

Constructing Shanxi Folk Music Suona Ensemble Workbook for Teaching Students at Shanxi Vocational College of Art, China

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Abstract

This paper introduces the development, implementation and evaluation of a suona ensemble workbook specially designed for teaching at Shanxi Art Vocational College, with emphasis on Shanxi folk music. The workbook aims to combine theoretical knowledge with practical application to enhance students' understanding and performance of regional folk music. The study included a comprehensive assessment of the workbook's feasibility and effectiveness, incorporating expert feedback to ensure its accuracy, relevance and applicability in an educational setting. The findings show that the handbook is a valuable educational tool that can make a significant contribution to the preservation and promotion of Shanxi's rich musical heritage.

Keywords: Constructing; Shanxi Folk Music; Suona Ensemble; Workbook; Shanxi Vocational College of Art; China

Introduction

There are many kinds of Chinese Musical Instruments, which can be roughly divided into four types of "blowing, pulling, playing and playing", and the instrumental performance based on them can be divided into two categories according to the form of playing: solo and ensemble. According to the different instruments used, solo instrumental performance includes four types of wind music, string music, strumming and percussion, while ensemble performance integrates various types of instruments, so it is more clear to observe ensemble music performance from the perspective of music category. It covers several musical forms of ensemble, silk and bamboo music, wind and percussion music, drum and gong music, national orchestral music and minority instrumental music ensemble (Huang, 2022).

Since the Tang Dynasty, the suona was introduced into China from Persia and Arabia. In the process of continuous practice and exploration, it has become one of the most widespread and common instruments in China, and is deeply loved by music lovers of all ethnic groups in China. Suona, also known as "trumpet" or "rattler", has rich playing skills, loud and bold sound, and has the characteristics of both hardness and softness. For most suona lovers, how to play suona well and play wonderful music still need to explore and explore (Wang, 2021).

With the rapid development of science and technology, the economic and cultural development of our country also changes rapidly. China's traditional music art, as an important subject of the humanities, is also speeding up the pace of rapid development. The suona, one of China's national Musical Instruments, and its music art also occupy a more and more important position in the stage of national music, and has been set up as a formal discipline in colleges and universities, entering an unprecedented golden period of development. The

development of suona teaching has also stepped into the path of gradual standardization and perfection since then (Wang, 2023).

It is very important to carry out ensemble training among college music students, which can mainly improve students' instrument playing level and music culture accomplishment, provide them with a good development platform, and go further on the road of music art (Zhang, 2005).

Suona ensemble is a form in which multiple suona are played together, in suona ensemble in the middle, through the high suona, the middle and low suona, the tenor suona and the low suona good coordination, can show joy, sadness, high, quiet and other different atmosphere is one of the best combination of suona playing choice, often seen in folk music ensemble among the major musical works. In the suona ensemble, different suonas are different the pronunciation characteristics, only the detailed division of the playing parts, ensure between the players in order to give full play to the characteristics of each suona on the basis of tacit cooperation better cover up the shortcomings of different suona parts, so as to achieve good performance a result.

Everything should follow the progress of The Times and constantly move forward, and the tradition can only be continued if it is continuously inherited and innovated. As a traditional instrument, suona has its unique artistic expression form and artistic expression ability, which is irreplaceable. Professional players must deeply analyze and think about its use ways and methods, so as to continuously expand the playing stage of suona, and finally promote the development of suona playing cause (Fu, 2021).

Suona is one of the important representatives of Chinese national Musical Instruments. It is popular with the public for its beautiful timbre and rich expression. The only drawback is that it is a single melodic instrument, yet when played by two or more people, it can play a very beautiful harmonious melody. The Basic Course of Suona written by Mr. Chen Jiaqi, a famous suona player, educator and professor of Central Conservatory of Music; A number of suona duets and trios are selected in Suona Etudes selected by the famous suona player, the educators Zhongdonghe and Fan Guozhong, Suona professors of Tianjin Conservatory of Music. After careful review, modification and supplement, these textbooks have the following characteristics: they can establish three-dimensional thinking during suona learning, increase students' perception of suona harmony, and enhance their interest in suona learning. It can be used as an auxiliary teaching material for students to participate in band ensemble and cultivate coordination and cooperation ability. Visual reading materials can be taught from the very beginning to cultivate visual reading ability, which can better help students overcome the "fatigue point" and "difficult period" of suona learning, and is a rare and good textbook (Zhang, 2021).

