

Research on the development status and countermeasures of Chinese traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing city

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Abstract: Chinese traditional instrumental music has a long history, diverse forms and numerous varieties, which reflects the brilliant achievements of Chinese music art and highlights the unique charm of the excellent traditional Chinese culture. Zhaoqing has a long history and profound cultural heritage. It is a state-level historical city, the birthplace of Lingnan culture and Guangfu culture. At the same time, Zhaoqing city has institutions of higher learning represented by Zhaoqing University, and the music major has outstanding educational level and fruitful achievements, and enjoys a good reputation both inside and outside Guangdong Province. As such a city, it is particularly "obligatory" to inherit the excellent traditional Chinese culture, popularize Chinese music art, develop Chinese traditional music, and carry forward Chinese traditional instrumental music. This paper aims to conduct an in-depth study on the current state of traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing, analyze the key issues, and propose corresponding strategies to promote the inheritance and innovation of this art form, thereby contributing to the continued prosperity of the local culture.

Keywords: Zhaoqing city; Chinese traditional instrumental music; development status; implementation countermeasures

1. Introduction

As an important part of Chinese cultural heritage, traditional instrumental music embodies rich historical significance and unique artistic value. However, with the advancement of modernization and the influence of globalization, the inheritance and development of traditional culture face numerous challenges. Zhaoqing, a city in Guangdong Province with a long history and deep cultural roots, is home to abundant ethnic music resources. Yet, in the current economic and cultural environment, the development of traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing is concerning^[1].

The author formulated an electronic questionnaire on the development of Chinese ethnic instrumental music in Zhaoqing City. The questionnaire is mainly for the permanent residents who work and live in the three districts and five counties under the jurisdiction of Zhaoqing City (Duanzhou District, Dinghu District, Gaoyao District, Sihui City, Deqing County, Deqing County, Huaiji County, Fengkai County and Guangning County), with no restrictions on age and occupation. A total of 15 questions were set up, and 1,034 valid questionnaires were collected^[2].

On the question of whether they are interested in Chinese traditional instrumental music, 80% are interested and 20% are not interested. The questionnaire showed that among many ethnic instruments, they were more interested in guzheng and bamboo flute, accounting for 43.38% and 26.09, respectively. In addition, 71.43% of the questionnaire results showed that they had browsed the information of ethnic instrumental music activities in Zhaoqing; 73.59% of the questionnaire results showed that they were willing to learn and support their family to learn ethnic instrumental music; about whether they participated in the ethnic instrumental music activities in Zhaoqing, 74.04% answered positively.

In addition, the author conducted statistics and investigation on the relevant practitioners of Zhaoqing ethnic instrumental music. University level, Zhaoqing city, a total of three universities in music, including Zhaoqing college, Guangdong vocational and technical university, Guangdong ATV performing arts vocational college, including Zhaoqing college music school with instrumental music, including folk music professional teachers for 6 people, including guzheng professional teachers 4 people (one erhu professional teachers), pipa, guqin professional teachers, bamboo flute professional teachers. There are 3 teachers of folk music, among which one is an internal teacher, majoring in guzheng, and two are external teachers, including bamboo flute and guzheng. Guangdong ATV Performing Arts Vocational

College has a Music and Dance Academy, including a guzheng professional teacher. Performing arts groups, Zhaoqing City song and dance troupe including bamboo flute player 1. In primary and secondary schools and education and training institutions, due to the large number and the lack of personnel, accurate results cannot be obtained.

2. Overview of the development status of Chinese traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing city

At present, Zhaoqing Chinese traditional instrumental music is facing the dual challenges of traditional and modern, local and foreign. On the one hand, with the acceleration of the pace of life and the diversification of cultural consumption modes, the living space of traditional instrumental music has been compressed to a certain extent. On the other hand, the influx of western music culture also brings an impact to the local instrumental music^[3].

