

A Discussion on the Problems and Countermeasures of the Integration of Traditional and Modern Teaching Methods in College Music Education

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Abstract: With the development of the times and the reform of educational concepts, higher education in music faces the real challenge of transforming from traditional teaching models to modern, informational, and diversified methods. Traditional music teaching methods emphasize the inheritance of skills, emotional cultivation, and technical reproduction, with strong cultural accumulation and historical continuity; while modern teaching methods focus more on the student's subjectivity, the use of technological tools, and global perspectives, emphasizing individual expression and interdisciplinary integration. Currently, universities still face multiple issues in the process of integrating these two teaching models, such as conflicts in teaching philosophies, imbalanced resource allocation, fragmented curriculum structures, and structural shortcomings in faculty abilities. This paper analyzes the basic characteristics and differences between traditional and modern music teaching methods, identifies the main barriers in the integration process of higher music education, and proposes strategies for optimizing the curriculum system, restructuring faculty capabilities, and improving the evaluation mechanism. These suggestions aim to provide practical references for the reform of music education in universities.

Keywords: Higher music education; Teaching method integration; Traditional teaching; Modern teaching

1. Introduction

Higher education in music, as an important platform for cultivating musical talents and promoting national culture, has always carried the dual mission of artistic inheritance and innovative development. In the long process of teaching practice, traditional music teaching methods, with their profound cultural background and detailed technical training, have played a fundamental role in students' performance abilities and aesthetic literacy. However, with the development of educational technology and the transformation of talent cultivation goals, modern teaching methods have shown significant advantages in improving teaching efficiency, enriching teaching methods, and expanding learning spaces. The integration of these two methods has become an important direction for reform in higher music education. In practice, although many universities have attempted to introduce multimedia-assisted teaching, integrate ideological and political education, and engage in cross-disciplinary collaborations, the phenomenon of fragmentation between traditional and modern methods is still prevalent. Problems such as unclear integration pathways and incomplete implementation mechanisms urgently need to be addressed. Therefore, exploring the current status, root causes, and feasible strategies for the integration of traditional and modern teaching methods in higher music education is not only necessary to improve educational quality but also crucial for achieving the sustainable development of music education.

2. Basic Characteristics and Differences of Traditional and Modern Music Teaching Methods

2.1 Core Philosophy and Practice of Traditional Music Teaching Methods

Traditional music teaching methods typically emphasize a master-apprentice model, focusing on individualized teaching and the meticulous honing of skills. In this model, teaching is usually face-to-face, fostering a deep emotional connection between the teacher and the student. The teacher imparts musical skills, theory, and cultural essence through oral transmission, and students engage in learning music techniques in this environment. Traditional teaching methods emphasize the interpretation and reproduction of classical music works, especially in the teaching of folk and classical music, where the precision of technique and the expression of emotion are highlighted. Although this approach ensures the transmission of musical skills, it has gradually shown mismatches with contemporary demands, constrained by its single content and limited teaching methods in the context of modern society.

2.2 Technological Tools and Teaching Philosophy of Modern Music Teaching Methods

Modern music teaching methods, on the other hand, emphasize student-centered learning, classroom interaction, and

independent study, with widespread use of information technology and multimedia tools to assist teaching. For example, video tutorials, audio analysis, virtual instruments, and other modern technologies help students better understand musical performance techniques and the theoretical foundations behind them. Additionally, modern teaching emphasizes interdisciplinary integration, values the freedom and individuality of music creation, and stresses the globalization and multiculturalism of music education. Modern methods no longer solely rely on traditional performance skills but focus more on cultivating students' creative thinking and comprehensive abilities, striving to foster innovation and cross-disciplinary skills. Therefore, while modern music teaching methods break the limitations of traditional approaches, they also bring about a transformation in education, reflecting a high integration of technology and the humanities[1].

3. Main Problems in the Integrated Development of Music Education in Higher Education

3.1 Difficulty in Integrating Teaching Concepts

In higher music education, the integration of traditional and modern teaching methods faces significant differences in philosophy. Traditional teaching methods are relatively conservative, focusing on the inheritance of classics and the reproduction of skills, with an emphasis on students' technical training and standardized performance. In contrast, modern teaching emphasizes student autonomy, creativity, and the cultivation of interdisciplinary skills. Due to the deep-rooted and long-standing nature of traditional teaching philosophies, many teachers tend to stick to old teaching models when facing educational reforms, showing a low level of acceptance of modern educational concepts. This hinders the effective integration of the two teaching methods. Additionally, students' acceptance of these concepts also varies. Traditional teaching emphasizes technical skills, while modern teaching focuses on creativity and interdisciplinary integration. This conflict of ideas results in the underutilization of the advantages of traditional teaching methods and impedes the smooth introduction of modern educational philosophies[2].

