

On the Development of National Orchestras in Colleges and Universities: Taking Sichuan Minzu College as an Example*

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As an important carrier of the construction of campus spiritual civilization, college national orchestra can not only enhance the popularity of the school, the level of art education, but also improve the students' aesthetics of music through the professional training of national orchestra. This paper analyzes the current situation of national orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College from different perspectives, and in view of the problems explores the form and trend of its future development in order to achieve better development of national orchestra in colleges and universities.

Keywords: national orchestras, significance, current situation, Sichuan Minzu College

I. Introduction

In recent years, with the initiative of the Ministry of education, the introduction of elegant art into the campus has gradually been valued by colleges and universities, especially the National Orchestra, as the most representative form of elegant art, and is deeply loved by people. As a barometer of campus culture in Colleges and universities, the National Orchestra carries the function of building spiritual civilization in schools (Wang, 2006, p. 56). The establishment of national orchestras in Colleges and universities can not only build a better campus cultural environment, improve students' cultural literacy and aesthetic ability, but also better promote and develop the traditional folk music culture.

II. A Survey of the Development of Chinese National Orchestras

The "Datong concert" held in Shanghai in 1920 marked the formation of modern Chinese national orchestras. Through continuous innovation and improvement of traditional instruments, a national orchestra composed of stringed instruments, plucked instruments, wind instruments and percussion instruments was gradually formed. In the early stage of its establishment, due to the influence of the organization of orchestras, the number of people was small, only about 30, and its development was affected by one Set limits. After that, after a group of professional people's continuous reform and improvement of the organization system structure of the

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orchestra, such as joining the northern wind band, the reform of the bass huqin, the expansion of the range, and the enhancement of the intonation, the first well-organized Shanghai large-scale national orchestra was established in 1952. The establishment of Shanghai National Orchestra further standardizes the types of Chinese National Orchestra and opens up a wider space for its sustainable development in the later period. With the continuous development of national orchestras, the repertoire of national orchestras is becoming more and more rich, mainly including hundreds of classic works of national orchestras, such as “colorful clouds chasing the moon” “high moon” “harvest gongs and drums” “Yao dance music” “impression of Taihang” “reminiscence of Taiwan” “Northwest suite”, etc., many classic works emerge in an endless stream, which is of great significance to the development of national orchestras.

III. The Significance of Establishing National Orchestra in Colleges and Universities

Tao Xingzhi, a famous educator in China, once said, “education without art is incomplete education” (Lu, 2013, p. 217). Art education has always been an important part of human education. Its importance has been widely recognized by all nationalities in the world. Its role lies in cultivating people’s aesthetic ability, cultivating people’s moral sentiment, opening up people’s spiritual horizon, enriching people’s cultural life and developing people’s comprehensive quality (Wang, 2016, p. 6). College National Orchestra is an important implementation project of campus spiritual and cultural life, and campus spiritual culture is the soul of campus cultural construction. As the bearing way of campus spiritual and cultural construction, National Orchestra can not only build a better campus cultural environment, improve the cultural accomplishment and aesthetic ability of teachers and students, but also greatly improve the comprehensive quality of students. Students actively participate in every rehearsal and performance activities to spread our traditional music culture in the form of musical instrument performance and experience the cultural heritage of our country for five thousand years. In the rehearsal process of national orchestras, the head of the orchestras will often choose some works with different classics or styles for rehearsal. During rehearsal, they will conduct intensive training for each piece and section that are easy to make mistakes in the music, so that each member of the orchestras can master their own performance part, and each member can strengthen the team spirit through mutual cooperation, which is helpful to the orchestras. The improvement of members’ coordination ability, performance level and music aesthetic ability. At the same time, for the teachers in charge of the orchestra, as the conductor and leader of the whole orchestra, they must have high professional quality and strong executive ability, so as to improve the enthusiasm of students’ rehearsal and ensure the rapid development of the orchestra. Therefore, this requires the teachers in charge of the orchestra to constantly improve their comprehensive quality, improve their professional skills and cooperate with the orchestra. It is beneficial for teachers and students to further improve their musical quality and create a harmonious and pleasant learning environment.

