

Enlightenment of Confucian Thoughts of Music Education on Contemporary General Music Education

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Abstract: In the pre-Qin period, Confucius proposed six subjects namely the etiquette, music, archery, driving, literacy, and calculation. Among the six subjects, music was ranked the second. Among them, traditional education in China can fully reflect the importance of music education, and the essence and core of music education can be reflected from the requirements of aesthetic education. In recent years, with the continuous development and improvement of production and life, the theme of education in today's society has changed, and quality education is the center and focus of education today. Moreover, people begin to focus on how to inherit and publicize the traditional music culture. As the music culture is of great importance, many people are encouraged to continue to practice and publicize the traditional music. The main point of this article is Confucian theory of music education.

Keywords: Confucius; Music education; Contemporary music education

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1 Introduction

For a long time, the important educational concept of ancient education in China emphasizes on the "Ritual and Music" thought, and respect the traditional music education method based on Confucianism. At present, people have many different views on the theoretical research of Confucian music education, but there is no relatively perfect theory about the specific implementation and application of Confucian thoughts

of music education in modern music courses. From Confucian thoughts of music education, the values of music education for people is to publicize and inherit Confucian thoughts of music education, which is of great significance to the study of music education in today's society.

2 Description of research background

In the generation and development of culture in ancient China, Confucius' contribution to education is indelible. He is a great educator and thinker. For future generations, for better or worse, one of the focuses of Chinese scholars' debate is Confucian thoughts and speech. Confucius founded the Confucian school. Research of Confucianism involves many aspects, such as politics and culture. Of course, music culture is also the main research area of Confucianism. Confucianism has a unique impact on the function of music and the significance of music education. Because of his love for music and the degree of attention to education, Confucius had a variety of music education ideas for future generations, helping us to make unprecedented achievements in music. Undeniably, Confucianism is the source of our thoughts.

We are constantly reforming the music curriculum in order to pursue better and more suitable music education in modern time. Looking back on the path we have traveled for so many years, we have worked hard and made every effort on the reform of music education. We should encourage our educators to quickly accept a variety of new ideas, new methods, new methods and new initiatives, let their teaching goals develop in an all-round way, and let them combine these experiences with their own experience. In this process, the teaching skills of the teachers will be improving. The content of our music lessons is getting more interesting, and the

number of favorite students is increasing. This is the result of all music educators working together. But we also have to reflect on this. In addition to continuously instilling the new ideas and concepts, do we really need to introduce new, advanced foreign ideas in China? Can we really apply foreign educational ideas? Our teachers study foreign teaching methods, travel overseas to bring back advanced foreign education concepts. These are just seeking a basis for the new curriculum reform^[1].

At present, we are studying new ideas of cultural education, and foreign educators are learning from ancient Chinese thinkers and educators such as Confucius. In 1988, at the First International Conference of Nobel Prize Winners, Dr. Hannes Olof Gösta Alfvén, the Swedish winner of Nobel Prize in Physics, mentioned that if we want to continue to survive, we should return to the past and learn from Confucius' wisdom. At that time, this sentence was recognized by many people, and then it was widely spread around the world. As the famous scholar said, the most guiding role in the development of this society is the Confucian culture, which is the essence of traditional Chinese culture. In general, our current educational philosophy can be improved on the basis of traditional educational concepts, and we can go back to the era of Confucius to learn more about the cultural and educational thoughts of the time.

3 Confucian thoughts of music education and main content

3.1 Focus on the music function in moral education

The so-called education of benevolence (ren) is the combination of music education and moral education in Confucius' music education. He highly respects the ritual and thoughts pertaining to music, and educates ritual and music in the content of education. The highest stage in education is music learning. As mentioned in the chapter of Taibo in the Analects of Confucius, it began with learning poetry which was independent of academic rituals, and completed with academic music. Confucius believes that the ultimate goal of life education is music education. One's perfection is all attributed to music, which shows that he attaches great importance to the study of music. From the perspective of music thought, Confucius realized that music can affect people's spirit. It emphasized the educational function of music. It was also mentioned in The Classic

of Xiao (Xiao Jing) that changing the atmosphere and changing the old customary system is no better than music education and teaching people respect and obedience is no better than using ethics^[2].

All these fully demonstrate that Confucius is a person who attaches great importance to cultivating moral sentiments in his music education thoughts.

