

# A strategic study on integrating ideological and political education into piano teaching in normal universities

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**Abstract:** *Ideological and political education is an important part of China's education system. Ideological and political education is to cultivate students' socialist core values and correct world and life outlook. The author believes that ideological and political education should be closely integrated with real life, art education and piano teaching. The article focuses on how to integrate ideological and political courses with piano classes in higher normal colleges and cultivate music education talents who are both in line with the requirements of the times and have comprehensive qualities.*

**Keywords:** *Piano; Ideological and political education; Normal; Teaching*

## 1. Introduction

With the deepening of higher education reform in my country, the status of ideological and political education in colleges and universities has become increasingly prominent, especially in normal colleges and universities. Its role is not only reflected in ideological and political theory courses, but also should be infiltrated into the teaching practice of various disciplines. As an important part of music discipline, piano is not only a tool for cultivating students' artistic literacy, but also an important way to express emotions and cultural cognition. However, there are still some deficiencies in the integration of ideological and political education in current piano teaching. Many teachers and students mainly focus on the improvement of skills and artistic performance, and ignore the potential value of ideological and political education.

In this context, how to enhance students' ideological and political awareness and cultivate students' sense of social responsibility, collectivism and cultural identity through the specific subject of piano teaching has become an important topic in today's education reform. Combining ideological and political education with piano teaching can not only improve students' musical literacy, but also enable students to get ideological enlightenment and life guidance in the perception of art, so as to better achieve the educational goal of all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor. Therefore, it is of great theoretical significance and practical value to explore how to effectively integrate ideological and political education into piano teaching.

## 2. The significance and current situation of integrating ideological and political education into piano teaching

The purpose of piano teaching in normal universities is to cultivate professionals who have solid piano playing skills and are competent for primary and secondary school music teaching and grassroots music education [1]. In terms of teaching content, piano classes in normal universities usually include piano playing skills training (such as scales, arpeggios, chords, etc.) and the study of piano works of different styles and periods. In terms of teaching methods, group and collective classes are generally adopted to improve students' interactivity and cooperation. At present, the piano department of the China Conservatory of Music has taken the lead in promoting the construction of the "Chinese School of Music 8+1, Ideological and Political Education + X" curriculum system. This also includes the construction of a piano professional theory and practice course group; Central China Normal University has also adopted the "piano art + ideological and political education" teaching model in piano classes. Leading students to deeply explore the cultural and ideological connotations behind Chinese piano works, it realizes the organic combination of art education and ideological and political education. The integration of piano and ideological and political education can allow students to experience the beauty of art while guiding

them to understand life, society and the country through the power of music. Help students build a sound cognitive system and inspire patriotism [2]. Of course, this integration is also a systematic project that requires the joint efforts of teachers, schools and education management departments.

### **3. Dilemmas and challenges faced by integrating ideological and political education into piano teaching**

#### ***3.1 Teaching content and methods need to be updated***

At present, piano teaching in my country basically follows Western teaching theories. On this basis, most of the teaching content and methods are dominated by Western teaching models. However, piano courses in ideological and political education usually have distinct national characteristics and are not very compatible with Western teaching models. When conducting relevant piano teaching, teaching methods and content will be limited, and even some national originality will be lost [3]. In the teaching of some ideological and political piano works, the traditional teaching model often focuses on the mastery of playing skills, while ignoring the understanding and research of the cultural connotations behind the works. Under this model, students can only master the playing skills of the works, but often lack the ability to convey and appeal in expression, which is not conducive to the cultivation of students' overall quality. In addition, most professional teachers do not realize the importance of ideological and political education when conducting professional training for students. They only focus on the training of students' professional skills and ignore the excavation and interpretation of ideological and political elements. In the long run, it will be detrimental to students' piano learning.

#### ***3.2 Commercialization of piano skills***

At present, the competition among graduates of music colleges is fierce after entering the society. Many piano students in colleges and universities often have utilitarianism when studying, hoping to only learn the test works to pass the relevant exams and obtain certificates, so as to smoothly enter the training institutions to prepare for fame and wealth in the future. These students are often driven by commercial motives. Although they are very motivated from the starting point, from the perspective of the requirements for talent training, these students' thoughts are one-sided and immature. Such commercialized piano skill learning is not conducive to the school's talent training plan.

#### ***3.3 Lack of teaching materials***

In the actual piano ideological and political teaching process, due to the long-term neglect of professional explanations of such works in my country, piano works with ideological and political themes are a field that is both "familiar" and "strange" for students. At present, there is a lack of materials for piano ideological and political teaching content. There are only a few "red classic" piano works such as "Red Detachment of Women", "Red Flowers of Shandandan" and "Yellow River Concerto", most of which are adapted from songs. There is a lack of truly original piano works with ideological and political themes. Looking at the piano textbooks in major universities, there are still great limitations in the selection of materials in this area, resulting in the teaching content not being classic enough and the teaching materials being relatively scarce.