As a suona teacher of Shanxi Art Vocational College, the author thinks it is necessary to compile a suona ensemble textbook of Shanxi folk music for Shanxi Art Vocational College. On the one hand, through the analysis of suona ensemble form, playing technique and style structure, combined with the actual teaching experience of Shanxi Art Vocational College, the data and suggestions are provided for the setting of suona ensemble course in Art Vocational College. On the other hand, through the study of Shanxi folk music, the construction of suona ensemble exercise book with Shanxi music style improves the level of suona performance and teaching, provides more solid support for creation and stage practice, promotes the development of suona education in Shanxi, and makes a modest contribution to the development of suona ensemble in suona art.

Research Objectives

1. To study Shanxi folk music suona ensemble performance
2. To construct teaching suona ensemble exercise book of Shanxi Art Vocational College
3. To use Suona ensemble workbook for teaching at Shanxi Vocational College of Art
4. To evaluate the teaching effect of suona ensemble exercise book in Shanxi Art Vocational College

Research Methodology

In this dissertation, the adoption of a mixed-methods research strategy is essential. This approach allows for integrating qualitative and quantitative methods, thereby facilitating the generation of a multifaceted analysis. This deliberate methodological choice is driven by the need to ensure a robust and comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of the workbook.

Quantitative research plays a fundamental role in this study, providing objective data through the validation tests of the workbook. These tests are critical to assessing the accuracy and applicability of the workbook content. In addition, quantitative methods will be used to assess student satisfaction, using surveys to gather quantifiable feedback on the impact and effectiveness of the workbook. This ensures that the workbook is not only theoretically sound but also meets the practical needs and expectations of the students. The necessity of this approach lies in its ability to provide a comprehensive evaluation to ensure that the workbook is a valuable educational tool for suona ensemble instruction in Shanxi folk music.

Qualitative research complements the quantitative data by providing deeper insights into students' and teachers' experiences and perceptions. Through interviews, focus groups, and observational studies, qualitative methods capture the nuanced feedback and detailed perspectives that quantitative surveys may miss. This approach provides a richer understanding of how the workbook is used in practice, the challenges users face, and the contextual factors that influence its effectiveness. By incorporating qualitative data, the study ensures that the workbook is validated by objective measures and refined based on real-world experience and expert insight. This holistic evaluation is critical to developing a pedagogically robust and practically applicable workbook.

