Discuss about the Characteristics and Value of Kodaly’s Music Teaching

Ji CHEN
Sichuan Preschool Educators College Jiangyou, Sichuan, 621709, China
piginspring@sina.com

Keywords: Kodaly’s Teaching Method, Music Teaching, Music Education.

Abstract. Kodaly’s Music teaching method is a Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly in in-depth study of world music teaching method based on the combination of Hungarian national conditions and customs and the characteristics of folk music, formed their unique music education idea and the education system. This article through the introduction and analysis of the twentieth Century Hungarian music educator Kodaly's music education concept, reveals its importance in music education.

The Research Problem

Zoltan Kodaly is a famous Hungarian composer and music educator in twentieth century. Named after his name "Kodaly's teaching method" is one of the most far-reaching music teaching system in the contemporary world. Since the 1920s, Kodaly’s teaching method in the world has been recognized and spread in Europe, the United States and many other countries.

Music teaching in the teaching of our country preschool stage and the stage of basic education plays an important role. For music teaching reform, from the beginning of the 80’s of the last century, it was emphasized by from the the decision-maker of education management to the various schools. Many teaching and research staff in China also did much research of music teaching from the aspects of theory and practice of active exploration, and also made some success.

But with the passage of time and the development of society, music teaching, music education’s challenges still exist, the purpose of music teaching and the debate of the task is still intense. Even the essence of music teaching in the end is what there is a huge difference in the academic world. Any activity of human beings has an essential characteristic, the regularity and the purpose of the law. As Einstein said, all human beings do and think are related to the need to meet the urgent needs and alleviate the pain. It can be said that all human activities are in order to discover the value, create value, realize the value and enjoy the value. One of the tasks of music teaching is to make people have the ability to discover and enjoy the value of the most basic in the field of music, that is, it has a certain musical ability. Of course, for the study of Humanities and social disciplines such as music, culture, and so on, the reflection of the value of discovery and significance, differences are inevitable. Therefore, it is one of the most urgent need for music educators to explore the educational ideas and methods which are suitable for our country.

Kodaly's thought of music education began to form in the 1920s; at this time, the Hungarian national music is facing the decline, the decline of the music education period. Kodaly patriotic musician courage, create the great cause of Hungarian music education system, he on the in-depth study of world music teaching method based on combined with Hungarian national conditions and customs and the characteristics of folk music, formed their unique music education idea and the education system. This paper discusses the social background, value and enlightenment of Kodaly's teaching method and its thought.
Kodaly’s Music Teaching

Kodaly’s music teaching is one of the three major music education systems in the world. Since the 1920s, Kodaly teaching approach in the worldwide spread also with the introduction of the development of Chinese economy and culture in China, 1990, our country established China Kodaly society, Kodaly Music teaching method also in music teaching of our country has been unceasing promotion, has obtained the certain effect.

From the view of sociological point, the development of music teaching in the world, in fact, with the development of the world's education and teaching is not open, and the world's economic and cultural development is closely related to the development of the world. Since man entered the middle and late twentieth Century, the whole world economy and society, the idea and the value have all had the profound change. Music education has been greatly influenced, especially under the influence of humanistic philosophy, the tendency of music has been gradually strengthened in the aspect of humanistic care. Therefore, the function of music teaching had more or less the change of the times.

In modern society, a person's basic music accomplishment, is regarded as one of the basic signs of spiritual civilization and cultural level. In many western countries, music and music education very seriously, these countries not only in school in the music education as the whole national education is one of the most basic link and in the whole social life, family life and culture life out this spirit. Music education is one of the indispensable elements in the development of everyone's life. Children in the influence of music, participate in music activities at the same time, not only to the music of the United States had to feel and discover, at the same time, psychological, intellectual aspects will be significantly affected. Such as children in the process of participating in musical activities, the attention, emotion, ability will be developed; intelligence and thinking will be improved in music learning; on the body attitude, temperament, and function has a very big impact.

Kodaly’s music education system has relation with Hungary's history, cultural background, as well as Kodaly's own experience and accomplishment. Zoltan Kodaly (1882-1962) is a famous Hungarian composer, national musician and music educator. On December 16, 1882, Kodaly was born in a southern Hungarian town, his childhood accepted the influence of formal education in music and elegant music, studying piano and violin in the era of high school, and later to the Budapest Conservatory of music to study, and later became a teacher. In Kodaly's music career, he to music paid great enthusiasm, and made very large contribution. Therefore, the Kodaly Music teaching method came to be regarded as one of the influence of the contemporary world's largest music education system. In recent years, because of the "Kodaly music teaching method" in our country music education is more and more attention, Kodaly music education thought idea of research and thinking, in the basic music education has been paid attention to. There are two outstanding points in Kodaly's music teaching, which is an important system of our research.

