

# Cultivation of Music Learning Ability in the Teaching Reform of Collective Piano Lesson

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## ABSTRACT

Collective piano lesson is a new teaching method, which can better adapt to the demand for the cultivation of vocational talents, integrate theory with practice, cultivate the music learning ability of students, improve music accomplishment comprehensively, and lay solid foundation for their work in the future. Based on this thesis, it mainly illustrates the teaching reform of collective piano lesson and its importance in cultivating the music learning ability of students from four aspects, which are music comprehension ability, appreciation ability, music performance ability, and mental literacy. Then, it has analysis on the problems in the teaching reform of it. Finally, it illustrates the strategies to enhance the music learning ability of students in the reform of collective piano lesson from music teaching material selection, teaching resource integration, teaching method innovation and integration, and teacher's comprehensive literacy improvement, which can provide some references for the better development of collective piano lesson.

**Keywords:** *collective piano lesson, teaching reform, music learning ability*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As to piano teaching in China, it mainly adopts one-to-one teaching pattern, which has low efficient, and also can not satisfy the teaching demand in cultivating modern talents. In order to cater to the changes of times, piano teaching requires educators to reform their teaching way, which shall not only cultivate the performing skills of students, but also cultivate the comprehensive ability of students, so collective piano lesson rises in response to the proper time and condition. It has been more than a decade years since the introduction of collective piano lesson, which mainly adopts advanced electronic digital piano, resorts to modern auxiliary equipment, and combines the basic piano skills with various music knowledge, so that students can better master them [1-2]. Besides, it is also the best supplement of the traditional one-to-one teaching pattern. However, we introduce this model lately, there are still some deficiencies during the development of collective piano lesson, so this research focuses on how to implement teaching reform to improve the cultivation on students' music learning ability.

## 2. IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING REFORM OF COLLECTIVE PIANO LESSON ON THE CULTIVATION OF MUSIC LEARNING ABILITY

### 2.1. Cultivating Music Comprehension Ability of Students

Music is an art discipline which delivers emotion by sound. As to the comprehension on music, it shall have feeling and comprehension on the rhythm, melody, musical form, and music of the composition. The development of collective piano lesson can better cultivate the comprehension of students on music, and during the teaching process, it is available to lead students to understand and feel the value of elementary elements of music by means of equipment and totally new concept. As to the cultivation of music perception ability, teachers can guide students to feel the expression of music with hearing and vision by means of direct demonstration or the changing tone, so students can better understand the works [2]. As to traditional teaching, teachers focus on the proficiency and skills of composition, seldom explain other contents, so students also mainly pay attention to the performance skills.

## ***2.2. Cultivating Students' Music Appreciation Ability***

In traditional piano teaching, limited by teaching method, students can merely perform a small quantity of works after they finish their whole study career, and they nearly have no time in studying profound excellent piano works. Piano lesson is a skill lesson, piano teaching shall cultivate students' with strong appreciation ability, so that they are proficient enough to study piano culture independently. As to music appreciation ability, it requires some basis on music knowledge, school can set piano work appreciation lesson later, while it is inappropriate to set it in the first semester for freshmen [3-4]. In daily teaching of collective piano lesson, teachers shall select some contents which can train seeing and hearing and also have characteristics of disperse thinking in their teaching, by means of long-term accumulation, the seeing and hearing ability of students can be trained to know various styles and features of piano works, travel in the music knowledge, master the essence of piano art, and then improve their music appreciation ability.

## ***2.3. Cultivating Students' Performance Ability***

Music performance ability is an essential party of students, which requires students to perform music works by controlling their body movement and adopting some instrument. As to performance ability, it shall give priority to the cultivation of sight reading ability, which can equip students with the ability to perform without preview, and also improve students' basic skills of performance, and besides, it is the essential basic ability of every students majoring in music [5]. When students graduate and step to their work position, they have to sight read the new composition quickly and accurately as long as they get the music score. The cultivation of sight reading ability can not only reduce the practice time of students, but also strengthen the guidance on their independent research ability. In traditional piano teaching, there is less class hour, and besides, with the one-to-one teaching pattern, there is insufficient time in guiding students to have sight reading training, while collective piano lesson can have collective training on students, and reduce unnecessary repeated teaching.

## ***2.4. Cultivating Students' Mental Literacy***

In piano performance, the mental literacy of students is also significance, as it is a senior and complex comprehensive activity, which requires good psychological regulation ability to have best performance in it. Besides, in piano teaching, in order to cultivate the mental literacy of students, it may have influence on the performance effect to some extent, so some students have many mistakes or confusing structure during performance or test due to their mental tension, which further causes

drop of form. However, in collective piano lesson, teachers can guide students to have full preparation for their performance, sing out the composition in their mind when performing, understand the feeling of author by themselves, and "sing" it with heart, so that students can relief their mental pressure.

