

Research on the employment dilemma and path of college vocal music graduates

Xie Wenyi¹, Wang Decai^{2,*}

¹Zunyi Normal University, Zunyi, Guizhou, China

²School of Music and Dance, Nanning Normal University, Nanning, Guangxi, China

^{*}Corresponding author

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Abstract: With the change of times and the development of education, more and more students are learning vocal music major. However, in our country, vocal music graduates employment problem has gradually become the focus of the society. In the past, the college vocal music major was a rare education in the society. Nowadays, colleges and universities have expanded the enrollment of vocal music majors, and the entrance threshold is low, forming a popular education, which leads to the shortage of vocal music students in the job market. In the present vocal music job market, comprehensive teaching ability should be required, which brings certain employment pressure to the students of vocal music major in colleges and universities. This article comes from the discussion of the challenges, roots, and solutions of the employment dilemma of college vocal music majors, and also provides opinions and suggestions for most vocal music graduates.

1. Introduction

We must do everything possible to stabilize and expand jobs, support innovation and entrepreneurship through tax and fee reductions, business loans, subsidies and other policies, implement grass-roots employment projects, and guide graduates to employment and entrepreneurship in urban and rural communities, and build a career in military barracks. We should promote the reform of the supply side of university education, deepen the adjustment of professional structures, vigorously develop vocational education, complete the task of enrollment expansion with high quality, improve students' practical ability and awareness of innovation, and solve structural problems in employment. We will strengthen employment assistance for graduates from poor families. We should strengthen employment management, services and guidance, and guide graduates to establish a correct employment outlook and increase their confidence in employment.^[1]

College vocal music major students, in the process of school learning, are required to specialize in multiple abilities, not to mention professional music colleges, the comprehensive quality will be more stringent requirements. For the normal vocal music major, more is to train primary and secondary school music teachers, requiring blowing, playing, singing, dancing everything. Due to the economic downturn in recent years, there are many graduates who are not engaged in their professional fields in the society, and the professional positions in the music market are gradually decreasing. However, vocal music students have flexible minds, strong learning ability and certain physical advantages,

which are more popular in many positions. For example: wedding company, etiquette reception, event planning, cultural tourism and so on this series, in these work units, can also play their strengths. Therefore, in today's work units and society, college vocal music graduates can also give full play to their subjective initiative.^[2]

When the young generation has ideals, ability and responsibility, the country will have a future and the nation will have hope." This means that the state attaches great importance to the development of young people. From the teacher Jin Tielin began to cultivate many singers in China, such as: Peng Liyuan, Song Zuying, Zhang Ye, Yan Weiwen, Han Hong and so on. These singers have made great contributions to the cause of vocal music education in our country, making our country's music culture open to the world. However, nowadays, China's vocal music graduates are facing various difficulties in employment. Although the enrollment policy has been implemented to expand the enrollment, many music seekers have the dream of entering the university, on the contrary, the number of vocal music students has increased year by year, and employment has become a problem. According to the situation in recent years, the threshold of talent introduction for vocal music majors is also getting higher and higher, resulting in vocal music graduates staying in the society, which is more and more difficult to transport vocal talents for the society. Therefore, at present, it is very important to solve the employment problem of vocal music graduates, so that more young people can lead this era and train more successors.^[3]

2. The employment dilemma and challenge of vocal music graduates in colleges and universities

Our country's college vocal music professional education includes doctor, master, undergraduate and junior college stage, each stage of the training program is different. There are also normal professional, non-normal professional vocal music students. In the vocal music professional training is also divided into vocal music performance, music education different vocal music major direction. Each vocal music student has different professional learning and employment challenges after graduation. For example, normal vocal music students can graduate as music teachers in primary and secondary schools, but with the expansion of vocal music majors in colleges and universities, many positions in schools have been saturated, so the employment rate has been greatly reduced. As a result, the vocal music students who graduate from colleges and universities choose to work in the training institutions corresponding to their own majors. There are also non-professional normal college students who go to the stage or become professional singers, but this is a very rare phenomenon, so it is more difficult for non-normal vocal music graduates to find employment than normal majors. Of course, their professional skills must be stronger than normal, but the employment environment market is relatively narrow. However, nowadays, many music positions in schools require doctoral students, which has become a high-demand job market environment, resulting in the low employment rate of graduate students. According to various signs, the employment of vocal music graduates in our country faces great challenges, and many vocal music graduates choose talent transformation when they are employed. Vocal music education has formed a situation that everyone has college education, but the employment rate is low.^[4]

2.1. Slow employment and "lying flat" mentality of vocal music graduates gradually increased

According to the Ministry of Education, China will have 11.58 million college graduates in 2023, of which about 600,000 are art graduates, accounting for 5.2 percent of the total. Today, the employment rate is still less than half. Vocal music students will spend more time and money than cultural students before taking the college entrance exam. The large investment in the early stage will make them feel that they will get corresponding rewards after graduation, but the reality is often not

the case. After graduation, they find that there are few jobs for them, and the salary for them does not reach the ideal state, and then they will be unemployed or even "lying flat".