3.2 Obstacles in Teaching Resource Integration

In terms of resource allocation, higher music education faces difficulties in efficiently integrating traditional and modern teaching methods. The curriculum design often exhibits fragmentation, with traditional and modern music courses failing to connect effectively in terms of content. Traditional courses still emphasize basic skills such as instrumental performance and vocal training, while modern courses place more emphasis on sound technology, music creation, and the use of digital tools. In practice, many universities prioritize investments in traditional music education content, while modern music education facilities, teaching software, and interdisciplinary resources are insufficient, leading to an imbalance in resource allocation. This imbalance impacts the teaching effectiveness and integration of teaching methods. Moreover, faculty development also poses a problem, as many teachers are highly experienced in traditional teaching but are relatively weak in applying modern teaching technologies, which hinders the comprehensive integration of both methods.

3.3 Misalignment in Teaching Evaluation Mechanisms

Teaching evaluation mechanisms also present a prominent issue in the integration of traditional and modern teaching methods. Traditional evaluation methods mainly assess students' performance techniques and their ability to interpret works, emphasizing standardization and the correctness of performance, while modern music education places greater importance on students' creative thinking, project collaboration abilities, and interdisciplinary competence. As a result, the current evaluation system tends to focus on skill assessment, neglecting the students' innovative performance in creation, performance, and theoretical analysis. This evaluation approach fails to meet the need for integrating the two teaching methods and does not fully reflect the diversity of students' actual musical abilities and thinking. Furthermore, the lack of a dynamic feedback and continuous improvement mechanism makes it difficult for the current evaluation system to adapt to the integration of teaching methods and does not truly promote the development of students' overall quality[3].

4. Optimization Pathways and Practical Strategies for the Integration of Teaching Methods

4.1 Building a Diverse and Integrated Curriculum

To effectively integrate traditional and modern teaching methods, universities should build a diverse and integrated curriculum that combines traditional music teaching content with modern music education technologies, setting up "traditional + modern" module-based courses. The curriculum should preserve the essence of traditional music, such as the performance,

appreciation, and analysis of ethnic music and classical compositions, while also incorporating modern music creation, electronic music, and the use of digital tools. Through this interdisciplinary curriculum design, students can not only master traditional skills but also broaden their horizons and experience a wider range of music types and performance styles. In practice, students can be guided to engage in creative projects and performances through cross-disciplinary cooperation, fostering mutual penetration between traditional and modern teaching content and enhancing students' overall quality and innovative abilities[4].

4.2 Enhancing Faculty Development and Institutional Support

The integration of music education in higher education relies on faculty development and institutional support. First, teachers should undergo a dual training mechanism, enabling them to inherit the essence of traditional music teaching while also proficiently using modern educational technologies and methods. Therefore, universities should encourage teachers to participate in training related to modern music education and provide them with opportunities for interdisciplinary learning to enhance their cross-disciplinary teaching abilities. Secondly, an integrated teaching incentive and evaluation mechanism should be established to encourage teachers to explore and implement innovative ways of combining traditional and modern teaching methods, and evaluate and reward their teaching achievements. Additionally, institutional support should be improved to ensure that the implementation of integrated courses is adequately supported, including appropriate resource allocation, adjustments to course settings, and strengthening the construction of teaching facilities, which will promote the effective integration of teaching methods from an institutional level[5].

5. Conclusion

The integration of traditional and modern teaching methods in higher music education is an important direction for music education reform, but this process faces numerous challenges, such as conflicts in teaching philosophy, resource integration barriers, and mismatches in evaluation mechanisms. Through an analysis of the characteristics of traditional and modern teaching methods, it becomes clear that both have their advantages: traditional methods emphasize skill inheritance and cultural accumulation, while modern methods emphasize creativity and interdisciplinary integration. Therefore, universities should actively promote the integration of the two, build a diversified curriculum system, strengthen faculty professional development, and improve institutional support to ensure the effective implementation of integration strategies. Ultimately, through the integration of teaching methods, universities can cultivate comprehensive music talents who not only possess traditional musical skills but also adapt to the demands of modern music creation, laying a solid foundation for the sustainable development of music education.

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