

On the Application and Significance of Improvisation in Music Teaching Activities

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Abstract: In music teaching activities, improvisation can stimulate students' association and imagination, and develop students' creative thinking, which helps to improve students' innovative thinking and exploring spirit. This paper combines the author's own teaching practice and analyzes its application in music teaching activities.

1. Music Improvisation

"Improvisation" refers to a way for creators or performers to temporarily initiate interest and creativity to form artistic works without sufficient preparation, like improvisational lectures, paintings, dances, sketches, poems, couplets, etc. In music activities, improvisational creation (composition, lyrics) and improvisational performance (playing, singing) are quite common. This is not only a way to distinguish from the conventional creation, performance, but also a special creation and performance ability.

Improvisational creation is a perception activity which can coordinate the work of many sense organs. It can give full play to the imagination, expression and creativity of students, help to cultivate students' creative thinking, develop their intellectual potential, and make them become creative and pioneering talents.

Music improvisation is one of the learning contents of music creation and an important educational practice throughout music learning activities. It includes two meanings: one is the teaching of composition; the other is the teaching of all kinds of developing and creative activities. "In the newly promulgated "Music Curriculum Standards" in China, improvisation has also been used as an important process and means for students to accumulate music creation experience and explore the potential of creative thinking, and improvisation has gradually become important in teaching practice."^[1] The purpose is to cultivate the students' innovative spirit and creative ability, and to enhance their ability to feel and understand music.

2. The Application of Improvisation in Music Teaching Activities

Improvisation Teaching of Rhythm

Since the ability of improvisation is based on the sense of body rhythm and sound hearing, the study of improvisation should begin with body rhythm, which is the continuation, development and supplement of rhythmic movement and auditory training. In music teaching activities, teachers should organize students to improvise the rhythm. This can not only mobilize students' learning passion, but also stimulate their creative ability, expand their thinking ability, so that they can really get the actual experience to perform music. According to Orff, "the beginning and foundation of all music is rhythm."^[2] Thus, teachers should focus on the training of rhythm when guiding students' improvisation.

Improvisation Teaching of Melody

Melody is the soul of music. The improvisation of melody in music class can not only cultivate students' perception of music, but also improve their expression of music language, as well as their

creative thinking and creativity. When teaching students to create melody at first, teachers can use pentatonic scale, because it has no semitones, and students do not have to worry about unpleasant sound effects, which is a very effective method to train improvisation. In the creation of melody or melody short sentences, the following methods can be used, such as short melody solitaire, choosing a half or complete stop for the phrase, creating melody up and down sentences, creating a four-sentence short songs, etc. After students have basically mastered the melody development method, they will practice the melody with complex relationships and different styles.

Improvisation Teaching of Songs

"The improvisation of songs is a higher level in creative teaching. Students need to have considerable creative knowledge and notation knowledge, which is quite difficult."^[3] The lyrics of songs can come from the lyric works of writers, the ancient words and poems in language literature, and even the lyrics created by students. Before composing songs, teachers can introduce the basic composition techniques in a targeted manner according to the characteristics of lyrics, clear the vocal ranges, and propose modes, tones, and suggestions; Then, teachers and students together analyze the language, clause, structure, content, genre and other characteristics of the lyrics. There is a need for emotional recitation, to deliberate the emotional changes, rhythms and cadences of lyrics, to grasp them from senses and to use them as the basis for creation. After the songs are composed, students can be guided to prepare the prelude and interlude of songs. Teachers should inspire and mobilize students to comprehensively use the knowledge they have mastered to obtain new experience and explorations.

3. The Significance of Improvisation in Music Teaching

Improvisation can stimulate students' interest in learning music

The main purpose of "improvisation" is to emphasize music itself, which is a means to enhance students' understanding of music. It enables teachers to guide students from all aspects of music, not blindly develop their music skills, but enable students to better understand music^[4]. Improvisation is one of the learning content of music creation, which deeply explores the potential of students to improvise music. Exploring a variety of simple improvisation activities in class can stimulate students' interest in improvisation. Thus, teachers should encourage students to participate in these creative activities. This can not only establish a good classroom environment, but also better promote students to learn music in a positive and pleasant atmosphere.

Improvisation provides the necessary space for the development of students' personality

One of the characteristics of modern music education is the emphasis on developing students' personality. In music teaching activities, some students have lost their interest in learning music because of lasting traditional teaching habits. However, improvisation can just make up for the shortcomings of traditional music education and provide students with an opportunity and space to relax their emotions and behaviors. The process and result of improvisation will vary with students' personalities, temperaments, hobbies, musical experience, levels, abilities, moods and feelings. Through improvisation, students can fully realize their artistic conception and show their personalities and abilities. Thus, improvisation can enhance students' subjective consciousness, establish good confidence, and promote their full development of personalities.

Improvisation can cultivate students' creativity and imagination

It is human nature to explore, create, and improvise. "Orff holds that improvisation is a kind of fantasy game. The first thing that should be awakened and trained is imagination. Without imagination, there can be no improvisation."^[5] Improvisation plays an important role in the development of students' attention, resilience, intuition, analysis, understanding, and consciousness and subconsciousness. In music teaching activities, students can also express their musical thoughts through improvisation, express their emotions in music, build confidence in performance, develop their creative thinking, stimulate their creative potential, and cultivate creativity and imagination.

Orff believes that in music education, music is only a means, while educating people and cultivating talents is its purpose. Therefore, his music education practice is rich in content, diverse in form and flexible. As a result, his musical educational practice is rich in content, diverse in form and flexible, for example, training the sense of rhythm of music by means of mother tongue. In his opinion, rhythm is of great value to the cultivation of human quality, which can facilitate the balanced development of students' body and mind, and cultivate their keen reaction capacity and creativity. He also said that nothing new can come into being until fantasy exists. For anyone at any time, his view of free teaching based on human nature, and this kind of improvisation is beneficial and can bring back one's own balance. Therefore, "improvisation" has become the core and most attractive component of Orff's education system. Therefore, in the embodiment of the curriculum value of the new curriculum standard, the creative development value of music teaching is also emphasized.

Improvisational creation should be linked to the student's subjective experience. Subject experience refers to students' life experience, learning experience, art experience and social experience. Innovation is human nature; it is based on a person's subject experience. Therefore, we design certain scenes based on music expression content and expression characteristics in music improvisational creation, so as to encourage students to connect their social life experience, learning experience, art experience with music expression content through various ways. The use of improvisational activities can stimulate association and imagination, enrich students' emotional experience and strengthen their artistic experience.

Improvisation can fully improve students' music quality

The improvisation course is an important educational activity with the function of developing human intelligence, creativity and imagination. "All students have an inherent ability to create and perceive music. No matter what level of music learning, students can accept this courses."^[6] In improvisation, no matter what the content and actions of students' creation are, teachers give encouragement and praise to their creation. This will further explore students' creative enthusiasm when learning music, give play to their skills, and cultivate and improve their creative quality and ability.

Conclusion

The teaching of music improvisation cultivates students' innovative spirit and courage. In the practice of creation, the habit of multi-directional variable thinking can be gradually formed, which lays a foundation for the development of creative ability in the future. This not only helps to stimulate students' association and imagination, cultivate their creative ability, but also deepens their understanding and application of acquired knowledge and skills, and stimulates their desire for further learning. Through the training of music improvisation in teaching, it is necessary to emphasize the mutual penetration with other disciplines, combine with the actual situation, actively create music teaching activities, and improve the teaching level and efficiency.

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