Research on the Influence of Russian Music Education on Chinese Music Education

Li Xiabin
Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 524048, China

Keywords: Russia, China, Music, Education model, Music teaching

Abstract: Russian music art has remarkable achievements, its music culture inheritance and perfect music education system in the world can be rated as first-class. A comprehensive understanding and reference of the Russian music education model can help our country to further develop music education. At the same time, it is also conducive to the inheritance of Chinese traditional music culture and the establishment of multidimensional music teaching system. This paper first briefly discusses the status and characteristics of Russian music education, and then further analyzes the influence of Russian music education on China's music education.

1. Introduction

Since the reform and opening up, China’s national economy has developed rapidly, and people’s material life and spiritual pursuit have been continuously enriched. Now the socialist core values and cultural self-confidence are also deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. Inheriting China’s traditional music culture is an effective way to strengthen cultural self-confidence and strengthen the status and influence of China’s culture in the world. However, there are still many deficiencies in the field of music education in China, and there is no sound music education system with Chinese characteristics. Therefore, China’s music education needs to further learn from foreign music education models.

2. The Status of Musical Art in Russia

Russia is a very famous country of music in the world, and music art is a kind of cultural and social consciousness in Russia. Russian people have a strong love of music, their musical literacy is also very commendable.

Russia attaches great importance to its culture and art, and every year it invests a large amount of money in the construction of culture and art. Now it has built nearly 150,000 music and art venues[1]. In terms of music and art museums: Russia has built more than 300 music and art museums in St. Petersburg and nearly 400 in Moscow. The music museum with such a high coverage provides great convenience for the broad masses to have close contact with music and art. In terms of music performance theaters, there are now more than 300 musical theaters in Russia. These include 80 concert halls and 180 children’s theaters. There are more than 50 theaters in the capital Moscow alone, and the location of the theater is very lively and has a high professional color of music.
Famous theatres in Russia include the Russian National Grand Theatre, Stanislavsky theatre, the Russian national model small theatre, the Kremlin theatre, etc. Among so many music and art venues, many are non-profit, open to the public free of charge or only symbolically charge basic ticket fees. From such a policy, we can see that Russia attaches great importance to music art and music education. In the streets and churches of Russia, people can always smell the breath of music and art. In the streets, those vagrants singing in the streets often attract a lot of people to watch; in the church, the beautiful music and the voices of the chorus and teaching songs blend together, and the scene is very intoxicating.

It can be seen that the Russians have invested a lot in the construction of music and art. People have also integrated music and art into their daily life and become an indispensable part of life. The art of music has enriched the life of the Russian people and naturally established its supreme position in the hearts of the Russian people.

3. Characteristics of Music Education in Russia

3.1 Universal Popularization of Music Education

Music education is highly popular in Russia. Russian people have a strong love for music, and they have integrated music art with daily life, and music is their spiritual nutrient. As early as the Soviet Union, comrade Lenin once said: “art belongs to the people, it should be deeply rooted in the hearts of the broad masses; it should be understood and loved by the masses; it should unify the thoughts, will and feelings of the masses and be sublimated; it should stimulate people’s desire to become artists and promote the realization of their wishes.” In order to make the Russian people closer to music art, music education has been widely carried out among the people and continuously improved. It can be seen that music education has achieved the popularization of the whole society in Russia, and people have a special feeling for music art. There is no doubt that music can replace other subjects to cultivate people’s noble sentiment and sublimate people’s spiritual realm.

3.2 Perfection of Music Education System

Russia has a very perfect music education system and has formulated corresponding education mechanisms for students of different ages. On one hand, Russia attaches great importance to the family education of music. Every child will receive music education from the family since childhood. Many parents will hire music tutors for their children. On the other hand, almost all schools in Russia have a systematic music education system. They also take music as a compulsory subject, and music education will even be compulsory in some places. In addition, Russia will also carry out after-school public music courses as a supplement to music education, which is one of the ways children receive music education. This kind of music teaching method will be more strict than compulsory education, requiring students to pass the music examination every semester, but its charging standard is not high. Russia’s music education system has been developed and improved, which has helped children get systematic and valuable music education resources to a great extent.