The discipline of art must be a high-investment professional before starting, in the face of the boss or the company is exploiting the labor force, the vocal music graduates from colleges and universities will not use their own capital to work hard, most will choose to wait for other opportunities, that "lying flat" is better than being exploited by cheap labor. As a result, there are many slow employment of vocal music students in colleges and universities.^[5]

2.2. The employment rate of vocal music graduates is low

Art students generally have a weak foundation of biochemistry, learning attitude and thinking are not good cultural students, and there is a certain gap with non-art students. In contrast, non-art students will find a lot of good employment. Although many employers do not require the position to match, but if the vocal music major students to apply will not be given priority, because from the comprehensive quality, social experience and the ability to think independently, vocal music major students are not as good as non-art students. This will also lead to the low employment rate of vocal music majors. Therefore, the employment unit often stuck our vocal music students at this time, after a long time, most of the students in the face of the arrival of the workplace or professional does not match the unit to recruit, vocal music students will not refer to and send resumes for employment. This situation will lead to the low employment rate of vocal music graduates.

2.3. The salary of graduates majoring in vocal music is generally low

According to the analysis of the author's four years of extracurricular part-time work in undergraduate university and three years of extracurricular part-time work in graduate school, the best way for part-time work in vocal music majors is education and training institutions. In general, education and training institutions will not pay high fees for vocal music classes in the social art market. Generally, undergraduate students will pay 50 yuan to 80 yuan for a class, and graduate students will pay about 100 yuan to 150 yuan for a class. This is not proportional to their tuition fees and early investment in the school, but also due to the economic situation of the market, the education and training institutions can only pay so much.

The graduates of vocal music major are basically a physical activity, and they are always talking and demonstrating after four or five classes, which is a occupation that consumes their own labor force. Some vocal music markets also think that recruiting professional vocal music teachers will inevitably lead to higher class fees. Therefore, most education and training institutions use some non-professional vocal music teachers to give lessons, in order to reduce the expenses of the institutions. In this case, the professional rate of vocal music will be greatly reduced, and the salary will also be reduced.^[6]

Even in the ranks of some primary and secondary school music teachers, they not only need to take music courses but also need to sit in class for administrative positions, which is equivalent to having one salary and doing two jobs. All these situations make the students of vocal music majors not get the ideal salary, which will result in low employment rate.

2.4. The graduates of vocal music major have a low probability of working in their major

There are about hundreds of thousands of art graduates in China every year, and no more than 30% of them are engaged in related majors. It can be imagined that the remaining 70% of students are either unemployed or have nothing to do with their vocal music majors. On the one hand, a large number of students do not really love vocal music professional, many because of poor cultural

performance, choose to take the road of art so as to have a university to read, among these students think that graduation can get a diploma, as never engaged in vocal music professional it is okay, most of these students are in banks, sales, insurance, private enterprises, state-owned enterprises and so on. On the other hand, if the family can have resources to help the children have a professional job after graduation, many positions related to vocal music are almost a turnip and a pit, so there are nearly more than 100,000 vocal music students in the country can find a professional job, and can not reach the ideal salary, thinking that other industry income will be high income of this major. This will make many vocal music professional students will not engage in their own professional.^[7]

3. The root cause of the employment dilemma of college vocal music graduates

3.1. The early expansion of enrollment, the position is gradually saturated

Before 2020, students majoring in vocal music will pass the examination at various levels, take the unified examination of local colleges and universities, and even participate in more than a dozen school examinations, and finally have a university to attend. In addition, the enrollment quota of the school is also controlled. Judging from the situation in recent years, many schools no longer have school entrance examination for vocal music major enrollment, and accept candidates with unified examination results; Some students just want to have a university to read, two or three months of accelerated vocal music learning, into the local third-tier colleges and universities. The state allocates funds for local comprehensive colleges and universities to build schools, so as to expand enrollment, which will form a "short supply" in the vocal music job market. Also due to the different enrollment of vocal music students in different regions, the employment of students in the first and second-tier cities will be much better, but the college graduates in remote areas are not interested, forming the majority of vocal music graduates return home or go to the first and second-tier cities, the positions are gradually saturated. Therefore, for the expansion of vocal music majors, we must also analyze the demand of the local job market and regional conditions.

