

# The Development of Advanced-Level Piano Students in China

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## Abstracts

Social piano education is a part of social education, "Encyclopedia of China Education Volume" on "social education" is explained in this way: "Social education can be interpreted from the broad and narrow two perspectives. In a broad sense, it refers to all social life that affects the physical and mental development of individuals; In a narrow sense, it refers to all kinds of educational activities for adolescents, children and adults conducted by all cultural and educational facilities other than school education." With the rapid development of Chinese economy and the gradual improvement of living standards, the competition for talents is increasingly fierce. In order to improve their competitiveness, more and more people choose to participate in social education more comprehensively outside of school education, so that they can enjoy a better life now or in the future. Under such social background, the status and function of social education in the whole education system of China are becoming more and more important. This article presented the development of advanced-level piano students in China.

**Keywords:** Development; Advanced Piano; China

## Introduction

China attaches great importance to the quality education and teaching quality of young people, and the Ministry of Education of China has issued a series of major decisions to further reduce the burden of subject education and deepen the reform of quality education:

2021/07/24"About to further reduce the compulsory education stage student's opinions on homework burden and outside school 2020/10/16"About comprehensively strengthen and improve the work of the new age school aesthetic education opinion"

2019/07/09"On deepening the reform of education teaching comprehensive advice to improve the quality of compulsory education"

Music education will be one of the key projects in the future, fully covering preschool children and K12 teenagers and other groups, China's music education industry will usher in strong development opportunities. In recent years, despite the vigorous development of China's education industry, many education companies have listed in the United States. However, there are also some problems behind the vigorous development of the education industry, which need to arouse people's attention. In July 2021, The General Office of the State Council issued the Opinions on Further Reducing the Homework Burden and Out-of-School Burden of Students in the Compulsory Education Stage. In the Opinions, in view of the phenomenon that preschool children and K12 children in China have many remedial lessons, their academic burden is heavy, and parents are under great pressure in the economic level of their children's education, it is clearly proposed that the total amount and length of

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homework should be reduced comprehensively. Reduce the heavy homework burden of students; Improve the level of after-school services to meet the diverse needs of students; Adhere to strict governance and comprehensively standardize off-campus training behavior; Vigorously improve the quality of education and teaching to ensure that students learn well in school; Strengthen supporting governance, improve support and guarantee capacity (Gao, 2015).

**Social environment:** From 2013 to 2020, the number of students in all kinds of academic education in China is mostly in a growing trend, from 18.064 million to 195.96 million. As the new generation of parents pay more attention to their children's education, the educated population will continue to rise, providing soil for China's music education industry.

**Technical empowerment:** In the entire development process of China's music education industry, from the germination and maturity of online education, the emergence of market segments to the change of industry pattern, scientific and technological progress has provided a major driving force at all stages. China's music education industry is developing in the direction of data and intelligence, and more demands and new tracks may be developed in the future, and online and offline are expected to be further integrated.

**Industry market size:** the market size of China's music education industry continues to grow, and the market size of China's music education is expected to be 113.38 billion in 2021, an increase of 20.8%. China's music education industry is closely related to population, policy and economic development. In the future, with the gradual improvement of music education and training policies and the slow recovery of the economy after the epidemic, the market size of China's music education industry will show a steady growth trend. China's music education market is composed of preschool children, K12, art candidates and vocational education. In 2021, the number of preschool children and K12 users accounted for 94.36% of the music education market. With the deepening of Chinese preschool education, K12, art examinees and adult lovers' love for music, the scale of China's music education market will grow steadily.

## **Development process of high-level piano students in China**

Chinese piano education continues to extend from the spread of piano instruments. The piano teaching mode first began in foreign countries, where piano as an accompaniment permeated the music teaching content in schools. From this beginning, Chinese teachers introduced foreign piano teaching materials, and many Chinese children learned piano knowledge in schools. This atmosphere of piano learning was widely promoted, and many Chinese students were able to play the piano.

