



Research on the Integration of Music Theory and Composition in Teaching

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the research scope of integrating music theory and composition instruction, aiming to address the disconnect between theory and practice in traditional music education, enhance students' comprehensive musical literacy and creative abilities, and promote innovation in music teaching models. By analyzing the intrinsic connections among music practical training, theoretical analysis, and composition, it conducts research from multiple dimensions, including theoretical foundations, the role of practical training, and theoretical guidance. Ultimately, it concludes that music practical training serves as a bridge for the integration of the two, theoretical analysis provides support for composition, and proposes strategies for curriculum design, methods, and evaluation to offer new perspectives and approaches for music education.

Keywords: music theory, music creation, teaching integration, music training

1. Introduction

In the process of contemporary cultural prosperity and diverse social development, music education plays a crucial role. It is not only an important carrier of cultural inheritance, but also a key way to cultivate aesthetic ability and stimulate innovative thinking. However, traditional music teaching has obvious drawbacks, as theoretical teaching and creative practice have long been disconnected[1]. Although students have mastered a large amount of theoretical knowledge, it is difficult to transform it into practical creative abilities. Based on this, it is particularly necessary to study the integration of music theory and creative teaching, which not only helps to enhance students' comprehensive music literacy and cultivate innovative abilities, but also promotes innovative changes in music education models.

2. Theoretical basis for the integration of music theory and creative teaching

2.1 Core Connotation and Value of Music Theory

Music theory is the fundamental support of the music discipline, covering many basic elements such as pitch, rhythm, harmony, and musical form. Pitch determines the ups and downs of melody, rhythm endows music with rhythm and vitality, harmony creates rich sound levels, and form constructs the overall structural framework of music[2]. These elements follow specific organizational and expressive rules in musical works, collectively shaping the unique style of music. A deep understanding of music theory is a key prerequisite for accurately grasping the connotation of music works and identifying the characteristics of music styles. It also provides a solid knowledge foundation for music creation, enabling creators to organize music materials reasonably based on theoretical norms and achieve their creative intentions.

2.2 Essence and Characteristics of Music Creation

Music creation, as an artistic activity, has its own uniqueness. Its inspiration comes from a wide range of sources, such as insights from life, inspiration from nature, or inspiration from other art forms. The creative process is an organic unity of emotional expression and formal construction, where creators integrate their inner emotions into the form of music. This not only requires creators to have solid music literacy and rich music knowledge, but also to have innovative thinking, break through traditional constraints, and have strong practical abilities to transform creative ideas into actual music works.

2.3 Theoretical basis for teaching integration

From the perspectives of education and psychology, the integration of music theory and creative teaching is feasible. Constructivist learning theory emphasizes active construction by learners in practice[3]. Music training, as a practical scenario, provides students with opportunities to apply music theory knowledge to creative practice, helping them internalize abstract theories into practical creative abilities and achieve a deep integration of theory and practice.

3. The role of music training in the integration of theory and creation

3.1 Music Training as a Bridge between Theory and Practice

Music training builds a solid bridge between music theory and creative practice, transforming abstract theories into tangible and actionable practical content. In instrument performance training, students can truly feel the changes in pitch and rhythm between their fingertips, making abstract music theory concepts concrete and deepening their understanding of music theory. In choir training, the interweaving and fusion of different voices allows students to intuitively appreciate the rich colors and unique functions of harmony, thereby enhancing their ability to apply harmony theory and laying a solid foundation for music creation.

3.2 Music Training Inspires Creative Inspiration

The diverse activities in music training, such as improvisation and music games, are like a source of inspiration, providing students with rich materials for creation. In improvisation, students break through established frameworks, freely express themselves, and explore the possibilities of combining different musical elements. Experience exposure to various music styles and expression techniques, broaden one's musical horizons, break through thinking limitations, stimulate inner creative desires, and inject fresh inspiration into music creation.

