



Social Education of Ritual and Music Culture and Its Significance

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Abstract. As an art form combining ancient rites and music in China, ritual and music culture plays an important role in the historical development of Chinese civilization. This paper mainly consists of three aspects: The first is the definition of ritual and music culture as well as its historical development; the second is the ways for different groups of people to learn ritual and music culture; and the last is the conclusion deduced from the study of the first two points that learning ritual and music culture can enhance people's aesthetic appreciation, enrich their emotions, enhance the ability of active learning, and produce practical values. The research on the social education of ritual and music culture and its significance can better spread the traditional Chinese culture, and play a positive role in the development of human civilization and society.

Keywords: Rites and Music, Aesthetic Appreciation, Education, Traditional Culture

1 Introduction

In the past, ritual and music culture was extremely emphasized. With great influential effects, it played a driving role on the ancient society. However, in modern era, people pay less attention to ritual and music culture. Hence, it's of great necessity for modern people to highlight ritual and music culture, thus improving the cognition and understanding of history and culture. The study of ritual and music culture covers the values, status and significance of rites and music and so on and so forth. In order to better describe and promote ritual and music culture and attract people's attention, the paper studies the historical development of ritual and music culture, the ways to learn ritual and music culture, and the positive influence and practical values brought by learning ritual and music culture.

2 Ritual and Music Culture

2.1 Definition and Specific References of Ritual and Music Culture

From literal meaning, "ritual and music culture" is an art form combining rites and music. The traditional Chinese culture has a long and profound history lasting for five thousand years, and ritual and music culture is an important part of ancient Chinese civilization. Rites refer to social norms of behaviors, emphasizing the impact on social order; whereas music is the expression of melody and tunes, emphasizing the expression of emotions and the edification of the soul through music. With rites and music as the core, ritual and music culture spreads traditional Chinese culture and revitalizes China's status as a ceremonial country. As for the connotations of rites and music, ritual and music culture has appeared in ancient times, and still affects people's life today.[1] In the *Records of Rites and Music*, it is said: "music, the harmony of heaven and earth; rites, the order of heaven and earth." The meaning of this sentence shows that rites and music are inseparable and interrelated, which together build a unique cultural phenomenon. Only by spreading the ritual and music culture can people better safeguard social order and maintain social harmony.

2.2 Historical Development of Ritual and Music Culture

Ritual and music culture is an important part of ancient Chinese culture, and its historical development can be traced back to ancient times. Through the evolution and development of successive dynasties, a broad and profound civilization of rites and music was gradually formed. Since the primitive worship in ancient times, "rites" and "music" have come into being, and the initial rites and music were produced in the rituals of offering sacrifices to gods and various social behaviors in the daily life and ancient people. However, in Xia Dynasty, rites and music were still mainly reflected in religious ceremonies; but with the development of productive forces, the system of rites and music was gradually established and improved. In Zhou Dynasty, the civilization of rites and music was formed and improved, and the Duke of Zhou was the key figure in the development of ritual and music culture: he formulated rites and composed music, by not only standardizing strict rules and regulations, but also rendering rites and music with cultural connotations. [2]In the *Rites of Zhou*, it covers the formulation of rites as well as the norms of music, which to some extent prevented the arrogation of classes, maintained social stability, and regulated the ways to use rites and music on different occasions and under different identities, thus playing a positive role in stabilizing social order.

However, in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, with the decline of the royal family and the competition among dukes, the system of rites and music was impacted, thus leading to the "collapse of rites and music". In the same period, Confucius, as the founder of Confucianism, inherited and developed the ritual and music culture. On the basis of the original, Confucius emphasized "benevolence" and took it as the core of rites and music, which deepened the ritual and music culture, and combined rites and music with personal moral cultivation. The concept of Confucius also had a profound

impact on later generations.[3] Therefore, benefited from the development by Confucian classics, the ritual and music culture has a profound impact on not only the ancient society but also the current era.

In Tang Dynasty, the rites of the royal palace was to show the majesty of the court through religious ceremonies, music, dancing and singing. Tang Dynasty mainly adopted the diplomatic protocol based on "harmony" and advocated that etiquette and moral cultivation complement each other. In Song Dynasty, ritual and music culture continued to develop, which on the basis of the previous innovation, formed a unique style. Song Dynasty attached great importance to the restoration of elegant music as well as the establishment of court ritual and music institutions. Therefore, the rites and music in Song Dynasty were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Rites and the Court of Imperial Sacrifices, with further standardization and improvement in the performance form and ritual system.

