

Research on Piano Education in Contemporary China

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Abstract: Parents in the education of their children, also pay more attention to piano education, which set off a wave of learning piano upsurge. This paper will analyze the reasons why piano education can present such a strong popularity through the personal practice and preliminary exploration of the current piano education, and make a series of reflections on some problems existing in the current piano education, and then reflect on the current situation of domestic art education.

Keywords: Piano education; Grading system; Utilitarianism; Reflection

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1 The upsurge of piano education

Piano is a kind of keyboard instrument in Western classical music, which has the reputation of "king of musical instruments". Since the piano was introduced into China, it has been regarded as an elegant art. Its beautiful melody and elegant temperament attract people. With the development of society, piano, an elegant musical instrument, has been integrated into the artistic and cultural life of ordinary people at an amazing speed. More and more people realize the benefits of learning the piano, so many parents who want their children to learn the piano vie with each other. Due to the demand of the market, it also led to the development of the teaching market and manufacturers, which set off a boom^[1-3].

Piano fever is a special social and cultural phenomenon in the history of Chinese music, that is, the upsurge of learning piano. Since the reform and opening up, the development of piano education

in China has made brilliant achievements. We have not only a group of piano players and educators with international reputation, but also tens of thousands of piano learners and enthusiasts. Especially after the appearance of two famous international piano masters, Lang Lang and Li Yundi, people's enthusiasm for piano learning has increased. The main body of "Piano fever" in China is children.

After practice and thinking, the reasons for this phenomenon are as follows:

First of all, with the improvement of people's material living standards and economic conditions, it has laid a solid material foundation for learning piano. Learning piano must have certain economic conditions, to have their own piano, to have enough learning funds, but also need enough learning and practice time.

Second, the impact and integration of Chinese and Western culture. Since the reform and opening up, western culture has been gradually integrated into people's life, and western music is no exception. There is even a trend that people prefer western culture and music. Piano is the pronoun of nobility and elegance in western culture, so it is deeply loved by people. As long as you walk into the residential areas of cities, towns and counties, you can hear the sound of playing the piano everywhere.

Third, the requirement of quality education and the need of spiritual pursuit. Rich material conditions have been unable to meet the requirements of people's life, quality education occupies an increasingly important position. It seems that the Chinese nation has a deeper heart for children than any other nation in the world. Coupled with the one-child policy in the 1990s, more parents are willing to spend energy and money to cultivate their children. They hope their children can have outstanding temperament and

talent, learning piano has become the best choice^[4-5].

Fourth, learning piano has many positive meanings for children. According to new research published in neuropsychology, people who have learned musical instruments perform better in many cognitive tests than those who have never learned musical instruments or can't read music scores. When the researchers conducted intelligence tests on retired workers, they found that those who had studied flute, clarinet or other musical instruments at a young age had better test results than those who had not. Even if you don't practice musical instruments in adulthood, it's good to keep your brain clear in old age. The lead researcher of this study, Dr. Brenda Hanna Placidy of the University of Kansas Medical Center in the United States, said that long-term learning of musical instruments has a challenging training effect on the cognitive activities of the brain, which makes the human brain healthier and more adaptive, and can alleviate the risk of aging. The results suggest that the effect of music activity on brain cognitive function is long-term and will benefit the whole life. Palatti said that although there were many similar studies before, they focused on the benefits of learning music for children's intellectual development. This is the first study to see if the benefits of learning music can last a lifetime. The age at which you start learning music and the duration of your study are key, says Palladi. The brain has an optimal period of learning plasticity, and it is much easier to learn musical instruments in childhood. Learning piano is the process of hand, eye, brain, ear and coordination. The process of spectrum recognition is the process of training children's memory and abstract thinking. When watching and playing, we should watch two lines at the same time and control the left and right hands to do different things at the same time, so as to play the role of developing the left and right brain. Sometimes you have to sing music. You need to use your mouth to sing music. In addition, you need to use your feet to step on the pedal. Therefore, playing the piano is a training activity to activate various senses. Therefore, piano players are more intelligent and flexible. In addition, learning piano itself is to temper children's strong willpower and perseverance, so that children learn an optimistic and open attitude towards life. Even if a child may not become a pianist when he grows up, he can benefit all his life.

