

Teaching Method of Choral Music in Universities, China

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Abstract

The article explores the teaching methods of choral music in Chinese colleges and universities, focusing on how these methods contribute to the development of students' musical skills, artistic literacy, and teamwork. By examining key educational resources and texts such as "Chorus and Conducting Course" by Zhou Zhengsong, "Teaching Classic Chorus Songs" by Du Yaxiong, and "Chorus Art" by Wu Lingfen, among others, the study highlights the theoretical frameworks and practical techniques employed in choral training. The article also addresses the role of choral conducting, vocal techniques, and repertoire selection in shaping the students' overall musical proficiency. Additionally, the importance of fostering collaboration and cooperative learning through choral rehearsals is underscored, reflecting the broader educational goals of enhancing both individual performance and group dynamics. This study aims to provide valuable insights for educators and students, contributing to the advancement of choral music education in China.

Keywords: Teaching Method; Choral Music; Universities; China

Introduction

Chorus is the form of different parts, each of which is sung by multiple people. Through the reading of literature and books, in fact, the concept of choir originated from the word "chorus", because chorus is a collective singing art, that is to say, there can not only one person, so it becomes choir or choral music.

The concept of a choir, adopted both in concerts and plays, implies a collection of unifying characters.

As a musical form, chorus has a long history. Its origins can be traced back to ancient Greece, when people sang songs to express emotions, convey messages, and socialize. Over time, the chorus gradually developed into an organized form of music, and was widely used in religious, court, and folk occasions.

During the medieval period, choral music became the main form of church music. The monks in the church praise God through a chorus, while also providing musical accompaniment for the church activities. During this period, the choral works mainly took religion as the theme, and showed the emotional and spiritual connotation of religion in the way of chorus.

With the rise of the Renaissance movement, the choral art ushered in a new prosperous period. During this period, people began to pay attention to the aesthetic pursuit of music, and the choral works became more rich and diverse. In addition to the religious works, some secular works also began to appear, such as choral songs and choral plays. These works express human emotions and thoughts through chorus, and become a new art form.

In the Baroque period, the choral art was further developed. During this period, choral works not only increased in number, but also their style and technique became more complex. Composers began to use different combinations of timbre and parts to create richer music. In addition, the choral works of the Baroque period also pay attention to the emotional expression and atmosphere creation of the music, making the works more infectious and expressive.

Chorus remains a popular form of music in the modern society. It continued to be used not only in churches and courts, but also in folk and schools. With the popularization and development of music education, more and more people begin to join in the chorus and express their feelings and thoughts through the chorus.

The historical development of the chorus is a long and constantly changing process. Chorus forms, styles, and uses vary in different periods and regions. However, whenever and wherever, chorus is a form of music that can inspire human emotions and thoughts.

Chorus can be divided into two categories according to the characteristics of timbre composition. The mixed chorus and simultaneous chorus. The mixed chorus is composed of boys and girls, with four parts, namely, soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The sound choir is composed of similar voices, including three forms: A children's choir B women's choir C men's choir.

According to the classification of professional composition: it can be divided into music professional choir and non-professional choir (amateur choir). Music professional choir is composed of members who have studied music or studied music. It is characterized by strong music reading ability, strong vocal singing ability and high plasticity. Non-professional choir is composed of people who have not learned music knowledge. It is characterized by poor music reading ability, non-standard vocal music singing, and weak foundation.

According to the nature of the unit classification; can be divided into primary school chorus, high school chorus, mass chorus, high school chorus, primary school and middle school chorus, high school chorus is by high school. Secondary vocational colleges and other colleges as the carrier, the choir composed of high school students, the mass choir is composed of the mass art museum, cultural palace, community streets and other social carriers, with the chorus composed of the masses. University choir is the carrier with college students as the main body, including the normal professional students 'choir also called college choir. The non-professional students' choir, teachers' choir and agency choir are composed of other personnel in universities as the main body.

