

# Exploration of the Current Situation of Popular Music Education in Universities in the New Era

Yonglei Wang

José Rizal University, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila 0900, Philippines

---

**Abstract:** This article focuses on exploring the current situation of popular music education in universities in the new era, emphasizing the influencing factors of popular music education in universities, and briefly summarizing educational strategies from several aspects. It is hoped that this can provide effective reference for other music teachers in universities, enabling them to find the correct educational direction, plan interesting teaching activities, and bring students the best learning experience.

**Keywords:** New Era; Popular music education in universities; Current situation; Countermeasure

---

## Introduction

Pop music is the top priority of music education in universities, and it is also a remarkable teaching activity. Teachers need to deeply understand the educational significance of pop music, choose and apply effective educational strategies, follow the cognitive development laws of students, and provide high-quality teaching services to make the new era of popular music education in universities more meaningful. Students actively learn knowledge related to popular music and master a series of professional skills in order to continuously break through themselves and successfully achieve the goal of professional development.

### 1. Overview of popular music education in universities

Pop music education is an unstoppable new trend that encompasses a wide range of music styles, including but not limited to rock, hip-hop, electronics, and other popular genres in recent years. In the field of higher education, popular music education mainly involves two parts: theoretical teaching and practical teaching. Theoretical teaching includes research on music theory, exploration of various genres, analysis of development trends and cultural influences. In addition, this section may cover music sociology, music technology, and commercial operations of the music industry. Theoretical research is more in-depth and greatly beneficial for the future development of students. College students can stand out in the increasingly fierce market competition and better adapt to the new cultural landscape. Practical teaching includes song composition, song performance, sound engineering, and music production, requiring students to proficiently master various music skills. By participating in various theme based practical activities, students can accumulate a large amount of practical experience through independent creation, group creation, life practice, personalized learning, and other methods. The accumulation of such practical experience helps to enhance students' innovation and creativity, and directly relates to whether students can go further and further on the path of professional development. College popular music education also attaches great importance to the development of students' inner potential. Teachers should adopt different teaching forms, strengthen teaching guidance, implement effective methods, help students correctly understand the connotation and value of popular music, develop their unique voices and styles, and be exposed to different music projects, thereby obtaining a large amount of new knowledge, new culture, and new ideas. During the period of popular music education in universities, teachers can adjust their teaching plans based on the changes in students' actual learning situations. By refining the teaching process, the originally dull teaching process can become exciting and diverse, and efforts can be made to meet the constantly changing learning needs of students. This ensures that every student can clearly understand the significance of spreading popular culture, vigorously promoting popular music elements, and fully showcasing the characteristics of music education in China, Embrace new development opportunities.

## **2. The research significance of the current situation of popular music education in two universities**

There are several important reasons for studying the current situation of popular music education in universities: firstly, the manifestation of cultural dynamics: popular music is a powerful cultural force that reflects and shapes social values, attitudes, and trends. By studying its position in the field of higher education, we can gain a deeper understanding of how contemporary culture influences academic institutions and how it is influenced by them. This study helps to understand how popular music is integrated into formal education and reflects constantly changing cultural dynamics. Secondly, economic impact: The music industry has made significant contributions to the global economy, and popular music is an important component of this field. By studying the current status of popular music education, we can assess the situation of future entrants into the industry. This study emphasizes the consistency between education plans and industry needs, which will have a profound impact on the sustainable development of the music industry. Thirdly, technological progress: Rapid technological advancements, especially in digital media and music production, have changed the way music is created, disseminated, and consumed. Studying the current status of popular music education can provide a deeper understanding of how the current curriculum can adapt to these technological changes. It also reveals the skills and abilities taught to students to effectively navigate the digital environment. Fourthly, social and political background: Pop music often serves as a medium for political expression and social commentary. Its in-depth research in the context of higher education can reveal how contemporary issues and social and political dynamics are resolved in the academic environment. Fifthly, globalization and cross-cultural communication: With the continuous expansion of the scope of popular music dissemination, popular music research in higher education provides a window for understanding how globalization and cross-cultural influences can be negotiated in academic space. This survey can reveal how global music trends are integrated into local educational environments and how they contribute to students' cross-cultural competence. Sixth, professional development and career preparation: In a world where career paths are increasingly diverse and non-linear, studying the current status of popular music education can help students adapt to various career trajectories. In addition, it can also enable students to learn professional knowledge in music management, music production, music therapy, and other areas, thereby having more employment options.

