

# Constructing the Tenor Shanxi Folk Songs Singing Workbook for Teaching Students Yangquan Vocational and Technical College, Shanxi Province, China

Zhang Ying,  
Chutasiri Yodwised and Thipsita Chalermpanyakorn  
Bangkokthonburi University, Thailand  
Corresponding Author, E-mail: 627835817@qq.com

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## Abstract

The purposes of this study are 1) To study the teaching methods of tenor folk singing. 2) To construct a teaching workbook of tenor folk singing. 3) To use the workbook for teaching students in experimental group. 4) To evaluate the teaching by using the Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook.

This study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the qualitative study, experts were interviewed, and based on the interviews with experts, voice practice songs and specific repertoire suitable for tenor folk singing were produced, aiming to improve students' interest in learning folk songs and their singing ability. In the quantitative study, through the International Olympic Committee's evaluation of the "Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook", an experiment was conducted on a total of 10 tenors from all tenor students of Yangquan Vocational and Technical College Combined with the "Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook", through formative tests and summative tests, test scores were collected and compared to test the learning effect of students using the "Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook".

The results show that the "Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook" covers the basic knowledge of folk singing, basic skills training and classic Shanxi folk songs. Among them, the workbook not only fully considers students' interests and learning characteristics in terms of content, but also broadens the traditional teaching methods and introduces modern education methods such as multimedia teaching to make the workbook more practical and operable. The results of the three tests show that the "Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook" has a good guiding role in improving tenor students' ability to learn folk singing. It also proves that tenor students are more and more enthusiastic about learning folk songs. This workbook is successful and can provide some reference experience for other institutions.

**Keywords:** Constructing; Tenor; Shanxi Folk Songs; Singing Workbook; Yangquan Vocational and Technical College; Shanxi Province; China

## Introduction

Yangquan Vocational and Technical College is a higher vocational and technical college at the specialized level. In April 2002, Yangquan Vocational and Technical College was officially established with the approval of the Provincial People's Government and was listed at Yangquan College of Taiyuan University of Technology, under the management of the Provincial Department of Education; By 2014, Yangquan Vocational and Technical College had trained 2634 graduates from various majors; In May 2014, Yangquan College of Taiyuan University of Technology was upgraded to Shanxi College of Engineering and Technology, and Yangquan Vocational and Technical College was separated from it; In September 2014, the construction project of the new campus of Yangquan Vocational and Technical College was officially launched with the approval of the Provincial Development and Reform Commission (Fu, 2014). It is a key engineering project in Shanxi Province and one of the top ten iconic engineering projects in Yangquan City; In July 2015, the People's Government of Shanxi Province approved the transfer of Yangquan Vocational and Technical College to the management of Yangquan Municipal People's Government; In May 2016, the main project of the new campus of Yangquan Vocational and Technical College began construction; In August 2016, with the approval of the provincial editorial committee, it was agreed to integrate Yangquan Industrial School and Yangquan Health School to form Yangquan Vocational and Technical College; In July 2018, Yangquan Vocational and Technical College was completed and put into use, and the college resumed enrollment (Chen, 2023). The college currently has six departments, including the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, the Department of Information Technology, the Department of Financial Management, the Department of Medical Nursing, the Department of Building Engineering, and the Department of Energy Management. As of the end of 2018, there were 2173 students in the college, including 621 in vocational colleges and 1552 in vocational schools (Liu, 2014). At present, the college has 7 vocational schools and 12 secondary vocational schools, among which nursing, mechatronics integration, computer and other majors meet the provincial key professional standards. Yangquan Vocational and Technical College currently has an experimental training room that can meet the practical needs of various majors.

In order to expand the enrollment scale, expand the professional categories of the college, and increase employment opportunities, Yangquan Vocational and Technical College has added a music major in 2022. The researcher found that because the college opened a music major for the first time, there was no complete vocal music teaching system. Therefore, the researcher hope to study and create a set of effective teaching methods to provide a set of vocal music teaching materials for Yangquan Vocational and Technical College by summarizing traditional vocal music teaching methods, sorting out literature, interviewing effective experience of experts, and combining the characteristics of tenor students. This set of textbooks will also become the first set of textbooks for Yangquan Vocational and Technical College vocal music major. The researcher believe that the establishment of teaching materials should be based on Shanxi local, first of all, the establishment of Shanxi folk song teaching materials. On the one hand, it can enable students to inherit and develop Shanxi folk music through

learning, and on the other hand, it can realize local cultural music education. This thesis will focus on the whole process of compiling teaching materials.