## **3. PROBLEMS DURING THE TEACHING REFORM OF COLLECTIVE PIANO LESSON**

### ***3.1. Lacking of Pertinence and Obsolete Teaching Method in Music Teaching Material***

At present, teaching materials for art lesson present the tendency of "diverse thinking", which causes the lacking of pertinence and scientificity of music teaching materials, and neglects the actual demand of students. Music is not limited to itself, it also has national culture, and other elements, while inherited by traditional thinking, the compositions in teaching materials take praise and celebration at the core, while neglect nationality and folk songs, and lack cultivation on personality. Collective piano lesson has stronger pertinence on the selection of music teaching materials, and re-selects and supplements the current teaching materials. Besides, influenced by traditional teaching method, the teaching method of collective piano lesson is obsolete, can not arouse the interest of students, so the teaching efficiency on the class is comparatively low.

### ***3.2. Weak Independent Learning Ability of Students***

One of the important targets of collective piano lesson teaching is to transform the study concept of students from passive to positive. Influenced by one-to-one teaching pattern, teachers and students do not transform their concepts on teaching and study truly, so the automatic learning ability of students it not better guided and creative thinking is not cultivated well. Piano is an art discipline, while the cultivation on art requires strong independent learning ability of students, and then, under the correct guidance of teachers, they can understand the essence of piano art. Staying at the level of passive study, they can not understand the essence of art, so they can not deliver the thoughts of works better. At present, the independent learning ability of students is weak, which is one of the main problems in the teaching reform of collective piano lesson.

### ***3.3. Lacking Teaching Resources***

In traditional curriculum design, the teaching contents are single, while teachers design their teaching contents according to the already teaching materials, which causes heavily discounted teaching effect of collective piano lesson. As to the deficiency of teaching resources, it can be solved by the sharing of online course resources and automatic integration of teaching resources by teachers, which all require teachers to have good recognition on teaching reform, realize the differences of students, but not stay in the shadow level of teaching reform, and it is difficult to get the predicted teaching effect.

### ***3.4. Room for Improvement of Comprehensive Accomplishment of Teachers***

Piano teachers shall have powerful accomplishments, including teaching theoretical knowledge, teaching skills, and aesthetic accomplishment. However, at present, there is room for the improvement of comprehensive accomplishments of piano teachers, and it is also an important challenge to teachers confronted with the teaching reform of collective piano lesson, as they have to transform traditional teaching method, adopt new teaching pattern, and improve study quality of students and their own teaching efficiency [6-7]. Some teachers just cater to this reform, but not realize the significance of reform from their inner heart, and besides, some teachers can not accept to study new knowledge and transform their roles consistently.

## **4. STRATEGY IN IMPROVING MUSIC LEARNING ABILITY IN TEACHING REFORM OF COLLECTIVE PIANO LESSON**

### ***4.1. Selection of Music Teaching Materials***

Teaching materials are the important basis for the development of teaching, while excellent music teaching materials are the premise to develop teaching. There are many works involved in collective piano lesson, so teachers shall select suitable works current students for teaching, compose them according so suitable sequence, and improve teaching efficiency. Generally speaking, there are mainly two selections for music teaching materials, one is the current music teaching materials, which are composed by famous musicians and educators according to the cognitive rules of students, while the other is the development of other teaching materials and creation on current materials. Good music teaching materials do not mean that teachers can give lecture well, but they are the premise for good lecture. The music teaching materials in some schools adopt the teaching materials of most

universities and colleges, but not combine with their own school-running characteristics, and lack practicability. In the selection of teaching materials, it shall take the speciality features and demands in full consideration. Besides, as to the supplement of other teaching resources to the teaching materials, they can be selected according to the actual teaching requirements, development history of piano, and sequence of music genre, so that students can have a complete understanding on teaching materials.

### ***4.2. Developing Collective Study, Stimulating Students' Interest***

In collective piano lesson teaching, students have class collectively but not in the traditional teaching way, so teachers can design collective study method by virtue of the feature of large quantity of students, require two or more students to finish classroom task together, and motivate the activeness of students in the class. As to collective study method, students can strengthen and practice their skills in piano in mutual cooperation and assistance. However, collective piano lesson shall pay attention to the following two aspects when adopting this method, first of all, collective lesson does not simply transform the one-to-one pattern to collective pattern, but according to their abilities respectively in one class, the teachers design a different pattern from independent teaching pattern by means of solo and unison, and others, and besides, teachers have integrate the resources of teaching and students according to the psychological characteristics of students in study, and realize mutual progress of students. Secondly, collective study method does not mean the cooperation among students, but also the cooperation between students and teachers, which can narrow the distance between teachers and students, create easy and joyful classroom atmosphere, strengthen communication between teachers and students, and improve the collective performance consciousness, cooperation ability, and independent learning ability of students.