3.2 Emphasis on the Development of Aesthetic Consciousness towards Music

Confucius' understanding of music aesthetics is undoubtedly strong. In this respect, the aesthetic tastes, musical identification, and experience of musical aesthetics he established can be expressed. According to the Analects of Confucius, the conversations between Confucius and the music officials of Lu state during their musical performance were mentioned. Through this short discourse, we can see that Confucius has certain aesthetic standards for many aspects of the music he played, such as the rhythm of music. The music he pursued was pure, harmonious and beautiful. Confucius emphasized that the concrete manifestation of music aesthetic education is exactly his attitude towards music aesthetics. Judging from the experience obtained when he appreciated music, this aesthetic is sublimated and the audience could appreciate the beauty in the music hall. This shows that Confucius did not support only focusing on learning forms and skills, but should focusing on the ideas of music education, experience and sentiment cultivation.

3.3 Focus on education methods

Confucius has accumulated a lot of teaching experience. He suggested that teaching should be based on actual conditions. In the Analects of Confucius, it was mentioned that people above the middle level could teach him advanced knowledge, while those beneath the middle level could teach him advanced knowledge. Equal emphasis on learning and thinking is Confucius' educational viewpoint. He believed that learning and thinking are the two basic aspects in the learning process. Thinking and learning are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Confucius was the best at enlightening and teaching students. One way to do this is if the perception of one thing does not produce a different perspective, the learner should not be led to go the way the educator originally set out. There are many teaching experiences that have important guiding significance for our current music education.

4 Current situation of contemporary general music education

4.1 Helping students to build awareness of both morality and skill

Consistency between beauty and benevolence was the style of music pursued by Confucius. The category that belongs to art is beauty, and the category that belongs to morality is benevolence. Only the perfect music will touch the hearts of people. He had the same standards for people as for music. Confucian thoughts of music tell us that music education is very important in the field of education. There is little to replace. The highest stage of education is when the music is completed. This unique music thought extends the realm of art to the highest ideal of life. The fusion of music aesthetics and moral consciousness has played an active role in the society that progress continuously. The fusion has greatly affected the thoughts of music education and music aesthetic subsequently.

With the continuous progress of the society, we now need high-quality composite and application-oriented talents. As music educators, we should learn from the advantages of Confucian music education and strive to train students so that they develop with morality and talents in a comprehensive way. First, it is necessary for students to understand that morality and skills are equally important, and strive to improve the cultivation of students' moral cultivation, so that students know how to get along with others. Second, in the teaching process, use music to educate students, and to help students establish a correct outlook on life. Third, students should be educated to study diligently, so that they show not only the superb skills in music, but also a pure heart.

4.2 Improving students' aesthetics of music

Music education is also known as the aesthetic education. If music teachers want to cultivate students in aesthetic ability, they need to use the way of teaching students to sing and enjoy music. Confucius' understanding of music is different from others. He found that music and people have similarities in some aspects, so he advocates 'the unity of beauty and goodness.' In the process of studying music, you can't just get 'songs and numbers', you also need to get 'zhi' and 'person'. Confucius shaped human character through music, reaching spiritual height and exalted personality. This is his theory of music education. Therefore, as far as we are concerned in the process

of music aesthetic education, we should integrate the artistic and ideological aspects of the works. First, we must improve students' cultural knowledge and strengthen their literary cultivation, so as to help students better understand artistic works. Second, we must educate students with good music and strengthen students' with musical melody, rhythm, speed, and tone, as well as other aspects of perception, in order to improve students' music appreciation. Third, we must also strengthen students' awareness that skills serve the sound^[3]. Good sound is the foundation of music creation and performance. Teachers must learn how to guide students to use their skills to show beauty.

4.3 Emphasis on teaching methods and moral education

At present, the music major is in the state of enrollment expansion, but students' learning levels are inconsistent. Therefore, first of all, teachers need to actively change teaching methods and concepts in the teaching process, utilize the essence of Confucius teaching experience, focus on training students' interest in learning. And teaching in the actual situation. Secondly, in the teaching process, we must actively cultivate students' independent learning ability and innovative spirit, so that in the future work, students not only understand skills, but also learn to impart knowledge and innovative ideas to keep up with the development of China's music education.

