

# Research on the Teaching Problems for Flute Performance Techniques

Qian Cheng

School of Music Shaanxi Normal University

hunter2011@foxmail.com

**Keywords:** Flute, Teaching for performance techniques; Research on the problems

**Abstract.** In recent years, with more and more social attention on art culture, more and more people become fond of playing flute and there are increasing learners for playing flute. Flute lovers often feel hard to grasp the playing techniques of flutes during playing. With the in-depth learning, it has higher and higher requirements for performance techniques. Therefore, flute playing techniques receive wide attention from learners and teaching activities for flute performance technique would be developed in music colleges all over the country. Learners would have higher and higher requirements for the teaching of flute performance skills. At present, there still exist many problems during the teaching activities for flute playing techniques, some of which would present in the subjective factors of the learning process of learners while some others would present in the objective factors during the teaching process.

## Introduction

As wind music forms, flute is similar with the Chinese bamboo flute; Chinese bamboo flute is a Chinese national instrument while flute is western instrument. The flute develops from the wood tubes to digital tubes and from wood key tubes to metal key tubes. With constant reform and innovation, it forms the perfect form of today. The arrangement of flute sound hole is quite complex with wide range so that it can be used to display in 12 registers with graceful sound and tone. The shape of flute is exquisite and elegant, which is of great significance in the performance of modern orchestra and symphony. Due to the high expressiveness of flute, the performance skills are relative complex as well. The learning methods of students and teaching methods of teachers should be well combined and harmoniously unified. To study the teaching problems and find out the fundamental solutions to solve the problems is of great importance for the flute performance of learners.

## Introduction to the teaching techniques of flute performance

Flute, the wood tube instrument, originates from Europe and it is the oldest among the known instrument all over the world. Therefore, the history for flute performance and constant innovation and transformation history is long in human society. As an instrument, the learning for flute is mainly the learning for performance skills. Therefore, the teaching process is around the performance techniques of flute. However, the classification of flutes mainly base on their arrange and flutes can be divided into piccolo and bass flute. Since flutes with different forms have different sounds and performance features. Therefore, flutes with different forms have different performance techniques and the teaching should also be different.

Due to the difference of flute learning in China and other European countries as well as the combination of excellent flute teachers and advanced flute teaching theories, there are severe and common problems for basic flute performance skills on flute learners in China, such as the inflexible fingers, improper breathing methods during performance and the incorrect tonguing during performance of flutes. These problems would severely hinder the advancement and increase of students' flute performances, which is necessary to solve during teachers' teaching process.

## **Analysis on the common problems during the teaching process for flute performance techniques**

During the current flute performance technique teaching process, students or even teachers would forget or ignore the training for fundamental flute performance techniques, which is the key for flute performance, just the same as how to build high buildings with solid basis. Therefore, the teaching for fundamental performance and intensive training during the flute performance process should be emphasized. Only by consolidating the techniques, can learners have inspirations during developing flute performance skills with which can the techniques teaching can be effective. Therefore, the problems during the current flute performance techniques teaching should be analyzed and studied.

**Lack of emphasis on the basic techniques for the flute performance techniques.** During the teaching activities for flute performance techniques, it often misses the point that it pays no attention on the flute performance techniques; instead it pursues the performance effectiveness, which is unrealistic. During the flute performance process, the basic techniques go through all of it. This wrong idea often coexists in the teaching for flute performance techniques. And most students only learn some basic flute performance techniques and then they are anxious for success by playing music. However, due to the lack of grasp for basic skills, there are often many problems during playing the flute, which would damage the students' initiative and is harmful for the learning of flute performance. The wrong idea would occur on the teachers who teach flute performance techniques, which would present by the unconsciously forgetting and would bring incalculable effect on the students.

**Inefficient training for the basic skills of flute performance techniques.** Apart from the lack of emphasis on the flute performance skills, another important factor for affecting the students is the inefficient training for basic flute performance skills, which is not the same as the lack of emphasis on the flute performance skills. The lack of emphasis on flute performance skills is that the students lack of sufficient understanding for the flute performance skills during the flute performances. When students realize the important of basic flute performance skills, then it is the attitudes that matter, which is also the severe and urgent problems during the teaching activities for flute performance skills. There is lack of enough instilment for the basic training for the teaching of flute performance skills, which is the main fault of teachers during teaching flute performance skills and most forgettable problems during the learning process. This hard problem would affect the flute performance of students.

These basic flute performance skills consist of the flexible of the fingers of flute players, the breathing methods during playing and the intonation during the flute performance. These basic skills would have good transition importance for the learning of flute performance skills and promote the efficient operation of teaching activities for flute performance.

