The Practice of Cooperative Learning in Music Education: Optimization and Improvement of Learning Strategies

Bo Sun\textsuperscript{1,a,*}, Asta Rauduvaitė\textsuperscript{1,b}, Haoyue Sun\textsuperscript{2,c}, Zhiyu Yao\textsuperscript{1,d}

\textsuperscript{1}Academy of Education, Vytautas Magnus University, Vilnius, Lithuania
\textsuperscript{2}Academy of Education, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
\textsuperscript{a}bosunedu@163.com, \textsuperscript{b}asta.rauduvaite@vdu.lt, \textsuperscript{c}sunhaoyue0910@163.com, \textsuperscript{d}yaozhiyu5588@163.com
\textsuperscript{*}Corresponding author

Keywords: Cooperative learning; Music education; Learning strategy

Abstract: This study explores the practice of cooperative learning in music education with the aim of optimizing and enhancing students’ learning strategies. Cooperative learning has shown remarkable effect in music education by adopting strategies such as group grouping and cooperation, interaction and cooperation skills training, music project and cooperation practice, evaluation and feedback. The assessment results showed that cooperative learning not only helped students improve their musical skills, but also promoted the development of non-musical abilities, such as teamwork and communication skills. In addition, cooperative learning can also enhance students' interest and motivation in music learning. However, there are also some challenges in practice, such as differences in students' willingness to cooperate and coordination problems in the cooperation process. In view of these challenges, this paper puts forward corresponding countermeasures and suggestions, such as establishing clear cooperation rules and providing necessary cooperation skills training. Looking forward to the future, with the continuous development of educational concepts and technologies, the application of cooperative learning in music education will have a broader prospect, and it is expected to further improve the learning effect and comprehensive quality of students through innovative teaching methods and technical means.

1. Introduction

Cooperative learning is of profound significance in music education. It not only helps to improve students' musical skills, but also develops students' teamwork and communication skills. In cooperative learning, students explore the mysteries of music through interaction, cooperation and sharing, so as to deepen their understanding and love of music. Cooperative learning has great potential in music learning. It can stimulate students' learning interest and improve students' learning motivation. Through collaborative learning, students are able to learn from each other and learn from each other, thereby making greater progress in their musical skills. In addition, cooperative learning
also encourages students to participate actively and be innovative, which cultivates students' innovative thinking and creativity. Therefore, cooperative learning has significant advantages in music education, which can promote the all-round development of students and improve the effect and quality of music education.

2. The theoretical basis of cooperative learning in music education

2.1. The definition and core concept of cooperative learning

Cooperative learning is a student-centered teaching strategy, which enables students to cooperate and interact with each other and complete learning tasks together through the form of group or team. The core concept of cooperative learning is to respect students' dominant position, advocate students' active participation and positive thinking, and cultivate students' cooperative consciousness, innovative spirit and problem-solving ability[1].

2.2. The applicability of cooperative learning in music education

(1) Complementary skills: Music education involves a variety of skills, such as singing, playing, dancing, etc. Cooperative learning allows students to learn from each other and achieve complementary skills, thus improving the overall skill level. At the same time, students can transform theoretical knowledge into practical operation through collaborative practice and deepen their understanding and mastery of musical skills.

(2) Emotional communication: Music is an expression of emotions, and cooperative learning provides a platform for emotional communication among students. In the process of collaboration, students can share each other's emotional experiences and deepen their understanding of musical works. At the same time, cooperative learning helps to cultivate students' emotional expression ability and communication skills, and promote students' emotional development.

(3) Cultivate teamwork ability: Music performance often requires teamwork, and cooperative learning helps to cultivate students' teamwork spirit and improve collective consciousness. Through cooperative practice, students can learn to listen to others' opinions, respect the achievements of others' labor, and form good teamwork habits[2].