Kodaly is a composer first. In his creative process, he persisted in seeking contact with the general public. He pursued is people's art and the two were close to each other, which prompted him to continue to explore, upgrade the artistic creation form, expand the content of art education. Kodaly was the first one to deeply study the characteristics of his native language from the perspective of music creation, and to give the perfect artistic expression to his mother tongue in his works. Kodaly was the first to introduce folk songs on the opera stage, a historic step in the history of the Hungarian drama. He also took the lead to create a high level of children's chorus works of art, inspired the enthusiasm of young people to participate in art activities.
Characteristics of Kodaly's Music Teaching

National Characteristics

National characteristics is an important feature of Kodaly's music teaching thought. School music education is firmly established on the basis of national music, which is not only an important principle of Kodaly's educational thought, but also a prominent feature and important content of this system. Kodaly stressed that the traditional things can not be replaced by personal creation, no matter how good the creation of personal. In the traditional folk songs, hundreds of years of history and culture, and people's emotional eternally saved in a repeatedly tempered perfect forms of music and folk songs is good interest in art treasure house of culture. Therefore, singing folk songs must be a part of every music lesson. This is not only for the practice of singing, but also for the continuation of tradition.

Emphasize Chorus Teaching

Another important feature of Kodaly's music teaching is to sing especially the chorus as the basic musical education. Kodaly said: "the most accessible music by singing, singing is the most easy to express the thoughts and feelings of music form. With the foundation of singing, a higher level of music education can be developed." Obviously, here, he saw two singing role in music education: "the most accessible music" and "most likely to express their thoughts and feelings". In addition, he realized the singing is "basic music education" to the higher level. That is to say, he was optimistic about the singing teaching in ordinary music education, not because of the singing with the all-round development of the students' musical ability and utility, is that it is the foundation of learning music. To lay a good foundation not only cultivate the music audience means, is the premise of cultivating musicians. Compared with instrumental music, singing about Kodaly. He said: before children are able to fluently read music, learn at least based rhythm exercises and sight singing, not suitable for began learning to play a musical instrument. Because the ability to read music is not able to grow naturally, it needs to be studied and practiced in a single way. Through singing, let the students feel the melody of music aesthetic, will be beneficial to any instrument of learning, in this way is the real music, not "sound".

The Concept of National Music Education

The purpose of Kodaly's teaching method is to improve the cultural quality of the whole nation. Kodaly Music Education is not only to cultivate a few special music talent, but is to make all Hungarian citizens to master certain knowledge of music, has become the national higher musicianship. He had severely criticized at the time of the Hungarian government to maintain a professional music school and excessive investment, but on the other hand, millions of ordinary people in Hungary had become a victim being relegated to the tone deaf. He wanted to have such a music education system - the people are not the cultivation of music as a means of making a living, but the music as a part of life. He writes that music education will play an irreplaceable role in shaping the cultural quality of future citizens of Hungary. No other subjects can be as good as music in the physical and mental aspects of the children for the benefit of teaching children good music is not just beautiful sounds of the problem, but the problem of the survival of the nation. Obviously, Kodaly Music education universal view aesthetic education as an important part of the national basic education, is the shape of one of the Hungarian future citizens with good moral cultivation, improve the culture and sincere patriotism means.

The Value Analysis of Kodaly Teaching Method

To explore the value of things, it is to analyze and evaluate the things. The evaluation reflects the essential characteristics of human activities, the regularity and the aim of the human activities. As
Einstein said, all human beings do and think are related to the urgent need to meet the urgent need to reduce the pain. It can be said that all the activities of human beings are in order to find value, create value, realize the value of value, and evaluation, is the value of human discovery, revealing the value of a fundamental way. The purpose of evaluation is to reveal the relationship between the subject and the object. Value is the characteristic of the value object to meet the specific needs of the subject.

Kodaly’s teaching approach is one of the distinctive features in the field of music education teaching system in up to a century of time in various parts of the world spread rapidly, no doubt, its value and function has also been recognized by the world.

**The Theoretical Value of Kodaly’s Teaching Method**

Kodaly’s Music education system important theory value lies in cultivating the "perfect man" is that test the fusion modern ways of education, the music education from the level of aesthetic extended to people as a whole category of quality. This advanced concept in the field of human philosophy and education at that time was absorbed by Kodaly's music teaching method, which is one of the theoretical basis of Kodaly's teaching method. Therefore, Kodaly Music teaching is the modernization of teaching methods, it is also the modern music teaching and one of the important genre in the process of development is the important embodiment of humanism education, has important practical significance.

**The Practical Value of Kodaly's Teaching Method**

In the practice of music teaching, the role of music education, Kodaly believes that music is the source of human spiritual power, people who do not have music is not completely. Kodaly not only to music education as music knowledge and skills of teaching, more important is, Kodaly teaching method to cultivate the comprehensive people's idea of music. Therefore, in the practice of music teaching, Kodaly's teaching method breaks through the traditional idea, in practice, pay attention to the early music education, pay attention to the singing and chorus.

**Conclusion**

Kodaly's music education theory and music education practice has experienced nearly a hundred years, in Hungary has achieved success in the world of music education has also been recognized. Kodaly education idea, education method, works, and works his students and colleagues unremitting practice together create the Coida music education system, from the combination of theory and Practice for the development of modern education experiment, the music education of the meaning extension to cultivate future overall understanding of "perfect" on. The viewpoint and idea of Kodaly's music teaching conforms to the development trend of modern education and teaching, which plays a positive role in the development of world music teaching.

**References**


