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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Cultivation of Sight-reading

Ability in Piano Education in

Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: In the specific piano education in colleges and universities, the sight-reading ability can be said to directly determine the piano playing skills and abilities of college students, and it also highlights the piano education received by students and the actual teaching effect of teachers. According to the important position of piano education in higher education at present, cultivating college students' sight-reading ability in specific teaching has become the main focus of teaching in the current educational field and college teaching system. However, according to the analysis of the actual teaching situation, we know that there are various problems and deficiencies in cultivating students' sight-reading ability in piano teaching in colleges and universities, and at the same time, they are affected by various unfavorable factors, so that students' ability has not been significantly improved after receiving specific education. In this regard, this paper mainly analyzes and studies the cultivation of sight-reading ability in piano education in colleges and universities, and puts forward specific teaching measures.

Keywords: Universities; Piano education; Sight-reading ability; Training measures

1. Introduction

As an important part of piano education, cultivating students' good sight-reading ability is the most important skill and the most basic ability in piano education. However, the training of sight-reading ability is essentially different from other abilities. Its overall training mechanism is relatively systematic, and it needs the cooperation of students' overall ability to be fully realized. Therefore, teachers are required not only to have a higher education level and ability, but also to have innovative ideas and the ideological consciousness of keeping pace with the times, actively learn from advanced teaching experience, and discover the shortcomings of traditional education methods, so as to fully implement the training of sight-reading ability.

2. The concept of sight-reading ability in piano education in colleges and universities

The so-called sight-reading ability refers to the ability that the player can accurately and smoothly play a piece of music according to the score information, without repeated and deliberate practice, only by short preparation.

Mozart, a world-famous musicologist, once said the ability and skill of sight-reading is actually to perform a piece of music according to the normal frequency, and at the same time, it can fully express the true feelings of the piece, so that the audience has a real feeling, and it is as if the composer himself is playing it. Therefore, teachers should pay more attention to the cultivation of sight-reading ability, and constantly guide students to master the skills of developing sight-reading ability, so as to help them develop good sight-reading ability.

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3. The importance of cultivating students' sight-reading ability in piano education in colleges and universities

As an important part of piano education, sight-reading ability can be said to play a decisive role in students' whole learning. The most prominent advantage is that sight-reading ability can fully expand students' horizons, because students need to contact a large number of outstanding works with different styles and characteristics in different periods when they receive sight-reading ability training. When students study works, they will improve their piano ability and music perception ability imperceptibly. That is, after students have good sight-reading ability, they can greatly improve their learning efficiency, greatly reduce the time spent learning piano, and improve the efficiency of reading music and keys, so that they can spend more time practicing basic skills and improve their musical literacy. Secondly, it can improve students' innovative ability. When students are trained in sight-reading, they will constantly come into contact with excellent works and individual music. At the same time, they will analyze different musical features and musical forms under the guidance of teachers. These favorable factors will exercise students' innovative thinking, improve their innovative level, and allow them to integrate their musical connotation into improvisation, thus improving their musical ability (Yin, 2020). According to the positive role of sight-reading ability, it can be known that when students have sight-reading ability, they not only improve their comprehensive musical literacy and professional skills, but also promote the comprehensive improvement of their music reading ability and key perception ability. Therefore, it is of great significance to cultivate students' sight-reading ability in piano education in colleges and universities by integrating the above advantages.

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4. Specific measures to cultivate sight-reading ability in piano education in colleges and universities.4.1 Exercise students' ability to read music

With the comprehensive development of the current education system, schools and families pay more and more attention to the cultivation of children's artistic skills, which has prompted more and more students to learn piano art in colleges and universities. However, with the increase of students, a prominent problem is that each student's piano ability is uneven, and some students have received different degrees of piano education before entering colleges and universities, while some students have just come into contact with the piano. This essential gap directly leads to serious differences in learning needs of some students. Some students are in urgent need of higher-quality skills, while others can't read music (Zhang, 2020). Therefore, in view of the above situation, teachers should strengthen the education of music reading ability and formulate detailed education plans. First, we should start with the cultivation of basic knowledge, lead students to learn music score table, master treble clef and bass clef, and cooperate with left and right hands to learn high and low clef, and let students learn how to distinguish. Secondly, speed practice is required. Piano performance needs a certain degree of consistency, and it also needs a certain degree of proficiency while mastering the basic knowledge. First, you should know the music score well, then practice the rhythm according to the beat, master the rhythm of the music score, and gradually improve the playing speed. Teachers can also use the method of fixing staff phonemes to speed up the students, which can reduce the difficulty and improve students' understanding ability, thus laying a solid foundation for cultivating students' sight-reading ability.

4.2 Cultivating students' keyboard perception and sensitivity

If students want to develop good sight-reading ability, they must first ensure that they have good keyboard perception and sensitivity. Only in this way can they master the law of sight-reading and gradually improve their sight-reading ability. Therefore, in specific teaching, teachers should strengthen the cultivation of students' keyboard perception and sensitivity, constantly improve the training intensity and make sufficient conditional support. When practicing keyboard perception, it is necessary to make it clear that proficiency is determined by motion perception, and grasp the position of each key through the activities on the keyboard, so as to control the distance and direction between each finger (Wu, 2019). In this regard, when cultivating students' ability and exercising their sight-reading ability, teachers can use the way of line distance and key spacing to teach, so that students can understand the relationship between each other, determine the position of each high and low key, and gradually master the sight-reading rules. After that, the teacher should properly guide the students to get rid of the dependence of sight, reduce the phenomenon that the eyes look for buttons as much as possible, and make more use of the ability of motion perception to grasp the distance between buttons and fingers, and make reasonable adjustments. Therefore, in teaching, teachers should not only cultivate students' ability to read music, but also exercise their keyboard perception and sensitivity. Only by fully combining the two can the improvement of sight-reading ability be guaranteed.

4.3 Exercise students' ability to recognize notes

Practice is of course important, but basic knowledge theory is also an essential key factor for the comprehensive development of sight-reading ability. At present, the world-famous musicologists are famous masters of piano performance theory besides their superb performance skills and performance skills. All these phenomena show that there is an important relationship between the theoretical knowledge of music and the piano performance ability, and the two are in a complementary relationship. Therefore, before cultivating students' sight-reading ability, teachers should first exercise their basic theoretical knowledge. However, according to the actual situation of piano education in colleges and universities, it is difficult for teachers to carry out unified teaching in actual teaching because of students' uneven piano ability. This factor also causes obvious differences in students' ability to recognize notes. Therefore, in the specific training, teachers should not only strengthen supervision and guidance, but also formulate targeted and scientific and reasonable training objectives. For beginners, teachers should try their best to choose some music with less difficulty and low interval span between tracks. And students with strong ability can choose some tracks with rich structure and difficult music knowledge for their contact, which not only respects the individual differences of students, but also exercises their ability to recognize notes (Ji, 2019).

5. Conclusion

In a word, piano performance belongs to a category with enhanced artistry and skill. It not only requires learners to have good enterprising spirit and persistent quality, but also requires them to be supported by sufficient theoretical knowledge. As one of many piano skills, sight-reading ability requires teachers to adopt scientific and correct methods to educate students in actual teaching and training, and to guide students to learn step by step while teaching students in accordance with their aptitude, so as to cultivate students' good sight-reading ability.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

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