

Constructing the Shanxi Folk Song Singing Analysis Guidebook for the Second Grade Students of Xiaoyi No.6 Middle School

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Abstract

The objectives of this study were (1) To Study the Teaching Methods of folk music in Shanxi (2) To Construct the Teaching guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi. (3) To Experiment the teaching by using the Teaching Guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi city. (4) To Evaluate the teaching by using the Teaching Guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi city. This study is a mixed method of qualitative research and quantitative research. The research tools of qualitative research are interview guide and observation form.

The research findings were the research on teaching Shanxi folk songs to middle school students revealed several key findings. First, experts emphasized the importance of understanding the cultural and historical background of Shanxi folk songs to foster students' sense of local identity and pride. They recommended interactive and experiential teaching methods to engage students and deepen their emotional connection with the songs. The construction of a teaching guidebook for Shanxi folk songs provided a structured framework, including song histories, musical features, and practice activities to enhance students' learning experience. A teaching experiment conducted in a Shanxi middle school demonstrated significant improvements in students' singing skills and cultural understanding, as well as increased interest in local culture. Finally, the evaluation of the guidebook's implementation showed a marked increase in student performance and engagement, confirming its effectiveness in enhancing both musical and cultural education.

Keywords: Constructing; Shanxi Folk Song; Singing Analysis; Guidebook; Xiaoyi No.6 Middle School

Introduction

Shanxi Province is a famous province in Chinese history and culture, with profound historical heritage and unique local culture. It is one of the important birthplaces of Chinese history and culture, with rich historical heritage and cultural tradition. Ancient architecture, traditional handicrafts and rich historical relics all reflect Shanxi's deep historical heritage. Shanxi's ancient architecture has its own unique style, especially those with wooden structure, such as ancient city walls, ancient temples and ancient dwellings with complicated wooden parts, demonstrating unique architectural techniques and aesthetic concepts. Shanxi Province has inherited a rich tradition of folk arts and crafts, such as Shanxi paper-cutting, lantern making, dough sculpture and so on. These traditional crafts reflect the local people's aesthetic taste and living habits Shanxi Province has a rich variety of traditional festivals and folk activities, such as the New Year's temple fair, folk marriage customs, folk traditional festivals

and so on. These traditional activities reflect the Shanxi people's love for life and their inheritance of traditional culture (Lei, 2023). One of Shanxi's geographical features is the Loess Plateau landform, which has influenced the lifestyle and agricultural habits of local people. The rural areas of Shanxi, especially the northern part of Shaanxi, have a unique Loess Plateau style. Shanxi is one of the birthplaces of local opera in China and has a long history of opera. The representative one is Shanxi Pingju, which has its unique performance form and singing style and is deeply loved by the local people. As an important part of this cultural system, Shanxi folk songs are rich in regional characteristics, historical stories and human customs, and are the window to understand Shanxi culture. Shanxi is rich in folk music resources, and has enjoyed the reputation of "ocean of folk songs" and "town of opera" since ancient times. In the past, folk songs blossomed everywhere in Shanxi, and people came to them whenever they wanted to sing. Folk songs followed them like a shadow, accompanying the working people in the land of Sanjin through a long history. With the development of modern society, the traditional culture is facing the pressure of rapid disappearance, and the problem of protection and inheritance of Shanxi folk songs has become increasingly prominent. "Saving folk songs, retaining classics" and "Where should folk songs go" have become the topic of thinking and hot discussion among people in the industry. On December 22, 2005, the protection of intangible cultural heritage was officially started, and then Shanxi folk songs were gradually selected into the national and local "intangible cultural heritage" list for protection. The successful declaration of "intangible cultural heritage" is a good beginning for the protection and inheritance of Shanxi folk songs (Chen, 2020).

Introducing Shanxi folk songs into middle school classroom teaching helps to inherit and protect this unique cultural form, so that it can be continued in the new generation. Shanxi folk songs are not only musical, but also combine rich literary elements. Introducing Shanxi folk songs into middle school music education can provide a diverse music learning experience and expand students' understanding of the art of music. On the other hand, in the context of education reform, local majors should be promoted to enrich the subject content and enhance students' sense of local identity. The introduction of folk songs in Shanxi Province is in line with this trend, bringing students closer to local culture and recognition in their learning. Shanxi folk songs have far-reaching significance in many aspects of middle school classroom teaching. By collating literature and materials, this paper summarizes and analyzes the teaching status quo of Shanxi folk songs introduced into music classes of junior middle schools in Shanxi, and supplements the theoretical deficiencies in music classroom teaching of junior middle schools, so as to truly introduce and implement Shanxi folk songs into junior middle school music classes in practice, which has certain academic research value (Lin, 2020).