### **4. Specific plan and implementation of integrating ideological and political education into piano teaching**

#### ***4.1 Enriching the content of piano teaching***

The reform of ideological and political education in piano is a systematic project, which involves the updating and innovation of teaching concepts, teaching content, teaching methods and other aspects.

- (1) Deeply explore the ideological and political factors in piano professional courses

In the process of teaching ideological and political education in piano, teachers need to fully explore the teaching content. The teaching materials related to ideological and political education do not only refer to the red piano works that praise the revolution. Some works that praise the people's favorites, express the love and yearning for life, and convey patriotic feelings can be regarded as ideological and political factors in piano classes [4]. When teaching piano majors in normal universities, the teaching

purpose of the major "cultivating talents with professional knowledge of music" should be clarified and implemented. In the process of education and teaching, in addition to selecting the right teaching materials, students should also be guided to think about the melody lines, rhythm types and melody characteristics contained in the works from all aspects, and students should be required to draw inferences from one example. For example, when teaching the piano four-hand duet "Sing a Mountain Song to the Party", it is necessary to guide students to first familiarize themselves with the lyrics of the original song, understand the patriotic ideas represented in the lyrics, and educate students on national pride. Then find out which part of the piano adaptation of the same name the lyrics are hidden in, demonstrate the performance and explain how to express this emotion in the process of playing. Students can also be guided to analyze the impact of the background of the times on music. This can not only cultivate students' independent thinking ability, but also enhance the proportion of ideological and political education in piano teaching, which is conducive to the common development of the two.

(2) Use a variety of educational methods

When teachers conduct piano classroom teaching, they can appropriately transform the cramming theory teaching, guide students to think actively, and cultivate their enthusiasm for learning. I think that in the piano classroom, we can use group cooperation modes such as double piano, four-hand duet, six-hand duet, and eight-hand duet to cultivate students' team cooperation awareness and improve their various abilities. When practicing in groups, you can intuitively hear the timbre and rhythm control of others. In the process of mutual cooperation, they can hone themselves and improve their personal musical literacy. At the same time, they can realize that the presentation of music is diverse and not "one flower stands out alone". Teamwork is also extremely important.

(3) Carry out various piano practice activities

Piano courses are characterized by strong practicality. Students will definitely improve their professional skills through a lot of practice in the process of learning. Teachers can use this to build a performance competition platform for students and organize judges to score students' various abilities, thereby motivating students to practice piano. Competitions can take the form of diversified content, such as ensemble with instrumental music, vocal accompaniment, self-playing and singing, etc. When formulating piano practice rules and themes, some ideological and political education elements can be appropriately added, such as the "Red Music Works" special competition, allowing students to independently select some songs with revolutionary educational significance, and gradually be moved by the patriotic feelings contained in the music during the playing process. In addition, students are allowed to re-create the works. For example, adapt them into improvisational forms.

#### ***4.2 Clarify the teaching objectives of piano ideological and political education***

The teaching objectives of piano ideological and political education are to integrate ideological and political education into music education in order to achieve the fundamental task of cultivating morality and cultivating people. This reform aims to not only impart music skills and theoretical knowledge through piano teaching, but also cultivate students' moral qualities, social responsibility and patriotism [5]. The specific goal is to guide students to understand and accept the core socialist values through piano teaching, and to form a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values. At the same time, by learning Chinese piano works and understanding Chinese music culture, students can enhance their confidence and pride in the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation. Using the patriotic elements in piano music can also inspire students' love for the country and their identification with the nation. In addition, piano teaching helps to cultivate students' aesthetic taste and emotional expression ability, and promote the all-round development of students' personality.

#### ***4.3 Key issues to be solved after integrating ideological and political education into piano teaching***

The transformation of teaching concepts is one of the core contents of the current piano teaching reform. Teachers should change from the traditional teaching mode that focuses on skill transfer to educators who pay more attention to the all-round development of students. This transformation is not only an adjustment of teaching methods, but also a deepening of educational concepts. In piano teaching, teachers should actively integrate the core concept of moral education into the classroom, strengthen the ideological and political teaching of courses, and help students establish correct values and outlook on life. In addition, teachers should also focus on establishing the dominant position of students in the classroom, encourage students to actively participate, think actively, and cultivate their ability to learn independently. In order to better achieve this goal, teachers need to continuously enrich and innovate

teaching methods, combine students' personalized needs and development potential, flexibly use a variety of teaching methods, creatively design course content, and ensure that students can improve their piano skills while also getting comprehensive development of ideological and moral qualities and humanistic qualities. This change in concept not only helps improve students' skills, but also promotes the overall improvement of their comprehensive quality, and ultimately achieves the harmonious development of morality, intelligence, physical fitness, beauty, and labor.

In piano teaching, the integration of teaching content is one of the important ways to achieve ideological and political education. By integrating ideological and political elements such as the core socialist values, patriotism, and collectivism into piano teaching, teachers can carefully select and interpret music works with profound cultural connotations, and guide students to appreciate the emotions and deep meanings behind the works in the process of appreciating music. This not only helps students understand the artistic value of music, but also subtly builds their sense of value identity and inspires their patriotism and social responsibility. Through the thoughts and emotions in music works, students can more deeply appreciate the social function and spiritual power of music, thereby achieving ideological sublimation in art learning and cultivating a more positive and healthy personality and emotional identity.