Conceptual Framework

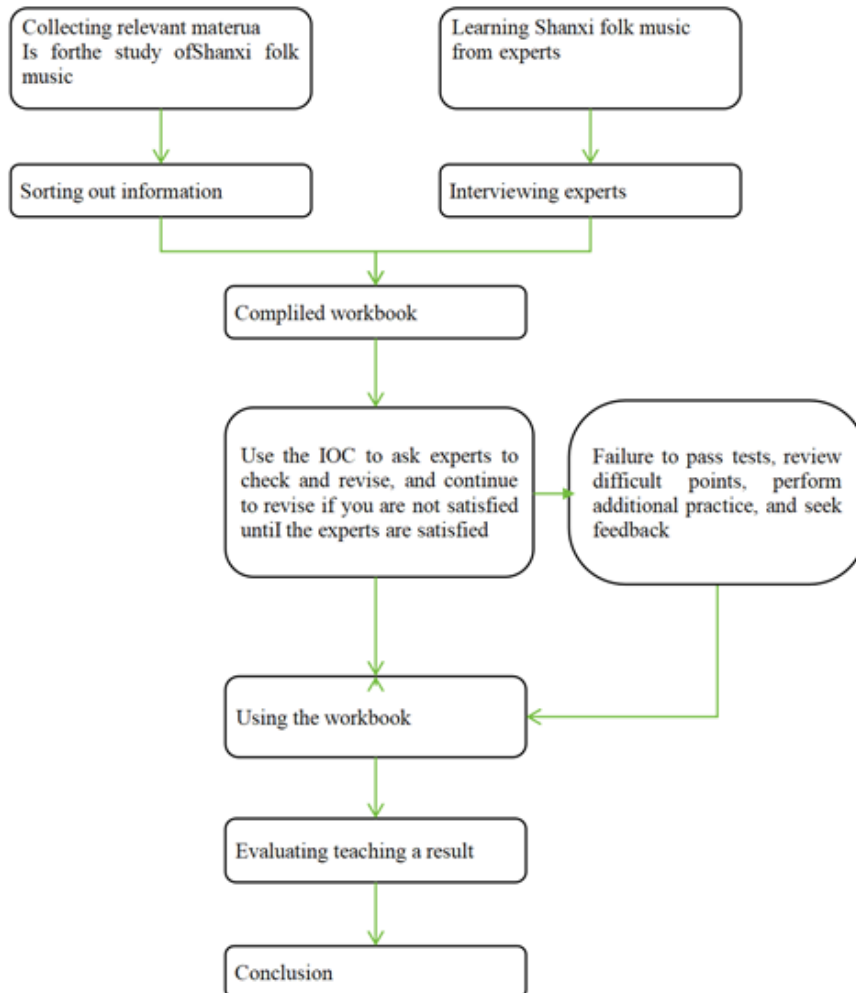


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

Research Findings

The research results are based on the main goal of the research, that is, to study, construct, implement and evaluate the suona ensemble exercise book of Shanxi folk music teaching in Shanxi Art Vocational College. Each finding is based on comprehensive analysis and expert feedback, ensuring the workbook's validity and applicability in an educational setting.

1. To study the Shanxi folk music suona ensemble exercise book with experts

The initial phase of the study included a detailed study of Shanxi folk music and its integration into the suona ensemble manual. Experts in Shanxi folk music and music education were consulted to provide insights into the unique characteristics of Shanxi folk songs, including their melodies, rhythms and cultural significance. The research shows that Shanxi folk music is rich in cultural heritage and diverse in musical expression, which can be

effectively integrated into the suona ensemble environment. Experts stress the importance of maintaining the authenticity of folk songs while adapting them for instrumental performance.

2. To construction of suona ensemble teaching materials for Shanxi Art Vocational College

Based on the insights gained from expert consultation, a comprehensive suona ensemble workbook is constructed. The workbook includes detailed notes on a different repertoire of Shanxi folk songs, transcribed suona ensembles and playing techniques. Information on the cultural and historical background of each work is also included to enhance students' understanding and appreciation. In response to the specific challenges of suona performance of Shanxi folk music, technical exercises and practice techniques are incorporated to provide a balanced educational resource. The workbook is constructed to combine theoretical knowledge with practical application, ensuring that students receive a comprehensive learning experience.

3. To Use the Suona Ensemble Workbook for Teaching at Shanxi Vocational College of Art

The implementation phase includes the inclusion of the suona ensemble exercise book in the music education curriculum of Shanxi Art Vocational College. Training was provided for teachers in the effective use of workbooks, and Shanxi folk music was integrated into their teaching. Workshops and seminars are held to ensure that teachers are fully equipped to guide students through the material and address any challenges that may arise. Workbooks are used in a classroom setting to provide students with a structured and well-rounded learning experience. The implementation process highlights the practicability of workbooks and the ability to improve students' technical skills and cultural understanding.

4. To Evaluate the Results of the Suona Ensemble Workbook for Teaching at Shanxi Vocational College of Art

The final phase of the study involves evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of suona ensemble workbooks in an educational setting. The assessment process includes expert feedback and necessary adjustments to ensure that workbooks meet the needs of students and teachers. Use a five-point scale to evaluate aspects of the workbook, including content design, theory-practice interaction, and overall applicability. The results show that the workbook is easy to use, pedagogically reliable and improves the educational experience of students and teachers. Achievement assessments, written tests, and peer and self-assessments were conducted to measure student progress and understanding. The results significantly improve students' technical proficiency, cultural appreciation, and overall musical skills.

The results show that suona ensemble exercise book is an effective teaching tool in Shanxi folk music teaching in Shanxi Art Vocational College. From the research, construction, implementation and evaluation stages, it contributes to the development of a comprehensive and practical resource that enhances the learning experience of students and promotes the preservation of Shanxi's rich musical heritage.