### ***4.3. Creating Public Retrospect Lesson, Improving Students' Learning Ability Comprehensively***

Public retrospect lesson is a novel teaching method, which is the important part of collective lesson and designed after deep consideration, and besides, it can give appropriate comment and correction on the common or typical problems of whole students in the class, and comprehensively improve their studying ability. During collective piano teaching, teachers may be influenced by traditional teaching pattern, select one-to-one correction method, while reduce the teaching effect of collective class. In the teaching of public retrospect class, it shall firstly explore the inner driving force of students, lead students to transform from "passive study" to "positive

study”, and cultivate their independent study consciousness; secondly, it shall pay attention to the performance desire of students, and give the opportunity to students who have higher level in piano skills and performance to perform in the class after studying some basis, share their feelings and skills to others, which is not only a kind of encouragement to diligent students, but also a kind of stimulation to students who are comparative weak; thirdly, in the part of retrospect lesson, the evaluation method shall be more open, and students can participate in the evaluation, which can truly realize the education concept that students oriented, and teachers guided.

#### ***4.4. Integration Teaching Resources, Profiting Internet Platform Fully***

Before the development of collective piano lesson, the design of teaching content is extremely important. Although it is supported by teaching materials and headline, there are still some differences between the actual demand of students with teaching headline. Some students have solid basic skills, which shall be trained for enhancement, while some students are weak in basic skills. Thus, it requires the teachers to teach students in accordance of their aptitude, and design teaching contents and parts reasonably. With the development of internet, it has been wildly popularized and applied in all industries and sectors, so does to education. The sharing and publicity of class resources of some famous teachers provide excellent materials for the teaching of teachers, and besides, the current frontier dynamics of piano and music are also be applied into teaching by virtue of internet. As the teacher of new era, it is necessary to fully profit internet, integrate teaching resources, and better develop collective piano lesson.

#### ***4.5. Integration of Various Teaching Methods, Stimulating Automatic Study***

The available teaching methods of collective piano lesson are diverse, there are some differences among students, so it shall take the common teaching and personalized teaching into consideration. For instance, as to situational teaching method, during collective piano lesson, teachers shall have full preparation in advance, and present the times and background of works, identity of writers, and origin of creation by means of video and audio through multimedia with the integration of self performance, so that students can understand the works truly in teaching situation. There are many teaching methods, so teachers can combine them together in accordance with their teaching contents, take the differences of students into consideration, teach students in accordance of their aptitude, improve teaching efficiency on the classroom, and guide students to study automatically. As to the reason to adopt various teaching methods, on one hand, the

teaching can be more interesting and vivid, and students can master teaching difficulties and key points easier and faster, while on the other hand, students can master the method to study, and study automatically. Therefore, there is no need to give unnecessary details on the importance of teaching reform.

#### ***4.6. Improving Professional Quality of Teachers***

Teachers are the leaders of teaching, and practitioner to implement and carry out teaching target and talent cultivation target. The teaching efficiency and quality of collective piano lesson are decided by teachers directly to some extent, so that it is critical to improve the professional quality of teachers, which can be mainly implemented from the following aspects: first of all, teachers shall study more, improve their comprehensive accomplishments consistently, which is not limited to professional skills, but also involved with multi-discipline knowledge, enrich themselves, influence their students imperceptibly, and establish the consciousness for life-long study. Secondly, the school shall establish the platform for teachers to have study and exchange with excellent teachers, and encourage teachers to go out for study. Finally, as to teachers who have innovation in teaching, the school shall give proper award to encourage teachers to have consistent innovation and have a breakthrough in teaching and scientific research.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

The development of modern collective piano lesson teaching aims to enrich the traditional and single teaching method, cultivate diverse learning abilities of students, and stimulate the creation and activeness of students, which outputs more excellent music talents to the society. Based on this thesis, it mainly illustrates improving strategies from the aspects of selection of music teaching materials, developing collective study, stimulating students’ interest, creating public retrospect course, improving learning ability of students and integrating education resources comprehensively, profiting internet fully, integrating various teaching methods, stimulating initiative study, and improving professional quality of teachers, which can promote the development of collective piano lesson to realize the better teaching effect.

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