IV. The Current Situation of the Development of The national Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College

4.1 Closed Performance

At present, the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College is only limited to the performance within the school, such as the opening of large-scale art party, graduation ceremony and other occasions. It has not really

gone out of the school to let more people know about the development of the school orchestra. The National Orchestra lacks a broader stage, and the performance status is relatively closed.

4.2 The Rules and Regulations of the Orchestra are not Perfect

A set of perfect rules and regulations is beneficial to the development of the whole orchestra. At present, due to the short establishment time of the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College, the formulation of rules and regulations is not perfect, which directly affects the development progress of the National Orchestra.

4.3 The Members of the Orchestra Have Great Mobility

The National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College has gradually developed from the first 30 people to the large-scale national orchestra with more than 60 people. In the development process of these years, because of the large mobility of the members of the orchestra, the members of the orchestra, usually trained in two years, are about to leave the Orchestra due to graduation practice, and then recruit new members again, train them again, and replace them every year. It is bound to cost a lot of human, material and financial resources, which will seriously affect the innovation and rehearsal process of orchestra works.

4.4 The Variety of Musical Instruments is not Rich

At present, the musical instruments in the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College mainly include erhu, guzheng, Yangqin, pipa, Ruan, drum, Gong, wooden fish, triangle iron, and handbell. Obviously, the lack of wind and bass instruments directly limits the choice of performance music. The rehearsal works of the National Orchestra are limited to "ocean of joy", "full moon", "radski March", "Spring Festival preface." Because of the lack of wind instruments, it is difficult to break through the current situation of the rehearsal of the six pieces of music, the Golden Snake Dance and the colorful cloud chasing the moon.

4.5 The Performance Level of Students' Instrumental Music is Uneven

Sichuan Minzu College belongs to the normal university. The students' professional level is generally weak, especially the instrumental performance level is poor. Only a few students have a certain foundation for musical instrument performance. Some members of the orchestra start to contact musical instruments and learn to play through entering the College. Because the members of the Orchestra do not have a good command of solfeggio, basic music theory and instrumental performance, therefore, there is a gap in the performance level, which directly affects the overall performance level of the National Orchestra.

V. Some Thoughts on the Future Developmeng of the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College

5.1 The Strong Support of the School is the Guarantee of the Development of the National Orchestra

According to the current situation of the National Orchestra of SichuanMinzu College, the author believes that the school should give enough attention and support to the National Orchestra from the following aspects. First, the development of the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College is limited by the venue. On the one hand, the organization of the orchestra is difficult to expand, and on the other hand, the rehearsal effect is not obvious. The school should provide a standard rehearsal venue for the National Orchestra to ensure the normal and orderly rehearsal and sustainable development of the orchestra in the future. Second, in the long-term rehearsal process, some musical instruments in the national orchestra are purchased or maintained, the National

Orchestra participates in large-scale performances and competitions, and the full-time rehearsal teachers of the National Orchestra need the school to provide certain financial support, so as to effectively improve the enthusiasm of teachers and students in rehearsal. Third, the school can incorporate the rehearsal of the National Orchestra into the school's teaching plan, encourage students with certain music foundation to actively participate in the school's National Orchestra, and give them certain practical credits. At the same time, the good performance of the students in the National Orchestra will be affirmed, and appropriate care will be given before the selection. Fourth, the school can regularly hire experts from professional national orchestras to come to the school for rehearsal and guidance, and improve the professional quality of the students of the orchestras by explaining their professional knowledge. Fifthly, every school year, the school should organize the folk orchestra to hold a report performance or a special concert on schedule, at the same time, it should actively carry out a variety of artistic activities, and organize the folk orchestra to participate in the performance, which can not only test students' learning results, but also let students get the opportunity to exercise. Sixth, the College should strengthen the mutual communication and contact with other national orchestras, learn from each other, learn from each other and make common progress.