**Misunderstanding for the teachers' comprehension of flute performance techniques.** Teachers are the guiders for learning. The impart of flute performance skills by teachers would directly affect the flute performance of students. However, during the actual teaching for flute performance skills, there is often big or small misunderstanding for the flute performance skills, which would have bad effect for the teaching of flute performance techniques. The breaths, forces and the voices combined by players and flute would be the basis for the whole flute performance during the teaching activities of the flute playing. However, from the training of flute performance basic skills to the concrete composition performance by flute, there are often some problems during the teachers' comprehension, such as taking their own understanding as criterion. Just as Butterfly Effect, a little misunderstanding by teachers would lead to the mistake of flute playing by teachers, thus affecting the learning of flute performance by students.

**Common problems during the technique practices in classroom teaching.** During the teaching for flute performance techniques, due to big proportion between students and teachers in the classroom learning, it would easily cause severe problems during the technique learning, thus leading to the discount of effect in the classroom activities of flute performance techniques. The existing problems for the technique teaching in the flute performance technique often lies in the

flute performance practices by students and the flute performance techniques taught by teachers, which would severely affect the flute performance skills and affect the learning of flute performance techniques.

### **Solutions for the common problems of teaching of flute performance techniques**

**Cultivation of students' consciousness.** As for the two problems in the teaching of flute performance techniques, namely the lack of emphasis in the flute performance basic skills and the inefficient training, the main solution is to cultivate the students' consciousness during the teaching of flute performance techniques, which would be a long tasks and requires that teachers should emphasize the importance of flute performance basic skills consciously or unconsciously during the teaching activities of flute performance. Students should realize the transition of flute performance skills and long-term performance skills and really understand the close connection between the flute performance skills and flute performance skills and the future practices of flute composition and performance activity and students should deeply understand the importance of flute performance skills in their inner heart, which would be the most direct and most effective methods for the lack of emphasis in the flute performance basic skills and the inefficient training. Increase the training of students flute performance techniques and the students' proficiency of the flute performance skills.

**Emphasis on the techniques during the actual performance process.** During the teaching activities of flute performance skills, there are too many theories for flute performance techniques. The monotonous flute performance skills should be exercise more during the actual flute performance after reaching certain extent. Practice is the mother of wisdom. The flute performance skills can really advance only by the inspiration during the students' actual flute performance techniques. During the teachers' teaching activities for flute performance techniques, students would have various misunderstanding for the flute performance methods taught by teachers, which requires guidance of teachers. However, as an instrument, the existing problems for the learning of performance techniques should be judged. Therefore, in order to avoid the problems during the learning of flute performance techniques of students which would affect their flute performance, teachers should increase the actual flute composition performances during teaching process, which makes the students, apply the learned performance techniques and ensure the correctness of students' flute performance techniques by proper guidance. Meanwhile, the effectiveness training for flute performance technique beside classroom would avoid the idle work and increase the students' flute performance.

**Conclusion:** During the flute teaching, there would be various problems, which mainly lie in the performance techniques. The inaccurate understanding for basic techniques would greatly affect the future performance effect, or even harm students' learning initiative to some extent. During teaching process, teachers should be careful during the teaching of mouth shape, sound, breath, fingering etc, so that learners would rapidly grasp the performance techniques without crooked road and ensure the healthy development of students' flute performance ability.

### **Reference**

- [1] B. Zhang. Development process of western flute arts (1)---Fourth research on western orchestra. Huang Zhong(Journal of Wuhan music institute). 04 Period, 2007.
- [2] P. Yan. On the influence of flute shape on its artistic development——boom flute. Northern Music. 07 Period, 2011.
- [3] Barbara Nargis - Hase, translated by Luyi. Tutorial course for flute fingering, Shanghai Music Publishing House, May 1, 2009.
- [4] C. Liu. Application of musical connotation and special techniques during the flute solo Flute and Drum at Sunset. Journal of Inner Mongolia university of Art. 01 Period, 2009.

- [5] Pingping. On the flutes' shape affecting its artistic development——baroque flute. Popular Culture & Arts Publishing House, 15 Period, 2011.
- [6] Y.Y. Chu. Marvellous---Reflection on James Galway's flute concert in Shanghai. The World of Music, 01 Period, 2008.
- [7] L.H. Chen. Analysis on the introduction to Vietnam's single-string instrument and Chen Lihuang's trio of single-string instrument, piano and flute. Shanghai Conservatory of Music, 2011.
- [8] H.H. Niu. Reflections on the Chinese flute works in Boehm system participation in the new Shanghai Flute chorus. Shanghai Conservatory of Music, 2013.
- [9] H. Zhang. Adaptation and Innovation of flute band in Harbin Normal University on the traditional Chinese composition. Harbin Normal University, 2014.