Cultural inheritance and promotion: Shanxi folk song is an important part of local culture. Through middle school classroom teaching, we can help protect and inherit this unique local culture and promote local traditional art. 2. Cultivate a sense of local cultural identity: Learning Shanxi folk songs enables students to better understand and feel the unique charm of local culture, cultivate their love and sense of identity for their hometown, and inspire local pride. 3. Promote emotional exchange and expression: Folk songs often express emotions, life experiences and social concepts (Sun, 2020). By learning to sing and studying folk songs, students can better express their emotions and enhance emotional communication with others. 4. Enrich the content of music education: Folk songs are not only a form of

music, but also incorporate rich literary elements. The introduction of Shanxi folk songs in middle school music education helps to expand students' musical aesthetics and literary accomplishment. 5. Cultivate aesthetic taste: Learning Shanxi folk songs can improve students' artistic aesthetics and enhance socialist values.

Research Objectives

- (1) To Study the Teaching Methods of folk music in Shanxi
- (2) To Construct the Teaching guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi.
- (3) To Experiment the teaching by using the Teaching Guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi city
- (4) To Evaluate the teaching by using the Teaching Guidebook for Shanxi folk music in the junior middle school classroom in Xiaoyi city

Research Methodology

This research adopts a mixed methodology, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. Through the method of investigation and in-depth interview, the data were collected to construct the teaching guide of Shanxi folk songs for teaching. The method of cluster sampling was used to select a class from the second grade of Xiaoyi No. 6 Middle School. In the development stage, the quantitative method adopts experimental design and conclusion with statistical description. The research results will be obtained by formative test and summative test.

Conceptual Framework

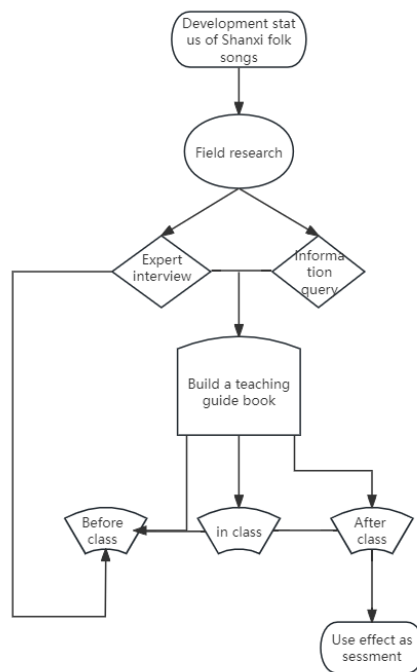


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

Research Findings

1. The key points of middle school students' learning of Shanxi folk songs in the expert interview

Through interviews with experts, visits to relevant schools and literature review, researchers have mastered the effective ways and methods for middle school students to learn Shanxi folk songs, and have enriched their teaching practice experience. Based on the in-depth communication with the experts, the following key points are summarized:

(1) The cultural value and educational significance of Shanxi folk songs: Experts stressed that Shanxi folk songs, as an important part of local culture, carry rich historical and cultural information. In teaching, students should be guided to understand the cultural background and historical stories behind the folk songs, so as to enhance students' sense of identity and pride in the local culture.

(2) Innovation of teaching methods: In terms of teaching methods, experts suggest the use of interactive and experiential teaching methods, such as organizing students to conduct on-site learning, folk song creation and singing activities, so that students can learn and feel the charm of Shanxi folk songs in practice.

(3) The combination of skills and emotions: Folk song singing is not only the display of technology, but also the transmission of emotions and stories. Teachers should guide students to understand the emotional connotation of songs and convey positive values and humanistic feelings through songs.

