

On Development Status and Countermeasures of College Music Appreciation Course

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ABSTRACT: It is an inevitable tendency for colleges to strengthen cultural quality education of colleges students, so it is necessary to run the subject of music appreciation whose teaching objectives are quality education usually determined by aesthetic appreciation. Through the appreciation of music, they can broaden their culture horizon, improve their art accomplishments, elevate their aesthetic taste, enrich their knowledge structure, imaginative and creative ability, as well as open their art thoughts, then to promote the college students' comprehensive development.

KEYWORD: college music appreciation; necessity; countermeasures

1 INTRODUCTION

As we all know, music which is a very important field of humanities is one of methods to realize art teaching target. Music appreciation is the main content in college students' class. In our daily life, learning instrument performance, listening to music and learning to sing are inseparable. So how to appreciate music, how to teach music appreciation class well and other similar questions have become the hot topics of our study which need to be solved urgently. At present, there still exist some problems about this class. We need to take some measures to solve these problems in order to play the role of music.

2 THE NECESSITY OF RUNNING MUSIC APPRECIATION COURSE IN COLLEGE

Music can cultivate students' characters, develop their ideology and morality, affection, physical and psychological health, and other qualities. As an important component of music music appreciation course plays a significant role in teaching. It is good for students to develop their ability of appreciation music and is an important method of cultivation students' aesthetic ability.

2.1 *To cultivate moral character.*

As for music itself, beautiful and gracious music can affect students' sentiments and promote and sublimate their spirits. To some degree, music can

cultivate their ability to feel, appreciate and create beauty, and develop the moral sense of likes and dislikes as well as self-consciousness.

2.2 *To cultivate sentiment.*

During music teaching in college, music appreciation can make students feel the idea and sense of music in divergent thinking, develop their sentiments and promote healthy development of students' characters and personality.

2.3 *To lighten one's life.*

Science has proved that beautiful melody can stimulate the nerve system, make people feel happy and excited, quicken blood circulation, adjust internal secretion and release fatigue. College students are faced with high pressure, especially mental pressure. Whereas music appreciation can relax their tension, improve their attitude towards life, lesson psychological pressure and improve study efficient and lighten their lives.

3 CURRENT STATUS OF COLLEGE MUSIC APPRECIATION COURSE AND STUDENTS' MUSICAL QUALITY SHOW

3.1 *Current teaching status of college music appreciation course*

Music appreciation is an aesthetic activity of students contacting music and it's a special mental

activity. Meanwhile students can realize world through the intention of music. College music appreciation course is set on the basis of students' age and psychological characters. College students have extensive interests which last for short period. They like to show themselves but would not like to work hard. Generally speaking, they only take initiative to learn what they are interested in. So the spoon-feeding method which our music teaching course usually adopts is difficult to attract their attention. In most music classes, teachers tend to introduce the background of musicians, characteristics of music works and so on but ignore training students' ability to appreciate music. Teachers don't emphasize much on the enlightenment of students' music appreciation. Thus music class don't fulfill its teaching objective. So, college music appreciation course must adopt different teaching methods and

3.2 Students' musical quality show

(1) Low starting point of students' musical quality

It is a common phenomenon that students' musical quality is low except those majoring in music. Some researchers investigated and analyzed common art courses in Tsinghua university and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the number of undergraduates of one being more than ten times of the other. The freshmen who just underwent entrance examination and were freed from a large amount of exercise have different musical qualities, some of whom even zero. So at the beginning of their semester, they basically are at the stage of making up and prevent the development music appreciation course. It is hard to imagine teaching classical music and vocal music techniques to the students who even don't know songs.

(2) Too much major learning time obstruct musical quality development.

College students are relatively free which create precondition for musical quality education. But it is not the case in teaching practice. Currently, college courses usually adopt the mode of "large subject" which requires students to learn all the related knowledge besides computer, English, ideology and politics as well as other optional courses. Take journalism for example, students not only learn journalism, communication, news interview study, news writing, news editing and other core courses but also learn management and logistics. So in college studies, students still bear heavy pressure. Major learning occupies so much time that it impedes the training of musical knowledge unable to realize the original training plan.

(3) Music appreciation course is marginalized.

The "Syllabus of Public Art Courses of Universities and Colleges" point out clearly that public art courses play a vital role in elevating aesthetic quality, develop innovative and practical abilities, and mold healthy characters. Colleges gradually set public art courses, music being optional course with corresponding credit which can be selected by student. American colleges have run music appreciation as core course, which most colleges in our country take it as boundary subject, without realizing its irreplaceable role in training students comprehensive qualities.