### Research Objectives

1. To study the teaching methods of tenor Shanxi folk songs singing.
2. To construct a teaching workbook of tenor Shanxi folk songs singing.
3. To use the workbook for teaching students in experimental group.
4. To evaluate the teaching by using the tenor Shanxi folk songs singing workbook.

### Research Methodology

This study adopted a mixed research method of qualitative and quantitative research. Qualitative research is used in the stages of literature review, learning teaching methods, and interviewing experts. Quantitative research is a stage used to evaluate teaching outcomes and effectiveness.

### Conceptual Framework

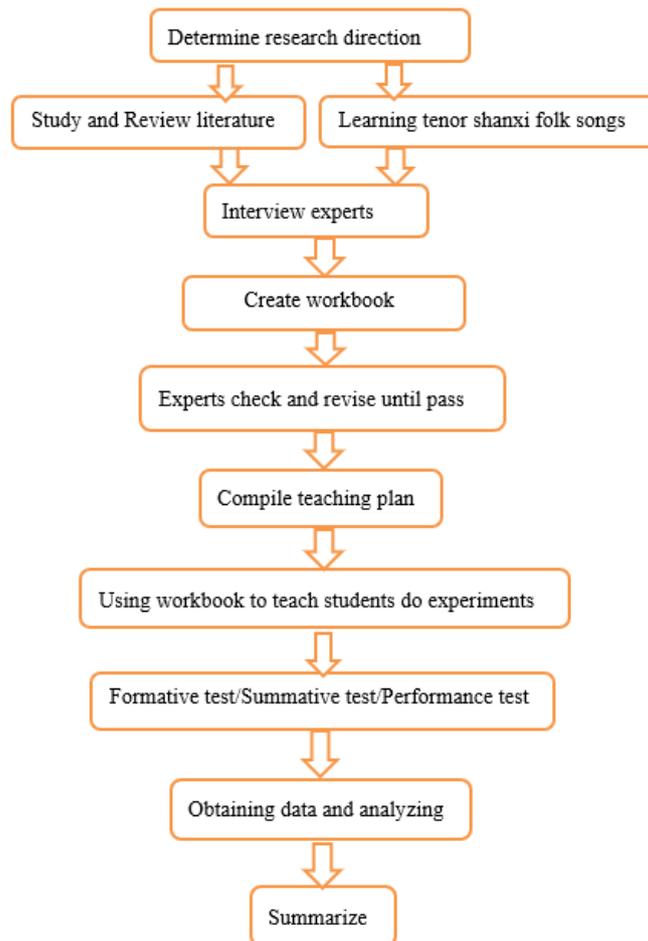


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

## Research Findings

1. To study the teaching methods of tenor Shanxi folk song singing.

The researcher interviewed three experts on the teaching methods of tenor singing Shanxi folk songs and the establishment of workbooks. Experts gave corresponding guidance,

First of all, the establishment of Shanxi folk song workbook should start from four aspects. The first aspect is to teach students the historical knowledge of Shanxi folk songs. The second aspect is to understand the style and type of Shanxi folk songs so that students can express the content of the songs more accurately. The third aspect is training methods and vocal exercises. Select highly targeted vocal training songs to train technical skills. Fourth, suitable Shanxi folk songs should be selected for tenor students to learn and sing.

Secondly, the workbook should have three learning levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Whether you are practicing vocal music or singing folk songs, there must be step-by-step steps.

Third, there must be a reasonable examination system. There must be corresponding examinations during and at the end of study to test students' learning effects.

Finally, there should be evaluation and summary to summarize the learning effects and evaluate the effectiveness of the workbook.

These suggestions are crucial for the researcher to create the tenor ballad workbook and become an important basis for the researcher to create the workbook.

2. To construct a teaching workbook of tenor Shanxi folk songs singing.

Based on the experts' suggestions, the researcher wrote a draft of the workbook for the students, which was reviewed by the experts. After the experts approved it, the researcher compiled a formal version of the workbook. The content of the workbook mainly includes four parts. The first part mainly introduces the emergence and development of folk songs. The second part: Study the artistic characteristics of folk songs, including singing style, singing structure, etc.; The third part is about learning the training methods of folk songs, and the fourth part is about learning to sing folk songs. The course is divided into two parts. One is the training of basic singing skills. Another part is learning to sing folk songs. After the manual was completed, three experts were invited to evaluate it. Three experts found the manual to be reasonable and comprehensive. Experts think the lesson plan works.

