

# Brief Introduction to the Role of Music Education in University Student's Artistic Cultivation

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Abstract: Many universities are paying more attention to students' artistic cultivation, which is essential for their personality formation. Music education is a vital part of artistic cultivation in university. It will help university students to improve their culture awareness, mind, outlook on life and physical, mental development. Therefore, promotion of university music education is of great significance for students' artistic cultivation. This research introduces the influence of university music education on students' artistic cultivation in various aspects, letting more people know the importance of university music education.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, with the constantly decreasing threshold to enter a university, university students are very different in ideological quality. Thus, university students become the focal point of people among many social problems. Besides, as the main body to spread foreign ideas, university students are easy to be influenced by radical thoughts and act irrationally. Faced with these problems, universities should consider seriously on how to help students receive new thoughts and resist vulgar thoughts simultaneously (Yang Yongguo, 2011). In addition, universities can also guide them to learn new thoughts to improve their personal charm. These problems should be solved in priority in university education. Music education, an essential part of quality education, helps students improve their ideology and values. It is of great importance to the artistic cultivation of university students.

## 2 ANALYSIS OF MUSIC'S UNIQUE CHARM

In the era of further promoting reform and opening up, the integration of different culture gives birth to more diversified values. These new values have a strong impact on people's traditional moral concept and daily lifestyle. Changes in mind are the basic of action. At the sensitive stage of reform and opening up, government is more responsible for helping

people build correct values, which can stabilize social order and create harmonious society. Thus, the development goals can be achieved. University days are an essential period for students to build their values and outlook on life (Li Xiaoyu, 2012). The improvement of comprehensive quality and artistic quality is the main task to transform social concepts. The understanding of university music begins with the analysis on music's unique charm.

Firstly, students need to know the definition of music. Music is a way for people to express their inner feelings and also the carrier of their emotions. There are many forms of music expressions, including singing, playing, listening, etc. Nonetheless, music has inextricable connections with people's emotions despite its style, expression or tone. People express their feelings through music and recognize the power of culture and morality, which is the charm of music.

Secondly, music is often referred as art, with underestimated status in the five-thousand-year Chinese culture. Music has certain national character, regularity and sociality. National music enlightens people's national emotions and creativity in the continuous inheritance. Moreover, it also imperceptibly improves national civilization and cultural connotation. Therefore, developing countries should learn from the developed ones, transforming from simple cultivation of artistic professionals to the development of artistic achievement in the entire nation (Zhang Tuanyan, 2012). Such music education is more practical and meaningful.

Thirdly, the essence of music is to make people happy. Therefore, people are willing to gain happiness through expressing their feelings by music. As a kind of art, music brings people artistic enjoyment and awakens people's values and morality to enjoy the best experience in the future.

### **3 ROLES OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN STUDENTS' ARTISTIC CULTIVATION**

#### **3.1 Influence of music education on university students' value and outlook on life**

Music education is an important method to improve university students' comprehensive quality and artistic cultivation. University period is essential for students to build their value and outlook on life, and also easy to be influenced by the vulgar thoughts from outside world. Enough attention should be paid to this period. An outstanding music work always has rich and philosophic contents such as eulogizing good morality and history, encouraging people to be positive and enthusiastic. The messages in music works will help university students to build their own values. Through appreciating these music works, students can build correct ideology, outlook on life, patriotism and mature view on the ugly scene of the society. Thus, they can live through their university and future life smoothly without going to extremes in mentality or behavior.

#### **3.2 Improvement of university students' aesthetic quality**

Aesthetic quality is an essential part in university students' artistic cultivation. Students should first be able to appreciate beauty. Only after this can they discover beauty and then improve their artistic cultivation. It helps to establish their value and outlook on life. Therefore, cultivation of music education will have great influence on students' aesthetic quality to some extent. Through education on traditional songs, musical instruments, performances and music, students could understand the emotional experiences contained in music. What's more, it also enables students to recognize themselves and the beauty of music, so they can enjoy their lives and find the beauty of life. Music education, in fact, is a consciously aesthetic education. Under the great academic and

employment pressure, university students are easily tired. However, music can handle these problems directly. They can know the truth of life, as well as the definite meaning of the good, the beauty and the truth from music. This would help them to distinguish good things from bad ones rather than being influenced by emotional feelings, thus solving problems rationally and effectively. Moreover, they won't lose themselves in vulgar lifestyles with the help of music.

#### **3.3 Cultivation of university students' innovative thoughts**

Music, one of the three keys to enlighten people, is vital to develop university students' artistic cultivation and innovative thoughts. It is an important aspect to help university students to better recognize and distinguish music, and find the difference and connections between music works. Such education could imperceptibly improve students' sensitivity, logical capacity and imagination, thus broadening their artistic horizons. People's creativity and logical thinking develops simultaneously. It has been proved that the improvement of creativity originates from artistic cultivation. The improvement of artistic cultivation can be evaluated by improvement of aesthetic level and logical thinking. Under such circumstance, people's creativity can be motivated to the greatest extent. People have faced countless clashes between science and art, as well as perfect combination of logical thinking and artistic thinking in history. Thus, people should realize the importance of university students' artistic cultivation to the development of themselves and the entire society.

