

The Improvement of Curriculum Program about Voice Major in Popular Songs in Northeast Normal University

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บทคัดย่อ

บทความนี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของวิทยานิพนธ์เรื่อง “การศึกษาหลักสูตรการขับร้องเพลงในระดับปริญญาตรี สำหรับหลักสูตรเพลงสมัยนิยมในมหาวิทยาลัยนอร์มอลในประเทศจีน” (A Study of the Undergraduate Curriculum for Voice Program of Popular Songs in Normal Universities, China.) มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อปรับปรุงโปรแกรมหลักสูตรเกี่ยวกับการขับร้องในเพลงสมัยนิยมในระดับปริญญาตรีในมหาวิทยาลัยนอร์มอล ศึกษาใช้วิธีการวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพและข้อมูลจากการภาคสนาม ผลการวิจัยมีดังนี้ 1) เนื้อหาหลักสูตรบางหลักสูตรไม่ตรงกับความต้องการของสังคม โครงสร้างหลักสูตรบางหลักสูตรไม่สมดุลซึ่งควรปรับปรุง 2) ทรัพยากรของหลักสูตรขาดการบูรณาการซึ่งควรปรับปรุง 3) วิธีการประเมินผลมีรูปแบบเดียวควรปรับปรุง บนพื้นฐานนี้ผู้เขียนนำเสนอวิธีการในการปรับปรุงโปรแกรมหลักสูตรโดยภาพรวมหลักสูตรการอภิปรายเชิงตรรกะและการตรวจสอบภาคสนาม

คำสำคัญ: มหาวิทยาลัยนอร์สอีสันอร์มอล หลักสูตร การร้องเพลงสมัยนิยม การพัฒนา

Abstract

This paper was written from dissertation “A Study of the Undergraduate Curriculum for Voice Major Program in Popular Songs in Selected Normal Universities in China.” The objectives are to improve the curriculum program about voice major in popular songs about undergraduate stage in Northeast Normal University. The study employs the qualitative research methods and data from the fieldwork. The results are following:

1) Some contents of curriculum program are out of the social needs, some structure of curriculum program is not balanced, which should be improved in the decision-making procedure; 2) Course resource is lack of integration, which should be improved in the implementation procedure; 3) The evaluation method is single, which should be improved in the feedback procedure. On this basis, the author puts forward the methods to improve

the curriculum program by combining the curriculum of logical discussion and fieldwork investigation.

Keywords: Northeast Normal University, curriculum program, voice major in popular songs, Improvement

Introduction

The long-term teaching and research of voice performance major in popular songs, and long-term study of voice performance in the normal universities, the author always pays attention to the voice major curriculum in popular songs. In reality, the lack of theoretical research on undergraduate curriculum of voice major in popular songs in the normal universities makes the author deeply to feel the importance and urgency of undergraduate curriculum study on the major. The popular music department in Northeast Normal University was founded in 2009 and they began to recruit students in 2007. The popular department is a new teaching unit that focuses on the development trend of education, such as music technology and new media music program, modern instrumental performance program, voice program in popular songs, etc. It is also a key teaching institution for the cultivation of popular music talents in northeast China. (Tao Xin, 1998).

There are 143 normal colleges and universities in China. In the six top rated normal universities, only Northeast Normal University and Southwest Normal University offer popular singing program. And only Northeast Normal University established popular music department

Research Objectives

The aim of this research is to improve the curriculum program about voice major in popular songs about undergraduate stage in Northeast Normal University.

Research Methodology

This is a qualitative investigation adopting the fieldwork. Data for this investigation were collected from both field work and documents analysis in Northeast Normal University in China.

The field study includes collecting data, interviewing the teacher and the students, questionnaire for the students. The author concludes the curriculum program in voice major of popular songs by collecting data, interviewing the teacher and the students, questionnaire for the students. The details of course classification and the credits distribution are showed in the curriculum program.