3. To use the workbook for teaching students in experimental group.

The tenor folk song course of Yangquan Vocational and Technical College is taught using a workbook to develop a teaching plan, including the class time and learning content of each course: one one-to-one small class per week, each class is 50 minutes, a total of 12 weeks of study, from the history of Shanxi folk songs to tenor training skills, to folk song singing, from simple to complex step by step, with tests, formative tests, summative tests and performance tests every three weeks to evaluate students' learning effects and Analyze and compare test results.

4. To evaluate the teaching by using the Tenor Shanxi folk song singing workbook.

In the folk song course teaching at Yangquan Vocational and Technical College, the teaching plan formulated using textbooks includes the class time and learning content of each course. After 12 weeks of study, through three formative tests, we analyzed the performance of tenor folk singing and analyzed the changes in scores. We saw that students made significant progress in each test. At the end of the performance test, we can see the students' progress and changes after learning folk songs, and they all achieved very good results. In the final performance test, 100% of the students achieved excellent results, which proves that the workbook is very effective.

## Discussion

Researchers believe that vocal music teaching in colleges and universities should focus on the research and education of ethnic vocal music. Folk songs are an important art form in our country. Being able to sing folk songs is an artistic quality that every literary and art worker should possess. Students majoring in vocal music should better master folk song singing skills and display and promote the excellent culture and art of the motherland. As a Shanxi native, you should first base yourself in Shanxi, learn to sing and teach Shanxi folk songs, and inherit and develop Shanxi music. This is the responsibility of all music educators. Therefore, the researcher conducted in-depth study and understanding of the historical formation of Shanxi folk songs, singing forms, song selection, tenor teaching methods, etc., and obtained this knowledge by studying documents and interviewing experts.

Shanxi is the main birthplace of Chinese civilization. Its rich history, culture and unique geographical features have created Shanxi's unique folk culture, making it a representative branch of folk culture in the Yellow River Basin. As we all know, folk songs are the product of the combination of language and music. Shanxi dialect is the most complex, distinctive and colorful language family among the Chinese dialects. It is a rich cultural heritage (Gao, 2023). A rich treasure trove of dialects. In line with this, folk songs with Shanxi's unique artistic style and distinctive local characteristics have been formed. In addition to its musicological value, Shanxi folk songs also provide valuable research materials for the study of history, ethnology, sociology, folklore, anthropology and other social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. It is a traditional national art in my country. A treasure in the cultural treasure house (Zhang, 2019).

Shanxi folk songs can be roughly classified into five categories in terms of genre: (1) A short song suitable for working people to sing at any time in the mountains, fields, cliffs, or courtyards. It usually has a two-sentence section structure and is representative. Examples include "Mountain Song", "Huahua Diao", "Juan Xi Pian", etc.; (2) Haozi is a labor trumpet. Although it also has tunes, it mainly emphasizes rhythm. The music is clear and powerful, and the tone is single. Pure, smooth and heroic; (3) Minor tunes refer to those ditties that are suitable for humming at any time when doing less heavy work indoors or outdoors. Most of them are narrative songs, with generally regular structures, rich genres, humor, fun, and Humorous, it is the most widely circulated; (4) Yangge has many varieties and is widely distributed. Among them, the more distinctive ones include: Qitai Yangge, Qinyuan Yangge, Qixian Guo Yangge Street Yangko, Yuanping Feng Yangko, Linxian Umbrella Yangko, in addition, there are some singing and dancing forms, which are also included in the Yangko category, mainly including Hequ's "Er-person Stage", Zuo Quan's "Xiaohua Opera", and Heshun's "Feng Tai" "Small Opera", etc.; (5) Suites refer to folk vocal suites with strong

narrative and large formats. Most of the contents are singing about historical figures or historical legends. These folk songs in their original state have been circulated for thousands of years, accompanying our ancestors in their weddings and funerals, birth, old age, illness and death, as well as their spring planting and autumn harvest, joys and sorrows, and separation and separation. They carry the free shouts and casual singing of our ancestors from generation to generation. It is like a mirror, truly reflecting the lives and emotions of working people (Xiong, 2006).

