

# Optimization of Piano Aesthetic Education in Universities under the Background of the New Era

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**Abstract:** The integration of aesthetic education into piano teaching in universities is beneficial for deepening students' understanding of piano works, improving their ability to appreciate and create beauty, guiding students to integrate their appreciation experience into performance, and improving their piano performance level. Piano teachers in universities should enhance their emphasis on aesthetic education, encourage students to share appreciation experiences, and improve their aesthetic abilities; Seize the opportunity of "Internet plus", and use short videos to clip famous piano playing videos to meet the aesthetic needs of different students; Organize a class piano concert to showcase piano works of different styles, allowing students to receive aesthetic education and influence; Explore the cultural connotations of piano works, guide students to appreciate piano works at a deeper level, improve their musical aesthetic ability, and achieve a win-win situation in piano teaching and learning.

**Keywords:** New Era; Piano lessons in universities; Aesthetic education; Optimize the path

## Introduction:

With the further deepening of aesthetic education, the integration of aesthetic education and piano teaching in universities is becoming increasingly close. The teaching philosophy of piano teachers has been transformed, allowing them to integrate aesthetic education into piano score recognition, fingering training, and performance training, deepening students' understanding of piano music, allowing them to appreciate the emotions and cultural heritage contained in piano music, allowing them to inject emotions while showing off their skills, and further improving students' piano performance level and aesthetic ability. Piano teachers in universities should cleverly integrate aesthetic education, collect excellent piano works from both domestic and foreign sources, enrich aesthetic education materials, enable students to appreciate different styles of piano works, improve their ability to appreciate beauty, integrate aesthetic education into piano performance training, explain inspiring stories of pianists and the emotions contained in their works, guide them to integrate emotions into performance, thereby improving their artistic appeal of piano sound and improving the quality of aesthetic education in piano lessons.

## I. The necessity of integrating aesthetic education into piano teaching in universities under the background of the new era

### 1. Beneficial for improving students' ability to appreciate and create beauty

Under the educational concept of "five educations simultaneously", aesthetic education has become an important component of piano teaching in universities, which is conducive to improving students' ability to feel, appreciate, and create beauty, enabling them to understand the hidden humanistic feelings, historical and cultural heritage, and life philosophy in piano works, and promoting their comprehensive development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor. At the same time, integrating aesthetic education into piano teaching in universities is conducive to guiding students to deeply appreciate musical works, allowing them to feel the beauty of music in piano playing, appreciate the differences between Chinese and foreign piano works, stimulate their love for music, national pride, and cultural confidence, and lay a good foundation for subsequent piano performance and creation, thereby improving students' ability to create beauty.

### 2. Beneficial for improving students' piano performance level

The organic combination of aesthetic education and piano teaching is conducive to helping students understand the stories, life philosophies, and different national music cultures behind piano music, stimulating their creative thinking, improving the fun of piano training, making boring finger training lively and interesting, and thus improving their piano performance level. In addition, piano teachers in universities should actively improve students' aesthetic abilities, encourage them to appreciate musical works from multiple perspectives, and enable them to integrate their insights and appreciation experiences of musical works into their own piano sound, further improving their piano performance appeal and musical expression ability.

### 3. Beneficial for deepening students' understanding of musical works

Piano teachers in universities should actively integrate into aesthetic education. On the one hand, they should collect piano works of different styles, guide students to explore the cultural heritage, life philosophy, and humanistic care contained in piano music, and guide them to deeply appreciate piano works, which is conducive to deepening their understanding of music works and enhancing their musical aesthetic ability. On the other hand, aesthetic education is beneficial for enriching students' piano knowledge reserves, allowing them to receive aesthetic education while mastering piano notation, fingering, and other knowledge. It facilitates students to appreciate piano works based on the author's life story, work creation background, and emotional elements, improve their music appreciation ability, and cultivate their artistic spirit of striving for excellence, pursuing excellence, and exploring innovation.