Innovation in teaching methods is an important part of improving the effectiveness of piano teaching. By using diversified teaching methods, such as case analysis, situation simulation, discussion and exchange, etc., the interactivity and practicality of the classroom can be significantly improved. These methods can not only stimulate students' active participation, but also promote students to deeply experience and understand the connotation of ideological and political education in artistic practice. Through situational simulation, students can feel the emotional expression of music in a real situation, and then better understand the social value and cultural significance behind the work; through case analysis, students can combine theory with practice, reflect on and discuss the meaning of music works ideological and political elements, thereby deepening the recognition and understanding of ideological and political education. This innovative teaching method can better stimulate students' creative thinking, enable them to form positive values in art learning, and achieve the goals of ideological and political education in practice.

The transformation of teachers' roles is a key factor in the reform of modern piano teaching. Teachers are not only the transmitters of piano skills, but also the active implementers of ideological and political education. In this process, teachers need to have the corresponding ideological and political education capabilities and qualities, and be able to consciously integrate the content and methods of ideological and political education into teaching. Through precepts and deeds, teachers not only impart techniques and knowledge, but also influence students' values and outlook on life through their own behavior and attitudes. Teachers should actively guide and demonstrate so that students can feel the profound significance of ideological and political education in piano learning, and cultivate good ideological and moral qualities, social responsibility and collectivism in artistic practice, so as to achieve the organic integration of piano teaching and ideological and political education.

The development of students' subjectivity is the key to improving teaching effectiveness. In piano teaching, students' dominant position in the classroom should be established, and students should be encouraged to actively participate in the teaching process. By designing creative and challenging practical activities, students' learning interest and exploration spirit can be stimulated, so that they can continuously improve their sense of social responsibility and innovation ability in actual operation. Through this student-centered teaching model, students can not only enhance their ability of self-expression and artistic creation, but also cultivate teamwork spirit and social responsibility in the learning process, so as to achieve overall quality improvement while learning music.

The selection of teaching materials is of great significance in piano teaching. By carefully selecting and playing piano works with red cultural background, students' patriotic feelings can be effectively stimulated. For example, selecting representative and educational Chinese piano works, such as "Shepherd's Flute", "Ode to the Red Flag", "Red Detachment of Women", etc., can not only help students better understand and appreciate Chinese music culture, but also enhance their cultural confidence. For example, the piano piece "Shepherd's Flute" combines a strong pastoral style, adopts traditional pentatonic mode and double-theme contrast techniques (such as "one question and one answer" and "one movement and one stillness"). By understanding its style characteristics, students can show the charm and emotion of the work more vividly and expressively when playing. In addition, the introduction of Western classical piano works is also crucial, which can enable students to experience the charm and artistic value of different cultures in the comparison of Chinese and Western music cultures. At the same time, adding songs from primary and secondary school music textbooks to piano teaching and guiding

students to arrange accompaniment for them can help them combine what they have learned with practical application, so as to apply what they have learned and improve the practicality and teaching effect of music education.

Teachers are the foundation of teaching. As the saying goes, "to cultivate others, one must first cultivate oneself." In addition to "teaching, learning, and solving problems," teachers must also set a good example for students and encourage them to learn about ideology and morality[6]. Piano teachers must constantly cultivate their own ideological and political awareness, fully understand and grasp professional knowledge, and then teach students. At the same time, they must correct their self-awareness and strengthen their own professional quality and moral cultivation. Schools also need to regularly train relevant teachers to improve the overall quality of the teaching team. Only in this way can we cultivate excellent music talents .

## 5. Conclusion

Piano ideological and political teaching is a comprehensive education model. It is not only a process of cultivating piano skills, but also an innovative practice that combines ideological and political education with art education. Through the analysis of piano ideological and political courses in colleges and universities, we can see that while facing many challenges and difficulties, this teaching model is actively exploring and breaking through to better realize its educational mission. Piano ideological and political courses not only focus on improving students' piano playing skills, but also pay more attention to the cultivation of students' ideological and moral qualities and the improvement of their cultural literacy. Through this unique teaching model, students can not only master professional music skills, but also be comprehensively improved in terms of ideological morality, social responsibility and cultural confidence, and finally cultivate high-quality music talents with both professional ability and good ideological quality.

At the same time, the reform and innovation of piano ideological and political education is a continuous development process. With the changes of the times and the changes in educational needs, how to better integrate ideological and political education with piano art education is still a topic that educators need to explore and practice continuously. In this process, teachers need to continuously update educational concepts, innovate teaching methods, and optimize course content to better adapt to the educational requirements of the new era. By continuously deepening the reform of piano ideological and political education, we can better promote students' ideological growth and personality formation while cultivating their artistic talents, and ultimately achieve the educational goal of all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, aesthetics, and labor.

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