



A Calm Reflection on the Current Situation of Musical Theatre Major in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: As a comprehensive art form that integrates music, drama and dance, musical has been widely welcomed and concerned since its birth. In the field of higher education, the major of musical has gradually emerged and become one of the majors that many students dream of. However, with the continuous changes of society and the continuous development of the art market, the major of musical has become one of the majors that many students dream of. It is particularly important to think calmly about the current situation of musical drama specialty in Colleges and universities. Therefore, this paper will deeply analyze and discuss the teaching quality, employment prospects, professional recognition and other aspects of musical major in colleges and universities, in order to provide some enlightenment for the sustainable and healthy development of this major.

Keywords: colleges and universities, musical, professional status

1. Introduction

As a comprehensive performing art that integrates singing, dancing, drama and other art forms, musical has been widely concerned and loved in the world in recent years. With the rapid development of the cultural industry and the continuous improvement of people's aesthetic appreciation of art, musical has gradually become a popular art form in China. Therefore, in order to adapt to this trend, More and more colleges and universities begin to set up musical major to train professional musical talents. However, with the rapid development of musical major in Colleges and universities, it also faces many challenges and problems, such as lack of competitive consciousness, shortage of teaching resources, lack of professional talents and huge employment pressure. So how to develop college musical? It has become a key issue for all colleges and universities at present.

2. The unique charm of musicals

2.1 An overview of the origin and development of musicals

Musical drama originated in Britain at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, evolved from operetta and comic opera, and is known as a comprehensive form of musical drama. It perfectly integrates singing and dancing, drama and music, and injects deeper emotions and connotations into music through vivid story narration. The musical style of musical drama is easy to understand, so it is deeply loved by audiences all over the world. Especially in the United Kingdom and the United States, the development of musicals is particularly prosperous.

2.2 The unique artistic characteristics of musicals

Compared with opera, musicals show more diverse artistic features in the way of singing, which can not only skillfully integrate pop music elements, but also perform dialogue without music accompaniment, showing great flexibility, but although there are disputes about the boundaries between musicals and opera, musicals are more flexible in the use of dance elements. It brings both visual and auditory enjoyment to the audience.

3. Current Situation and Challenges of Musical Teaching in Colleges and Universities in China

3.1 Lack of sense of competition

Part of the reason for the rapid development of Western musicals is that students have a strong sense of competition, because in Western countries, the professional teaching of musicals is committed to cultivating professional talents to meet the market demand. After graduation, students can flexibly choose their career paths according to their personal interests and

abilities, which enables them to maintain a high degree of concentration and a strong sense of competition in the process of learning. However, when setting up musical major in colleges and universities in China, the market demand and the employment demand of students are often ignored, which will lead to the lack of necessary sense of competition in the learning process and the inability to fully realize the importance of learning musical, which not only affects students' interest and initiative in learning, but also has a negative impact on the teaching effect of musical major.

3.2 The current situation of shortage of teaching resources

At present, colleges and universities in China are facing severe challenges in terms of teaching resources. Although bel canto plays an important role in musical performance and is widely used, it is only one of many forms of performance, and the development of other singing methods and methods is still in its infancy, which requires teachers to conduct in-depth exploration and research. In addition, some colleges and universities have many problems in setting up musical major, such as unreasonable curriculum and inadequate practical teaching, which lead to students' misunderstanding of musical and their inability to master the knowledge comprehensively and systematically, which is also one of the important factors restricting the further development of musical teaching in China.

3.3 The dilemma of lack of professionals

In the professional teaching of musical, the role of professional teachers is very important, however, due to the late start of musical in China, the number of relevant professional teachers is relatively small and the quality is uneven, although some teachers now have a performance background, but the understanding of musical is not deep, it is difficult to explore its connotation in the teaching process and encounter many difficulties. In addition, China's musical stage is relatively small, lack of professional team support and operation, making it difficult for students to obtain practical opportunities and further enhance their professional ability after professional learning, so colleges and universities need to increase efforts to enhance the professional level of teachers and strengthen the practice of teaching links, so as to enhance the professional level of teachers. In order to ensure that musical teaching can be carried out smoothly and achieve good results under the effective guidance of professional teachers.

3.4 The enormous challenge of employment pressure

Under the current social background, colleges and universities often neglect the future employment of students in musical teaching, in which learning musical does not mean that every student can become a musical performer smoothly, and the lack of specialized industry support and practical opportunities makes it difficult for students to accumulate practical experience and improve their professional ability. To a certain extent, this has restricted the further development and popularization of musicals in China. Therefore, in the face of this challenge, many students majoring in musical may choose to transfer to other courses to enhance their employment competitiveness and market adaptability. Therefore, colleges and universities need to strengthen cooperation and exchanges with related industries, provide more practical opportunities and employment channels for students, so as to help them better adapt to market demand and achieve personal career development goals.