Results

Through the fieldwork in Northeast Normal University, the data is checked with the triangular aspects from 2 teachers, 2 students and the documents in the official websites in college of music. The results of the study were found as follows.

1. The curriculum should be improved in the decision-making procedure. It was found that the some contents of curriculum program are out of the social needs, some structure of curriculum program is not balanced. For example, the minimum credits of general education course are 44, accounting for 31%. It is of excessive proportion, including basic principles of Marxism、sports and so on, which lacks of contact with the arts discipline. Moreover, the credits of the professional internship are 6, accounting 4%.

2. The curriculum should be improved in the implementation procedure. It is found that course resource is lack of integration. For example, rich resources of teachers in various courses are showed from the course name in curriculum program, but the department of popular music in Northeast Normal University has 4 teachers currently and the remaining teachers are external teachers. Among the existing full-time teachers in the department, there are 3 associate professors and 1 lecturer.

3. The curriculum should be improved in the feedback procedure. It is found that the evaluation method is single. The main evaluation method of the voice program in popular songs is to obtain the final score by adding the results of the three parts in proportion: the usual score (30%) and the final score (70%), which is interviewed from the teacher and students. The program needs evaluation mechanism to achieve the feedback of the teaching effect.

Discussion

In my research, the innovation points of this paper are summarized and analyzed on the basis of fieldwork. The improvement methods about the procedure of curriculum program are showed in Table 1.

Table 1: Improvement methods of the curriculum program

Category	Suggestions
Decision-making procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creative idea -Reasonable personnel composition -Definite personnel responsibilities, -To design concrete implementation steps -To clear the development orientation -To follow the social needs.
Implementation procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teachers' sense of responsibility, -Creative teaching -Forward-looking teaching through the integration
Feedback procedure through the evaluation system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Curriculum evaluation through the students' learning effect -Curriculum evaluation by observing and feeling in the process -Further information of evaluation by tracking and investigating the working place of the students

1. To attach the importance to decision-making procedure of the curriculum.

Standardized decision-making procedure about the voice major curriculum of popular songs includes the reasonable personnel composition, definite personnel responsibilities, concrete implementation steps, clearing the orientation of curriculum development, studying the suitable curriculum design in accordance to the social needs (Guan Jianhua, 2005).

Firstly, the decision-making procedure in the voice major curriculum of popular songs in Northeast Normal University should follow certain curriculum development principles and standards, but not to completely copy the common standards stipulated by the national curriculum system, which need to combine the characteristics of the voice music subject in popular songs and characteristics in Northeast Normal University.

Secondly, the decision-making procedure needs reasonable personnel composition. Reasonable personnel composition needs decision-making group, which consists of reasonable professional structure, technical title and position structure. Professional structure requires music education major and related voice major in popular songs, etc. Technical titles require associate professors or above. The job structure requires the participation of the dean in college of music, the vice dean in charge of teaching, the head

of popular music department and other trunk teachers. Everyone in decision-making group needs to have definite personnel responsibilities

Thirdly, for the decision-making procedure, the decision-making group needs to design the suitable curriculum program in accordance to the social needs, identify concrete implementation steps, and clear the orientation of curriculum development. According to social needs, voice major in popular songs need to cultivate comprehensive singing ability on stage, song writing ability, teaching ability of popular songs, management ability of popular music industrial chain, etc. Therefore, the group should balance the curriculum structure and integrate the resources according to such social needs and specify the implementation steps. Such as, song writing course can be run for six semesters, and students are required to produce write original songs each semester, to enhance their ability to create albums by themselves. The students are required for concerts every semester. The freshmen and the sophomore students can hold concerts together and the junior students and the senior students can hold concerts independently to enhance students' singing ability on stage. Besides, the decision-making group should be clear about the development direction of the ability about singing the popular songs、teaching the popular songs、writing the songs and management in popular music industrial chain, and be forward-looking when designing the curriculum program.