Discussion

The discussion highlighted the importance of incorporating regional folk music into formal music education in order to preserve cultural heritage and enrich students' musical experience. Shanxi folk music, with its unique melodies, rhythms and lyrical content, offers a wealth of cultural and historical significance that can greatly enhance educational curricula. The results of this study show that the suona ensemble practice manual is a valuable tool for teaching Shanxi folk music, providing a structured and comprehensive learning approach that is both effective and engaging.

The positive feedback received from experts underscores the workbook's efficacy and suitability for educational settings. Experts emphasize that the workbook's comprehensive transcriptions, technical exercises, and cultural and historical contextual information contribute to a well-rounded pedagogical experience. This integrated approach ensures students not only develop technical proficiency in the instrument but also cultivate a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Shanxi's rich musical heritage (Han, 2023).

This workbook helps students bridge the gap between academic research and practical performance by blending theoretical knowledge with practical application. This dual focus is essential for cultivating music and deeper connections, enabling students to internalize the unique characteristics of Shanxi folk music and apply them to their performance. The workbook highlights aspects of musical technique and expression to help students become well-rounded musicians, both skilled performers and culturally literate individuals (Zhang, 2022).

In addition, the discussion highlighted the broader implications of this research for music education. The inclusion of regional folk music in the curriculum helps to maintain cultural identity and promote the diversity of music education. It gives students a fuller understanding of the world's musical traditions and fosters a greater appreciation of cultural diversity. This approach can also inspire students to explore and engage with their own cultural heritage, promoting pride and connection to their roots.

The findings also suggest that the workbook can be a valuable resource for instructors, providing clear guidelines and structured lesson plans to facilitate effective teaching. The positive feedback from experts indicates that the workbook is user-friendly and pedagogically sound, making it a practical tool for music educators. The workbook helps instructors deliver a more engaging and effective educational experience by providing a structured framework for teaching Shanxi folk music.

In conclusion, the discussion highlighted the importance of incorporating regional folk music into formal music education in order to preserve cultural heritage and enrich students' musical experience. The Shanxi Folk Music Suona Ensemble workbook is a valuable educational tool that provides a structured and comprehensive approach to learning. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications, students develop a deeper connection with music and promote its continued relevance in contemporary education, helping students improve their technical proficiency and cultural understanding (Fan, 2018). The positive feedback from experts highlights the workbook's effectiveness and applicability, making it a valuable resource for students and teachers.

Recommendations

Practical Recommendations

Implementation: Implement the suona ensemble exercise book in the music education curriculum of Shanxi Art Vocational College to provide students with a structured and comprehensive learning experience. The detailed transcription of the workbook, technical exercises and cultural background will help students develop technical proficiency and a deeper understanding of Shanxi folk music.

Instructor training: Instructor training, so that they can effectively use the teaching materials, Shanxi folk music into the teaching. This training will ensure that teachers are equipped to guide students through the material, address any challenges that may arise, and make the most of the resources in the workbook. Training courses may include workshops, seminars and practical practice using workbooks.

1. Recommendation for future research

Longitudinal Studies: Conduct longitudinal studies to assess the long-term impact of the workbook on students' musical skills and cultural understanding. These studies will provide valuable insights into the sustained benefits of the workbook, helping to identify areas for improvement and inform future revisions. Longitudinal research can track students' progress over several years, evaluating their technical development, cultural appreciation, and overall musical growth.

Broader Applicability: Explore the adaptation of the workbook for other regional folk music traditions to broaden its applicability. Educators can promote diverse cultural heritages and enrich music education programs by developing similar workbooks for different cultural contexts. This approach can help students appreciate folk music's global diversity and understand musical expression's universal aspects.

Technology Integration: Investigate the use of technology and digital resources to improve the accessibility of learning experiences and workbooks. This can include the development of interactive digital versions, online tutorials, and multimedia resources such as video presentations and audio recordings. Technology integration can make workbooks more engaging and accessible, allowing students to work independently and providing additional support for teachers. Digital platforms can also facilitate distance learning and collaboration, extending workbooks beyond the classroom.

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