2. Construct a guidebook for middle school students to learn Shanxi folk songs

The Study Guide of Shanxi Folk Songs aims to guide middle school students to deeply understand and learn the rich folk song tradition in Shanxi. The guide not only introduces the historical background, musical features and singing skills of Shanxi folk songs, but also includes a series of teaching activities and exercises to help students master the songs and express their emotions through singing. The book also offers solutions for possible challenges in the teaching process and incorporates suggestions from experts in folk song education.

Contents of the teaching guide book:

Chapter 1: Overview of Shanxi Folk Songs: a detailed introduction to the history, development and characteristics of Shanxi folk songs, including the origin, schools and evolution process of folk songs. It discusses the musical characteristics, performance styles and singing methods of Shanxi folk songs, as well as how to understand Shanxi's history and culture through folk song learning.

Chapter 2: Study of Selected Shanxi folk songs: Select a series of representative Shanxi folk songs and give a detailed introduction to each song, including its backstory, musical structure and lyric content. Corresponding musical scores, singing demonstrations and practice instructions are provided to help students better understand, learn and sing these folk songs.

Chapter 3: Teaching Activities and Exercises: Design a series of teaching activities and exercises designed to increase students' participation and interest in learning, such as folk song concerts, creative activities and interactive discussions. These activities are aimed at deepening students' understanding of Shanxi folk songs and improving their singing skills and creativity.

3. Teaching experiment of Shanxi folk songs in middle school teaching guide book

In the experiment of Shanxi folk song teaching carried out by No. 6 Middle School of Shanxi Province, teachers carried out the systematic teaching design and implementation according to the "Shanxi Folk Song teaching Guide for middle school". The guide covers all aspects of teaching, including curriculum arrangement, teaching objectives, analysis of key contents and difficulties, as well as specific teaching activities and evaluation methods. The experiment quantifies students' learning effectiveness through pre-teaching and post-teaching tests.

The teaching guide contains several course units, each of which is centered around these eight representative Shanxi folk songs. The course content includes not only the learning and singing of the songs, but also the introduction of the songs' historical background, cultural significance and musical characteristics. Through this comprehensive teaching method, students are not only able to learn the singing skills of songs, but also gain an in-depth understanding of Shanxi's history and culture.

After the 16-week teaching experiment, data analysis showed that the students had made significant progress in understanding and performing Shanxi folk songs. The students not only improved their singing skills, but also gained a deeper understanding and identification with the cultural background and artistic value of Shanxi folk songs. In addition, the teaching experiment has promoted students' interest and pride in the local culture.

4. Apply Shanxi folk song teaching guide to evaluate the teaching effect

When evaluating the teaching activities of Shanxi folk songs in a middle school in Shanxi Province, the teacher made a detailed teaching plan and implementation according to the "Shanxi Folk Song Teaching Guide". Before the evaluation, the basic situation of the students was analyzed, including their understanding of Shanxi folk songs, singing skills, and their grasp of the background and emotion of the songs. In the first formative test, the average score of students was 59.125, showing that students' understanding and singing ability of Shanxi folk songs need to be improved at the beginning of the course. The tests mainly focus on students' intonation, sense of rhythm, song understanding, emotional expression and singing skills.

After a semester of study and practice, the students' average score in the final test reached 92.275, a significant score improvement that reflects the effectiveness of the Shanxi Folk Song Teaching Guide in improving students' singing and understanding of Shanxi folk songs. Students have made significant progress in aspects such as song background knowledge, emotional expression, music understanding, as well as singing skills.

In addition, students' interest in and participation in Shanxi folk songs have also improved significantly, which not only promotes the development of their musical ability, but also deepens their knowledge and understanding of Shanxi culture. The students' confidence and motivation to learn were also enhanced by the interactive and participatory activities included in the teaching guide.

Discussion

Under the current educational background that emphasizes cultural inheritance and innovation, Shanxi folk songs, as an important part of local culture, are of great value to the cultural education of middle school students.

Experts generally believe that Shanxi folk songs not only have rich musical value, but also contain profound local culture and historical information. Therefore, the teaching should not only teach the singing skills of the songs, but also deeply explore the cultural background and connotation behind the songs to help students build up their identification and pride in Shanxi culture.

In terms of teaching methods, experts suggest the use of diversified teaching means, combined with modern teaching technology, such as the use of multimedia to show the background of Shanxi folk songs, singing demonstration and related cultural knowledge, to enhance the interactive and interesting teaching. At the same time, students are encouraged to participate in singing and creation, and experience and understand Shanxi folk songs deeply through practical activities (Zhang, 2023).