Teaching method of choral music in colleges and universities

Through searching and sorting, this paper refers to the following documents in the teaching method of chorus music in ordinary colleges and universities:

Chorus and Conducting Course

Zhou Zhengsong "Chorus and Conducting Course", this book published by South China University of Technology Press in 2005. This book is mainly divided into two parts: chorus and conducting, which makes a comprehensive and detailed elaboration of choral art and conducting skills.

In the chorus section, this book first introduces the development, significance and function of chorus, as well as the organization method and type of chorus. Then, the theoretical knowledge of choral singing is deeply discussed, including the chorus part and formation arrangement, the relationship between singer and conductor, and the requirements of chorus collective tacit understanding. In addition, the book also explains the basic techniques and skills of chorus, and enables readers to master these skills in practice through the teaching songs "Half the Moon Climbing Up" and "Flying petals".

In the command section, this book first introduces the duties, functions and tasks of command, as well as the basic principles and basic command formulas of command. Then, in-depth command skills on how to start and close, how to prompt the voice, how to determine the speed and how to do the strength of the change. In addition, the book also explains the reading of the chorus score and the skills of both command, so that readers can fully understand each aspects of the command. By learning the development history of command, the role of command and basic knowledge, readers can have a deeper understanding of the art of command.

Overall, the Chorus and conducting Course is a comprehensive and practical book for readers interested in chorus and conducting. By learning this book, readers can master the basic knowledge and skills of chorus and conducting, and improve their musical literacy and performance ability (Yin, 2020).

Teaching Classic Chorus Songs

Du Yaxiong "Teaching Classic Chorus Songs" is mainly a tutorial on choral art, aiming to help readers deeply understand and master the basic knowledge and skills of choral art.

In this book, the author first introduces the significance of choral art, including the benefits to people's artistic accomplishment, ideological sentiment, will quality and physical and mental health. Then, the author explained in detail the requirements of the chorus, including the goal of the chorus, the composition of the team members, the correct singing posture and breathing methods.

In addition, the book also introduces the specific steps and methods of chorus training, including posture training, breathing training and vocal training. The purpose of these training is to let the students understand the purpose of participating in the chorus, understand the function of the chorus, the significance of their healthy growth, and ask the students to cultivate their correct singing posture, use scientific vocal methods to sing, and initially master the skills of shooting and receiving shooting.

In addition, the book also selects some classic chorus songs for specific teaching, including the "Ode to Joy" and other works. The difficult training and skill teaching of these songs are also an important part of the book.

In short, the book "Classic Chorus Song Teaching" helps readers to master the basic knowledge and skills of chorus art, and improve their artistic accomplishment and singing level. This book is suitable for readers interested in choral art, and can also be used as a reference textbook for music teachers (Wang & Sui, 2017).

Training of Choral Conductor

Li Xiaodong "Training of Choral Conductor" is a professional textbook on the art of choral conductor, aiming to help readers systematically master the basic skills and methods of choral conductor and improve the ability and level of choral conductor.

The main content of the book includes the basic posture, basic beat method, singing and end command, extending, long, segmentation, attachment and rest and breathing command, command the basic principles and other auxiliary methods, multi-voice chorus works, chorus works research and art processing, chorus organization and training and chorus rehearsal and performance, etc. In each part of the content, the author is combined with specific examples for simple explanation, so that readers are easier to understand and master.

In addition, the book also has a large number of choral works with examples and pictures, which can help readers to better understand the artistic charm and practical operation of the choral conductor. At the same time, the book also pays special attention to practicality and operability, providing readers with a lot of practice and practical activities, to help readers to constantly improve their choral conducting ability in practice.

In short, "Training of Choral Conductor" is an excellent choral conducting textbook, which is a very valuable reference book for teachers, students and chorus lovers engaged in the teaching and research of choral conductor.

Chorus Training Outline

Chen Guoquan's "Chorus Training Outline", which mainly introduces the basic knowledge and methods of chorus training. Starting from the basic concept and background of chorus, this book elaborates on the purpose, significance and function of chorus training. Through the in-depth analysis of the chorus art, the readers have a more comprehensive understanding of the chorus, so as to lay a solid foundation for the subsequent training.

