

Brief Discussion on Some Thoughts about Piano-playing Teaching

Yanjun Li

Music and Dance Institute, Beifang University of Nationalities, Yinchuan 750021, China

Keywords: Piano-playing; Teaching; Thoughts

Abstract. As a significant instrument in music, piano has the reputation of “music fairy” all the time and its inherent elegant and euphonious timbre is very popular among peoples. With the increasing application of piano playing in numerous music works, people gradually know the role played by piano in perfectly interpreting the music works, so an increasing number of people learn piano and the piano-playing teaching also arouse widely attention in the educational circles. For the piano teaching in colleges, people pay more attention to the innovation and reform of piano-playing teaching. This paper discusses some thoughts about piano-playing teaching regarding the practicalness and cultural essence of piano teaching by starting with the traditional method for piano teaching, in the hope of providing effective reference for future piano-playing teaching.

Introduction

In traditional piano-playing teaching, the teachers are only responsible for imparting simple playing methods by taking the fingers touching the piano keys as the major goal of piano-playing teaching. However, with the continuous development of modern music, piano became more widely used in music works because piano can perfectly interpret the soul of music works with its special music characteristics.

Based on such special background, the college piano-playing teaching is also searching for ceaseless innovation and reform so that the piano-playing teaching cannot only be limited to the simple hands touching piano keys. The piano-playing teaching needs to pay attention to the practical and cultural expressions during the piano-playing teaching process and to cultivate the students' favorable music accomplishment while imparting playing methods and skills, so as to enhance the quality and effect of piano-playing teaching.

Problems and causes in traditional piano-playing teaching

Because of its characteristics such as pleasant and euphonic timbre and perfect interpretation of music works, piano is widely loved and favored by many people. People also are curious about the learning of piano playing, in the hope of obtaining excellent playing skills, so that they can interpret varied music works with piano playing to achieve the perfect music enjoyment.

In the college piano-playing teaching, the traditional teaching methods causes the incomplete interpretation of music works with piano playing; the students' piano-playing level is only in the stage of hands touching piano keys, lacking the training of musicianship, which results in poor quality of piano-playing teaching and extremely low effect.

During the traditional piano teaching, many teachers fail to thoroughly understand the piano playing, lack the excavation and development of its deep connotation and are incapable of get the deep connotation of piano playing through the whole teaching course, which cause the one-sidedness of piano-playing teaching^[1], severely influence the teaching effect, go against the cultivation of students' musicianship and make the piano-playing teaching stay in the pure technical course positioning all the time.

Problems in the traditional piano-playing teaching

Under the background of constant deepening of educational reforms in colleges, the teachers for music major in colleges also actively search for the innovative and reforming measures for piano-playing teaching so as to enhance the quality and effect of piano-playing teaching. However,

there are always some problems during the process of teaching to be positively overcome in future teaching reforms.

Lack of wide interaction during the teaching process

Piano playing, which is to play a piece of music works with piano, expresses the emotion of music works and reflects the artistic value of music works. During the whole playing process, a favorable communication among the piano, player, singer, audience and works is needed, so multi-crossover interactions seem extremely important during the specific piano-playing teaching. However, the frequent no interaction between teachers and students, inadequate explanation of background knowledge of music works and inadequate coordination with singers in traditional piano-playing teaching result in the failure of giving play to the artistry of music with the interference of piano playing and inadequately good interpretation of music pieces. None of the subject factors in piano playing can interactively communicate with each other well to achieve the effect of piano-playing teaching.

Deviation in teaching content caused by mixed ways of piano playing

The teachers' one-sided understanding of piano playing during the piano-playing teaching in colleges is likely to cause the mixed piano playing ways. Piano playing falls into piano accompaniment and piano solo. During the process of piano-playing teaching, the students basically start practicing their piano playing from piano solo so most of them developed the habit of solo. However, in specific interpretation of music works is mainly completed by piano accompaniment, which is often neglected in piano-playing teaching. The teachers completely confuse the teaching contents of piano solo and accompaniment and use unreasonable means during the teaching process so the students cannot fully understand the piano playing, cannot correctly choose the piano playing way when interpreting music works and the effect of piano-playing teaching is rather poor.