4. Setting of Musical Theatre Major in Colleges and Universities

In recent years, with the vigorous development of the cultural industry, musical, as a unique art form, has gradually attracted wide attention from all walks of life, and in this context, the setting of musical specialty in Colleges and universities has also shown a vigorous development trend. At present, many colleges and universities across the country have set up musical majors, most of which belong to the Conservatory of Music or the Academy of Drama, with perfect teaching facilities and excellent teachers. Musical drama majors in these colleges and universities not only pay attention to the cultivation of students' professional skills, but also emphasize the improvement of students' artistic accomplishment and comprehensive quality, and through systematic curriculum and rich practical opportunities, they will enable students to get comprehensive exercise in musical performance, creation, choreography and other aspects, so as to achieve the goal. At the same time, the setting of musical specialty in Colleges and universities also takes full account of the market demand and the development trend of the industry. After all, with the continuous expansion of the musical market and the increasing diversification of audience demand, the musical specialty in Colleges and universities is constantly updating its teaching content and methods to adapt to the changes of the market. In addition, some colleges and universities also actively cooperate with well-known musical production companies and theatres at home and abroad to provide more practical opportunities and employment channels for students. However, although the overall situation of the establishment of musical majors in Colleges and universities shows a good development trend, there are still some problems and challenges. For example, some colleges and universities pursue too much popularity and trend in specialty setting, ignoring their own characteristics and advantages.

At the same time, some colleges and universities still have shortcomings in teachers and teaching facilities, which affect the quality of teaching and the learning effect of students. Therefore, when setting up musical drama specialty, colleges and universities should fully consider their own actual situation and development orientation to ensure the quality and characteristics of the specialty.

5. Measures to Promote the Development of Musical Theatre Teaching in Colleges and Universities

5.1 Cultivating Students' Competitive Concept

In order to promote the long-term progress of musical education in colleges and universities, teachers must take active measures to guide students to experience the charm of musical learning and firmly establish the concept of competition. In the current social environment, with the improvement of people's quality of life, the demand for musical appreciation is also increasing. In order to make students better adapt to the market demand, teachers should closely integrate the actual situation in the teaching process to help students establish a sense of competition. Taking the famous musical *Cat* as an example, the play has achieved great success worldwide, which is closely related to its unique creativity and wonderful performance, and in the teaching process, the Shanghai Theatre Academy actively guides students to analyze the success factors of *Cat*, such as plot design, role shaping, music and dance. Through this teaching method, students can understand the connotation of musicals more deeply, improve their comprehensive quality, and lay a solid foundation for their future career.

5.2 Rational allocation and utilization of teaching resources

As a comprehensive art form, the teaching process of musical needs to make full use of various teaching resources to improve the teaching effect, so colleges and universities should integrate and optimize the existing teaching resources to ensure that all kinds of resources can be used reasonably and effectively. Taking the Central Academy of Drama as an example, the musical major of the school has created a first-class platform for musical teaching and practice by introducing advanced audio equipment, lighting equipment and dance props. Teachers will skillfully integrate these resources into the teaching according to the course content, making the classroom more lively and interesting. In practice, students not only improve their professional skills, but also learn how to cooperate with others to complete the creation and performance of a musical. This teaching mode not only improves the quality of teaching, but also fully demonstrates the unique charm of musicals.

5.3 Construct and improve the teaching system

It is very important to establish a perfect teaching system to promote the all-round development of students, clarify the direction of employment and cultivate high-quality musical talents. Therefore, colleges and universities should take the market demand as the guidance, deepen the reform of the existing teaching system, improve the curriculum and improve the teaching efficiency. Among them, the musical major of Beijing Dance Academy is a good example, which pays attention to the combination of theory and practice in the teaching process, and has set up a rich curriculum system, including the history of musical drama, musical creation, musical performance, etc., and the Academy has also strengthened the cross-integration with other art categories, such as dance, drama, etc. Through such a teaching system, students not only have a solid theoretical foundation, but also have excellent practical ability, which can better meet the market demand.

5.4 Improving the overall quality of teachers

Teachers play a vital role in musical teaching, so colleges and universities should pay attention to the construction of teaching staff, improve teachers' professional quality and teaching ability, but because musical involves knowledge and skills in many fields, teachers must have a comprehensive and systematic knowledge system of musical. For example, Sichuan Conservatory of Music has made positive efforts in the training of professional musical teachers. The school regularly invites well-known musical experts from home and abroad to give lectures and training, so that teachers can timely understand the latest teaching concepts and methods. At the same time, the school also encourages teachers to participate in various musical seminars and performances to broaden their horizons and enhance their practical ability. Through the implementation of these measures, the professional quality of teachers has been significantly improved, which provides a strong guarantee for the quality of teaching.

5.5 Optimizing the curriculum arrangement

In view of the problems existing in the curriculum arrangement of musical drama specialty in Colleges and universities, colleges and universities should actively adjust and optimize the curriculum content to ensure that it is closely connected with the market demand, such as adding musical-related content in music history and other courses, which will help students

to understand the development process and artistic characteristics of musical drama more comprehensively. For example, Shenyang Conservatory of Music has made a useful attempt to adjust the curriculum of musicals, adding explanations to the development of Western musicals in the course of music history, including representative works, style characteristics and historical background of each period, and incorporating elements of musicals into other related courses, such as vocal music. This curriculum arrangement enables students to understand the knowledge system of musicals more comprehensively and lay a solid foundation for future study and employment.

6. Conclusion

In a word, it is a long-term and arduous task to improve the teaching effect of musical in colleges and universities, which requires the joint efforts of colleges and universities, teachers and students to reform and innovate from the aspects of teaching content, methods and resources, and to continuously optimize the teaching system, improve the quality of teachers, rationally allocate teaching resources and adjust curriculum arrangements. We are confident to cultivate more high-quality musical talents and contribute to the sustained prosperity and development of China's musical industry.

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