Through questionnaire and field survey, the author has a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the development of folk music in Zhaoqing city. In recent years, through the unremitting efforts of relevant functional departments and practitioners for many years, Zhaoqing city has made certain achievements in the inheritance and development of traditional instrumental music^[4]. Of course, there are also some deficiencies and drawbacks in the process of development, mainly as follows:

First, the social popularity is not high, and the coverage is not wide. It is mainly reflected in the small number of related activities, the small number of ethnic instrumental music learners, and the citizens' understanding and popularity of ethnic instrumental music need to be improved. In some areas, especially in counties and towns, there are relatively few learners and lovers of ethnic instrumental music, and there are also relatively few related activities. Especially in the mountainous areas where educational resources are relatively scarce, children may not have the opportunity to access ethnic instrumental music. Even if there is, it is difficult to get high-quality teaching because of the lack of teachers. In addition, with the acceleration of the pace of life and the impact of foreign culture, many people lack of understanding of traditional culture, and their interest in traditional instrumental music is relatively low. As an important part of traditional culture, the publicity and promotion of traditional instrumental music still need to be strengthened^[5].

Second, the level of traditional instrumental music practitioners is uneven. Zhaoqing outstanding talents of ethnic instrumental music are mainly concentrated in universities, while other practitioners are relatively weak than other Pearl River Delta regions. Secondly, the overall atmosphere of ethnic instrumental music in Guangdong is not strong enough. As a pioneer of reform and opening up, Guangdong has been greatly impacted by western culture, which also leads to the lack of attention to traditional culture in most areas of Guangdong. The learning and inheritance of traditional instrumental music requires a long time of investment and profound artistic accomplishment, while the current social rhythm is fast, and many young people are difficult to calm down to deeply learn and master the skills of traditional instrumental music. Secondly, due to the relatively small market of ethnic instrumental music, the income and treatment of practitioners is relatively low, which also limits the cultivation and development of practitioners^[6].

3. Factors Influencing the Development of Traditional Chinese Instrumental Music in Zhaoqing

3.1. The Underdeveloped Urban Economy

The economic foundation determines the superstructure, and the insufficient urban economic capacity has become a fundamental factor affecting the development of traditional Chinese instrumental music in Zhaoqing. Although Zhaoqing is located within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, its GDP ranks in the middle to lower range among cities in Guangdong Province. This directly results in limited government investment in cultural undertakings, including support and funding for traditional Chinese instrumental music. The lack of financial resources has constrained the development of music education, performance activities, and musical instrument production. Furthermore, slow economic development has led to an uneven distribution of educational resources, impacting the quality and accessibility of music education. The scarcity of high-quality teachers and teaching resources hampers the popularization and improvement of ethnic instrumental music education in Zhaoqing. Talented practitioners of traditional instrumental music are more inclined to seek opportunities in economically developed cities, leading to a significant loss of skilled individuals. In addition, the low income levels of residents, driven by the sluggish economy, limit cultural consumption, resulting in insufficient market

demand for traditional instrumental music. This further restricts the survival and development opportunities for traditional instrumental music practitioners^[7].

3.2. Lack of mass consciousness

While Guangdong's economic development ranks among the highest in China, its educational development lags behind that of many less economically developed provinces. Many parents in Guangdong, particularly in less affluent areas, have a relatively low level of education and place limited emphasis on their children's education. In cities like Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Zhuhai, which are economically developed and benefit from large migrant populations and abundant educational resources, this issue is less prevalent. However, in economically underdeveloped cities such as Zhaoqing, this situation is widespread. The lack of focus on education has, in turn, contributed to a general lack of cultural and artistic awareness among the population. Moreover, as a pioneer in China's reform and opening-up, Guangdong has been heavily influenced by Western culture. This has led to a public preference for Western or popular music over traditional Chinese music. As a result, many parents encourage their children to study Western musical instruments rather than traditional Chinese ones.

4. Strategies for Promoting the Development of Traditional Chinese Instrumental Music in Zhaoqing

4.1. Policy support

4.1.1 The government has implemented policies aimed at enhancing public awareness and interest

For the development of Chinese traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing city, the government and relevant functional departments should introduce corresponding policies, and strive to improve the public's cognition and interest in the excellent traditional Chinese culture. The government may set up a special fund to fund the research, education, performance and promotion of ethnic instrumental music. The fund can raise money in a variety of ways through government grants, corporate donations, and social fundraising.