### **First, history of Chinese piano education**

Chinese piano education begins with the performance of Musical Instruments. At the beginning, the school was the first to use the piano in teaching, and to show some Western music culture teaching methods. This kind of teaching background has established the basic model of school music education, and piano has had a preliminary understanding in people's hearts since then. With the support of these teaching methods, piano teaching activities have been actively carried out, the content of this kind of teaching usually follows the western teaching methods, and the piano teaching experience is learned under this teaching mode (Zhao, 2000).

Due to the increasing importance of piano in the teaching process, as an important course of music education, it has also won the great recommendation of relevant schools and played an indelible role in the process of music education practice. During this period, piano teachers were mainly taught by foreign missionaries, who further demonstrated some methods of piano music teaching in the teaching process, providing necessary development impetus for the spread of piano education in China. This teaching mode also opened up the situation for piano education in China.

Second, the development of Chinese piano education

During the development of piano education in China, the first people involved in the teaching content were foreigners. In the stage of piano teaching, they further penetrated their own understanding of piano, and this understanding teaching method has far-reaching influence on the future development of piano in China [2]. May Patch cultivated a large number of talents for Chinese piano education in the early 20th century. He emphasized the independent training of learners and the strength of fingertip exercises in piano teaching. Moreover, at that time, there were many foreign piano musicians performing in China, which increased Chinese people's interest in piano art .

China In the 1930s, many young Chinese music researchers went abroad for further study. These music researchers constantly absorbed foreign piano playing experience and teaching methods in the learning process, and their artistic attainments were further improved. After they returned to China, they provided a key force for piano teaching in China. It has promoted the cause of piano education in China comprehensively.

During the founding of New China in 1949, after a period of institutional adjustment, Chinese piano education has also made excellent progress. Several schools, such as National Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Department of Music of East China Normal University in Shanghai, reformed music teaching and further restructured the development of piano teaching in China according to the piano teaching form at that time. Under such circumstances, professional piano education in China was divided into two major development situations: North and south [4]. China Conservatory of Music and Shanghai Music School concentrated the most outstanding piano teachers in China to the greatest extent, and these two schools cultivated a lot of talents for piano education in China in the future teaching process, which made the piano education in China have further development (Li, 2010).

According to the social development pattern of the 21st century, all industries are carrying out global information integration, and piano teaching is also permeated in this general trend. The global information exchange mode has brought more promising prospects for the development of piano education. This open cultural exchange channel provides more convenient conditions for music exchange between China and foreign countries. Under such social background, many foreign pianists often come to China for piano performance, which unconsciously expands the artistic vision and cultural field model of Chinese piano education. In such an environment, Chinese pianists also went abroad for further study and research, absorbing the educational advantages of foreign countries, providing a necessary foundation for the development of piano education in China, and further innovation in the methods and contents of professional piano teaching in China. From this expansion, excellent teaching content is constantly absorbed, so that students can have the opportunity to master more comprehensive piano knowledge through the teacher's explanation, which provides the necessary nutrient power for the development of professional piano teaching in China.

In such a social atmosphere, professional piano education in China has developed in a more comprehensive way, the deficiencies of piano teaching have also been changed in detail, and the teaching stage has also undergone detailed changes. The content of piano research results has been continuously extended and improved, and a series of concepts related to piano teaching have been more specific and detailed. The measures to improve the teaching quality have also been further practiced, and the piano teaching has been continuously extended, laying a solid foundation for the future stage of piano education, and giving the model of piano education a broader space for development.

