

# Exploration on the Influence of Music Aesthetic Education on Students' Quality-Oriented Education in Colleges and Universities

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**Abstract:** As the means and ways to cultivate students with well-rounded development of "virtue, intelligence, physical conditions, mind status and community service", aesthetic education is of great significance and practical value to the quality education and aesthetic cultivation of contemporary students. At the same time, music, as the most important part of aesthetic education, has an irreplaceable role in the art edification and literary connotation cultivation. Therefore, to cultivate students' artistic quality and improve students' music literacy, aesthetic education has an irreplaceable role and significance. The paper will explore and study the two aspects of "music appreciation" and "vocal performance" through the analysis of music aesthetic education courses in colleges and universities.

**Keywords:** Colleges and universities, Music aesthetic education, Quality-oriented education.

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## 1. Introduction

Aesthetic education is a discipline founded on aesthetics. However, early aesthetics did not address the content of art education. The introduction of aesthetics into the field of art can be traced back to the German philosopher Kant. Between 1793 and 1794, Schiller wrote 27 letters to the Duke of Augustenburg in Denmark, which were later collected into the "Aesthetic Education Brief", where "aesthetic education" was first introduced. After that, a research boom on aesthetics and philosophy was set off all over the world, and it was under the influence of this boom that Cai Yuanpei's idea of aesthetic education gradually began to sprout.

In 1916, when Mr. Cai Yuanpei was the president of Peking University, he strongly advocated aesthetic education and art education. He personally taught aesthetics courses at Peking University and organized the "Painting Research Society" and the "Music Research Society" to promote aesthetic education in practice. It was due to his promotion and advocate that Peking University gradually developed a fine tradition of attaching importance to the study of aesthetics and to aesthetic education.[1]

In the present time of vigorously promoting the cultivation of college students with all-round ability in areas of "morals, intelligence, physical fitness, work and aesthetics", aesthetic education, as an important part of contemporary quality-oriented education, is being promoted efficiently and orderly in all colleges and universities. Research on aesthetic education is also in full swing. For example, Professor Guo Shengjian of Hunan Normal University published "To Realize Aesthetic Education for All, the Key Lies in Teacher Training" in the journal *Educator*, which focuses on the importance of teachers in the process of aesthetic education, and Chen Huihui published "Creating a Field of Aesthetic Education" in *Music Weekly* in 2023. [2]However, most of these articles have focused on functional and theoretical studies of aesthetic education, and few have conducted practical studies. This paper examines the problems and measures in the actual operation of the curriculum by taking the curriculum as a starting point, and realizes the

advancement of the practical process through theoretical guidance so as to better form a virtuous development process.

## 2. Three Main Functional Roles of the Musical Aesthetic Education

### 2.1. Enhancing the moral quality of students

Over the ages, music creators have endowed hundreds of millions of working people in China with excellent national music and art works, and have deeply influenced each of us musicians with their works. Excellent works of art are not only the enjoyment of beauty for students, but also the enhancement and cultivation of moral and cultural connotation. In the teaching of music art, practical education activities play an essential role and have an outstanding influence.[3]

Music aesthetic art series education practice activities, mainly refers to the public culture aesthetic appreciation and knowledge system education for students in the field of music, which is an important part of the current task of organizing and implementing the quality-oriented education program for students in various colleges and universities in China. It is mainly based on art appreciation activities and art practice activities, covering practical education and theoretical lectures related to the popularization of professional subject contents, basic education of art aesthetic thoughts, patriotism, traditional culture education, etc.

By transforming art into practice, students are transformed from appreciators of art into practitioners and creators of art, which fully mobilizes students' initiative and enthusiasm. While experiencing art works, students can further comprehend the deep artistic connotation and enrichment of the works, so as to enhance the moral quality.

### 2.2. Nourishing the inner world of students

Music is a highly "universal" subject, which means that anyone can listen to and appreciate music without systematic study, or even without learning. Because of its "empathetic" nature, music is often the preferred artistic activity of most people. Based on these characteristics and principles, music

is also the preferred artistic approach and means of aesthetic education.