## II. Analysis of the Current Situation of Aesthetic Education in Piano Education in Universities

### 1. Teachers do not attach much importance to aesthetic education

At present, many piano teachers in universities pay more attention to piano skill teaching, focusing on score recognition, fingering, and performance skill training. They carry out teaching based on the content and standards of piano professional level exams, and rarely penetrate aesthetic education. Piano teachers choose high difficulty piano performance repertoire for teaching, standardize student fingering, teach performance skills, assign a large number of piano practice tasks, and neglect in-depth aesthetic education in piano performance training, which is difficult to stimulate students' enthusiasm for practicing and affects their piano performance ability improvement.

### 2. The piano teaching repertoire is relatively single

Piano teachers in colleges and universities mainly focus on teaching materials and tracks, ignoring the collection of extracurricular famous piano songs such as Tiktok, Weibo, and Station B, which leads to a single teaching track of piano lessons, limits students' aesthetic vision, and is difficult to meet their personalized aesthetic needs. Naturally, it is difficult to stimulate their enthusiasm for piano practice and limit their development of music aesthetic ability. Some teachers have a superficial explanation of the purpose of piano music, with a greater emphasis on melody, fingering, and chord knowledge. They have less explanation of the cultural background, emotional value, and other aspects of the work, which affects students' understanding of piano works and is not conducive to their development of piano performance and aesthetic abilities.

### 3. The penetration channels of aesthetic education are relatively single

With the proposal of the educational concept of "five educations simultaneously", many piano teachers in universities have infused aesthetic education into their teaching. However, theoretical analysis is the main focus, neglecting aesthetic practice activities such as organizing class piano concerts and appreciating piano works. This has led to aesthetic education becoming a mere formality, affecting the integration of piano teaching and aesthetic education, and making it difficult to fully realize the value of piano lessons in aesthetic education. At the same time, some piano teachers neglect to interact with students in aesthetic education and fail to guide students to give different explanations of piano works, which limits their musical imagination and creative thinking, and affects the quality of aesthetic education in piano classes in universities.

## III. The Optimization Path of Piano Aesthetic Education in Universities under the Background of the New Era

### 1. Strengthen the importance of aesthetic education and fully penetrate aesthetic education

Piano teachers in universities should change their teaching philosophy, attach importance to cultivating students' aesthetic abilities, comprehensively penetrate aesthetic education, expand piano teaching content, and further improve the quality of piano teaching. Firstly, piano teachers in universities should explore the aesthetic education materials contained in textbooks, integrate aesthetic education with piano teaching, encourage students to share piano appreciation experiences, innovate piano appreciation teaching methods, and improve their ability to appreciate beauty. For example, teachers can play classic piano pieces "To Alice" and "A Girl's Prayer" for students, leaving them time for independent thinking, allowing them to share their appreciation experience of these two piano pieces, enlivening the classroom atmosphere, and deepening their understanding of piano music. Some students believe that "To Alice" is one of Beethoven's representative works, with a fresh and lively melody, soft and moving. It is a must learn piece for piano beginners, and its unique harmonic techniques leave a deep impression on the performer. Some students believe that "A Girl's Prayer" is the Polish female pianist Badatevska, with a very gentle and fresh melody. The whole piece is slightly sad, as if it tells the girl's thoughts and wishes for a better life. At the same time, teachers can encourage students to play "To Alice" and "A Girl's Prayer" with their own appreciation experience, allowing them to integrate their understanding of these two piano pieces into their performance, further improving their piano performance level and aesthetic ability, and unleashing the unique aesthetic value of piano lessons.

### 2. Edit short videos of piano performance to enrich piano aesthetic education content

In the era of "Internet plus", piano teachers in colleges and universities should skillfully use new media such as Tiktok, B Station and Weibo to collect videos of famous piano players and famous Chinese and foreign piano music performances, and use these videos as aesthetic education materials to meet students' personalized aesthetic needs, stimulate their enthusiasm for piano practice, and improve their aesthetic ability. First of all, teachers can collect popular piano songs on Tiktok and B station platforms, carefully make short videos, use them to carry out piano appreciation teaching, create immersive appreciation situations, guide students to deeply appreciate piano songs, and improve their music aesthetic ability. For example, teachers can edit short videos of Japanese piano masters such as "Sky City", "Kikujiro's Summer", Richard Clayderman's "Fate", and "Autumn Whispers", allowing students to appreciate different styles of piano music, broaden their musical aesthetic perspective, stimulate their imagination and creative thinking, and enable them to appreciate piano music from multiple perspectives, improving their appreciation ability. Secondly, teachers can encourage students to share their favorite piano pieces, involve them in piano appreciation teaching, stimulate their enthusiasm for independent learning, and promote their communication in piano appreciation. For example, some students recommended a video of Lang Lang, an excellent young pianist in China, playing the piano, believing that Lang Lang's voice is full of emotions, his fingering is flexible, and his voice has strong emotional tension. Teachers can comment on students' piano appreciation experience, affirm their personalized appreciation experience, point out the problems in their

