

Piano Teaching for Preschool Education in Chinese Music University

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Abstract

The article "Piano Teaching for Preschool Education in Chinese Music University" explores the current state, challenges, and methodologies of piano instruction within preschool education programs at Chinese music universities. The study examines the importance of piano teaching in developing the comprehensive musical and practical skills required by future preschool educators. Topics covered include curriculum design, music theory, performance techniques, improvisational accompaniment, and innovative teaching methods. Additionally, the paper highlights the role of piano education in fostering aesthetic appreciation and emotional development in preschool students. While addressing common issues such as varying student proficiencies and the integration of modern educational approaches, the article emphasizes the need for continuous reform and improvement in piano instruction. It argues for a more student-centered, practice-oriented, and diversified teaching framework to better prepare preschool educators for the evolving demands of early childhood music education in China.

Keywords: Piano Teaching; Preschool Education; Chinese; Music University

Introduction

Preschool education is a discipline established in colleges and universities for the purpose of training future preschool educators. This major covers the theory and practice of preschool education and aims to produce educators with specialized knowledge and skills. In recent years, preschool education has become one of the most eye-catching disciplines in the field of higher education.

Zhao, L. (2023) wrote "Current status and countermeasures of preschool education programs in Chinese higher vocational colleges" describes Preschool education focuses on the study of preschool children's education rules, preschool children's physical and mental development and education, and basic skills and methods of early childhood education. It integrates the theories of pedagogy, psychology, physiology, sociology and other disciplines, aiming to train educators with professional knowledge and skills in preschool education. To enable them to be competent in teaching, scientific research and management of various preschool children's education institutions.

As a specialty of Jinan Vocational College, preschool education delivers a large number of outstanding graduates to kindergartens and early education institutions in Shandong Province and Jinan City every year, contributing to the training, development and promotion of kindergarten teachers in the province.

According to the "Preschool education industry Status and Future development Trend Analysis Report" (2024-2029) released by the research Institute of Puhua Industry, as of 2021, the scale of China's preschool education market has reached 450 billion yuan. This figure shows the strong potential and room for growth of the preschool education market. It is expected that by 2025, the market size of preschool education will exceed 700 billion yuan, and the annual growth rate is expected to reach more than 10%. This shows that in the next few years, the preschool education market will continue to maintain rapid growth.

In 2010, there were 150,400 kindergartens in China, an increase of 12,200 over the previous year; There were 29.7667 million children in kindergartens (including preschool classes), an increase of 3.1886 million over the previous year. The gross enrollment rate of preschool education reached 56.6 percent, an increase of 5.7 percentage points over the previous year. In 2016, China fully implemented the "two-child" policy, and the kindergarten enrollment rate increased. The number of kindergartens nationwide will reach 295,000 in 2021, 128,000 more than in 2011, an increase of 76.8 percent. With the rapid development of social economy and people's attention to early education, the preschool education industry is booming, and many universities and educational institutions have set up preschool education majors and introduced relevant courses to train preschool education professionals.

In 2021, there will be 1,095 colleges and universities offering preschool education, with 265,000 graduates, an increase of 591 and 231,000, 1.2 times and 6.7 times, respectively, over 2011. "The 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of 2035 Vision Goals" put forward the requirement of "raising the gross enrollment rate of preschool education to more than 90%", the people's increasing expectations for high-quality preschool education resources and high-quality preschool education, and the requirements for the scale and quality of preschool teacher training have also increased dramatically. It has become urgent to improve the professional level and professional skills of preschool teachers. Building a team of high-quality and innovative kindergarten teachers is the fundamental guarantee for the high-quality development of preschool education in the new era. The Ministry of Education has issued a series of documents, including the Guidelines for Kindergarten Education, the Guidelines for the Learning and Development of Children aged 3-6, the Guiding Opinions on Vigorously Promoting the scientific connection between Kindergartens and Primary Schools, and the Guidelines for the Quality Assessment of Kindergarten Nursing Education. The child-oriented development concept has been carried out throughout, and a series of major preschool education projects have been implemented in various places. From the hardware construction suitable for the growth of children, to the provision of high-quality kindergarten teachers, and then to the education concept in line with the physical and mental development of children, preschool education has entered a new stage of comprehensive popularization and high-quality development.