In the teaching process, music teachers use different forms and types of music to lead students' thinking by using the self-contained beauty of music, connotative lyrics and wonderful melodies. While allowing students to experience the beauty of the music and the emotion of the work, the students' inner being is better nourished, thus better triggering and shaping their inner world.

The great magical charm of music culture is infinitely extendable, and its artistic appeal is also invisible. By combining excellent music works with the infectious power of art works, it plays an irreplaceable role in shaping the ideological traditions, aesthetics, values, ideals and outlooks of contemporary university students, and promotes a more comprehensive development in the quality of contemporary young students.

### **2.3. Enhancing the overall quality of students**

In the promotion of modern education, China's higher education institutions take the development of quality education project as a long-term stable and significant work. For the comprehensive implementation of the Party's education policy and the increase of students' socialist values shaping, colleges and universities should comprehensively strengthen the quality improvement of contemporary college students.

As a discipline that integrates literature, stage performance, and art practice, students learn and appreciate music not only by appreciating musical works, but also by learning the background, artistic connotation, historical value, and ideology and emotion of the works, which has a positive role and significance in shaping the quality of students' thinking and emotions, and in the overall improvement of their comprehensive quality. Aesthetic education in music has a strong innate advantage in cultivating "four-quality people", i.e., thoughtful, educated, disciplined and moral people, and this is what should be reflected in aesthetic education in music.

## **3. Positive Influence in Music Aesthetic Education and its Educational Communication Channels**

Although there are many practical ways of music aesthetic and educational communication, the dominant one comes from daily life. People are widely influenced by the popularization of mass new media technology and intelligent audiovisual devices such as social network, television, radio and WeChat official accounts, as well as the secular music aesthetics in the whole social atmosphere. [4]People tend to unconsciously take the initiative to receive some elegant and vulgar music works, and in this process they often encounter positive ones and inevitably negative ones. In the process of appreciation, we can only rely on the subjective aesthetic ability of each of us to choose and absorb, to achieve the self-shaping and internalizing effect of music aesthetic education, so as to gradually change the inherent self-aesthetic consciousness of each person in society and change the inherent aesthetic development direction of society. By relying on the correct education method, the higher education institutions can better promote the development of students' own quality education.

### **3.1. Aesthetic education in music appreciation**

Music art appreciation activities are a kind of cognitive and creative ability improvement and comprehensive exercise for the pursuit of art world and self-exaltation within the learners, and the cultivation of art perception and art consciousness. By cultivating students' acute artistic listening ability, aesthetic imagination and artistic judgment ability, we can solve the practical problems of students' ability to improve their comprehensive humanistic quality. Students will learn about classical music and appreciate the classical repertoire by listening to and appreciating the beauty of classical music's varied melodies and rhythms, the changes in time value, the richness of musical harmony, and the complex contrasts in images, so that they can experience the emotions and contrasts inherent in music. Through exploring the performance of sound intensity, the emotional objects expressed by timbre changes, and the methods of expressing the moral content of the lyrics, students will further understand the inner motives of the songs. In this way, it promotes the infinite extension of the connotation of contemporary students' thinking patterns and helps to improve the gradual formation of the general modern students' outlook on life, conceptual values and core value system.

### **3.2. Aesthetic education in music performance**

Music art practice education should not be limited to the traditional music classroom education, since boring music art theoretical knowledge teaching will only make the vivid music art become boring. In the process of music aesthetic education, the classroom teaching can be brought to life by combining vocal singing in the form that students enjoy. Teachers should pay attention to how to cultivate a comprehensive vocal course with national characteristics and suitable for students from non-art majors to learn and cultivate interest, and integrate vocal stage art practice, so as to achieve the teaching mode of teaching through lively activities.

The choral art has strong advantages, not only because the melody of the lyrics of the song will have a broader audience, but also because the content of the song is easy to understand by the general public, the melody can be adjusted according to the actual situation, so the song is more likely to inspire a high degree of emotional resonance in the students. Therefore, it is very suitable for the activities of student associations in colleges and universities, and it can popularize and improve students' music knowledge and personal aesthetic appreciation of art, and at the same time, it is more conducive to cultivating students' sense of class solidarity and collective cooperation and mutual aid.

