

## Heritage and Promotion of Chinese Traditional Culture in College Piano Education

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**Abstract:** The modern piano education has been traditionally considered belonging to the system of western music education, which pays less attention to Chinese traditional culture. Nowadays, the materials and methods used in college piano education are primarily from the West, largely ignoring national traditional culture in piano pedagogy. However, it is known that the piano music is an important aspect of the music culture that has a strong bond with traditional culture and art. This paper introduces the significance of inheritance and promotion of national traditional culture in the modern piano education of Chinese colleges and universities, and proposes to integrate and develop traditional culture strategy in piano teaching and education.

### 1. Introduction

China is an extremely large country; the customs and traditions of its people vary by geography and ethnicity. About 1.4 billion people live in China, according to the World Bank, representing 56 ethnic minority groups. The diverse ethnics implicate various cultures including religion, food, style, language, marriage, music, morals and many other things that make up how a group acts and interacts with others [1]. Chinese art is greatly influenced by the country's rich spiritual and mystical history. Many folk music, sculptures and paintings depict spiritual figures of national cultures and religions. Eastern-style martial arts were also developed in China, and it is the birthplace of Kung Fu. These traditional art forms offer a fascinating peek into Chinese culture from hundreds, if not thousands of years ago, and are still practiced even in today's hyper-modern China. They are uniquely Chinese, and vastly different from the art styles of the West.

China has a long and influential musical tradition based on the philosophy and culture of ancient China, which espoused the correct use and form of music according to their sociological and cosmological conceptions. It helps to understand their ideals of music and their purpose. Over the centuries, musicians developed various styles of music and invented or adopted many types of instruments. The traditional classical music of the elites, the folk and ethnic music, and the favorite traditional Chinese instruments are keynotes for appreciating Chinese traditional music in general and enjoying it more. The Chinese music, refined from folk phonology and sound of piano, would create a fantastic rhythm to be welcomed by the Chinese people and to enter into the piano classes of colleges and universities [2]. With the rapid development of society, the artistic atmosphere is getting better and better in China. The continuous exploration by Chinese musicians substantially widens the border of piano music culture and effectively promotes the development of piano art in the world; they also introduce new elements and vitality to the piano performance [3]. Chinese piano educators should inherit and carry forward Chinese piano music as their own task, adhering to the spirit of teaching and learning.

### 2. Current Status of Piano Education in Chinese Colleges and Universities

Piano teaching is a compulsory course for pre-school education in higher normal colleges and universities. On one hand, the basic teaching of piano can provide basic guarantee for the smooth development of other courses; on the other hand, it can accumulate more teaching experience for students in higher normal colleges and universities. In the context of the current curriculum reform,

traditional education has been unable to meet the teaching standards of cultivating the innovative ability of students, emotional awareness and humanistic spirit [4]. The piano pieces of western composers have monopolized the performance and education of piano music. As a consequence, most people can teach or play well in foreign pieces, but do not know or even despise Chinese piano music [5]. In addition, there are no modern Chinese piano despise with distinctive characteristics as necessary teaching supplements, which makes many students even reluctant to play Chinese pieces. Although the creation of Chinese piano pieces has made a great progress in recent years, the academia has seldom carried out a systematic discussion about how to choose Chinese pieces in the piano teaching, which is not consistent with the current situation of the development of Chinese piano music [6]. Although piano education in China develops vigorously, we should also see that opportunities and risks coexist. The development of piano education in mainland China has appeared in different degrees of problems, among which artistry of piano is more prominent. The rigor of piano art begins to go down the road, which lacks appreciation. At the same time, piano education has gradually become a means of making a living, among which the educational utilitarian purpose is increasingly prominent. Besides, piano teaching method is single and teacher's level of piano is uneven [7]. Nowadays, with the continuous expansion of piano teaching scale, more and more students begin to learn the piano, which demands more and more piano teachers. At the same time, as many piano training institutions become larger and larger, their level is constantly improved.