## **Learning status of high-level piano students in China**

### **Social Arts level test (piano) candidates**

The proportion of high-level piano students in China is about 0.002%. On the whole, piano students who can pass Grade 10 generally learn piano for about three years, most of them insist on following the piano teacher's lessons from childhood, and then stick to it. The vast majority of students cannot persist in learning piano until the end because of family, study and life reasons. There are 60 million people learning piano, piano level 10 May only four or five hundred people or more, that is, about 1,000 to 2,000 people is the popularity of piano has become a fact, each large and medium-sized city primary and secondary school classes have more than seven or eight, as few as two or three part-time piano students. Is a music college or association for the majority of amateur piano learners designed and written a set of quantifiable, boundary, clear goals, speed from slow to fast, length from short to long, technology from easy to difficult achievement system.

First of all, in the eyes of many parents, the grade test is the piano level assessment test that children must go through if they learn the piano. In order to make the grade can pass the grade, the children generally strengthen the practice of the grade repertoire. After the grading repertoire has passed, it also represents the standard of this level, but the piano level has not been fully reached, because the practice of the grading piano music, playing can not mean that the piano level is really fit for this level standard.

Second, many children start to learn the piano from 4-5 years old, according to the relatively fast speed of learning the piano, 9-12 years old can complete the test level 10. This age is almost the age of junior high school, junior high school homework began to be more cumbersome, many students who do not go to the piano major will begin to take into account the cultural class. At this time, if more than 10 grades are added, it will affect the study of cultural courses.

Third, the difficulty of the piano examination from level one to level ten is gradually progressive. That is to say, piano Level 10 is already playing some difficult piano music. There may not be many difficult piano songs further up, and the level of improvement begins with the details of a piano song. Therefore, it is not possible to add more advanced levels.

Of course, many well-known music schools have also added performance levels to the piano amateur level 10 level I, II, III. The difficulty of the selection is also higher than the piano level 10 repertoire.

In essence, there is no need to add more than ten levels of piano grading. After all, after entering the conservatory of music to learn the piano, I learned more about the processing of each note and the control of the details and emotions of the music, rather than whether the play is correct or whether the rhythm determines this basic problem.

### **An advanced piano student in the Art High School music class**

The students enrolled in the music class of Art High School are all students with music level examination certificate, among which there are a large number of high-level piano students. Since the introduction of the policy of college enrollment expansion in 1999, the enrollment of art music majors has been continuously expanded under the premise of ensuring the unchanged traditional culture majors in colleges and universities. The "art exam craze" is spreading like a prairie fire. From the actual situation of students: among the many high school students who participate in the art examination, some of them have neither relatively high artistic talent nor solid training of child skills; There are high school students in the art exam because of poor cultural performance, want to take the art exam shortcut, and because of some restrictions were rejected by the art school and the music school attached to the door, so ordinary students want to enter the university, then the high school music professional learning is only with the art high school this pedal to achieve. In order to obtain more enrollment rate, the high school of Music and art has been given a new era mission. Since the introduction of the policy of college enrollment expansion in 1999, the enrollment of art music majors has been continuously expanded under the premise of ensuring the unchanged traditional culture majors in colleges and universities. The "art exam craze" is spreading like a prairie fire. From the actual situation of students: among the many high school students who participate in the art examination, some of them have neither relatively high artistic talent nor solid training of child skills; There are high school students in the art exam because of poor cultural performance, want to take the art exam shortcut, and because of some restrictions were rejected by the art school and the music school attached to the door, so ordinary students want to enter the university, then the high school music professional learning is only with the art high school this pedal to achieve. In order to obtain more enrollment rate, the high school of Music and art has been given a new era mission (Sang, 2009).