Wang, X. (2022) believe that Since entering the 21st century, our country is facing the critical period of transition from exam-oriented education to quality education. Quality education emphasizes the comprehensive development of students' moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic qualities, requiring students not only to master basic knowledge and skills, but also to have certain aesthetic and appreciation abilities, that is, in addition to the study of scientific and cultural knowledge, they should also have certain aesthetic appreciation and dabbling in art.

Li, F. (2023) analyzes changes in market structure and their implications for policy, and discusses how policy can respond to these changes. He believes systematically master the basic theories of preschool education, correctly grasp the development dynamics of preschool education, have the ability to update knowledge and independent development, and master basic professional skills such as music, art and dance. Preschool education professional skills are an important part of preschool teachers' quality, and also an important basis to measure whether preschool education graduates are qualified. Therefore, while teaching students to enrich educational theoretical knowledge, preschool education majors should also strengthen the cultivation of students' professional skills..

Piano teaching for preschool education

Piano teaching

The relevant literature on piano curriculum research in higher vocational colleges is multifaceted, covering a wide range of topics, including curriculum, teaching content, teaching methods, teaching resources and teaching evaluation. The following is a comprehensive overview of the general practice of teaching implementation.

Curriculum

Aesthetics has a liberating nature. As one of the subjects of music art, piano is an important way to implement aesthetic education for preschool students. Aesthetic education is a kind of emotional education. The best way to eliminate the negative influence brought by modern society is aesthetic education and emotional education. As an art form of emotional expression and emotional power, music has great aesthetic energy. Therefore, music education is essentially emotional and aesthetic education. On the other hand, the sensibility and aesthetics of music education are unique, irreplaceable by other art forms, and it is an important part of aesthetic education. Therefore, music course is the basic way and the best way to create a perfect personality.

Courses are of great value to students' personality growth, emotional cultivation and intelligence improvement, which is an important way to implement aesthetic education and an important indicator to evaluate the effectiveness of music education in teacher training (Chen, 2017).

Liu Zhen (2023) mentioned in the article "Exploring innovative ways of early childhood education": The kindergarten music discipline contains a variety of music teaching content: singing, rhythmic activities, music games, percussion, music appreciation, etc., which involves musical elements and skills such as intonation, rhythm, melody, accompaniment. Piano teaching can not only train many musical abilities, but also require students to improve their ability to use basic skills to arrange improvisational accompaniment of children's songs and solve practical problems on the basis of keyboard playing skills, improve students' interest and efficiency in learning piano, and lay a foundation for music teaching in kindergartens in the future.

Zeng (2022) exploring new methodologies in early childhood education. She believes that piano is a relatively important course in the practical operation skills course of preschool education. Learning piano knowledge and basic improvisational accompaniment skills as a preschool teacher can not only reflect the music literacy of a qualified preschool teacher, but also reflect its actual teaching ability in kindergarten, which has important professional

discipline significance. The teaching form of piano lessons for preschool education majors in higher vocational colleges should meet the requirements of improving the comprehensive quality of preschool education majors in the new era, take students as the main body, combine with the actual situation of current students, and constantly adjust the piano teaching form. It is necessary not only to enrich teaching content, improve the interest of piano teaching, do a good job in classroom teaching guidance, but also to take into account theory and practice, self-study and exploration, and implement practical skills training.

Lu Yuan (2023) put forward his own views on the importance of piano lessons. For students majoring in preschool education, piano lesson is a very key professional course. The educational concept in the new curriculum standard emphasizes the importance of cultivating students' ability to apply what they have learned. Studies have shown that the combination of music theory knowledge, listening training and improvisation skills can improve students' musical proficiency and creativity. The curriculum aims to train students to play keyboard skills, emphasizes the importance of learning piano skills, and integrates some contents such as improvisation and composition, so as to combine theoretical knowledge and skill training to cultivate skilled talents with comprehensive musical quality.

He & Zhu (2023) thinks the piano teaching of preschool education majors generally has problems such as low learning enthusiasm, poor learning foundation and heavy learning tasks. For first-grade students, besides basic piano lessons and music theory knowledge, some elective and extension courses should be provided to meet their interests and needs.

At present, Jinan Vocational College is not perfect in this respect, and lacks diversified course choices. Piano teaching needs a complete education system, bold exploration, reform and innovation in teaching concept, teaching content, curriculum Settings, etc., constantly enrich relevant courses, improve training programs, and establish a system in line with training objectives. A brand new teaching system that reflects the characteristics and rules of piano teaching in colleges and universities. In addition, teachers should also continuously improve their professional quality and teaching ability, in order to improve the comprehensive quality of students as the goal, to provide students with better teaching services.