### **3. Significance of Chinese Traditional Culture in College Piano Education**

With the reform of China educational system going deeper, quality-oriented education has been fully implemented and enforced. Simultaneously, education principles and personnel training objectives in colleges and universities have changed a lot. Piano education is an important aspect of the education system in colleges and universities. Under the new situation, ideological and moral education focuses on the improvement of the internal quality of students. It has inevitability with the development of the times as they fuse organically, and that can greatly improve the quality of teaching, makes the students' physical and mental health development toward a more positive direction [8]. For college piano teachers and students, they should accept and pay attention to traditional music culture, and fuse Chinese national music into western teaching materials and spiccato techniques. In addition, teaching of traditional music culture in colleges and universities is the key to carrying forward the excellent culture of our country to students who learn and play western musical instruments. As the important place of music education, colleges and universities have good student resource and unique educational environment, and should strengthen the cultivation of students with learning, inheritance and development of Chinese traditional music culture [9].

In addition, traditional music culture has a potential influence on the style of piano creation. Among the excellent piano music in China, the pieces composed by western countries occupy an important position in the history of piano art development. Many good western piano pieces are regarded as the core of modern piano education in China, and are studied and re-created as examples. In different historical periods, cultural change has also taken place in western, especially in the renaissance and ideological reformation, which has a significant impact on the creative thinking and values of piano composers and performers. On the other hand, culture has a restrictive effect on the content of piano education. Under the profound influence of regional traditional cultures people will form a specific cognitive model, which will have a fixed impact on the thinking habits, values, aesthetic attitude of piano educators, and then affect the notion and content of modern piano education [10].

### **4. Promotion of Chinese Traditional Culture in College Piano Education**

The rich accumulation of Chinese traditional culture is undoubtedly very helpful in promoting modern art, music and piano education in normal higher colleges and universities. For example, due to the late appearance of characters in certain ethnic groups, the historical developments, major

events, customs, emotional expressions, and value orientations of the ethnic group are often recorded in music and passed down through generations to educate the public. When students understand the traditional culture, they will have a deeper understanding of the message that music and piano intend to convey. In addition, in recent years, more and more students have come into contact with foreign music culture, broadening their horizons and improving their appreciation. On this basis, through the study of Chinese traditional culture, piano students can compare the foreign culture and Chinese traditional culture. After the deep thinking, they will more profoundly understand the bond of piano playing with the Chinese national culture [11]. At present, many problems still exist in the curriculum of piano education in China, and more outstanding is that there is no enough emphasis on national music culture. National culture value in piano teaching is ignored. In order to better implement piano education, it is necessary to adjust the curriculum of piano teaching, make the curriculum more scientific and reasonable, attach great importance to piano education, and let the students know more about traditional culture. The inheritance and development of national culture in piano education is not conformism. We must correctly understand this point in piano education. In piano teaching, it is needed of inheriting our excellent national culture. In addition, Teacher quality will directly affect the teaching effect. In piano education, in order to better inherit and develop traditional culture, there must be a team of high-quality teachers. Piano teachers should have high quality national traditional culture. In school, the school should pay piano attention to music teachers training, and improve their traditional culture accomplishment [12].

The development of Chinese piano music culture including professional piano education is based on the traditional culture of neutralization, and in the researches about the professional piano education in the 21st century, the promotion of the piano teaching in normal colleges is the most active one, and it is mainly centralized in the piano teaching reform, the teaching mode, the vamping, the teaching materials and teaching methods [13]. To future piano teaching research of normal colleges, the piano teaching materials and methods, and the teaching of Chinese piano works should be strengthened, and the multi-culture music opinion should be established, and the contents and range of relative researches should be developed, and the view of multi-music culture should be adopted to obtain new valuable orientation on deeper layer of the piano teaching research of China by the cross research of multiple subjects such as the modern education, psychology, sociology and cultures.

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