In Yuan Dynasty, ritual and music culture reached a new height by the development in music, dress and etiquette. In the aspect of music, it advocated the use of both elegance and vulgarity, as well as the integration of Mongolian music and Han music; besides, it started to bring in foreign musical instruments, which reflected the diversification of music. In the aspect of clothing, influenced by Mongolian culture and Jurchen culture, unique patterns were used in clothing to reflect the hierarchy. In the aspect of etiquette, Yuan Dynasty was deeply influenced by the Mongolian regime. However, in Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty, the traditional rites and music system of the Han nationality was restored, with Zhong He Shao Music serving as the cultural representative of this period. Zhong He Shao Music was the royal music used for sacrifices, banquets and court meetings, which inherited the simple and elegant music style, fully expressing the essences of ritual and music culture and attaching importance to traditional culture.

In modern times, although ritual and music culture still has far-reaching significance for people, with the continuous progress of society and the development of science and technology, the traditional ritual and music culture has gradually faded out of the public vision and is no longer valued by the whole society, let alone the popularity of ritual and music culture. Ritual and music culture is an important part of traditional Chinese culture, which can guide people's study and work, revive traditional Chinese culture, enhance social and cultural influence, and play a crucial role in national governance. [4]Therefore, in current society and people's daily life, the state should vigorously promote ritual and music culture. Meanwhile, the public should pay more attention to the ritual and music culture.

3 Ways to Learn Ritual and Music Culture

There are various ways to learn rites and music, which can be divided according to diverse occasions, such as media and classroom; and can be divided according to different learning objects. In order to integrate the characteristics of different groups, the author of the paper adopt the division according to different learning objects, which can be divided into three groups: students, the public and special groups.

3.1 Ways for Students to Learn Ritual and Music Culture

"The grand influence of rites and music lies in that it can help govern the country; while the daily influence of rites and music lies in that it can help cultivate people." Integrating ritual and music culture into campus to educate students will not only help to cultivate students' all-round ability in areas such as morals, intelligence, physical fitness, work and aesthetics, but also promote students' psychological development.

There are three ways for students to contact and learn rites and music. Firstly, it's to take the school as the guide to learn the ritual and music culture, to create the atmosphere of ritual and music culture for students, i.e., the way of campus education. For instance, to set up a cultural wall in the campus to display traditional Chinese culture, music and etiquette; regularly publicize ritual and music culture; and hold relevant performance activities. To be specific, seven days can be set as a circle to show students with the five rites of ancient China (sacrificial rites, funeral rites, military rites, banquet rites and ceremonial rites), ethnic instrumental music (zheng, pipa and bamboo flute), and folk dances (sword dance and fan dance), so that students can personally feel the charm of ritual and music culture.

Secondly, the relevant offices of the school should offer courses related to rites and music, and set up relevant contents for students at different grades. For instance, it can set up a "second class" for young students in primary and secondary schools; teach students music-related knowledge at music class; broaden the knowledge of ancient etiquette at Chinese class; set up the course of rites and music for students at the music or art colleges to have a deeper understanding of the historical culture of etiquette as well as the skills of music performance; open elective courses for college students not majoring in music and higher grade students, to let them learn traditional culture according to their personal preferences, thus cultivating their interests in ritual and music culture[5].

Thirdly, the school can hold relevant lectures, associations and fun competitions. The school can invite experts in ritual and music education to interpret the knowledge of rites and music for students, and increase interaction during lectures, so that students can personally experience etiquette and instrumental music performance and so on. In clubs, like-minded students can communicate and learn from each other. At the end of the semester, the school can organize students to perform traditional music (dance, chorus, or instrumental music) or hold concerts and other report-back performance, so as to turn the theoretical knowledge into practical use.

Finally, the school can lead students to visit museums or related exhibition halls, to let students appreciate the exhibition of ritual and music culture in person, and participate in some activities or interactions. For example, to simulate the production of ancient musical instruments, study how to perform ancient musical instruments, participate in rehearsals of various performances, etc., so that students can personally experience and intuitively feel rites and music, and learn the evolution process of ritual and music culture through real objects.

3.2 Ways for the Public to learn Ritual and Music Culture

There are various ways for the public to learn rites and music, which can be divided into three aspects: government organized activities, community public welfare activities, and individual independent learning.