2 Reflection on the current situation of piano education

From a philosophical point of view, everything has two sides, so the piano fever is no exception. As the piano fever continues to rise, many problems emerge. As mentioned above, the main body of piano learning in the domestic market is children, which is also the focus here.

2.1 Child Violinist

Through practice, it is found that many children learn piano not for their own love, but for the requirements of their parents, which often causes problems in the middle and late stage of piano learning. Art should be pleasant, and music should be a kind of enjoyment of beauty for both performers and listeners. The middle and late stage of piano learning is not only satisfied with the accuracy of intonation, skills and rhythm, but also needs emotional expression and artistic treatment. And a child who doesn't like the piano, they just play a kind of exercise called finger gymnastics on the keys. In addition, there are still some children who are not suitable for piano learning. The decisive factor of a person's musical level is whether he has such musical talent. The innate differences of individual musical talents are very large. For highly complex musical instruments such as piano and violin, the ability required to reach the general level of performance is not available to all. Under such circumstances, learning and teaching often have a painful and suffocating atmosphere, so it is difficult to cultivate real piano artists^[6].

2.2 Parents

In the process of teaching practice, the author found that a large part of the reason for the children to give up halfway lies in their parents. The process of learning piano is hard and long. With more and more in-depth learning, even the children who are interested at the beginning will gradually lose their initial interest when they encounter difficulties and setbacks. They will want to escape and give up. At this time, parents need to show a firm attitude, encourage their children, help them build confidence and communicate with teachers in time communication. Children's nature is playful, without the supervision and attention of parents, without the correct guidance of good teachers, it is difficult for gifted children to achieve success. Of course, it is

also very important to choose a good teacher, which will be discussed in detail later.

In the early years, most parents let their children learn the piano because of their childhood unrealized dream, and some people want to show off the psychology of comparison. Many parents think that their children are in a competitive advantage when they get the cet-10 certificate, and take the grading examination as the only standard of piano playing level. In recent years, with the introduction of bonus policies for art majors in some areas, the purpose of parents to let their children learn piano is not pure, and gradually becomes utilitarian, mainly in the blind grading examination. It is true that proper participation in the grading examination will play a very important and positive role in children's piano learning, but parents' blindness will only lead to the result of pulling up seedlings and wasting time and money. The study of musical instruments is a long way to go. It's a long road of endless improvement. Many parents think that piano will be all right as long as they get the level 10 certificate. As a result, parents fall into a kind of misunderstanding of eager for quick success and instant benefit. Under this utilitarian purpose, learning piano makes the scope of students' repertoire learning narrow. Many students regard the repertoire as the whole content of learning piano. In order to pursue high level, jump blindly, and even pass the examination, they spend more than a year practicing only four repertoires Ignoring the basic training of piano, it is even more exaggerated that there will be children who can not even understand the most basic music theory except playing the grade examination repertoire. They may not be able to play a piece that is much less difficult than the grade examination repertoire by themselves. This kind of single track learning not only causes the students' poor visual playing ability, but also makes the students have little contact with music styles and music types, neglecting the artistry of music and the teaching of piano music's comprehensive learning and development. This is actually a departure from the original intention of learning piano, is a lack of humanistic spirit^[7].

2.3 Training institutions and teachers

With the increasing market demand for piano learning, a large number of piano training institutions and teachers have emerged, among which there are