3.2. The impact of the epidemic

Since the beginning of the epidemic in 2019, the income of all walks of life in China has been low, and the capital chain has shown a significant decline. It has also caused a low employment environment. During the epidemic period, there were many vocal music graduates, many schools within the system reduced the employment of teachers during the epidemic period, and off-campus training institutions were also affected by the epidemic, their income and enrollment were not considerable, thus reducing the employment of art teachers, and even training institutions went bankrupt, and a large number of vocal music teachers were unemployed. This group of graduated vocal music students, due to the impact of the epidemic, the career path is reduced, and the situation of waiting for work at home is more, so that the employment problem of graduates in the previous year has not been solved, and the graduates in the following year are covered, which will lead to the market simply cannot need so many vocal professionals. Also due to the impact of the epidemic, the performances of many performing arts groups and cultural tourism centers are gradually decreasing, on this basis, the positions of singing actors are slowly shrinking, and with the social demand, the technical requirements for singing actors are also getting higher and higher, so many vocal graduates are facing this piece of employment is also very difficult.^[8]

3.3. The impact of population decline

According to China's 2020 census, the birth rate is gradually declining, and the aging population is

becoming more and more serious. Since 2019, the birth rate has dropped by more than 580,000, while the aging population has increased by 12 percent. At the same time, the divorce rate is also on the rise, from 26 percent to 44 percent in 2013 to 2019, single women gradually increased to more than 6 million, and Dink families are gradually increasing. The decline in population and the low birth rate will lead to a decrease in kindergarten enrollment, a decrease in job opportunities, and difficulties in recruiting students in the training industry, as well as a decrease in the demand for art teachers.

Although the country has opened the two-child policy to encourage eugenic births, many families do not have a strong desire to have a second child in the face of economic downturn and low employment rate. As for the vocal music profession, it belongs to aesthetic education course, which needs the flow of students. The low birth rate leads to the decrease of newborns, so both education and training and employment rate will be affected. Nowadays, with the serious aging, many vocal music industries also offer courses for the retired elderly, and even some universities for the elderly will offer vocal music courses. However, the training target of our country is young people, and the future development of our country should also be directed towards young talents.

3.4. The influence of students' excessive choice of aesthetic education course

In July 2017, The General Office of the State Council proposed the "double reduction" policy, which adheres to the student-oriented policy and prohibits the use of students' after-school time to make up for new courses, encourages students to develop in various aspects, and carries out science popularization, sports, art, labor, reading, interest groups and club activities. The state still encourages and supports after-class aesthetic education courses, encouraging students to develop in many ways and cultivate comprehensive literacy. When there are more aesthetic education courses, students will choose more courses. For example: Art, sports, vocal music, piano, calligraphy, painting, Weiqi, dance, music high school a series of aesthetic education courses, but in the end, not many students choose vocal music, because most children learn music is a kind of feelings, now which art to choose is not up to them to decide, piano and dance have become the choice of most parents nowadays. These two majors are more popular among parents in the current teaching and training industry, and the choice of vocal music majors shows a trend of optimism, believing that children do not need to learn singing, they can sing by themselves, and can not become a singer. Therefore, in the field of aesthetic education, vocal music has no longer been the most preferred item, how to make vocal music students have better career prospects? It has also become a problem worth thinking about in college vocal music education.

4. The solution to improve the employment of vocal music graduates

4.1. Colleges and universities to optimize the provision of professional courses

In colleges and universities, vocal music students are basically formed by the art examination mechanism, and then have their own specialized project courses. The normal class requires that in addition to majoring in vocal music, they should also choose another instrument as a minor subject, and also take speaking courses. Such a curriculum is to train music teachers in primary and secondary schools. Two different training modes, have their own training goals.

However, the current vocal music teaching system needs to be reformed, which should be close to the real social needs and combine the needs of society to train students, such as planning management, stage supervision, arrangement and production, and guide students to develop interests according to their own abilities.