Experts also stressed the key role of teachers in the teaching process, who should not only have solid professional knowledge of music and teaching skills, but also constantly improve their understanding of Shanxi folk songs and their cultural background, so as to better guide and stimulate students' interest in learning (Li, 2020).

In order to enrich the music course content of Xiaoyi No. 6 Middle School and promote Shanxi folk music culture, the researchers compiled the Guide of Shanxi Folk Music Teaching of Xiaoyi No. 6 Middle School according to the characteristics of Shanxi folk music and the learning needs of middle school students. The guide is designed to help students deeply understand and learn the unique folk music of Shanxi region, and improve their musical literacy and cultural awareness.

The teaching guide is divided into units, each consisting of the following:

(1) Theoretical knowledge learning: Introduce the historical background, genre characteristics and representative works of Shanxi folk music, so that students can understand the cultural connotation and artistic value of Shanxi folk music (Zhao, 2022).

(2) Training of singing skills: teaching students the basic singing methods and skills of Shanxi folk music, including sound generation, breathing control, intonation grasp, etc.

(3) Repertoire learning and practice: Select representative Shanxi folk songs, guide students to learn the melody, lyrics and performance style of the songs, and practice through chorus, solo singing and other forms (Wang, 2020).

After writing the teaching guide, music education experts and practice teachers will be invited to evaluate it to ensure the accuracy, applicability and interest of the teaching content. Experts generally agree that the teaching guide, which is comprehensive in content and focuses on the cultivation of music skills as well as the improvement of cultural literacy, is of great significance in promoting the development of school music education characteristics.

Recommendations

1. Practical Recommendations

Firstly, the content of the course can be expanded: by adding elective courses, setting up special theme courses or inviting experts in the field of folk songs to give lectures, students' knowledge and understanding of Shanxi folk songs can be expanded. Students are encouraged to combine music studies with literature, history and cultural studies to deepen their understanding of the cultural and historical background behind Shanxi folk songs.

Second, enhance practical experience: Schools should provide students with regular performance opportunities, such as end-of-semester concerts, class reproductions or small music gatherings, to enhance students' practical experience on stage. Schools can also establish cooperation with local music halls, cultural centers and other institutions to provide students with more professional performance opportunities and practical platforms.

Finally, enhance student participation: Design assignments that allow students to actively participate, such as writing concert reviews or analyzing singing recordings, customize training plans according to each student's needs and interests, and focus on specific performance skills or musical fields to improve the personalization and effectiveness of teaching.

By implementing these suggestions, a richer and well-rounded educational experience can be created for middle school students to learn Shanxi folk songs and promote their two-way development in academic and practical skills.

2. Recommendation for future research

(1) Expand the scope of research objects: The current research may focus on a specific group of students, and it is suggested that future research should be extended to a wider group of students, including middle school students of different grades and professional backgrounds, and even consider cross-regional research, so as to promote the popularization and inheritance of Shanxi folk song education.

(2) Increase practical activities: Follow-up researchers should increase practical activities related to Shanxi folk songs, such as student concerts, campus folk song competitions and workshops, in order to enhance students' understanding and interest in Shanxi folk songs. Practical activities are an important means to test the learning effect and improve the performance skills.

(3) Innovation in teaching materials and teaching methods: researchers and teachers are encouraged to innovate in teaching content and methods. In addition to traditional Shanxi folk songs, modern music elements can also be incorporated to make the teaching more in line with the aesthetic needs of contemporary students. At the same time, explore the use of multimedia and Internet resources to make Shanxi folk song teaching more lively and interesting.

(4) Personalized and diversified teaching: Future research should focus on the personalized and diversified teaching content to meet the learning needs and interests of different students, such as providing more in-depth learning paths for music students, and designing more accessible and understandable courses for non-music students.

(5) Interdisciplinary research: It is encouraged to combine the teaching of Shanxi folk songs with other disciplines such as literature, history, geography, etc., to conduct interdisciplinary research and teaching, so as to promote the all-round development of students.

Through the implementation of these suggestions, it can provide more comprehensive and in-depth research and teaching guidance for middle school students to learn Shanxi folk songs, promote the inheritance and development of Shanxi folk songs, and stimulate students' interest and love for local culture.

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