### **Students majoring in music in higher vocational and general comprehensive colleges**

Music majors in normal universities and comprehensive colleges also have a large number of high-level piano students, and compared with high-level piano students in the society, they will have better development opportunities and opportunities in the future. More and more colleges and universities in China have opened music majors, most of the normal and comprehensive universities have opened music majors, and many colleges and universities of science and technology have also opened music majors, and the popularity rate of music education has gradually increased. With the continuous improvement of economic level, the reform of educational cause is also constantly adjusted and improved, and schools pay more attention to the improvement of students' inner artistic accomplishment. Piano education is increasingly recognized and respected by students and parents, and more students begin to learn piano in depth. Improving piano education methods and adopting scientific teaching strategies can make more people understand music and piano, improve the quality of piano teaching and social influence in colleges and universities, and then better develop students' intelligence, so that they can better adapt to the new needs and high requirements of modern society. From the perspective of college music majors, piano course is a highly practical course, which requires the combination of theoretical knowledge and practice in teaching, so students need to study and practice for a long time. According to incomplete investigation and analysis, the piano course in Sichuan and Chongqing universities lasts 7 to 8 semesters for undergraduates, 6 semesters for junior colleges, and only 4 semesters for basic

courses in some colleges. The curriculum is not very reasonable, which will affect students' understanding of piano knowledge and restrict students' ability to appreciate piano music. Some colleges and universities do not provide enough hours to students, making the piano course mere formality, teachers lack of in-depth explanation of piano knowledge or sufficient demonstration, students in the whole learning process did not carry out sufficient practice, the professional piano course has not been played out. Students also stay in the theoretical level of learning, unable to feel the charm of music and artistic appeal (Wu, 2003).

### **Music student of the School of Music and School of Art**

There are more than 30 million children studying piano in China, but only 200,000 students enter music colleges each year. Compared with social students and students in general comprehensive and normal colleges, the high-level piano students in the Primary School attached to the Conservatory of Music and the Middle School attached to the College of Art will learn the piano at a younger age, and the more likely they are to engage in piano career development in the future, and the more opportunities they will engage in a larger stage in the future. The primary school attached to the Conservatory of Music in China has a relatively greater development potential than that of undergraduate and postgraduate students, because they have studied with scholars, experts and professors in the industry since childhood, which has greater professional advantages than the piano students who later enter the professional study (Chen, 2006).

However, the number of degree places in China's independent art colleges is relatively small, coupled with the relatively high requirements for majors, which makes it difficult to enter the exam, which also intensifies the competition for majors.

From the perspective of parents, the study of piano requires a lot of time and energy to practice and study, many parents even quit their jobs to rent a house near the conservatory with their children to study. In addition, the competition among students is very fierce, so the overall pressure is very large, especially compared with the social student group.

### **Advanced Piano Guide**

Good habits are gradually cultivated and accumulated bit by bit, as a piano teacher should set a good example for students to learn, and do a good job in teaching and urging the identity. For example, for students who have just come into contact with piano teaching, teachers should think about: how to teach them how to read music, how to practice the piano, how to master playing skills, how to play attentively and listen attentively, how to let students accept our guidance and actively cooperate, and so on. To this end, teachers must put forward clear learning requirements for them and formulate reasonable and effective learning plans for different students. But we can not ignore a problem: that is, the active cooperation of parents is also very necessary. How to cultivate and improve the quality of teaching and strengthen the ability of students to think independently, the author generally put forward the following points:

First, standardized teaching, build a good start

We can't let students lose at the starting line. In order not to lose to others and improve the comprehensive quality of children, interest classes have slowly become a fashion, at the same time, such quality education has slowly become a fashion. However, this kind of education that ostensibly improves the comprehensive quality of children has also caused a lot of

drawbacks. Many parents think that part-time education is not necessary to learn so deeply. This subconscious performance also affects the enthusiasm of the students, so that they only regard this piano education as a game, a way to relax. Because of this attitude of not paying attention to, many students cannot play well and make mistakes everywhere. It is because of this deep-rooted root disease that affects their enthusiasm, and in the long run, not to mention improving the children's piano level, even improving their comprehensive literacy is also a big problem. Based on this tendency, teachers should make clear the basic requirements of learning the piano when students are just enrolled, even if it is amateur teaching, but the method is not amateur, and they must learn in accordance with standardized teaching methods, so as to build a good start for their good literacy in the future. At the same time, the responsibility of parents is also unshirkable (Yang, 2014).