2.3. How cooperative learning fits the goals of music education

(1) Knowledge and Skills Objectives: Cooperative learning helps students to progress in music knowledge and skills. Through cooperation and exchange, students can acquire new knowledge and skills faster. At the same time, cooperative learning can stimulate students' learning interest and motivation, and improve students' learning effect and performance.

(2) Emotional Attitudes and values Goals: Cooperative learning emphasizes the shaping of students' emotional experience and values. In the process of cooperation, students can develop a love of music and form a healthy aesthetic. At the same time, cooperative learning helps to cultivate students' positive emotional attitudes such as self-confidence, sense of responsibility and sense of honor[3].

(3) Process and method Objective: Cooperative learning focuses on the cultivation of process and method. Through personal participation and practical experience, students can master the methods and skills of learning music. At the same time, cooperative learning can cultivate students' key abilities such as independent learning ability, innovative thinking and problem-solving ability.

To sum up, cooperative learning has a profound theoretical foundation and wide applicability in music education. It is highly compatible with the goal of music education and helps to improve
students’ music literacy and comprehensive ability. Therefore, cooperative learning teaching strategies should be actively promoted and applied in music education.

3. Practical strategies of cooperative learning in music education

3.1. Optimization of team construction and management

In music education, the practice of cooperative learning begins with the construction of a group. In order to ensure the rationality and effectiveness of the group, the grouping criteria must be clearly defined. In grouping, teachers should consider students' musical skills, interests, learning styles and personality traits. An ideal group should include students of different skill levels and specialties to ensure that students learn from each other and complement each other in collaboration.

Roles and tasks should be defined within each group. For example, some students may be good at singing, others at playing Musical Instruments, and still others at dancing or arranging music. Through reasonable role and task allocation, we ensure that each student can find their own place in cooperative learning and play their own advantages.

3.2. Development of interaction and cooperation skills

In cooperative learning, the cultivation of interaction and cooperation skills is crucial. Listening is the foundation of cooperation. Students should learn to listen to the opinions, suggestions and feedback of others to better understand the perspectives and needs of others. At the same time, the ability to express is also the key to cooperation. Students should be able to express their thoughts and feelings clearly and accurately to ensure effective communication in the collaborative process. In the course of cooperation, conflicts and problems are inevitable. Teachers should teach students how to deal with these conflicts and problems effectively and avoid contradictions and frictions in the process of cooperation. This includes how to express one's own views, how to accept the opinions of others, how to negotiate and reach consensus, etc.

3.3. Establishment of music project practice and evaluation feedback mechanism

Choosing suitable cooperative learning music project is the key, at the same time, it is necessary to establish an effective evaluation and feedback mechanism. Choose music projects suitable for cooperative learning: Teachers should choose music projects suitable for cooperative learning, which should be challenging, innovative and comprehensive. For example, it can be the creation and performance of a musical, the chorus of a song, or the rehearsal of a band. These projects can stimulate the interest and enthusiasm of students and promote cooperation and interaction among them. During the implementation of the project, teachers should encourage students to actively participate and interact with each other. Students can cooperate through joint discussion, joint creation, and joint rehearsal. In the process, they will not only be able to improve their musical skills, but also develop teamwork, innovative thinking and problem-solving skills. In order to ensure the effectiveness and quality of cooperative learning, teachers should establish a comprehensive evaluation mechanism. This includes evaluating each group and individual, which can include aspects such as skill level, engagement, cooperation, and innovation. At the same time, teachers should give timely feedback to let students know their progress and shortcomings, and provide them with improvement directions and suggestions. This timely and effective feedback can motivate students to continue their efforts and improve their learning effectiveness and motivation (Table 1).
Table 1: Music project practice and evaluation feedback mechanism table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Practical content</th>
<th>Evaluation feedback</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Musical performance</td>
<td>Organize concerts, performance activities, singing, playing and other performances</td>
<td>Audience feedback, performance effect evaluation, audience evaluation, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music creation</td>
<td>Compose songs, arrangements, music, etc</td>
<td>Work quality assessment, professional review opinions, social response, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music education</td>
<td>Carry out music courses, training, lectures and other activities</td>
<td>Student participation, teaching effect evaluation, student feedback, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music studies</td>
<td>Conduct research on music theory, history, culture, etc</td>
<td>Evaluation of research results, academic evaluation, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music industry</td>
<td>Participate in music industry related projects, such as music production, promotion, etc</td>
<td>Commercial benefit evaluation, market response, etc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Evaluation of the effect of cooperative learning in music education