5.2 Perfect Rules and Regulations are the Premise of the Development of National Orchestra

As the saying goes, "no rules, no circles.". As a large group, College National Orchestra has many students and a large flow. In order to ensure the normal rehearsal and teaching work of College National Orchestra, its development needs a stable and sound management system. First of all, we must establish a set of perfect rules and regulations. Teachers and students must strictly implement the rules and regulations in daily rehearsal. When performing and rehearsing, there should be clear management system and regulations to ensure the normal operation of the National Orchestra. For example, the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College rehearses twice a week for two hours each time. Rehearsal is like class. Students who are late or absent from class should be punished accordingly to ensure the normal rehearsal. In addition, a set of reward mechanism can be established for the daily rehearsal of the orchestra to stimulate the enthusiasm of the students. Through orderly and restricted rehearsal, students can not only improve their performance skills and abilities, but also enhance their sense of coordination and cooperation.

5.3 The Enthusiasm of the Students is the Guarantee of the Development of the National Orchestra

At present, the professional foundation of most students in the National Orchestra of Sichuan Minzu College is relatively weak, and before that, they have carried out single training, lack of cooperation awareness and lack of musical expression. Most of the students will have a curiosity when they first participate in the National Orchestra. The teacher can carry out systematic and orderly training for this. First, they can watch and explain the performance video of the National Orchestra to let the students know their role in the National Orchestra. Due to the weak instrumental performance foundation of students, the teacher should choose some music with moderate difficulty for rehearsal, such as "dancing of Golden Snake" "jubilant", "chasing the moon with colorful clouds" and other music, so that students will not have too much burden in performance skills, and can devote themselves to the cooperation of each part. At the same time, the teacher should also explain some differences between the total score and the score to students. At the beginning of the rehearsal, the rehearsal teacher should select a person in charge of each voice part, who can arrange simple music for them to rehearse in groups, and use the knowledge

learned to practice the music score in parts, from a single voice part to a combination of multiple voice parts. Through such a gradual rehearsal, students can understand that they should not only complete their rehearsal tasks, but also work with other voice parts. The voice parts are integrated with each other to improve the enthusiasm of students.

5.4 The Combination of Tradition and Innovation is the Key to the Development of National Orchestra

Chinese traditional culture pays attention to the harmony between man and nature. Charles Sigger, a famous American music educator, said, “the core foundation of a country’s music education is the folk music of that country” (Wang, 2012, p. 99). As an integral part of folk music culture, National Orchestra is consistent with Chinese traditional culture, and innovation is the driving force for its development. National Orchestra needs to integrate innovative elements on the basis of tradition, that is, the combination of popularity and elegance. This requires that the National Orchestra in Colleges and universities should make accurate positioning in performance style and characteristics, especially as a National University in China, Sichuan Minzu College should strive for innovation in the selection of orchestra performance repertoire, which can choose the current popular or classic music, or choose the music with folk characteristics, not only through different performance styles to train students to Holding degree can improve students’ performance level and musical expression, form the unique national characteristics of National Orchestra, pay attention to stage expression, and realize the same development of vision and hearing.

VI. Conclusion

As a part of the national music culture, the national orchestra plays an important role in carrying forward and developing the traditional folk music culture. College students are the pillars of the future development of the country, and their humanistic quality has a profound impact on the development of a nation’s culture (Zhang, 2018, p. 10). As the cradle of talent training, the establishment of national orchestras in Colleges and universities plays an active role in the construction of campus cultural environment, the improvement of art education level, and the improvement of students’ comprehensive quality. Therefore, as a living force in the construction of campus culture, national orchestras in Colleges and universities should be highly valued and strongly supported.

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