The Zhaoqing municipal government can strengthen cooperation with local universities and art groups to offer courses on ethnic instrumental music and hold regular activities. In addition, it can also promote exchanges and learning activities with other regions, learn from the successful experience of the development of ethnic instrumental music in other cities, and show the development achievements of Zhaoqing city in ethnic instrumental music. The government shall give certain awards and commendations to individuals and organizations that have made important contributions to the development of ethnic instrumental music. The public's awareness and interest in ethnic instrumental music can be raised through media publicity, community activities and school education. We can also cooperate with the tourism department to use ethnic instrumental music performances as part of the tourism project to attract more tourists. At the same time, it can also combine local characteristics, invest in the research and development of new ethnic instrumental music, to enrich the timbre and expression of ethnic instrumental music. In short, the formulation of the development policy of ethnic instrumental music requires Zhaoqing city to conduct in-depth investigation and analysis according to the specific situation of its own development and closely combined with the actual needs of the development of ethnic instrumental music, so as to ensure and improve the scientific and systematic formulation of relevant supporting policies.

4.1.2. Support from the education department for integrating ethnic instrumental music into classroom activities

In order to carry forward and inherit the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation and improve students' musical literacy and aesthetic ability, the education department of Zhaoqing city should actively carry out activities such as "traditional instrumental music into the campus" and "traditional instrumental music into the classroom", and at the same time, clarify the objectives, content, methods and safeguard measures of the activities to ensure the smooth progress of the activities. The goal of the activity should be to let students understand the traditional music culture and enhance cultural confidence. Ethnic instrumental music courses can be incorporated into the extended curriculum of primary and secondary schools, using a combination of theory and practice to cultivate students' practical playing abilities. In terms of teacher development, education departments should strengthen training for music teachers in traditional instrumental music to effectively improve their teaching abilities. Collaboration

between education departments, art groups, and professional music colleges is essential for organizing joint activities. Schools should be encouraged to share ethnic instrumental music teaching resources to enhance resource utilization efficiency. Regarding support measures, education departments should establish relevant policies to provide schools with the necessary support for integrating ethnic instrumental music into the classroom. Adequate financial backing should also be provided to ensure the smooth implementation of these activities. Schools should be equipped with sufficient ethnic instrumental music teaching equipment to meet the teaching needs. The implementation of ethnic instrumental music into the classroom activities is to promote the development of ethnic instrumental music education in Zhaoqing city, so that more students can understand and learn the Chinese traditional music culture. Zhaoqing city schools need to implement seriously, so as to ensure that this activity to achieve practical results. At the same time, the education department should also regularly evaluate and summarize the activities, and constantly improve and perfect the implementation methods, so as to promote the Zhaoqing traditional instrumental music education cause to achieve greater development.

4.2. Expand publicity

4.2.1. Actively promote mass culture and leverage the roles of cultural centers and music associations

All district and county cultural centers and music associations should establish close cooperative relationships, working together to plan and organize various ethnic instrumental music performances, exhibitions, lectures, and other events to expand the influence and popularity of this art form. By sharing resources and information, both sides can promote the development of Zhaoqing's traditional instrumental music more effectively. Cultural centers and music associations in all districts and counties can offer training courses in ethnic instrumental music, inviting professional instructors to provide training and guidance for the general public and enthusiasts. Various forms of workshops and seminars can also be organized to enhance participants' performance skills and appreciation of traditional music. Additionally, new media platforms, such as websites, Weibo, and WeChat public accounts, can be used to promote developments, event information, and showcase excellent works related to Zhaoqing's traditional instrumental music. Through the wide dissemination of new media, more people can understand and pay attention to the development of Zhaoqing traditional instrumental music. Various forms of ethnic instrumental music activities, such as concerts, competitions, training classes, are held to attract more people to participate. These activities can not only show the charm of ethnic instrumental music, but also improve the people's understanding and interest in ethnic instrumental music. All district and county cultural centers and music associations should actively strengthen the cooperation and exchanges with other cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries, schools, etc., to jointly promote the development of ethnic instrumental music in Zhaoqing city. Through cooperation and communication, it can broaden the communication channels of traditional instrumental music and improve its influence in the society.