At present, the mode of training professional vocal talents is the forefront of our country's music schools, mainly music performance, but sample vocal talents training is not applicable in our

country's colleges and universities. The teaching mode needs to be flexible. Vocal music curriculum can not be simple, the curriculum should be diversified, combined with the characteristics of local colleges and universities, combining theory and practice, students who can not sing ability, to cultivate administrative ability. Promote the all-round development of students.

4.2. Students can enhance their employability by strengthening their professional study

At present, vocal music courses in many colleges and universities follow the training mode of music colleges, and the quality of vocal music students in some colleges and universities is not as strong as that of students in professional music colleges. Therefore, the concept of training goals should keep pace with The Times, and local colleges should mainly focus on basic education and take employment as guidance, instead of blindly one-to-one teaching, to build a new teaching system. The cultivated talents can really face the society and adapt to the society. In the face of vocal music majors in universities, strengthening professional ability learning, in addition to learning vocal music, strengthening learning piano, vocal music majors, piano is an auxiliary teaching tool, which is indispensable. Many vocal singing abilities are good, but poor piano skills will be rejected by employers in employment and will never lose employment opportunities. If there is no good job market for vocal music major, it can be based on improving academic qualifications, strengthening professional learning at a deeper level, and reserving talents for future jobs.

4.3. Adjust the employment concept and mentality

The employment scope of college vocal music students in primary and secondary school teachers, singing and dancing theater is a relatively good job market, but also the most ideal employment, but every year vocal music graduates basically reach hundreds of thousands, can be in these two positions of graduates are very few. Therefore, when vocal music students in colleges and universities are facing employment after graduation, teachers and schools also need to set up a correct mentality for them. Students can be encouraged to carry out offline training institutions, and vocal music development models can also be carried out online in the era of "we media", and employment channels such as Douyin vocal anchors and talent anchors can be used.

For practitioners of vocal music, it is an industry that needs opportunities and great challenges to continue to move forward on this road. Society for the vocal industry talent requirements are more and more demanding, in addition to the professional ability to be strong, but also to master more skills, and even require in the major vocal competition to win major awards. Therefore, in the vocal music study in colleges and universities, there are many students for employment anxiety and worry, then to establish the correct employment concept and mentality for students is a very important work.

4.4. Cultivate students' interdisciplinary employability

There are often more vocal music students in every university than students of other majors, and vocal music students are relatively difficult to find employment. The society needs talents with multiple abilities, and interdisciplinary employment requires students to find their strengths in the learning process. For example, piano impromptu accompaniment, history of Chinese and Western music, harmony form, chorus conducting, art management, etc. These are all paths that vocal music majors can take across majors. Nowadays, there are more and more vocal talents, and the post requirements will naturally be higher and higher, and the vocal doctor who comes back from abroad can be seen everywhere. Therefore, cultivating students' interdisciplinary learning is also a way to increase the employment rate of vocal music graduates.

Keep up with the development of society and cultivate the diversity of students, so that students

can have a foothold in this society and not waste the learning on the artistic road, rather than let students choose the artistic road and regret. From the perspective of vocal singing, teaching can break the Bel Canto and ethnic singing of the academic school, so that students can learn songs closer to life, close to the grassroots and close to the employer, with their own and other vocal graduates different things, into the unit, there will be a different development prospect than others.

4.5. Strengthen the training of teachers' employment guidance ability

Vocal music teachers in colleges and universities are basically "one pair" or "big class" mechanism, mainly teaching singing lessons, so it is impossible to train vocal music teachers as career guidance teachers. But the students' employment guidance course is also essential, it is necessary to train employment guidance teachers, according to the development of social needs, to guide the students' employment planning, the implementation of career planning education, to help students clearly understand their own employment environment pros and cons. The teachers can carry out a survey of the current situation of social employment, and set up the correct employment direction and values for students. They can also analyze the demands of positions from the current relationship between primary and secondary school teachers, and then make targeted career planning guidance for students to help them achieve employment. In addition, the school should also have a group of special guidance teachers to collect suitable positions for vocal music students, actively create employment platforms and employment information for students, provide students with employment internship opportunities, and make full preparation for employment.

5. Conclusion

Through the analysis of the current employment situation of vocal music graduates in China, although the state has vigorously promoted and supported the cause of music education, it has also brought huge challenges and unlimited opportunities to vocal music majors. However, it is also hoped that the majority of vocal music graduates can have a place in today's talent market, which should be guided by the employment form of vocal music teaching in colleges and universities, and constantly innovate and reform the education model, so as to cultivate vocal music talents in line with the society.

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