#### **3.4 Improvement of university students' interpersonal skills and self-confidence**

University is an essential period in life. Students are easy to lose themselves at the beginning of the four years, especially when facing all sorts of schoolmates. Many students would lose confidence through comparison due to the lack of communication, thus affecting their interpersonal communication. Interpersonal skill can be influenced imperceptibly with the improvement of artistic cultivation. The improvement would help students to find themselves and have a clearing understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, so as to improve their interpersonal skills. Music education plays an important role in improving

students' self-confidence. Excellent music education can improve their appreciation and aesthetic ability of music, and show themselves in different activities. They can fully recognize their values and improve their self-confidence and team-work spirit. This would lay a solid foundation for them to enter the society, achieving a health life in the future for their dreams.

### **3.5 Benefits for physical and mental development of university students**

With the development of economy and the increasingly fierce competition, university students are faced with more pressure in finding jobs. Confusion to the unknown future is a major barrier in mental development of university students and a major cause of their psychological problems. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the psychological health education for university students. Music education is an effective psychological education method. With unique charm, diversified expressions and emotional experiences, music can deeply and directly touch people's heart. These characters are attracting a large amount of university students to focus on music and know about music. Music with different contents provides people with different visual and listening enjoyment. In music education, they should be guided to pay more attention to inspiring music works. They should also learn to appreciate and understand music, so as to have a clear understanding of themselves. Thus, they would resonate with the music and alleviate their life and study pressure, which facilitates their mental development. It is not only universities' responsibility to help students develop healthily both mentally and physically. The entire society should also show their care, respect and understanding to university students. Thus, students would have more space to give full play to their talents.

## **4 IMPORTANT WAYS TO STRENGTHEN MUSIC EDUCATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

### **4.1 Emphasis on traditional music education**

During the music education, university students should be encouraged to know more about

international reputed music works or those characterized by Chinese culture and antique charm, rather than pop music. With the development of society, music works with Chinese characteristics have gradually vanished in people's lives. However, such music is necessary in artistic cultivation of university students. It also provides opportunities for the inheritance of Chinese classical music. Chinese classical music is constantly renewed in its long history. As a representative of the change and development of Chinese culture over centuries, it is an important material for constituting the development of China. Mastery of classical music is helpful for students' artistic cultivation, patriotism and further development. Besides, students should also know some international famous musical compositions, including works of Beethoven and Bach. Therefore, they can increase their knowledge and cultural connotations, which are essential parts of artistic cultivation. Hence, we should combine Chinese classical music with foreign music in music education. In this way, we can protect our traditional music culture and gain more profound comprehension in music. What's more, it can help the university students know and develop themselves.

### **4.2 Music thought discrimination on students**

With the implement of reform and opening-up policy, Chinese economy has boomed and the people become more open-minded. The openness is directly reflected in music. It leads to that good and bad musical works are intermingled, and quite a few musical works deliver negative and anti-nationalism thoughts. Confronting with such complex circumstances, university students should have more obligations to distinguish the different thoughts in music, and consciously resist negative music. With respect to music education, more time and efforts should be made to help students identify and appreciate good music in true sense. We should try our best to free them from negative emotions and keep them fit both physically and psychologically, so as to increase their ability to stand pressure. Thus, they can quickly adapt to the society and advance their artistic cultivation through music.

### **4.3 Positive role of various music associations in university**

Life in university is colorful. Different kinds of association activities play a major role in university

students' lives, which are important ways for students to recognize and enter the society. In music education, universities should adopt other beneficial assistance besides normal course teaching. Music associations generally include chorus, dance clubs, music and drama clubs. In these associations, students can know more people and practice their communication skills, organization capability and their ability to distinguish between the right and wrong, promoting ideological maturity. All these are essential for them to improve their self-cultivation.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

Emphasis on music education is a staged success of university education reform. More attention to the artistic cultivation is an important measure to improve student's physical and mental development. University music education has an important influence on students' artistic cultivation. It would help improve their aesthetic quality, self-confidence, interpersonal skills, logical thinking, sensitivity and creativity. All these can make university students adapt to the fierce social competitions more quickly and promote their physical and mental development. With a complicated campus and social environment, all sorts of possible ways should be adopted in music education, such as the student associations. The associations are more likely to give full play to students' talent and increase their ability to distinguish good things from bad, thus promoting their mental maturity and artistic cultivation. To conclude, music education in university plays an important role in students' artistic cultivation and benefits their future developments. Therefore, not only music education is an essential part in university education reform, but also it benefits the socialist spiritual civilization.

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