3.3 Music training cultivates creative and practical abilities

Music training is a key way to cultivate students' creative and practical abilities. Repeated practical training exercises enable students to master performance and singing skills proficiently, enhance musical expression, and make music expression more infectious. At the same time, the problems encountered in practical training force students to apply the music theory they have learned to analyze and solve them. Through the interaction between theory and practice, they continuously improve their creative and practical abilities, and achieve effective transformation from theory to creation.

4. The Guiding Role of Music Theory Analysis in Creation

4.1 Analysis of Music Theory Provides a Framework and Norms for Creation

The knowledge of musical form structure and harmony progression in music theory is the cornerstone and guide of music creation. The musical structure provides creators with a macro framework for their music works, such as two-part and trilogy styles, which clearly divide the different paragraphs and levels of the work, allowing creators to organize music materials in an orderly manner and construct a complete musical logic. The rules of harmony regulate the use and combination of chords, clarify the function and direction of harmony, guide creators to create a harmonious and expressive musical atmosphere, and give works stability and beauty in the harmony layer, providing clear direction and guidelines for creation.

4.2 Analysis of Music Theory Helps Form Creative Styles

There are unique theoretical foundations behind different music styles. Classical music follows strict counterpoint rules, while jazz music exhibits complex rhythms and harmonic characteristics. By deeply analyzing music theory, creators can absorb the essence of different styles of theory and integrate them into their own creation. By drawing on and integrating, breaking down style boundaries, and forming a unique creative style, the work combines diverse charm and distinctive recognition.

4.3 Analysis of Music Theory to Enhance the Logic and Coherence of Creation

Music theory is crucial for the organization and logical arrangement of music materials. By applying music theory knowledge, creators can make melody development natural and smooth, harmony changes rich and orderly, rhythm transitions reasonable and appropriate, making the various parts of the work closely connected and interlocked, presenting internal logic and coherence, thereby enhancing the artistic appeal and expressiveness of the work.

5. Practical Strategies for Integrating Music Theory and Creative Teaching

5.1 Integration of Curriculum Design

At the level of music curriculum design, it is necessary to achieve a deep and organic integration of music theory courses and creative practice courses. On the one hand, in the teaching of music theory courses, timely integration of creative practice is necessary to guide students to directly apply the theoretical knowledge of pitch, rhythm, harmony, etc. they have learned to simple music creation exercises, strengthening their ability to apply theory. On the other hand, in the creative practice course, a theoretical analysis section is set up to encourage students to use music theory to analyze works, understand

works from the perspectives of form structure, harmony function, etc., absorb creative nutrients, and thus improve their own creative level, so that theoretical learning and practical creation can promote and complement each other.

5.2 Integration of teaching methods

Adopting diverse teaching methods such as project-based learning and collaborative learning to promote the integration of music theory and creative teaching. Under project-based learning, students undertake music creation projects in groups, and in the process of project promotion, they comprehensively apply music theory knowledge to conceive, create, and practice, cultivating teamwork and theoretical application abilities. Collaborative learning creates an atmosphere of communication, encouraging students to share their creative experiences, explore theoretical applications, jointly tackle creative challenges, and stimulate innovative thinking.

5.3 Integration of Teaching Evaluation

Build a diversified teaching evaluation system that comprehensively considers students' mastery of music theory knowledge, creative and practical abilities, and innovative thinking. The evaluation methods include teacher evaluation, student self-evaluation, and peer evaluation, emphasizing the combination of process evaluation and summative evaluation. It not only focuses on the performance during the learning process, but also on the final results, objectively and fairly evaluating the learning effectiveness of students in the integration of music theory and creative teaching.

6. Conclusion

This study delves into the integration of music theory and creative teaching, highlighting its significant importance in enhancing students' music literacy, stimulating innovation abilities, and promoting innovation in music education models. Despite achieving certain results, research still has limitations, such as the need to deepen the depth and breadth of teaching integration, and further explore the adaptability of different student groups. Looking ahead to the future, we expect more educators to engage in research in this field, continuously improve music education models, inject new impetus into the development of music education, and cultivate more outstanding music talents with both innovation and comprehensive literacy.

References

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