3.3 Unique Features of Teaching Materials

In the cradle of Russian music art, many world-famous music artists have been born. Such as Gergiev, Tchaikovsky, Vadim Repin, Borodin, Glinka, etc. These famous musicians have also left many classic masterpieces for the world, such as Paganini Theme Rhapsody, Little Swan Dance and so on. The Russian Ministry of education has written a large number of famous music works into the teaching materials, which makes their music teaching materials rich and colorful, including not
only European romantic music works, but also their own national traditional music. The selection of national traditional music works into teaching materials can help students better understand the characteristics of Russian traditional culture and music art. Russian music textbooks will add their own traditional repertoire based on the selection of world famous music and classic works, which fully reflects the Russian people’s attention to the inheritance of their own traditional culture and national spirit.

3.4 The Innovation of Educational Model

While inheriting the national traditional music culture, Russian music education is also constantly innovating. When they study the national traditional music repertoire, they will also combine the modern teaching concept, increase the modern color, and make teachers and students feel a different teaching experience. Through innovative forms to perform traditional ethnic art works, greatly stimulated the enthusiasm and interest of modern students in learning music. Some interactive links are often set up in music classes to enhance the emotional communication between teachers and students and activate the music classroom atmosphere. Students will burst out unstoppable creative passion while feeling the beauty of music art, which not only satisfies their body and mind, but also promotes their all-round development.

4. The Influence of Russian Music Education on Chinese Music Education

4.1 Promote the Cultivation of people’s Musical Literacy

Russia’s music education is national, without music education is not an all-round development of the people. There are six basic contents in Russian music education standards: recognizing and recording music scores; understand and understand the relationship between music culture and national history; solo, solo or cooperate with others to sing and play various tracks; be able to improvise music and be able to adapt music; make a correct evaluation of a performance; clarify the relationship between music and other art forms and non art subjects. If the above contents are achieved, the people of Russia will obtain high music literacy.

The law of the Russian Federation on education was promulgated as early as 1992. The introduction of this law has broken the previous limitations of music education in Russia. Music education is no longer limited to the preschool stage, but has developed into a variety of forms, such as general compulsory education, secondary and higher music professional college education, family music education, social music education and so on. Since then, music education has become the content that every age group must learn, so that the people of Russia have gained noble music literacy, which is very worthy of learning and reference from China’s music education.

4.2 Promote the Construction of Pyramidal Music Education Model

Russia’s music education runs through all stages of education, thus forming a pyramid model of music education, which provides a good reference for China’s music education.

4.2.1 Influence of Russian Preschool Music Education on Music Teaching in China

Preschool education of music can help to develop children’s intelligence, cultivate children’s artistic aesthetic ability and appreciation ability. As early as the late 1880s, a large number of Russians came to work in our country. These people include many composers, singers and performers, who have introduced Russian folk music into China, which has had a profound influence on the development of music education in China. So in the middle of the 20th century,
influenced by the introduction of Russian music, China’s preschool music education gradually developed. The Ministry of Education has drafted and issued a number of relevant regulations, pointing out the direction for preschool children’s music education[4]. In the middle and late 20th century, the first children’s music theater in the Soviet Union, the Moscow children’s music theater, was established. To a great extent, it has promoted the construction project of children’s music theater in China. For example, the children’s music theater in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province is a music and art performance place established for preschool children under the influence of the Soviet Union.

4.2.2 The Influence of Russian Junior High School Music Education on Music Education in China

Russia’s music education level is one of the best models in the world. In the Russian music education system, junior high school and other music education has a perfect system and a high degree of standardization, constantly promoting the inheritance and development of Russian folk music. Russia has the largest proportion of the population involved in music in the world, with a lot of large-scale music venues dedicated to music and art performances. As mentioned above, the world’s first children’s music theater can accommodate more than 1,000 people. In addition, there are tens of thousands of youth music clubs and chorus organizations in Russia. This complementary educational model of school education and social education makes the Russian music education system more comprehensive and complete, makes Russia have a large number of talents in the field of music, and greatly affects the development concept of music education in our country.

