

Practical Research on Panpipe Course in Chinese Universities and Colleges

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Abstract

The panpipe was almost a lost art in China until the founding of New China. In recent years, with the efforts of performers, panpipe art has started to develop again. It will greatly facilitate the public to learn panpipe if Chinese universities and colleges establish and improve the panpipe learning courses system. This paper analyzes the history and current situation of panpipe development and puts forward some suggestions to Chinese universities and colleges to set the panpipe courses.

Keywords: panpipe course, course construction, Chinese universities and colleges

1. The introduction of Panpipe and the necessity of organizing Panpipe course

The panpipe is an ancient wind instrument which is also widely distributed around the world. It has a wide range of sounds, an ethereal, elegant, and charming tone. It has the crisp sound of wind instruments and the soft beauty of string instruments. It has an expressive power and can perform various styles of repertoire in China and abroad.

The panpipe is widely spread in Europe and the United States. It is one of the traditional instruments that Peruvians are proud of. Panpipe music has become the national music of Romania and has a wide population base. Many countries attach great importance to the promotion of panpipe education, setting up special panpipe colleges and majors, and cultivating a large number of panpipe players and masters with high artistic attainments (Sun Bo, 2013).

China is the first country in the world to have written records and physical objects of the panpipe. It was very popular in the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties in ancient times and it was an important part of the Ya-music and often played in ritual and music performance (Lin Jing, 2012). However, for a variety of reasons, the panpipe was almost a lost art in China until the founding of New China, and it was slowly rediscovered and accepted by people.

Setting up panpipe courses in colleges and universities to create a diversified educational environment for students can help them master the playing skills of panpipe, improve their artistic literacy, and increase their sense of identity and pride in national culture. Since 2020, the author has set up the elective course of panpipe in music major and found some problems in the courses.

2. The problems existing in Panpipe courses in local colleges and universities

2.1 The Panpipe Art Is in the Initial Stage of Development

The development of a musical instrument art is a long process, which requires various conditions, such as musical instrument making, musical composition, music genre differentiation, inheritance of teachers and apprentices, discipline construction and so on. After the Tang Dynasty, panpipe gradually faded out of people's

view, and after the Qing Dynasty, the development of the panpipe in China was at a standstill. In the 1980s and 1990s, famous Chinese panpipe artists such as To Chung and Lam Man-Tsang published a series of panpipe albums, in which they performed classical music in panpipe, which reawakened the Chinese people's understanding and love of panpipe (Gao Chunhua, 2021). Panpipe once faced a lost predicament in our country. In recent years, with the efforts of performers such as Lin Wenzeng, Gao Chunhua and To Cong, panpipe art has started to develop again. The Department of National Music of the Xi 'an Conservatory of Music set up panpipe major under the efforts of Gao Chunhua, and some students of Chinese bamboo flute major in Shanghai Conservatory of Music also learned panpipe from Mr. Lin Wenzeng.

2.2 Difficulties for Local Music Colleges to Set up Panpipe Major

First, the panpipe is difficult to get started with among wind instruments. Playing panpipe requires a lot of breath and strength. It is easier for students with Chinese bamboo flute playing skills learning based to get started. Second, compared to Chinese bamboo flute, Hulusi, ocarina, Bawu and other ethnic wind instruments, the price of panpipe is relatively high. Some panpipe lovers and students in most local music colleges cannot afford such an expensive instrument. Third, there are few channels to buy panpipe. Panpipe is in the initial stage of development, there are few masters of panpipe manufacture, and there are not many quality panpipe available for selection and purchase on the network. Fourth, there is a lack of standard panpipe teaching materials. At present there are hardly any the authoritative panpipe teaching materials on the market, also not of the teaching materials for beginners. Chinese panpipe lovers play panpipe mainly through little historical materials and their own exploration, and more players use Chinese bamboo flute related skills to play panpipe.

3. Discussion of the Inheritance Mode of Panpipe Art in Colleges and Universities

3.1 To Establish the Panpipe Learning Course System and Improve Its Online Learning Resources

Unlike piano, violin, Chinese bamboo flute, Zheng and other musical instruments, there is an obvious break off in the inheritance of panpipe in China, and there are only some basic and fragmented teaching materials on the market. There are hardly any panpipe online learning courses on MOOC or other network platforms which impeding the public to learn panpipe. Therefore, it will greatly facilitate the public to learn panpipe if we establish and improve the panpipe learning courses system from the entry level, elementary level, intermediate level to advanced level, write the corresponding etudes, shoot and make the corresponding teaching and demonstration audio and video.

3.2 To Train Panpipe Teachers in Playing Techniques and Teaching Methods

Currently, only one university in China has set up panpipe major in 2019, and there are no graduates for now. There is an extreme shortage of professional teachers, and it is difficult to popularize panpipe art. Therefore, this paper suggests that more professional teachers should be trained, panpipe major should be set up in academies of music, and compulsory and optional courses should be established.

In addition, we found that students are interested in a variety of curriculum activities. Therefore, the use of Orff teaching method, Kodaly teaching method and Dalcroze teaching method in teaching can make music language intuitive: students can learn the relationship between intervals from the arrangement of pipes, experience the influence of different playing speeds on pitch changes, and stimulate students' interest in panpipe learning.

Music schools and teachers can organize national chamber orchestra or panpipe ensemble, guide students to combine solo and concerto in the process of learning and practice, train students to cooperate in collective rehearsal, and feel the integration of intonation and timbre as well as the horizontal and vertical changes of harmonic texture. This way can provide students with the opportunity to play on the stage, broaden their musical horizons and fully experience the beauty of panpipe music.

3.3 The Arrangement and Publicity of Panpipe Repertoires

There is a long history of panpipe performance in China, but there are not many panpipe solos. The modern original works are few and the performance form is single, so it is difficult to attract the attention of young people. Therefore, we should compose panpipe solos that conform to the time spirit and combine with the Romanian music, traditional Chinese music, western classical music, pop music, Latin American music, jazz music to rearrange the Chinese and foreign songs according to panpipe's properties. The use of network platform and concert will popularize panpipe music and make it international.

3.4 To Improve the Production Technology and Reduce the Price and the Degree of Learning Difficulties of Panpipe

The panpipe production process is complicated and the output is small, so it has higher price than other instruments. Therefore, a standardized panpipe production process can increase the output and reduce the purchase cost. In addition, the traditional panpipe players are strict on the mouth shape and blowing way in playing, it is not easy for beginners. The difficulties of panpipe playing can be reduced if the nozzle can be

improved while keeping the traditional panpipe tone unchanged. At present, there are many improved nozzle patents in China, but no corresponding products have entered the market. We hope that relevant products can enter the market in the future soon.

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