4.2.2. Proactively organize relevant activities to enhance the public's overall appreciation level

All districts and counties cultural centers and music associations should actively carry out relevant performances benefiting the people, convenient classes, hold competition activities, and constantly expand the publicity of Zhaoqing ethnic instrumental music. Ethnic instrumental music performances are regularly held in various district and county cultural centers, and local famous ethnic instrumental music groups and individuals are invited to perform to provide high-quality music enjoyment for the citizens.^[1] Using modern technology, we will establish an online teaching platform to provide distance learning opportunities for citizens who are unable to study on site. Regular district-level and county-level ethnic instrumental music competitions are held to encourage citizens to participate actively and select excellent performers. The winners of each district and county competition were gathered together to hold a municipal performance to show the highest level of ethnic instrumental music in Zhaoqing city. Rich rewards are set up for the competition to encourage more citizens to learn and play ethnic instrumental music. Through these measures, the district and county cultural centers and music associations can effectively promote the development of traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing city, and improve the citizens' understanding and appreciation level of traditional culture.

4.3. Foster School-Local Cooperation

4.3.1. Enhance Students' Performance and Teaching Skills in Relevant Majors

Represented by Zhaoqing University, the proportion of traditional instrumental music courses within the School of Music plays a crucial role in helping students deeply understand the historical, cultural,

and artistic characteristics of this genre. This focus enhances their appreciation and performance skills in ethnic instrumental music. Additionally, it is essential to actively recruit high-level instructors in ethnic instrumental music to strengthen faculty development. Organizing traditional instrumental music performance competitions, concerts, and other activities will provide students with valuable opportunities to showcase their talents and gain practical experience. Such initiatives will help improve their performance levels, accumulate stage experience, and lay a solid foundation for their future studies and careers.

Increasing teaching resources related to ethnic instrumental music—such as textbooks, audio, and video materials—will facilitate better learning outcomes and enhance the quality of education. Inviting renowned ethnic instrumental music performers and educators to conduct lectures, workshops, and master classes will offer students direct learning opportunities and guidance. Furthermore, encouraging both teachers and students to participate in ethnic instrumental music competitions and seminars at home and abroad will broaden their horizons and enhance their teaching capabilities.

The local economy should also support ethnic instrumental music activities to showcase students' achievements and elevate societal interest in this art form. In summary, Zhaoqing City should emphasize the leadership and exemplary role of Zhaoqing University in effectively promoting the development of ethnic instrumental music. Strengthening education, enhancing faculty, organizing concerts, and conducting lectures will significantly improve the performance and teaching abilities of students in relevant majors. This approach will contribute to cultivating more talent in traditional instrumental music and positively impact the development of this cultural sector in Zhaoqing City.

4.3.2. Organize regular teacher training for local primary and secondary school teachers

To serve the local community, regular training sessions will be conducted for primary and secondary school teachers in collaboration with the local education bureau. These training courses will focus on ethnic instrumental music, ensuring continuity and effectiveness in teacher development. The training content will encompass basic theories, performance skills, teaching methods, and other relevant aspects of traditional instrumental music, enabling teachers to comprehensively enhance their instructional capabilities. Experts with extensive teaching experience and performance expertise will be invited to ensure high-quality training. During these sessions, teachers will be encouraged to observe and engage in discussions to further improve their performance skills. Additionally, regular campus concerts will be organized in primary and secondary schools to introduce students to traditional instrumental music, fostering a greater sense of identity with their cultural heritage. Folk orchestras and traditional music artists will be invited to interact with students, providing them with a more intuitive understanding of the allure of folk music. Schools will also be encouraged to establish traditional instrumental music societies, creating more platforms for students to learn and exchange ideas.