Strategies for developing Shanxi folk song singing skills. The purpose of the study is the singing skills of Shanxi folk songs. The research method is qualitative research. Basic cavity moistening. The interpretation of Shanxi folk songs is based on changes in the speed, intensity and rhythm of the music, which is the basic tune. The rhythm and speed of a folk song will have a great relationship with the style and characteristics of the song. Under normal circumstances, when describing a cheerful and pleasant mood or atmosphere, the speed of the song should be medium or fast. Mainly, for example, in the song "Going to the River to Wash Clothes", the speed of the entire song follows a development pattern from slightly fast to medium speed according to the arrangement of the storyline (Ma, 2023). The first four sentences show us a youthful, lively and lovely scene in a brisk way. A little girl is washing clothes next to a stream in the mountains. She kneels directly on the stone next to the water. Reflecting the girl's graceful figure, this scene could not help but move the lover's face, so the subsequent story happened. Color embellishes the tone. Changes in sound quality and timbre belong to color embellishment. In the specific application process, the use of decorative sounds is used to make the melody of the songs sung more graceful and pleasant, so as to achieve a more complete and perfect artistic expression, which mainly includes portamento, vibrato, vibrato, voicing, and ib. Sound and other vocal skills (Wang, 2017).

## **Recommendation**

### **1. Practical Recommendations**

Folk music is an effective means of promoting and promoting national culture. Appreciating folk songs, learning to sing folk songs, and learning folk songs well are the basic qualities that every Chinese son and daughter should possess. China's excellent traditional culture has a long history, is extensive and profound, is the crystallization of the wisdom of Chinese civilization, contains the most primitive spiritual genes of the Chinese nation, accumulates the deepest spiritual pursuit of the Chinese nation, demonstrates the deepest sense of national identity of the Chinese nation, and provides us with a new era in the new era. The new journey of the times inherits Chinese civilization with stronger cultural confidence and comprehensively promotes the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese-style modernization, which provides rich spiritual nourishment. The spiritual genes contained in China's excellent traditional culture are the cultural achievements and ideological treasures created by the Chinese nation in the process of building its national homeland since ancient times. They embody the worldview and life inherited from generation to generation shaped by the Chinese nation in its production and life over the past five thousand years. outlook and values, the core of which is the spiritual gene of the Chinese nation, which has become the cornerstone for the Chinese nation to safeguard national independence and achieve national prosperity in modern times; the spiritual pursuit accumulated by China's excellent traditional culture is the Chinese nation's since ancient times for national unity and

national prosperity. The pursuit of social harmony and stability, as well as ancient sayings such as "Tao follows nature and harmony between man and nature", "Continuous self-improvement and virtuous conduct", "Practice the world and integrate knowledge and action", reflect the rich humanistic spirit and philosophical wisdom of the ancients, and are the current We promote ideological enlightenment in governing the country; China's excellent traditional culture is the sum of a series of ideas, ways of thinking, ethics and customs, and national spirit formed by the Chinese nation in the historical changes of more than five thousand years. It inherently contains the Chinese nation The common values and beliefs and unique temperament and character also reflect the strong national identity formed by the Chinese nation overcoming countless hardships and hardships. They are the fundamental support for us to look at the world and build a strong socialist cultural country.

## 2. Recommendation for future research

Folk music originates from national culture and is a unique culture that has accumulated over a long historical process. Therefore, when we are immersed in folk music, we can not only appreciate the charm of music from the ups and downs of tones, but also be able to comprehend to the changes in the history of this nation's society. What we call folk songs is the most powerful form of folk music. It originates from the oral creations of the people during their labor and life. It may not have profound meaning, but its style is simple, its tunes are catchy and easy to sing, and it is a folk song that is popular among the people. The true expression of emotions, the true record and description of the social background at that time. Therefore, folk songs are the voice of the people and the epitome of the history and culture of a national society. The social culture reflected by folk music is one of the important significances for us to study and inherit folk music. Folk music represents folk culture. Once folk music is lost, it represents the decline and loss of a kind of folk culture. Folk music contains a large number of humanistic elements and life elements, which are an important part of folk culture. The inheritance of folk music is the maximum protection of folk culture. Music majors in vocational and technical colleges are the inheritors of future music development and bear the historical mission and responsibility of carrying forward music culture. Therefore, it is necessary for vocational and technical colleges to teach national music as an important course.

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