The choice of different choral works often brings different artistic effects. Choral works produced in different era backgrounds and different national cultural backgrounds will bring to the students' mind world a different historical cognition and cultural level environment of spiritual beauty art education inculcation. By shaping their patriotic thoughts and sentiments, students' own beliefs and pursuits will be strengthened, and eventually achieve the perfect shaping of students' socialist core values.

For example, the popular songs such as "August Laurel Blossoms", "Defending the Yellow River" and "Stories of Spring" are with the characteristics of the times and historical significance. In the process of learning and singing these songs, students can not only develop and solve various

aspects of vocal music, deepen the function of aesthetic art education, but also get the role of ideological and cultural infiltration, and then truly realize the purpose of education and training of students' qualities and specialties.

#### **4. The Depth and Breadth of the Impact of Music Aesthetic Education on Students' Quality-oriented Education**

Aesthetic music education is common among elective courses in colleges and universities, and as aesthetic and artistic quality education, it has a significant role and significance in the quality education activities of college students at this stage. It is mainly reflected in the fact that music is a kind of after-school life that can meet the needs of diversified leisure life of students and is loved and pursued by young college students nowadays. [5]At the same time, music works are full of many artistic connotations, such as ideological guidance, human emotions, artistic life, etc., which are extensive and comprehensive for the cultivation of college students. Many of the world's most famous music works, both ancient and modern, have such an unforgettable melody and an unforgettable historical story. The composers' love for their homeland and their country, the special thoughts and emotions of different social eras, and the scenes of different historical eras are all there.

The creators even used their own unique cultural wisdom and personal experience to combine their poetic works to express their personal feelings. All of this proves the point that the art of music is often derived from real life, and can also enlighten the mind and heart accordingly. Whether we refer to it only as literary poetry and lyrics, or to its artistic philosophy, the expression of literary language and thought, the sharing of historical experience and emotion, etc., combined with a variety of musical art forms, the literary connotation and thought feeling expression processing, it is precisely the true meaning pursued by the modern art quality education.

#### **5. The Role of Music Aesthetic Education on Moral, Intelligent and Physical Education**

As an important part of moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic development, music aesthetic education activities not only enhance students' understanding of aesthetics and art, but also inculcate their understanding and appreciation of artistic values and spiritual expressions, as well as contribute to their moral education, intellectual development and ideological development.

The teaching of music is an educational art that is used to enlighten students' inner feelings and to influence and resonate with them through sound effects. Therefore, hearing different music can produce different moods, actions and thoughts. If students want to be inspired by national pride and cheerfulness, they must be trained to listen to the ancient music of my past and transmit the emotions in the beautiful music to them. If students want to inspire the quality of courage to go forward, they need to enjoy passionate music. For example, during the War of Resistance, a series of musical works with national characteristics and contemporary flavor, such as our famous chorus "Yellow River Cantata" and "March of the Volunteers", gave the revolutionaries and

countless Chinese sons and daughters at that time a strong spiritual strength to fight against the invaders. All these examples show that music is indispensable to the spiritual world of a person, and the value of music to the education of human minds cannot be underestimated, thus reflecting the enlightenment and development of music based on the "moral" part of students.

According to reliable research, music has a significant role in human intelligence and intellectual thinking, such as Einstein's knowledge of Bach, Mozart and Schubert. Many scientists have also shown that their outstanding scientific achievements are often inspired by the famous songs composed by various musicians. During the Spring and Autumn Period, Confucius, a famous educator in China, had the feeling of "not knowing the taste of meat for three months" because he listened to "Shao Music". The great literary scholar Victor Hugo once said, "Music is the key to the treasury of wisdom." Music, as an auditory art, is first received by the human ear, through which it acts directly on the human brain, thus producing a stimulation of the human spirit. Just like mothers-to-be during pregnancy, they often listen to Mozart's works for their babies in the womb, although there is no scientific data to support this, we can see that mothers-to-be hope to bring their babies intellectual enlightenment through music. For general reasoning education, music aesthetic education is often different from this. The main way of music education is to transfer thoughts and feelings to people's hearts through artistic images, which may be infiltration or inspiration, and to transform sensibility into rationality through the transfer of feelings, and to achieve the so-called educational effect in the process of constantly feeling music.