appreciation, encourage them to use the Internet to appreciate Chinese and foreign famous piano songs, watch piano concert videos, and further improve their piano performance ability and appreciation ability.

### 3. Hold a class piano concert to enhance students' aesthetic abilities

Piano teachers in universities should organize piano concerts, encourage students to choose their own music and try playing four hand combos, stimulate their enthusiasm for piano practice, create a good atmosphere for piano aesthetic education, promote communication among students, and improve their aesthetic abilities. Firstly, students can choose their favorite piano pieces or try to string together piano pieces, integrating different styles of piano pieces, deeply understanding the broad music, clear timbre, and changing fingerings of the piano, experiencing the charm of piano performance, and becoming more passionate about piano art, comprehensively improving their piano performance ability and music aesthetic ability. For example, students can connect piano pieces such as "Jasmine Flower" and "Yellow River Cantata" with Chinese flavor, showcasing the soft and majestic red music of Jiangnan folk songs, showcasing different piano arts, using piano pieces to express their patriotic enthusiasm, and improving their aesthetic ability. Secondly, teachers can guide students to share their experience of appreciating piano performances, allowing them to choose their favorite piano works and encouraging them to engage in peer evaluation, allowing them to receive aesthetic education and further improve their aesthetic abilities. At the same time, students provide feedback on other students' piano performance techniques, emotional expression, and piano piece characteristics, exchange piano piece appreciation experiences, collaborate on piano piece appreciation, and thus improve their own music appreciation abilities.

### 4. Digging into the cultural connotations of piano music and improving the quality of aesthetic education

Piano teachers should guide students to appreciate piano works from multiple perspectives, allowing them to collect information such as the author's life story, creative background, and cultural background, leading them to deeply appreciate piano works, and further improving the quality of aesthetic education in piano lessons. For example, teachers can explain to students the knowledge related to the fourth movement "Defending the Yellow River" of the Yellow River Piano Concerto, explain the background of the creation, the process of patriotic musician Xian Xinghai's creation, as well as the patriotic sentiment and firm revolutionary beliefs contained in the movement, and encourage them to appreciate this piano piece. Some students believe that the fourth chapter of the concerto "The Yellow River" did not adopt a Western musical structure, but adopted a variation method. The melody changes quickly, showcasing the turbulent anti Japanese war and the indomitable and indomitable spirit of the Chinese people. It is an excellent piece of red music. Some students believe that "Protecting the Yellow River" has a magnificent momentum and gradually accelerated speed, showcasing the development process of the Chinese people from weakness to strength, showcasing the endless vitality of the Yellow River, and representing the Chinese people's firm belief in revolutionary victory. University teachers should guide students to deeply appreciate the background, cultural heritage, and cultural characteristics of piano composition, diverge their thinking, help them break thinking patterns, and improve their musical aesthetic ability.

## IV. Conclusion

In short, under the background of the new era, piano teachers in universities should actively carry out aesthetic education, explore the aesthetic education elements contained in textbooks, integrate aesthetic education into piano score recognition, fingering explanation, and performance training, so that students can receive aesthetic education and influence unconsciously, encourage them to appreciate piano works from multiple perspectives, and improve their aesthetic ability. At the same time, piano teachers can use platforms such as Tiktok and station B to import extra-curricular piano music, enrich the teaching content of piano appreciation, lead students to appreciate works of different styles, organize piano concerts, encourage students to play their favorite piano music, let them improve their personal aesthetic ability in practice, and comprehensively improve the quality of aesthetic education of piano lessons in colleges and universities.

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