(4) Teaching effect is bad.

Teaching quality of many colleges is still of low level. Students are just listeners in classes. College education place music appreciation for sensory pleasure. Actually, "music education is not training musician but human". The education purpose of music appreciation is to wake up the students' heart through exploring their true inner feelings to attain the effect of resonance.

4 PROBLEMS IN COLLEGE MUSIC APPRECIATION TEACHING

The mode of music teaching currently adopted by many colleges can strengthen students' appreciation level, but there do exist some problems:

4.1 Teaching objective is set too high which result in the loss of students' learning interest

Undergraduates in colleges are mostly not majoring in music. Music teachers taking teaching methods and requirements of musical colleges will arouse students' enthusiasm in the beginning, but the professional teaching will also frustrate the students and theoretical, knowledge is so boring that they are afraid to attend classes. Gradually, some are accustomed to presence, and some even present but sleep rather than listen to the teachers. The teaching effect can be predictable.

4.2 Boring teaching methods

Colleges always adopt the spoon-feeding teaching method which bores the class atmosphere and distracts students' attention, so their thinking will wander or become rigid rather than blend in music to grasp musical connotation. Teaching efficiency is low.

4.3 *No enough investment to meet the demands of music appreciation for teaching equipment.*

Music is an auditory art. Without quality stereo system, music contents can not be expressed. Whereas currently for various reasons, most colleges have no quality musical multi-functional classroom to meet the equipment requirements of music appreciation course.

4.4 *Teachers' lack of emphasis effect bad influence on teaching efficiency of music appreciation.*

Usually, music teachers are graduates majoring in music. They attach great importance to the courses of music majors while feel less accomplishment when teaching non-music majors because of their weak basis. Gradually, they may wrongly think that music appreciation course is just the optional course for relaxation so that they will not emphasize learning status leading to unsatisfactory result.

5 SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPING COLLEGE MUSIC APPRECIATION COURSE.

5.1 *Set up appropriate teaching objective according to the course's characteristics*

Most college students have no musical basis, so teachers should make appropriate teaching plans according to students characters when teaching. Through learning the course, students gradually are attracted to music and are willing to feel music actively, to feel the beauty and purity of music. Only learning and enjoying music can really promote the development of students' cultural quality.

5.2 *Select appropriate teaching materials as assistance*

Currently, teachers must be very cautious when selecting teaching materials on the basis of college and students. When teaching, college teachers all over the country should add or reduce teaching materials based on students, and also offer some highbrow songs with characteristic era. Moreover, college teachers should compile music appreciation materials related to their own schools, which can enrich campus culture and strengthen connotation construction.

5.3 *Diversify teaching methods to really arouse students' interest in music*

In order to arouse students' interest in music, teachers need to get rid of former spoon-feeding teaching thinking--teachers explain while broadcasting music which drowns the students. On the contrary, teachers should adopt the method of

interactive, dynamic and static, heuristics and more flexible to arouse students' enthusiasm. After students enjoy a song, teachers can ask students to discuss in groups. Visual effects can be enhanced with the help of multi-media and other advanced stereo system to let the students feel music, understand the connotation of the music work deeply, lesson their fear of difficulty, and arouse their learning interest.

5.4 *Conduct teaching based on different major characters of colleges*

Improving college students' comprehensive quality is the objective of running music appreciation course in colleges. Besides contents appreciated in daily course, students should select music according to different majors.

Students majoring in English can choose English operas or English songs according to their inters. Students majoring in arts can choose to appreciate music with scenes to enhance their imagination and encourage their creation, such as Pastoral or A wonderful night in spring. When they are appreciating these two, they can exert their imagination and show the scene using their pens. Whereas students majoring in tourism can choose to sing folk songs of Chinese characteristics, minority songs to develop pleasure in explanation and close distance with their visitors and local people. By sing folk songs can deepen their understanding of personalities, living characters and local customs of every nation then to develop their guide job.

5.5 *Add more music practice to elevate students music appreciation level*

It is hard to really elevate students' music appreciation ability only depending on classes, so teachers need to encourage students to take part in music activities both in and out of the campus. It is a good choice to form campus chorus or band by students. Together with watching performance of art group, combining theory with practice, college students can elevate their aesthetic and appreciation ability through personal experience, feel the beauty of music which is good for students physical and emotional health.

6 CONCLUSION

College music appreciation can elevate students' aesthetic judgment and plays special role in students' cultural quality education. It also can enrich students' campus life. So colleges and universities should set this course in a scientific and reasonable way to play its role fully.

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