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Music, as an important tool that can inculcate students' thinking and temperament, assumes more value in education for reflection. At the same time, the famous American psychologist made experiments on the influence of musical activities on students' spiritual life and intellectual thinking as a means. The experiment proved that 67.21% of the experimental subjects showed that enjoying music and participating in musical activities not only relieves a person's anxiety, but also enhances the activity of his or her mind to a certain extent. In other words, people who regularly enjoy music and are exposed to elegant music and symphony sessions tend to have more wisdom and thinking.

#### **6. Ways to Develop Music Aesthetic Education**

In addition to carrying out humanities education work in the classroom, there are also very rich and extensive ways to carry out some art knowledge popularization outside the classroom. Teachers in colleges and universities can mainly offer online classes on appreciation of various elegant arts, appreciation of calligraphy, painting and poetry, introduction to art, art design and appreciation, music works and appreciation, performance and appreciation of film and opera, appreciation of dance art, etc. through modern network means,

and hold some lectures on knowledge of literature and art aesthetics. Students can also be led to watch large-scale film and drama programs and performances at home and abroad, attend various concerts in China and abroad, and visit exhibitions of outstanding art and calligraphy works at home and abroad.

By participating in various kinds of aesthetic education activities, students can further grow in art practice and establish a correct moral aesthetics of life. The school can also provide a series of campus art and club activities through college students' art and literature clubs, such as: students' calligraphy and painting association, art and culture activity salon, photography association, college students' singing and dancing group, school aerobics, etc.

## 7. The Practical Role of Music Aesthetic Education

Traditionally, music education as a spiritual aspect of enjoyment often has little direct value and effect on practical life. In reality, however, this is a concept of education that should be discarded by today's society. The practical use of music aesthetic education encompasses not only music education and art education itself, but also plays a vital role in the spiritual and ideological and cultural enrichment of students. Throughout the process of appreciating and learning music and aesthetic education, teachers are able to adeptly use new educational tools to drive the classroom atmosphere and create more interesting classroom activities. Such educational forms and organizational skills are a challenge and an opportunity not only for teachers' organization, but also for students' learning arrangements. It also disperses teachers' thinking to a certain extent and can help them to face their educational environment and classroom with a more energetic, optimistic and positive attitude. Such an educational approach and music aesthetic education can also bring a lively and joyful music classroom for students. In a subtle way, it cultivates students' ability to communicate and exchange, to appreciate and create, to further develop each student's sense of unity and art appreciation, and to gradually improve the artistic literacy and creative ability of the majority of students. Modern society is exactly the kind of society that requires comprehensive development, and music learning and art education is an important embodiment of comprehensive

development and the development of multifaceted cultivation of talent. Universal research has found that students who are able to perform positively in the art classroom tend to excel in other classrooms, and students who excel in chorus have stronger unity and organizational skills. This shows the importance of aesthetic education in not only improving one's mental state, but also in allowing students to achieve their own comprehensive development and become excellent human beings.

## 8. Conclusions

To sum up, youth learning is inseparable from music art education, but also from the inculcation of music art, each music aesthetic education can to a certain extent enhance the students' art value and art appreciation ability, develop their comprehensive ability and social communication ability, can make students to more comprehensive and balanced development, to achieve the overall development of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics and labor. At the same time, music and art education is not only to achieve unilateral talent cultivation. More importantly, it is the cultivation of students' overall quality and artistic values, the comprehensive cultivation of their hearts and spirits. Not only can it assist in the balanced development of their moral, intellectual and physical aspects, but it can also efficiently realize the value of education, which is an important link essential for the comprehensive development of excellent students in the new era.

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