Teaching Content

Wang, L. (2018) wrote the paper which discussed the present situation and development of piano course in preschool education specialty of higher vocational college. Most of the students of preschool education in higher vocational colleges come from secondary schools or high schools. Most of the students do not know the piano, have less cognition of this subject, and their playing ability is generally weak. Music theory is the cornerstone of piano teaching and is especially important for first year students. Therefore, when teachers carry out piano teaching, they should first pay attention to the relevant basic knowledge training for students.

Music Theory

1) Note and pitch: Learn the name, shape and corresponding pitch of notes, understand the notes with different time values such as whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, and the relationship between them. At the same time, learn the concept of scales and intervals, and understand the relationship between heights and distances between different sounds.

2) Rhythm and beat: Rhythm is a very important element in music, learning rhythm needs to master the concepts of time, measure and speed. Students should learn to recognize and play different rhythm patterns, understand the relationship between strong and weak beats, and be able to accurately play the rhythm of the music according to the marks on the score.

3) Mode and tonality: Learn different modes and tonality, understand the basic concepts such as major and minor, and their expression and application in music. At the same time, learn the composition and performance of scales, master the characteristics of scales under various modes.

4) Harmony and chord: Harmony is the result of the combination of multiple voices in music, and chord is the basic unit of harmony. Learn the formation and conduct of chords and understand their role and meaning in music. In addition, some basic harmonic rules, such as chord connection and inversion, should be learned.

5) Form and structure: Learn the form and structure of musical works, and understand the characteristics and expression techniques of different forms (such as two-stage form, three-stage form, sonata form, etc.). By analyzing musical compositions of different musical forms, students can better understand the internal logic and expressiveness of musical compositions.

Performance technique

In the process of piano performance, it is neither a single application of hearing and touch, nor a single application of vision, but the combination and coordination of the three. Piano playing is a process of coordinated movement of all parts of the body such as eyes, ears, hands and feet in a certain unit of time. In the early stage of adult piano learning, the biggest difficulty is the control of the keyboard, can not do "at the same time".

After reading literature review, summarize the following aspects of learning to help students master the basic performance skills, for the future music learning and performance to lay a solid foundation.

1) Basic technique

The basic technique of piano teaching is the basic element of learning piano performance, which includes correct hand position, hand shape and correct wrist and arm movement, so that students can experience the natural and relaxed force generation method easily and smoothly. Learning and mastering various scales and chords can improve students' ability to perceive pitch and timbre. Scales and chords are the basic elements that make up music, and mastering them is essential to understanding and expressing music. Starting from the basic technique training of piano performance, the training methods of each common technique are discussed in depth to provide technical help for piano students (Bi, 2018).

2) Rhythm exercise

Rhythm is the skeleton of music, mastering the rhythm can make the performance more stable and expressive. Using the rhythm recitation training in Orff's music teaching method can help pre-school students master the rhythm of piano music, improve their music literacy and improve their piano playing level.

At the beginning of learning, students can start with simple rhythm patterns, such as quarter notes and eighth notes, and use metronome to help students feel and understand the

stability of rhythm. They can also use rhythm imitation exercises by clapping and tapping to enhance students' rhythm perception ability. When students have mastered a certain basic rhythm, they can practice compound rhythm and pay attention to the coordination and cooperation between their hands. When playing the music, pay attention to the coordination of the fingers and the rhythm to ensure that each note can accurately fall on the rhythm point. By listening to the recording repeatedly, observing the music score and other ways, deepen the understanding and memory of the rhythm of the music. In the process of practice, we should pay attention to cultivating students' inner sense of rhythm, so that they can accurately grasp the rhythm of music without external assistance.

3) Skill training

The technical training in piano teaching includes jumping and legato skills, double tone and chord skills, variable speed exercises, etc. The main purpose is to improve the flexibility, strength and independence of students' fingers and enhance their playing ability. The author has made a clear introduction to the teaching of piano basic knowledge, the selection of teaching materials, the posture and touch keys of piano playing, and the teaching points of basic playing techniques in piano teaching (Cai et al., 2016).