4.1. To evaluate the influence of cooperative learning on the improvement of students' musical skills

The application of cooperative learning in music education has a significant impact on the improvement of students' music skills. Through group work, students are able to learn from each other and learn from each other in order to master music skills more comprehensively. On the one hand, cooperative learning helps to improve students' singing and playing skills. In group cooperation, students can correct each other's pronunciation, adjust their tones, and improve their singing level together. At the same time, through mutual accompaniment, ensemble and other forms of cooperation, students can have a deeper understanding of instrument playing skills and improve performance. On the other hand, cooperative learning helps to cultivate students' ability of music composition and arrangement. In group work, students can discuss musical themes, write songs, or arrange music together. Through brainstorming, students are able to think about problems from multiple perspectives, resulting in more creative and expressive work. In addition, cooperative learning also helps to promote students' non-musical abilities. Cooperative learning helps to develop students' teamwork ability. In group work, students need to learn to communicate, negotiate and solve problems with others. Through cooperative practice, students can gradually develop a sense of teamwork, learn to respect others, listen to others' opinions, and thus improve the ability of teamwork. Cooperative learning helps to develop students' innovative thinking and problem-solving skills. In group work, students face a variety of challenges and problems. By discussing and exploring solutions together, students can gradually develop innovative thinking and problem-solving skills, so as to better cope with future challenges. At the same time, cooperative learning also helps to improve students' self-
confidence and self-esteem, in the group cooperation, each student has the opportunity to play their own advantages and strengths. By receiving recognition and encouragement from others, students are able to gradually build confidence and self-esteem, and thus participate more actively in various activities and learning.

4.3. To explore the influence of cooperative learning on students' interest and motivation in music learning

Cooperative learning also has a positive impact on students' interest and motivation in music learning. Cooperative learning can stimulate students' interest in learning. In group cooperation, students can explore the mystery of music and create music works together. This interesting way of learning can attract students' attention and stimulate their curiosity and desire to explore music (Figure 1)⁹. On the other hand, cooperative learning can enhance students' learning motivation. In group work, students can encourage and motivate each other. By achieving goals and achievements together, students can feel the value and meaning of learning and become more actively engaged in learning.

Figure 1: Explore the mysteries of music together

In addition, cooperative learning can also cultivate students' autonomous learning ability. In group cooperation, students need to learn self-management and self-restraint. By making study plans, arranging study time and other independent behaviors, students can gradually develop the habit and ability of independent study, so as to better adapt to future study and life.

Cooperative learning has significant effect evaluation value in music education. It can not only improve students' musical skills and non-musical abilities, but also cultivate students' interest in learning and motivation. Therefore, we should continue to promote the application of cooperative learning in music education to provide students with more colorful learning experience and development opportunities.

5. Possible challenges and measures of cooperative learning in music education

5.1. Possible challenges of cooperative learning in music education

Although cooperative learning has many advantages in music education, in practical application, it may also encounter some challenges.

(1) Challenge 1: Cooperation difficulties caused by individual differences of students

There are individual differences in musical skills, interests, learning styles, etc. In cooperative learning, if there are large differences between students, it may lead to difficulties in cooperation. For example, students with higher skill levels may be reluctant to collaborate with students with lower skill levels, or students with different interests may have difficulty discussing and creating musical
compositions together.

(2) Challenge 2: Time management

Collaborative learning requires more time to discuss, create, and rehearse. Improper time management may lead to the obstruction of the cooperation process and even affect the learning effect of students\textsuperscript{10}.