1. Parents should always remind students and urge them to tell them the importance of piano teaching, which should be taken seriously.

2. After learning every day, we should practice strictly in accordance with the time prescribed by the teacher. Parents can also adopt a reward and punishment system, which can not only mobilize the enthusiasm of students but also let them develop a good habit of concentrating on learning.

3. Parents should also remind themselves at all times, do not ask students to spend too much time training for their own selfish desires, which will only make the children hate piano teaching and hate the care of parents. The gains outweigh the losses.

The same teachers should also be strict with themselves, and the standardized education also needs the good teaching methods of teachers. Teachers should teach in a kind and helpful way, care about every student, do not use irrigation education or oral education, to let the children feel the teacher's love, let them fall in love with the piano course, let them yearn for the piano. Norms do not forget the method, strict do not forget to enlighten..... To actively create a friendly play-like classroom atmosphere is worth learning for our teachers.

Second, good demonstration, standardized teaching language, so that students better absorb

Compared with teachers, students, especially young students, have more active thinking activities in their brains. Although logical thinking is not perfect, it is the nature of students to be active. Their learning methods mainly come from imitating others, so good demonstration by teachers plays an important role. The power of the piano is more important, and the teacher can arrange the project to find a suitable learning way for the children. There are many kinds of piano playing methods, which need to be taught by teachers according to different styles of music and different techniques, so the correct use of teaching methods and teaching languages should pay attention to research. There are white keys and black keys on the piano surface. Some students are very skilled in the use of white keys, but they only don't know how to use black keys. Their unfamiliarity with the control ability of black keys will also cause them to suffer from psychological barriers of fear. Therefore, it is necessary for teachers to let students talk about some songs with elevations as early as possible. Enhance their self-confidence, but when playing the black key, remind the students to put their hands in the position of the white key, and vice versa, when playing the white key, their hands should be placed in the position of the black key, so that the students can use it easily (Jiang, 2005).

### Interest is the best teacher

Interest has a kind of invisible magic, can change the miracle of the world. Therefore, all changes are inseparable: to do a good job is to start from cultivating a person's interest. Interest can make people infinitely love the things they come into contact with, and are full of longing for them. Therefore, the primary task of piano teaching is: how to make students interested in music. Students, especially younger ones, tend to be distracted and not overly focused. In order for them to adapt to the teaching and training of the piano, we must first let them love the piano, so that music and children become one. Teachers should be good at using vivid language, play a vivid image, to explain the piano music knowledge and playing methods to the students.

It is not enough to cultivate students' interest only by the educational role of teachers, but mainly by the encouragement and promotion role of parents. Parents should always create a good practice atmosphere for students, organize friends for students, let students show themselves as much as possible, and know that being strong is also the nature of students. However, the role of teachers should not be ignored. Teachers should formulate different learning and training programs according to the different characteristics of students. Appropriate and parents together to develop a reward and punishment system, enhance their self-confidence, a sense of achievement, change passive teaching to active teaching. It is also possible to hold piano competitions in the class and set up discussion study groups are also effective teaching methods (Ding, 2005).

All in all, in the primary piano teaching, teachers and parents should always understand the psychological and physiological characteristics of students, and teach students according to their aptitude. While improving the piano level of students, they should also enhance their learning initiative. Let them learn more, practice more and think more, create a good learning space for them, so that students learn the road smoothly (Liu.2012)

Piano learning is a difficult process, the requirements of learners are also relatively strict, in the learning process, most of the students will be affected by negative psychological effects, have a tired mood, not conducive to piano learning and teaching, effective psychological counseling and training for students is imperative.

### Conclusion

To sum up, the level of amateur piano education in Chinese society has been greatly improved, and the number of piano children is also increasing year by year. Piano social education is also booming, and the number of high-level piano students in society is also growing rapidly. The purpose of this study is to observe and formulate teaching guidelines for high-level piano students, and to provide reference for future piano teachers.



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