Firstly, it's to take the relevant government departments and social units as the guide, to hold public welfare classes and activities for the public, so that the public can understand, learn and study the ritual and music culture conveniently, for example, etiquette publicity activities and public welfare class can be set up regularly in square parks, business districts, and communities. The public welfare class includes collective activities such as the performance skills of traditional instruments such as guqin and erhu, chorus and dance rehearsal and teaching. This series of activities can not only cultivate people's sentiments, enhance people's yearning for a better life, but also enhance people's acceptance of ritual and music culture as well as their patriotic feelings .

Secondly, it is to organize market activities related to rites and music, to show the ritual and music culture in different regions, such as making some relevant dolls, accessories and other novel gifts, to indirectly arouse the interests of the masses; and add some small games to interact with the masses. For example, the public can get some stamps by participating in the Quick Question activity or other small games, and a certain quantity of small stamps can be exchanged for ancient-style pendants or free visit to the regional exhibition halls, which can arouse the interests and participation of the masses. The series of activities not only increase the joys to people's life, but also promote the development of social economy.

Finally, it is the study tours or training activities related to rites and music organized by the professional education and training institutions, as well as the team building activities held by companies or other working units, which provide opportunities and platforms for the masses interested in or yearning to learn ritual and music culture. This kind of training combines theory and practice, thus the masses can constantly summarize and test the theoretical knowledge in practice, thus making the study more effective and efficient.

3.3 Ways for Special Groups to Learn Ritual and Music Culture

There are different ways for different groups to learn ritual and music culture. For special groups, it is mainly based on music therapy, and give full play to its advantages, thus letting the special groups learn ritual and music culture more efficiently.

Firstly, for people with mental illness, they can be guided to gradually participate in collective activities, break the barriers within their hearts, express themselves in the ways the like, and lead and respect their individual preferences in a personalized way. For instance, for people with lively personality and good at expressing themselves, they can be guided to participate in singing, dancing and other performance activities, to release their nature, and let them follow the rhythm to drive their bodies. To increase the level of dopamine in the brain through different forms of expression is a

way beneficial to psychological and emotional balance. For introverted, quiet and calm people, they can be guided to communicate and interact, thus guiding them to read books related to rituals and music, and listen to music. And then, they can be guided and encouraged to play instruments and perform on the stage[6].

Secondly, for people with physical diseases, the government or relevant social departments can provide support and help, and offer educational resources or performance platforms for special groups, so that they can be more confident and actively participate in the learning of ritual and music culture, thus enhancing interaction with others by a variety of resources concerning etiquette learning and music performances and creating emotional communication; besides, they can sense music by touch, sight, hearing and other senses according to their own situations. Taking the visually impaired people as an example, most of them are good at listening, as well as imitating rhythm and singing while listening to rhythm. 1 "Even those people with visual impairments, their ability to learn music is better than that of ordinary people, because they are very sensitive to rhythm. Through good education, they can make a difference in the field of music, such as Beethoven and Sun Yan, who are the best examples." Depending on different disabilities, they can be arranged to perform musical melodrama by role playing. In the meanwhile, some training on etiquette knowledge can be held, and gesture language can be applied to learn daily etiquette culture or some team building activities regarding ancient rites can be held, so that the special group of people can personally experience rites and music, and feel the excellence of traditional Chinese culture.

Finally, family support is also of great importance. For special group of people, parent-child interaction can be added in their families to create a more harmonious atmosphere of learning, establish a home-school-community interaction model, cooperate with communities or schools to hold ritual and music cultural performances or public welfare exhibitions, and invite experts to share relevant knowledge, to jointly create an atmosphere of ritual and music culture.

4 Learning Rites and Music Can Enhance Aesthetics and Produce Practical Values

Ritual music is a universal art form that combines both rites and music. It not only focuses on the beauty of music itself; but also emphasizes the integration of music, rites and morality. Whether it is in the long river of ancient history or the modern life with advanced science and technology, it has profound impacts on people in various aspects, i.e. aesthetics, cognition, emotions and learning.[7] Music shapes and enriches people's personal cultivation. In the perspective of emotional morality, while listening to music, the listeners will resonate, with their innermost emotions being aroused, which is also the charm of music. In the perspective of cultural identity, the existence of art forms may still not form a far-reaching significance in social life, but in the continuous understanding and learning, music is also an important way of

cultural inheritance, which carries the rich historical connotations of China's excellent traditional culture and records many historical and cultural details. Through learning ritual and music culture, cultural identity is intangibly enhanced. The influence of rites and music on aesthetics can be divided into improving cognition, enriching emotions, improving learning ability and generating practical values.