Low acoustic harmony during the piano-playing teaching

In the traditional piano-playing teaching, the teachers cannot correctly grasp the acoustics used in teaching. As acoustics is the entire harmony effect and piano accompaniment is a significant part of acoustics, the teachers need to popularize the knowledge about acoustics to the students during the process of piano-playing teaching and coordinate the imparting proportion of piano-playing knowledge and acoustic knowledge so that the piano playing can interpret music works better. Or else, the piano-playing teaching quality will severely fall.

Lack of input in practical teaching equipment

The traditional piano-playing teaching often lacks the input of practical equipment, which causes that the students cannot timely make actual practices for the methods for piano playing, severely affecting the students' piano playing level. The college's short of funds and inadequate construction of piano classrooms cause the failure of developing practical teaching for piano-playing teaching, affecting the quality of piano-playing teaching.

Lack of cultivation of music habit and musicianship for students

Piano playing is not only simply touching the piano keys with hands but an artistic form with a strong integrity. The teachers not only need to impart the piano-playing methods and skills but also to cultivate the students' music habit and musicianship. Only cultivating the students' music habit with effective teaching methods and popularizing more musicianship can help improve the quality of piano-playing teaching better.

Analysis on causes of problems in the traditional piano-playing teaching

There are causes for a series of problems arisen in the traditional piano-playing teaching and the following three aspects can be summarized.

Teachers' lack of professional knowledge

Piano-playing teaching needs teachers with strong professional knowledge. However, the teachers engaging in the teaching for music major in colleges lack strong professional knowledge so they lack the support of solid professional knowledge in specific piano-playing teaching. Such piano-playing teaching has no strong practicalness and cannot clearly grasp the teaching content so the students cannot comprehensively understand piano playing, cannot get their musicianship and their own piano-playing level improved.

Students' lack of active learning attitude

In the traditional piano-playing teaching, the teachers' lack of professional knowledge causes the extreme boredom in their classroom teaching, which severely reduces the students' enthusiasm and results in the students' wrong attitude.

Colleges' lack of emphasis on piano-playing teaching

In the specific piano-playing teaching, only the active coordination of teachers, students and colleges can make a substantial leap for the quality of piano-playing teaching. However, the practical situation is less than satisfactory. The colleges are only responsible for opening relevant piano-playing courses without comprehensive tracking management over such course^[2]. Lack of input of practical equipment for piano-playing teaching severely influences the quality and effect of piano-playing teaching.

Using correct teaching methods in piano-playing teaching

Under the background of educational and teaching reforms in colleges, to strengthen the innovation and reform of piano-playing teaching shall start with the utilization of correct teaching methods first. Scientific and reasonable teaching methods in the specific piano-playing teaching can promote successfully carrying out teaching activities, enhance the teaching quality and reach the favorable teaching effect.

Make clear teaching objectives

In the specific piano-playing teaching, the teachers shall write the objectives for classroom teaching in the teaching plan in the process of lesson preparation so as to remind the teachers in writing of carrying out teaching activities according to the fixed teaching objectives. Then, the teachers shall make each teaching link to reflect the teaching objectives in specific practical teaching activities so as to achieve the goal of training qualified piano players. Finally, the teachers need to remind the students of connecting the teaching content in the process of after-class consolidation so as to really reach the goal of piano-playing teaching.

Adopt different teaching methods for different students

In the specific teaching process, the teachers need to actively know all the students' piano-playing levels and implement different teaching methods for students according to their different levels^[3]. Namely, small-class teaching is needed in due time and the teachers need to record all students' detailed learning conditions, assess their playing situations and make corresponding teaching methods according to the assessment result so as to improve their piano-playing levels.

Make a detailed plan for piano-playing teaching

A good plan is a key guarantee for doing one thing well. In the piano-playing teaching, to formulate a detailed teaching plan can effectively guide the teachers to carry out their teaching work. Make teaching plans in stages and for different situation for the piano-playing teaching and strictly abide by and actively carry out such plans. More importantly, carry out the plans of all stages according to certain sequence other than carry out them blindly. In this way, the teachers can improve their teaching quality and effect of piano-playing teaching better.