2. To validate the implementation procedures of the curriculum.

As for guaranteeing the implementation effect of curriculum, the teachers of courses should be responsible, and the teaching of each course should be creative and forward-looking (Harberster, 2013).

Firstly, about the sense of responsibility in the implementation procedure of the curriculum program, teachers of various courses should deeply understand the curriculum objectives and curriculum requirements of the program, and teaching the students according to the social needs. In the actual teaching process, teachers should be responsible and carry out teaching in accordance with the curriculum objects and curriculum requirements. The teaching steps cannot be omitted, and the teaching process cannot be reduced.

Secondly, about the creative teaching in the implementation procedure of the curriculum, teachers cannot simply arrange teaching according to the syllabus, should not be completely scripted in accordance with the provisions of teaching materials. Therefore, it is necessary to re-create and develop the course content, actively develop the distinctive teaching content, emphasize the curriculum implementation individuality and the curriculum implementation creativity.

Thirdly, about the looking-forward teaching, the teachers also need to have a forward-looking understanding about the development direction of popular music in the future, and the teaching content should also be forward-looking and be integrated, so that

students can develop with The Times after entering the society. Such as, in voice teaching, attention should be paid to the cultivation of various styles, as well as the singing ability of the musical. In stage practice course, students should be trained to rehearse the musical. In dance course, teachers should train students' singing ability in dance group. In band orchestration technique course of popular music, we can train students to organize a band on the stage, train a group of several people to rehearse the band, and change the lead singer every semester, so as to enhance students' singing ability in a band.

3. Establish the evaluation system for the feedback procedure of curriculum program.

Firstly, we always implement curriculum evaluation through the students' learning effect. This approach also requires the evaluator to pay special attention to the learning process and the effectiveness of their learning methods, according to the basic principles of evaluation. Attention to the learning process, such as whether students are interested in popular song creation, performance creation, teaching creation, the related management knowledge of the industrial chain, and how much their hobbies and emotional reactions are. In addition, students' participation attitude and desire for cooperation, coordination ability in practical activities can also be investigated. And students' experience, understanding, performance ability in practical activities, as well as the formation of aesthetic feelings of popular songs can also be considered. In a word, various factors in students' learning, including the emotions, attitudes and values formed in the learning process, are the important basis to measure whether the objectives of voice major curriculum in popular songs are achieved or not.

Secondly, teachers evaluate the curriculum by observing and feeling in the process. As the executor of the curriculum, teachers can have a very detailed understanding of the development and utilization of curriculum resources, the curriculum content design, the teaching methods, the learning effect of students, a series of other situations in teaching activities. In this way, we can make a relatively reasonable evaluation of all aspects of the curriculum. This evaluation approach is an indispensable part of curriculum evaluation (Guan, 2005).

Thirdly, we should track and investigate the working place of voice major students in popular songs, so as to obtain the further information of course evaluation. If the first two approaches are direct curriculum evaluation approaches, the third approach is an indirect curriculum evaluation. The main goal of voice major in popular songs in Northeast Normal University is to equip students with solid professional skills and high professional accomplishment, so that they can perform better in their future professional positions. Therefore, it is also a curriculum evaluation way to obtain corresponding information through tracking and investigating students' working conditions after employment, which cannot be ignored. Of course, when evaluating the curriculum through this way, it is necessary to avoid the influence of various subjective factors on the evaluation result, which requires two ways

to obtain the information of students' work situation: one is provided by students themselves, and the other is provided by employers.

Suggestions

The design and implementation of curriculum program is a complex, dynamic and developing system. Its development follows unbalanced - balanced - new unbalanced, showing a tortuous upward trend. The author can only give some suggestions on the voice major program of popular songs in Northeast Normal University from the perspective of procedure study, and further research could be explored in other universities. If the research results are used to solve the problems of voice major program in popular songs in other universities, the characteristics of the program in other universities should be combined.

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