4.1 Learning Rites and Music Can Improves Cognition

Rites and music can greatly improve people's cognitive level.² "Einstein was not only a master of science, but also an accomplished violinist and piano player. He accredited some of his scientific achievements to the inspiration of music. Similarly, Kepler discovered the laws of planetary motion by listening to the music of Bach, and thought that the beauty of nature was as fascinating as music." [8]A series of cases show that music can improve people's cognitive level. In the past, people's understanding towards rites and music are just limited to the shallow knowledge shared in public places and on the Internet. But now, with the continuous development of information technology, people pay more and more attention to the cultivation of aesthetic education, and will carry out a number of activities, such as public welfare classes, artistic performances, community cultural groups, etc., so that they can personally feel rites and music. Over time, people will accumulate more appreciation of rites and music, which is no longer limited to the fields that they are proficient in or familiar with, but more involved with in-depth exploration of the important roles played by rites and music [9].

4.2 Learning Rites and Music Can Enrich Emotions

Rites and music render people stronger ability to express their emotions. Learning rites and music can touch people's hearts directly. Different types of music styles give people different feelings, but whether it is cheerful passionate melody or sad melodious melody, it can trigger people's deep resonance; make people feel THE emotions of happiness, sadness, anger, calm and so on; and help people understand and express their emotional states. In this process, music can also regulate people's emotions and bring new experiences by creating a depressing, anxious or relaxing or solemn occasion. Music can also evoke memories, help people recall the good times in the past, paint pictures in the mind, and provide visual stimulation and restorative relaxation for the listener. Music is not only reflected in human emotions and mentality, but also has positive effects on people's social activities and inner health.

4.3 Learning Rites and Music Can Improve Music Learning Ability

Rites and music also have extraordinary significance in various aspects including the ability to learn. At first, some people thought music did not need professional cultivation and training, so they just understood its meaning and did not explore it.

Under the influence of the strong atmosphere of ritual and music culture, they began to step out of their inherent comfort zone; instead, they start to learn and study various forms of music, like singing performance, chorus, instrumental performance, dance etc., to stimulate interests in rites and music. By studying different types of music in different regions, people begin to broaden learning level and knowledge scope, and understand the characteristics and charm of different cultures.

4.4 Learning the Practical Values of Ritual and Music Culture

From the use value of ritual and music culture, the propagandists show people that learning ritual and music culture is not only meaningful on the spiritual level, but also valuable and beneficial to people on the material level. To learn ritual and music culture, people can independently set up relevant training courses, and jointly hold some performances or ceremonial cultural experience activities with various tourist attractions. In addition, people can not only learn relevant knowledge, but also absorb its essences to educate their children or help others, so that the culture of rites and music is really activated. In the long run, people can also use ritual and music culture to increase their income and bring tangible benefits to themselves. With the rapid development of contemporary society, we need to improve the way of promoting the traditional culture of rites and music, and use modern media to keep up with the pace of the era, to realize innovative publicity, for example, to integrate rites and music into the CCTV Spring Festival Gala and tourist attractions, to let people really draw nutrition from the ritual and music culture, and make the ritual and music culture continue to be inherited in modern life, thus realizing innovation during inheritance, and inheritance by innovation.[10]

In short, learning ritual and music culture can play an important role in improving people's cognition, enriching their emotions and improving their music learning ability.

5 Conclusion

The above analysis render a broader cognition and understanding of the ritual and music culture; as well as the in-depth research on the general situation of the ritual and music culture, its learning ways, its influence on aesthetics and its practical values. Ritual and music culture is an important part of traditional Chinese culture, which has a profound impact on ancient society and even modern society. Vigorously promoting ritual and music culture can promote the revitalization of traditional Chinese culture, and shape the core values of people and guided people's behaviors. Promoting ritual and music culture is also conducive to the further implementation of the strategy to build China into a country with a strong culture as well as the cultivation and practice of core socialist values, thus creating a good environment for the harmonious and stable development of modern society, realizing the recognition of cultural values, and playing a positive role on the revitalization and dissemination of traditional Chinese culture.

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