In terms of content, the book is divided into multiple chapters, each of which explores different aspects of choral training. First of all, the author introduces the basic elements of chorus, including sound, intonation, rhythm, harmony, etc., which are the essential basic skills in chorus training. On this basis, the author further explains how to conduct effective vocal training, timbre control, breathing adjustment and other skills (Wang 2017).

At the same time, the book also provides the corresponding training methods and skills for different chorus types and styles. For example, children's chorus, adult chorus, indoor chorus, choir conductor, etc., all have special chapters to elaborate. Through the study of these contents, readers can have a more comprehensive understanding of the characteristics and requirements of different types and styles of chorus, so as to carry out better targeted training.

In addition, the book also focuses on practicality and operability. In each chapter, the authors provide specific training programs and steps based on practical cases and experiences. These programs and steps can not only help readers to better master the choral skills, but also stimulate readers' interest and enthusiasm for learning.

In short, the Choral Training Program is a very practical book for all who are interested in choral art. Through the study of this book, readers can have a comprehensive understanding of the basic knowledge and methods of chorus, master the chorus skills, and improve their chorus level.

Gao Fengren is a famous choral conductor and musician in China. He has rich experience and in-depth research in choral conducting and rehearsal.

The main content of the book covers the basic knowledge and methods of choral conducting and rehearsal. First of all, Gao Fengren started from the basic concept and responsibilities of choral conductor, and elaborated the importance and role of choral conductor in the choir. He emphasized the musical literacy, skills and leadership that choral conductors need, and how to achieve the best chorus results through effective rehearsals.

In terms of the rehearsal, Gao Fengren introduced the goal, plan and organization of the rehearsal in detail. He emphasized pre-rehearsal preparations, including analysis of the repertoire, requirements for sound and skill. At the same time, he also introduced the skills and methods during the rehearsal process, such as how to guide the chorus members and how to deal with the sound and rhythm.

In addition, the book also provides an in-depth analysis and explanation for different types of choral music. For example, Gao Fengren has given a detailed interpretation and guidance to the classical, modern and folk chorus songs, and provided readers with specific rehearsal plans and skills (Mai, 2010).

In general, Choral Conducting and Rehearsal is a practical and instructional book suitable for all those who work in choral conducting and rehearsal. By reading this book, readers can have a deep understanding of the basic knowledge and methods of choral conducting and rehearsal, master practical skills and programs, and improve their command and rehearsal level.

The Chorus Guide

Frank Pooler "The Chorus Guide", who is a highly respected choral conductor and educator. In this book, he shares his years of experience in the field of choral teaching, providing practical guidance and advice to choral conductors and music teachers.

The book mainly covers all aspects of choral art, including the formation of the choir, sound training, rehearsal skills, performance management, and the maintenance and development of the choir. Frank Pooler Highlights the tacit understanding and cooperation between the choir members, and how to achieve the best performance results through effective rehearsal and sound training.

In addition, the book also introduces various types of choirs, such as children's choir, adult amateur choir, professional choir, as well as different styles of music works, such as classical music, pop music, folk music, etc. This helps readers to better understand the different types and styles of choir and improve their conducting and teaching skills.

"Chorus Guide" is not only suitable for professional chorus conductors and music teachers to read, but also suitable for amateur chorus lovers and music educators. By reading this book, readers can better understand the nature and rules of choral art, master effective rehearsal skills and teaching methods, and improve their conducting level and the performance quality of the choir (Dong, 2019).

In short, the choral Guide is a practical guide to choral teaching, which not only provides rich theoretical knowledge, but also helps readers to better master the skills of choral conducting and teaching through specific cases and practical advice. This book is an indispensable reference book for readers who want to improve their chorus teaching skills.

The Principles and Practice of Choral Education

Walter Thomas is the author of "The Principles and Practice of Choral Education" by the German choral conductor Walter Thomas. This book mainly introduces the principles and practice of chorus education, including the formation of the chorus, sound training, rehearsal skills, performance management, and the maintenance and development of the chorus.