(3) Challenge 3: Confusion of teacher role positioning

In cooperative learning, the role of teachers may be confused. Teachers need to guide students to cooperate without interfering too much with students’ autonomy. This requires teachers to master certain teaching skills and strategies to ensure the smooth progress of cooperative learning.

5.2. Measures to meet the challenges

In the face of these challenges, we can take the following measures to deal with them.

Measure 1: Reasonable grouping and collocation

In order to solve the cooperation difficulties caused by individual differences of students, teachers can rationally group students according to their musical skills, interests and learning styles. Ensure that each group has students with different skill levels and specialties so that they can learn from and complement each other\textsuperscript{11}. At the same time, teachers can also encourage students to cooperate across groups, broaden the scope of cooperation, and promote the communication and cooperation between different groups.

Measure 2: Effective time management

In order to solve the problem of time management, teachers can make detailed teaching plans and schedules (Figure 2), to ensure that the tasks of each stage are reasonably arranged. At the same time, teachers can guide students to make personal learning plans and reasonably arrange time for independent learning and cooperative learning. In addition, teachers can regularly check students’ learning progress, find problems in time and give guidance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject: Music</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade: Grade 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic: Composers of the Romantic Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content: Composers/ Their Country of Origin/ Style of music/ Listening materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>The students will learn about 11 composers from 9 countries. Students will listen to 11 compositions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>Given a listening task, the students will identify the composer of the 11 compositions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Computer lab, personal stations, computer with audio, and listening station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>The teacher will give a short introduction of the Romantic Period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>The students will have the opportunity to identify the compositional task of the program and practice using them. Display the path of the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Playing the instrument, the teacher would watch the students in the readings and listening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>There is a learning-impaired student, the learning plan should be modified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>The students will be given a listening exam which is included in the program. Considerations are based on further study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements</td>
<td>Since the program is used, the teacher can lead the students in a discussion of their favorite composer or examination activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Cap. 1. Computer program (3 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap. 2. Workbooks should be completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Music lesson plan
(3) Measure 3: Define the role of teachers

In cooperative learning, teachers need to define their roles. They are not only guides and organizers, but also participants and observers. Teachers need to give students full autonomy and let them play their own advantages and strengths in cooperative learning. At the same time, teachers also need to give students the necessary guidance and help in time to ensure the smooth progress of cooperative learning. In addition, teachers should also pay attention to the emotional needs of students and encourage them to actively participate in cooperation, mutual support and common progress[12].

(4) Measure 4: Establish a good atmosphere for cooperation

In order to promote the smooth progress of cooperative learning, teachers need to establish a good cooperative atmosphere. They can organize some team-building activities to help students build trust and a sense of cooperation. At the same time, teachers can also encourage students to share music works, evaluate and feedback each other to promote each other's progress and improvement. In addition, teachers can also organize regular group discussions or sharing meetings, so that students can share their learning experience and experience, and further stimulate their learning interest and motivation.

To sum up, cooperative learning may encounter some challenges in music education. But as long as we take reasonable measures and methods, we can effectively deal with these challenges and promote the smooth progress of cooperative learning. Through the implementation and application of reasonable grouping and collocation, effective time management, clear teacher role positioning and good cooperative atmosphere, we can better play the advantages and functions of cooperative learning in music education.

6. Conclusion

Cooperative learning plays an important role in music education. By optimizing learning strategies, students' learning results can be further improved. Reasonable group collocation, effective time management, clear teacher role positioning and good cooperative atmosphere are the keys to the success of cooperative learning. At the same time, the optimization and improvement of learning strategy is also the key to continuously improve the learning effect. Through continuous adjustment and improvement of learning strategies, students can better master musical skills, improve non-musical abilities, and enhance learning interest and motivation. Therefore, in music education, we should continue to pay attention to the optimization and improvement of learning strategies to better meet students' learning needs and promote their all-round development.

References