## **3. The current situation of popular music education in universities in the new era**

At present, popular music in universities is not only a topic of academic research, but also a practical form of art. This transformation is reflected in the introduction of courses specifically targeting popular music genres such as rock, jazz, pop, and electronic music. From the perspective of curriculum and teaching methods, popular music education courses are often more diverse than traditional music courses. It typically includes technology driven disciplines such as music production, sound engineering, and digital composition, as well as research on traditional music theory and future development trends. In teaching, popular music education tends to lean towards modern teaching methods, which are essentially more collaborative and experiential. From the perspective of technological integration, the integration of technology in popular music education is transformative. Digital audio workstations, music production software, and online distribution platforms have now become fundamental components of the curriculum. This technological transformation not only reflects the current trend in music production, but also helps students find their development direction and prepare for flexible employment. From the perspective of social attitudes and perspectives, society's attitude towards popular music education is gradually shifting from skepticism to acceptance and respect. This change is partly attributed to the commercial success and cultural influence of popular music genres. Therefore, popular music education has gained legitimacy and attracted a variety of students and scholars. From the perspective of future trends and directions, the effective integration of virtual reality and artificial intelligence in popular music education and teaching may become a key trend. Teachers should attach importance to the globalization of popular music, recognize and integrate music traditions from around the world, provide more resources and research, carry out various new projects, cultivate students' comprehensive abilities, and enhance academic recognition and support for popular music education.

## **4. The influencing factors of popular music education in universities in the new era**

### **4.1 Evolution of Culture and Schools**

The continuous evolution of music genres plays an important role in shaping popular music education. With the emergence and popularity of new genres, higher education programs need to adapt to these styles to maintain cultural relevance and appeal to students.

### **4.2 Economic factors**

In terms of finance, including funding for art and music projects, it has a significant impact on the implementation of popular music education in universities. Budget constraints may limit course resources, teacher recruitment, and equipment procurement,

potentially reducing teaching effectiveness and leading to unsatisfactory teaching quality in popular music education in universities.

### **4.3 Teacher competence and experience**

The teaching ability and experience of teachers are directly related to whether popular music education in universities can achieve good teaching results. Schools should provide opportunities for specialized training for teachers, by enhancing their comprehensive literacy, professional level, sense of responsibility, and teaching enthusiasm, to make popular music education in the new era unique and welcomed by all students.

### **4.4 Student needs**

Different students have different learning needs, and their learning needs will change with the teaching process. Therefore, popular music education in universities in the new era has certain challenges. Continuously expanding teaching forms, innovating educational models, enriching the learning environment for students, and expanding their knowledge reserves are of great significance.

### **4.5 Industry connections**

Popular music education in universities without industry connections may not generate maximum teaching benefits. In addition, it can also lead to low enthusiasm for learning among students, poor learning outcomes, and numerous obstacles in their future career paths.

## **5. Effective strategies for popular music education in universities in the new era**

### **5.1 Strengthen recognition and support for popular music education**

In order to improve the awareness of popular music education, educators should work together to study the intrinsic value of popular music, conduct academic research on popular music, pay attention to the impact of popular music on students' career, attract support from numerous academic and funding institutions, and develop new courses to enable college students to participate in diverse and rich content music projects, Conduct in-depth learning of theoretical knowledge and repeated training of music skills, and through interdisciplinary learning, flexibly apply advanced technologies, keep up with the current trend of popular music, and develop towards a higher level.

### **5.2 Collaboration between universities, industry professionals, and musicians**

Universities should actively seek cooperation with industry partners, concentrate multiple efforts, establish professional networks for students, provide them with different internship opportunities, let them enter major production companies, participate in music festival activities, and better integrate into the music industry. In addition, universities can implement resident musician programs, allowing renowned artists to work closely with students and providing them with unique learning opportunities. These artists can bring rich industry knowledge and professional practical knowledge, benefiting more students as a result.

### **5.3 Combining innovative technologies and teaching practices**

Universities should create a blended learning model to provide students with diverse learning options and cater to a wider range of students, including those already active in the music industry. Subsequently, an experiential approach can be adopted

## **6. Conclusion**

In summary, it is crucial and imperative to study the current situation of popular music education in universities in the new era, create a more comprehensive education system, and attract more attention to popular music education. Education workers should continue to explore new paths, find new methods, integrate new strategies, fully demonstrate the charm of popular music education, cultivate a large number of high-quality professional talents, and meet the talent needs of the entire society.

## **References:**

- [1] Wang Haoyu. Practical research on modern educational technology in popular music education in universities [J]. Contemporary Music, 2021 (1): 38-40.
- [2] Tao Jing, Sun Miao. Analysis of the Current Situation of Pop Music Education in Universities in the New Era [J]. Education and Teaching Forum, 2022 (7): 33-36.
- [3] Zhao Yue. Research on the Current Situation and Discipline Construction Strategies of Popular Music Education in Universities [J]. Drama Home, 2022 (32): 175-177.

## **About the author:**

Yonglei Wang (1986-), male, Han Nationality, born in Jinan, Shandong province, doctoral candidate, research direction: modern instrumental music performance.