In the book, Walter Thomas elaborated on the basic principles of choral art, such as the coordination of sound, the accuracy of rhythm, and the expression of music. At the same time, he also introduced how to achieve the best performance effect through effective rehearsal and sound training, and how to cultivate the tacit understanding and cooperative spirit of the choir members.

In addition, the book also introduces different types and styles of choir, such as children's choir, adult amateur choir, professional choir, as well as different styles of music works, such as classical music, pop music, folk music, etc. This helps readers to better understand the different types and styles of choir and improve their conducting and teaching skills.

In general, The Principles and Practice of Choral Education is a practical guide to choral teaching, which not only provides a wealth of theoretical knowledge, but also helps readers to better master the skills of choral conducting and teaching through specific cases and practical suggestions. This book is an indispensable reference book for readers who want to improve their chorus teaching skills (Liu, 2018).

Chorus Art

Wu Lingfen "Chorus Art" this book comprehensively introduces all aspects of chorus art, including the development history of chorus, the types and characteristics of chorus, the creation and rehearsal of chorus works, the art of chorus conductor, etc.

In the book, Professor Wu Lingfen elaborated on the historical origin of choral art and the characteristics of different periods, analyzed the creative techniques and rehearsal skills of choral works, and emphasized the importance of choral conducting and the requirements of conducting art. In addition, she also introduced different types and styles of choir, such as mixed chorus, female chorus, male chorus, as well as choral works of different periods and regions, such as choral works of the classical period, choral works of the romantic period, Chinese choral works, etc.

In general, Choral Art is a book with a comprehensive introduction to choral art. It can not only help readers understand all aspects of choral art, but also improve readers' musical literacy and choral conducting level. This book is an important reference value for readers engaged in choral teaching, conducting and performing (Huang & Bin, 2019).

Chorus Textbook for Senior Teachers in China

Chen Wanzhen and Chen Qiji is a common "Chorus Textbook for Senior Teachers in China"

The main contents include singing practice two foreign classic chorus "As long as I have music", appreciating and experiencing the popular Anti-Japanese War song "On Taihang Mountain" and the Albanian folk song "Flowers in bud".

Through practice rehearsal, master the basic skills of the two chorus, learn to cooperate with others in tacit understanding, and perform songs together. Through the appreciation experience, fully feel the artistic charm of the two chorus, and experience the emotion expressed by the song. In addition, 82 representative Chinese and foreign chorus works of different periods and different styles were also collected.

The book aims to let the students master the basic skills of chorus, cultivate their team spirit and improve their musical literacy through the practical rehearsal and appreciation experience of choral works. At the same time, through the appreciation and practice of chorus works, it can also cultivate students' aesthetic consciousness and artistic appreciation ability, and enrich students' spiritual and cultural life (Jin, 2016).

In addition, the book also introduces the formation principles and recruitment process of the chorus, rehearsal skills and methods, performance planning and organization, as well as management regulations. These contents are an indispensable part of the construction and management of the university choir, which is of great significance for improving the overall level and management efficiency of the choir.

In short, "College Chorus Music Teaching Material" is a teaching material with a comprehensive introduction of the construction and management methods of college choir, which is of great significance for improving students' musical literacy and cultivating team spirit. Through reading this book, readers can have a comprehensive understanding of the construction and management methods of the university choir, and master the formation principles, rehearsal skills, performance planning and management regulations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the teaching methods for choral music in colleges and universities play a pivotal role in cultivating both artistic and technical skills in students. The reviewed literature highlights a comprehensive approach to choral education, focusing on the integration of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and cooperative learning through rehearsals and performances. Key texts emphasize the importance of mastering vocal techniques, conducting skills, and understanding diverse choral styles, from classical to folk music. Moreover, choral education fosters teamwork, aesthetic appreciation, and enhances students' overall musical literacy. These resources provide valuable guidance for both educators and students, promoting well-rounded development in choral art.

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