First, the finger independence exercise can be used to press the keys with each finger separately to ensure that the other fingers remain relaxed. When practicing, you can gradually accelerate the speed to enhance the flexibility and reaction speed of the fingers. Secondly, finger flexibility exercises can be done by placing the palm flat on the plate, then pressing each finger down on the plate, and then lifting it up. This exercise can help improve the flexibility and agility of the fingers, making the fingers more comfortable when playing the piano. Finger strength exercises can be performed using the fingers for deep press exercises, either with a trainer or on a hard object. This exercise can strengthen the muscles of the fingers and make the playing more powerful. At the same time, you can also try to use a simulator to pick strings to improve the explosive power and accuracy of the fingers.

4) Visual reading ability

Piano visual reading ability is a very important aspect of piano teaching. In college piano courses, if students have a big deficiency in visual reading ability, it will not only affect their study and achievement, but also limit their musical development and creative ability. In piano teaching, students with strong visual reading ability have more advantages in learning progress. To improve students' visual reading ability, so that students can quickly and accurately read music and play, which is a particularly important skill in teaching. This paper analyzes the ways to cultivate visual reading ability in piano teaching from the aspects of music reading level, hand-eye coordination, visual reading rule, auditory training, playing rhythm, note recognition and evaluation. Teaching can adopt the way of more singing and more listening, so that students can start with simple music, pay attention to the progress of melody lines of intervals, and memorize the changes of different intervals, rhythms and beats in the music. Perform music reading training ahead of time to maintain the continuity of playing. Understand the structure and emotional expression of the music, mobilize the brain's subjective initiative, and actively imagine the performance effect (Zhou, 2023).

Improvisational accompaniment ability

Wang, Y. (2022) mentioned in the article exploring the technique of improvisational accompaniment in contemporary music education which that the flexible use of piano accompaniment can play an important role in piano performance, which can enrich students' cognition and stimulate their creative thinking, so that students' understanding of music is no longer simple. By learning to play accompaniment, master the necessary harmony knowledge and accompaniment tone, not only can enrich the performance of songs, but also an important way to improve students' musical literacy and practical ability.

From the perspective of improving the skills of music majors in higher vocational colleges, this study analyzes the difficulties encountered by students in learning. Starting from the real problems encountered by students in the process of learning piano impromptu accompaniment, this paper finds out the restricting factors, and puts forward scientific methods to improve the improvisation ability, such as the practice of keyboard harmony, the cultivation of inner hearing, and the increase of practical opportunities, which provides a new idea for future

Teaching Methods

The traditional teaching method of lecturing is still dominant in the piano teaching in the first grade, and the curriculum mainly teaches knowledge passively, ignoring the active participation of students and the cultivation of practical ability, which is difficult to stimulate students' learning interest and enthusiasm. In addition, some teachers also neglect the cultivation of students' musical expression and creativity, resulting in students' musical literacy can not be comprehensively improved.

In recent years, with the renewal of educational concepts and the diversification of teaching methods, more and more higher vocational colleges have begun to adopt more advanced and practical teaching methods, which provide new possibilities for future piano teaching. For example, project-based learning, case teaching and other teaching methods are introduced to enable students to learn and master piano playing skills in practice. Use multimedia and network technology to assist teaching and provide rich teaching resources and interactive platforms; Focus on heuristic teaching and inquiry learning to stimulate students' initiative and innovation (Wu, 2017).

Although the piano teaching methods and means of preschool education in higher vocational colleges are constantly improving and perfecting, there are still some problems and challenges. For example, some teachers are not skilled enough in the use of new teaching methods, which affects the teaching effect; At the same time, due to the large differences in students' foundation, how to teach students according to their aptitude and meet the learning needs of different students is also an important issue that teachers need to face. In the process of piano teaching, according to the particularity of piano teaching and the personality of teaching objects, teachers should pay attention to the individual differences of students in teaching, take different measures, and teach according to the scientific and systematic knowledge and skills of piano playing and the special laws of students' cognitive development.

Conclusion

In conclusion, piano teaching in preschool education programs plays a crucial role in developing the musical literacy and practical skills of future educators, preparing them to teach music in kindergartens. The curriculum integrates foundational music theory, performance techniques, and improvisational skills, which are essential for fostering creativity and comprehensive musical proficiency. Despite the rapid development of teaching methods and technologies, challenges remain, such as addressing varying skill levels among students and ensuring the effective use of innovative approaches. Continuous refinement in teaching practices, coupled with an emphasis on both theory and practice, is essential to cultivate well-rounded preschool educators equipped with strong musical capabilities.

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