Paying attention to training course practicalness for students in piano-playing teaching

Piano playing is a significant skill for the students majoring in music. Paying attention to cultivating the students' classroom practicalness in piano-playing teaching in colleges is a major means to enhance the students' piano-playing level. The purely theoretical piano-playing knowledge is imparted as fundamental knowledge during the course of teaching. After having solid theoretical knowledge, the students need to convert the huge and complicated theoretical knowledge into the practical playing capability. For this requirement, the teachers need to strengthen the effective training of the students' practicalness during the process of piano-playing teaching.

Design reasonable piano-playing training activities

During the process of piano-playing teaching, the teachers need to design reasonable piano-playing activities so that the students can permeate the knowledge learned into the practical playing activities. Such playing exercises should be carried out timely in class so that the students can digest different piano-playing knowledge in the practical playing activities.

Besides, in the training activities for piano playing, the teachers need to give correct guidance and design differentiated training activities in different practices for theoretical knowledge for targeted training.

Guide the students to carry out impromptu piano playing

In view of the randomness of classroom teaching, the technical knowledge of piano playing needs to be practically trained immediately after explanations by the teachers. Therefore, during the process of piano-playing teaching, the teachers need to guide the students to carry out impromptu piano playing, which reflects certain piano-playing skills, so that the students will truly command the skills for piano playing and the knowledge learned in class can be timely and effectively consolidated ^[4]. The teachers need to give corresponding guidance for the students with playing defects to help them grasp the piano-playing skills well.

Make detailed plans for piano-playing training

To strengthen the students' practicalness in piano-playing teaching, the teachers need to draw up more detailed and feasible playing training plans. The short classroom teaching cannot satisfy the students' learning of piano-playing knowledge and practice of piano skills, so to urge the teachers to make detailed training plans for piano playing is an effective approach to improve the piano-playing teaching quality and effect. In the one whole academic year or even the whole specialized teaching, the teachers should make the piano-playing training plans for different chapters and templates based on the specific teaching content. In addition, all the plans shall be related and go forward one by one so as to improve the students' piano-playing level.

Carrying forward and inheriting some cultural essence during piano-playing teaching

Since piano playing, a part of music culture, can satisfy people's pursuit for spiritual culture, to carry forward and inherit certain culture essence in piano-playing teaching is a major cultural need of teaching. To cultivate the students' cultural essence in piano playing is the major content for improving the piano-playing teaching quality and effect.

Actively present the national character of piano playing

As music is a significant part of human culture, piano-playing teaching certainly belongs to the scope of humanities. In the process of piano-playing teaching, both the embodiment of music culture in teaching and learning and the explanation on playing skills all pursues the presentation of national characters. For this reason, to actively present the national character of piano playing in piano-playing teaching is an important way to enhance the piano-playing teaching quality.

Cultivate the students' favorable musicianship

In the practical piano-playing teaching, the teachers need to not only make the students to command rich piano-playing skills but also cultivate their comprehensive quality from the angle of culture so that they will really understand the cultural connotation of piano art; besides, this can also increase the students' understanding of piano works and guides them to choose varied piano-playing methods to interpret varied music works ^[5].

Learn the historical course of piano playing, carry forward and inherit related piano-playing culture

In the piano-playing teaching activities, the teachers need to popularize certain knowledge about historical course of piano playing to the students so that the students can understand the forms and methods for piano playing in different eras, which not only can guide the students to carry out piano playing training but also can better carry forward and inherit the age-old piano-playing culture.

Conclusion

Under the background of educational and teaching reforms in colleges, the piano-playing teaching for music major also searches for innovation and development. Therefore, to analyze the problems and causes in the traditional piano-playing teaching and to explore the new methods and approaches for piano-playing teaching under the new situation can practically enhance the teaching quality and effect of piano-playing teaching.

References

- [1] Liang Zhonghui. Brief Discussion on Some Thoughts about Piano-playing Teaching. *Journal of Jiamusi Education Institute*, 2010, (2):45,49.
- [2] Li Han. Analysis on Problems in Piano Playing and Teaching. *Northern Music*, 2014, (7):171-171.
- [3] Zhao Jun. How to Enhance the Effect of Piano-playing Teaching. *Youthful Years*, 2012, (6):83.
- [4] Li Li. Tentative Discussion on Some Thoughts about Piano-playing Teaching. *Notonly Music*, 2013, (21):134-134.
- [5] Yang Tianbo. Brief Discussion on the Improvement of the Effect of Piano-playing Teaching. *Great Stage*, 2011,(3):165.