4.3.3. Hold and open high-level performances and lectures to the society

The universities led by Zhaoqing University should open the campus, and the high-level performances and lectures of ethnic instrumental music need to actively face the society, aiming to promote the inheritance and development of ethnic instrumental music, and enhance the public's understanding and appreciation level of ethnic instrumental music. Ethnic instrumental music concerts are held regularly, and well-known ethnic instrumental music experts from inside and outside the province are invited to hold concerts or lectures to show the charm and unique style of ethnic instrumental music. In addition to the traditional solo and ensemble forms, we can also try to combine traditional instrumental music with modern music, dance, drama and other artistic forms to create a more rich and diversified performance forms and attract more audiences. Experts and scholars in the field of ethnic instrumental music at home and abroad are invited to hold lectures to share their research results and experience and improve the public's understanding and understanding of ethnic instrumental music. Regular ethnic instrumental music seminars and forums are held, and domestic and foreign scholars, performers and educators are invited to discuss the development direction and teaching methods of ethnic instrumental music together, so as to promote the innovation and development of ethnic instrumental music art. Ethnic instrumental music performance teams are organized to perform deeply into communities, primary and secondary schools, enterprises and institutions, so that more people can feel the charm of ethnic instrumental music in close range. An online learning platform is established to use Internet technology, upload teaching videos of ethnic instrumental music, lectures and broadcasts, so as to facilitate the public to learn and understand the knowledge of ethnic instrumental music anytime and anywhere. Through TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and other media, the high-level performance and seminar lectures will be publicized and reported to improve the popularity and influence of the activity. By implementing these measures, high-level ethnic instrumental music performances and seminars can

be brought to the public, fostering the inheritance and development of ethnic music while enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of this art form. Additionally, these efforts will provide a platform for performers and scholars of traditional instrumental music to showcase their work, exchange ideas, and promote innovation and the continued development of the art.

4.3.4. Primary and secondary schools and training institutions have responded positively

Primary and secondary schools should incorporate ethnic instrumental music into the music curriculum system and choose suitable teaching materials. The selection of textbooks should pay attention to traditionality, classical and contemporary, to ensure that students can have access to a rich variety of ethnic instrumental music works. Strengthen the training and introduction of traditional instrumental music teachers, and improve their professional quality and teaching ability. At the same time, teachers are encouraged to participate in various ethnic and instrumental music training and exchange activities to improve the teaching level. Primary and secondary schools and training institutions should increase the investment in the teaching equipment and facilities of ethnic instrumental music to ensure that students have enough space for practice and performance, mainly including: Musical Instruments, sound equipment, rehearsal room, etc. Flexible and diverse teaching methods and means are adopted to stimulate students' interest and enthusiasm in learning, so that students can learn traditional instrumental music in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. Primary and secondary schools and training institutions can regularly hold ethnic instrumental music related activities to create a strong campus music culture atmosphere. At the same time, students are encouraged to participate in various ethnic music activities to improve their musical literacy and performance ability. To promote the prosperity and development of Zhaoqing's traditional instrumental music, it is essential to strengthen cooperation and exchanges with universities, cultural departments, and communities. This can be achieved by organizing ethnic instrumental music performances, competitions, and other activities in collaboration with these institutions. Additionally, partnering with enterprises to promote and popularize ethnic music is crucial. Primary and secondary schools, along with training institutions, should actively contribute in various ways to support the development of ethnic instrumental music. Efforts should also focus on strengthening the curriculum, building a capable teaching team, upgrading teaching equipment and facilities, innovating teaching methods, enriching campus culture, and enhancing social cooperation and exchange.

5. Conclusions

This study on the development of traditional Chinese instrumental music in Zhaoqing aims to contribute to the preservation and promotion of local traditional culture in the region. Based on field investigations and relevant data, the paper analyzes the current state of traditional instrumental music in Zhaoqing. It also identifies the key issues hindering its development and offers suggestions to address them, with the goal of drawing attention from relevant authorities and academic circles. Ultimately, this research seeks to support the inheritance, development, and further study of Zhaoqing's traditional instrumental music, making a positive contribution to the preservation and promotion of the rich cultural heritage of the Chinese nation.

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