The teachers should take the initiative. From the perspective of the students, a teacher is the silent guide. Many of the school's music teachers are affected by the market economy, and a lot of spare time is spent on earning extra money. They have not improved their cultural accomplishments and professional skills very well. Therefore, the levels of teaching and morality have experienced a decline. Confucius started teaching at the age of 30, and had been engaged in educational activities during the teaching period. He learned new knowledge tirelessly, and similarly, taught others tirelessly. Therefore, the music teachers in our schools need to learn from Confucius' dedication to education, and to be responsible for students throughout the entire process of teaching and educating people. Students are affected by many aspects of the teacher, such as teaching, attitude towards life, and outlook on life^[4].

In general, Confucian thoughts of music education include many aspects, such as morality, skills, aesthetics, etc. Among them, moral education is ranked the first. Regardless of the aspects, moral education

brings us the revelations and enlightenments that are of great values to us. Combined with the needs of music education, teachers should learn the essence of Confucian ideas of music education, apply good educational ideas in the actual teaching process, focus on education methods, and regard Confucius' professionalism as an example. With this, the music education will steer to a better development.

5 Enlightenment of Confucian Thoughts of Music Education on Contemporary General Music Education

5.1 From the aspect of moral education

The purpose of music education is not to train students to become musicians or educators, but to train and improve their musical literacy. The most important thing is to train students' creativity and cultivate the pillars of the country. Secondly, we should learn from foreign music education models. In the process of implementing general music education, we must strive to stimulate students' creativity. The interest and hobbies for music are the important factors for studying. We should constantly update and eliminate the old music education model, and improve the existing music education content. China also has a variety of music education models^[5]. We must absorb the essence of Confucius' teaching experience, combine foreign advanced music education and successful experience, focus on training students' interest in learning, and discover and explore new music education models in the teaching process.

5.2 From the aspect of aesthetic education

In this era, there are many types and styles of music. Music can be either good or bad. Confucius once commented in Guan Beach (Guan Tan) that happiness is not without restraint, but sorrow is not too sad. This has very important implications for current music education, and teaches us to maintain a peaceful attitude in the process of appreciating music. Learning to identify works with real artistic value requires not only aesthetics, but also the pursuit of spiritual supremacy.

As far as the purpose of learning music is concerned, many parents in today's society simply don't consider and think about their children's interests at all. They just want their children to learn a skill, but some children have no interest in learning music and are only forced to learn. With this, how would they enjoy music? How

can we evaluate the beauty of music?

5.3 From the aspect of music education

Confucius mentioned in the Analects of Confucius that blindly reading without thinking cannot lead to full understanding, and thinking blindly without practice is also considered useless work. This was also reflected in his thoughts of music teaching. In the practice of music education, the integration of knowledge and action implemented by Confucius has played a positive role in the current music education. Despite the state of poor-quality education, in terms of music education, students generally read books without thinking, which will cause students to fail to achieve the intended purpose of music education in their studies. It is necessary to introduce Confucian ideas of music education from many aspects, such as educational purposes, content and methods, etc., and adhere to the core of music education and maximize the values of music education.

6 Conclusion

According to the records of Confucius' learning skills, our music educators have been greatly inspired. In the process of teaching students, we must gradually learn and experience perceptions at different levels. Under the new concept system, the overall curriculum objectives are divided into three stages. First, learning should be based on the characteristics of students, and then, they should be gradually improved to a certain extent. They must first master the music knowledge, then learn to use music techniques, explore the artistic conception of music works, and finally through continuous practice to achieve self-cultivation. According to Confucius, we must first learn morality and then learn skills^[6]. Finally, we must be proficient in this skill and master the meaning of music. Music can affect our personality and we must teach people how to be human through music.

We mentioned in the reform of the new music curriculum that some of the new ideas are in line with Confucius' educational ideas, so a deeper study of Confucian ideas of music education can deepen our understanding of the new curriculum reform ideas. However, Confucian thoughts of music education are far more than the above aspects. This article explains that Confucius' teaching philosophy is worthy of reference for future generations. The author hopes more music educators will focus on the research on China's traditional aesthetics in order to gain more inspiration.

In modern society, art is the symbol that shows the

country's comprehensive national strength. To improve the quality of the people, we need to pay attention to arts education. The key period for young students to mature their world outlook, outlook on life, and their values is when they are studying in college, and this period is also the key to the full development of morality and positive emotions. At present, there is still a lot of room for the development of emotional and ideological development of college students. College students are the main ingredients of social construction. The future development of society is affected by the cultivation of college students' quality. To improve the quality of our people, we need to emphasize the music education in colleges and universities.

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