass examinations. This concept restricts the extension of the art of piano in the process of diversification, and does not reflect the characteristics of music art inclusion. It deviates from the goal of art education and is not conducive to the all-round development of students on the road of music art.

(5) The evaluation system is not perfect and lacks the mechanism to stimulate students' potential. The evaluation of piano teaching in colleges and universities has problems such as not updating the concept, unclear goals, unreasonable content, inflexible means and imperfect system, and it is not suitable for the educational reform objectives. Overemphasizing the student's solo level, ignoring the piano culture and practical ability; unilaterally pursuing the difficulty and performance skills of the test track, ignoring the usual basic skills training; paying insufficient attention to the development of the learning process, neglecting the students' emotional change, cooperation and communication skills and humanities literacy and so on. The shortcoming of the evaluation method is to objectify and simplify the students, and to ignore the students themselves.

#### **4. Improving the Effective Strategies of Piano Teaching**

In the piano teaching, teachers' understanding of the music curriculum is deepening, and they pay attention to the cultivation of students' piano ability. This paper focuses on the strategies to improve the effectiveness of classroom teaching, starting from improving students' piano playing ability. Based on previous research results, the following strategies for improving the effectiveness of piano teaching are proposed:

(1) Students are taught according to their differentiation. An individualized education means that teachers in the process of teaching, starting from the actual situation and individual differences of students, are targeted to differentiate teaching, so that each student can develop strengths and avoid

weaknesses and achieve optimal development. There are obvious cognitive differences and emotional differences between students, and differences are universal objective reality. In the process of piano teaching, teachers should fully recognize the uniqueness and difference of students, and must know the difference between students' knowledge acceptance ability and learning talent. In order to improve the teaching effect, the learning and testing cycle can be set, and the teaching can be differentiated according to the mastery of the teaching content. Teaching according to student's ability people is conducive to teachers to grasp the learning dynamics of each student in real time, and get feedback on the learning level of students in time, so that teachers can improve and adjust the follow-up teaching content to maximize the teaching goals.

(2) Focusing on the cultivation of practical ability and innovative spirit. Piano performance as a musical instrument interpretation method is a special behavior of the high-level interpretation of specific music by means of the piano. It is not only the combination of logical thinking and image thinking, but also the integration of personal skills, emotional changes and musical comprehension. In order to enable students to learn the piano, teachers must pay attention to the effective accumulation and classification of the process experience, to help students accumulate more playing experience, to enable students to participate in the teaching process, to guide students to combine personal understanding with piano practice, and to improve their comprehensive literacy while improving teaching effectiveness. Piano performance is not only the completion of the music score, but also the need to understand the music and to import personal thoughts and emotions into performance, so that the performance can be sublimated, and the resonance can be caused. From this perspective, piano education needs more innovative spirit. By cultivating students' practical ability and innovative spirit, teachers ensure that they can effectively grasp and apply the knowledge they have learned, and constantly improve their creativity and exploration, so as to improve the performance of their piano performance.

(3) Paying attention to the rational mobilization of psychological factors in piano performance. In the world of music, imagination is a very important part. When playing music, it requires full imagination and inner hearing. Imagination and inner hearing are both psychological factors. The reason why the works performed by a pianist can touch people's hearts is not only because of the superb playing skills, but also because of the correct understanding of the music. The mastery of musical imagination cannot rely on imagination, but it needs to connect the soul with the work, and thus to cause resonance. The basis of this imagination is that the player has a full understanding and mastery of the music. It is necessary to understand the author's creative background and creative style, and cannot deviate from the creative intention. Hearing not only represents external hearing, but also represents inner hearing. After the composer Beethoven lost his hearing, he continued to persevere and eventually completed more and more great works, and he just relied on inner hearing. In order to make the music of the performance directly hit the audience's mind, the performer must enter the emotional world of the music in addition to correctly performing the music.

(4) Integrating multiple teaching methods and artistic thinking. Piano teaching helps students develop innovative thinking, but a single staff can't meet the learning needs of students. Teachers need to create a second time on this basis to convey the meaning of music. Applying artistic thinking to music score innovation can stimulate students' imagination and innovation, and make classroom teaching more vivid. Piano performance is both a skill and an extension of artistic thinking. Through the innovative playing process, one can achieve two-way improvement in performance skills and overall literacy. According to the characteristics and requirements of piano teaching, teachers need to construct a new piano teaching framework, improve students' musical comprehension ability and appreciation ability, and realize the two-way integration of teaching methods and artistic thinking. In addition to basic theoretical knowledge and skills transfer, teachers also need to arrange students to appreciate music, and cultivate their artistic thinking. After explaining the theoretical knowledge and ending the classroom training, students will be arranged to appreciate some of the world's classic piano music. Under the long-term artistic influence, students can cultivate good piano playing habits.

(5) Integrating piano teaching resources based on information technology. The integration of

teaching resources in information technology refers to the organic unification of information technology, information resources, information methods, teaching content and teaching process under the guidance of modern educational thoughts, breaking through the limitations of time, space and regional, and updating the teaching methods of traditional piano courses, so that teachers can better complete the teaching task. As an important means of modern teaching, integrating teaching resource based on information technology enriches the teaching methods of piano, and facilitates the teaching process to develop in the image, fresh and direct process, and makes the piano teaching process concrete, diversified and high-quality. The specific methods include: establishing a multimedia network music resource library, creating a virtual music school and an interactive platform, creating and forming a network piano school-based textbook, and an evaluation mechanism for piano teaching in an innovative multimedia network environment. In the specific application process, teachers should follow the principle of combining practice with theory, take students as the foundation, base on the characteristics of piano teaching, and constantly develop and innovate, effectively promote the form of students' independent learning habits.

## 5. Conclusion

Piano teaching can enhance students' understanding of music and enhance their appreciation ability. Piano teaching can improve students' ability to control music pitch and master various types of music images; piano can increase students' ways of expressing emotions and improve the degree of their inner health; piano teaching can broaden students' horizons and carry out all-round quality education development. The research results of this paper solve the key problems of piano teaching reform in colleges and universities, and have important significance for improving the effectiveness of piano teaching.

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