4.2.3 The Influence of Russian Higher Music Education on Chinese Music Education

In order to improve its higher music education system, Russia has not only established many music colleges and universities, but also set up music departments and music related majors in ordinary colleges and universities, so as to cultivate generations of famous musicians[5]. Russia attaches importance to its own music education, and China, which borders Russia, has also been greatly affected. Once sent a group of foreign students to Russia to study music, and invited some excellent Russian music teachers to teach in China’s conservatory of music. With the professional guidance of foreign experts, the quality of music teaching in China has been greatly improved. With the continuous guidance of foreign music teachers, China’s higher education will take greater steps forward.

4.3 Deepen the Reform of Music Teaching Mode

Compared with Russian music teaching mode, Chinese music classroom teaching pays too much attention to the explanation of theoretical content and lacks specific practical teaching. Music theory knowledge is the basis of learning music and the prerequisite for learning music skills and improving music literacy. But even so, we can’t focus too much on theory and ignore practice. Only through continuous practice and creation can students really realize the connotation of music art and the charm of music. Due to the lack of organization of practical activities in China’s music education, students seriously lack performance experience, which is very unfavorable to the cultivation of music talents in China and can not achieve the final goal of music education[6]. Therefore, China’s music teaching model needs further reform. Teachers should focus on practical activities on the basis of the combination of theoretical knowledge and practical activities. And create more music performance conditions and opportunities for students, so that they can accumulate more stage performance experience.
4.4 Strengthen students’ Consciousness of Independent Innovation

China’s music education is far from the level of some European countries. In addition to the imperfect education system, students also seriously lack the consciousness of independent innovation in music. In order to carry forward their traditional culture and national spirit, Russia has selected many national classical music pieces into its teaching materials. However, in order to keep up with the pace of the times, when teaching national classical music in Russia, students will be asked to innovate and adapt it on the basis of understanding the connotation of classical music, and then interpret it in a new form, which is very helpful to cultivate students’ creative thinking. In contrast, China’s music education should also strengthen the cultivation of students’ creativity and innovation ability. In music class, teachers should carry out more music practice activities, develop students’ innovative thinking, encourage students to give full play to their subjective initiative, bravely try the adaptation or recreation of songs, make students find the fun of music creation, and constantly strengthen students’ independent innovation awareness, so as to achieve higher results in China’s music education.

4.5 Strengthen the Inheritance of Traditional National Music

In order to comply with the development trend of modern education, Russia’s music education system is becoming more and more diversified, but they have not lost their cultural confidence, but always adhere to the inheritance of their national music culture in the complex music culture. Because there are a large number of excellent national music and classical music works in Russian music textbooks, Russian students have developed good music literacy and established firm national beliefs since childhood. However, China’s music education lacks the color of national tradition. Many parents require their children to practice western instruments such as guitar and piano from an early age, and most of the repertoires are from abroad. China’s 5000 year history has bred many excellent national classical music works. Therefore, Chinese parents should reverse the concept of music education and make their children learn more traditional Chinese musical instruments, such as harp and zither. Schools should also strengthen the teaching of national traditional repertoires and select more national traditional repertoires in teaching materials. So as to deepen students’ understanding of Chinese traditional music culture, enhance the inheritance of national traditional culture, and establish a music education system with Chinese characteristics.

5. Conclusion

Music Education reflects the cultural soft strength of a country, which is one of the important ways to promote national cultural and enhance national status. In terms of music education, Russia’s achievements have been attacked by the world. At present, the development level of music education in China still needs to be improved. Based on this, relevant departments should learn more from the favorable influence of Russia in the field of music education for China, constantly innovate the concept of music education, improve the music education system, strengthen the inheritance of traditional national music culture, and cultivate more creative and comprehensive music talents for the country and society.

References