many people who make up for the number. In piano learning, especially in the enlightenment stage, it is very important to choose a good teacher, because this stage is the forming stage of the habit of playing the piano. Once the wrong habit is formed, it will be difficult to correct it. As the piano fever continues to soar, even some people in order to make money, spend a short time on piano crash, they come out to teach students. For children's teaching, we should first understand children's psychological activities. Can the teacher who comes out to teach students through adult short-term accelerated learning really understand children's psychological activities in the process of piano learning? I think this kind of psychological activity can only be known by those who have learned piano from childhood and come step by step. A qualified teacher should not only have excellent technical level, teaching and theoretical level, but also have good ethics and patience, not to be affected by the utilitarianism in the society. At present, the charging standard of piano learning in the market is based on the level. In this way, many profit-making training institutions and unscrupulous teachers will blindly raise the level of their children as mentioned above, and raise the class fees, which will be harmful to their children. In some training centers, they only use their own textbooks to teach students. In fact, many difficulties and key points have been omitted in their textbooks. In short, they have adapted the original music into a simple version, which can make parents and children feel relaxed and good at learning. The purpose is to cajole parents who don't know to pay tuition fees. In addition, piano teachers also need flexible thinking, teaching students in accordance with their aptitude, teaching should have diversity, not for their own convenience, to different students with the same teaching materials and teaching methods. I've also seen a more exaggerated situation than the teaching method of thousands of people. Some teachers, for their own convenience and in order to cater to the utilitarian mentality of their parents, have marked all the fingering and phonetic symbols on the music score for their students. In this way, students can read the music score and play the piano without using their brains, and they seem to master it very quickly. In fact, such students learn it just like they didn't, and their parents don't know it Enjoy it, think that their children learn well, the teacher is very serious and responsible. This is

actually a lack of morality. We should know that it is better to teach people to fish than to teach them to fish.

2.4 Immature grading and competition system

The original intention of the grading examination system and competition system is to popularize and promote piano education, standardize piano teaching, and provide a platform for piano learners to exchange and observe each other, so as to improve the quality education level of the whole people. However, the current grading and competition system is very inconsistent with this original intention.

First of all, for the grading system, grading songs are all prescribed songs. Some candidates can spend a year or even two to prepare these songs. Some candidates who don't understand music theory can also pass the exam as long as they practice the "finger gymnastics" mentioned above on the piano keys. To deal with this situation, we should add a written examination to examine the level of sight playing and music theory. However, in order to collect an extra registration fee, many examination institutions separate music theory examination from performance examination. In this way, most unknown candidates will only apply for performance examination. However, do they really understand music theory? Do they really know why their repertoire is so fingered and rhythmic? For example, although the examinee has got the certificate of level 9, can he play a piece of music with difficulty lower than level 9 without the guidance of the teacher? Do candidates really understand the background and emotional connotation of repertoire creation and performance? Are they really influenced by music? As a result, it can be imagined that in addition to being a kind of ostentatious capital, what is the significance of such a grading examination?

Let's talk about the competition system. Now there is a common situation. For example: A well-known piano competition has set up sub competition points in major cities. Its original intention is good, but when the organizer entrusts the authorization to each sub competition point, it's really too far away to manage. Therefore, the co organizers of the sub competition point changed the original three tracks in the competition regulations to any one track, and deleted the original recitation requirements. In short, they simplified the competition requirements,

lowered the threshold, and made all the children who could play the piano eligible to participate. The purpose of doing so was to collect more registration fees. Of course, the candidates selected in the end are excellent. Although this practice does allow children to have one more chance to perform on the stage, it is somewhat blasphemous to the elegant piano art, and its utilitarian purpose is too obvious. Therefore, children and parents must communicate with their teachers before they sign up for the competition. The premise is that your teacher must be a teacher with professional ethics.

3 Conclusion

In the face of a fast-paced social life, people are always inevitably utilitarian. Piano fever is formed in such a social background, it is inevitable that there is no penetration of this concept. First of all, teachers, as guides, should not be influenced by unhealthy tendencies. Instead, they should always keep their minds in the situation, correctly guide parents and students to treat piano learning and grading competition correctly, and actively communicate with parents and children on the basis of understanding their mentality. Piano learning can broaden students' horizons. Piano grading examination and competition increase the opportunities for stage practice and artistic exchange of piano children. In the process of learning piano, children can learn to work hard, persevere and keep improving. Only in this way can they gradually develop good music accomplishment, A new generation of talents with noble cultural taste, piano learning will have vitality and charm. From small to large, the current art education also has the lack of moral and humanistic spirit, and also has a certain utilitarianism. The basic task and goal of art education is to cultivate people with all-round development, so it is particularly important to teach responsibly and conscientiously, which is also a way to return to the society, because the youth is strong, the motherland is strong.

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