

# Cultivation Strategies of Applied Talents in College Piano Teaching

Gaoyang Liu, Jingqiu Zhang

Sichuan University of Arts and Science, Dazhou 635000, Sichuan, China

## Abstract

**In the new era, with the continuous acceleration of national economic construction, the demand for applied talents is increasing. The cultivation of applied talents in college piano teaching should also be continuously strengthened to meet the new demands of the society at present. The paper conducts analysis around the shortcoming of applied talent cultivation in college piano teaching, proposes that reforms should be made from teaching materials, accompaniment, singing and playing, and practice, etc., and it provides some references on how to cultivate applied talents and promote the teacher team construction in college piano teaching.**

## Keywords

**Piano Teaching; Applied; Cultivation; Strategy.**

## 1. Introduction

The team construction of college piano teachers is mainly reflected in the aspects of improving teachers' qualifications and professional titles, strengthening scientific research abilities, changing teaching methods, improving teaching quality, and expanding exchanges and learning, etc. In recent years, various departments and institutions have made many adjustments and instructions on how to develop applied piano talents required by the country and society, however, from the response of the society and employers, there are still weak accompaniment skills, lack of singing and playing ability, insufficient application ability and other phenomena, which also raises a series of problems that needs to be addressed immediately for how to develop applied piano talents and improve the team construction of college piano teachers.

The cultivation of college applied talents is not only the designation of the cultivation direction of students, but also the guidance for teachers' education mode and teaching requirements, and it is a very important topic in the construction of the teacher team.

## 2. Connotation of College Applied Talents

### 2.1. Proposal of Applied Talents

No matter what period, talents are always the foundation of the country, and the quality and quantity of talents can often determine the development process of the whole country. Talents are high-quality people with high knowledge or super skills and outstanding talents required by society. It can be divided into academic talents, applied talents, and technical talents. The proposal of talents has gone through the proposal and basic formation stage of concept (1979-1989), the development stage of the talent concept (1990-2003), and the determination stage of the talent concept (2004-present). The definition of talent is different at each stage. With the development needs of the country, the specific needs for talents will also be constantly adjusted. In the new era, the global economy, technology, and information are accelerating, China is also transforming from an agricultural country to an industrial country, and the demand for applied talents is increasing.

The connotation of applied talents is developed along with the historical development of higher education, especially after the Ministry of Education divided universities into research universities, applied universities, and technical universities, their orientation is clearer, their positioning is more precise, services and production are more efficient, they integrate knowledge and skills into social practice, and they are the first-line production technical and professional talents. The applied talents are required to have quick reaction ability, good conversation ability, good physical condition, good team spirit, strong desire for knowledge, strong innovative ideas, good living habits, and strong adaptability to the environment, etc.

## **2.2. Important Way to Cultivate College Applied Talents**

The first is to construct a scientific teaching model and optimize the course structure. Scientific teaching modes and optimized course structure are the primary ways to cultivate college applied talents, only continuously optimizing teaching mode and course structure, and through cross-disciplines, teacher interaction, optimizing teaching, reforming teaching methods, and consolidating classroom content, in this way, high-quality teaching effect can be produced.

The second is to construct the broad, professional, moderate course system. The scientific construction of the broad, professional, moderate course system is a necessary way to cultivate college applied talents. The course system of colleges and universities is set up with the formulation of the talent cultivation plan. Some colleges and universities set the course system too large, the contents are complicated, and the discipline span is too large, which makes the courses become high, large, and difficult, resulting in poor actual teaching effects. In addition, the course system of some colleges and universities is too single and the contents are too simple, which makes the course boring, the amount of information which students grasp is not enough, lack knowledge depth, and lack discipline integration.

The third is to promote school-enterprise cooperation, make innovations in the industry-university-research cooperation model, and emphasis on the cultivation of industry-university-research ability is an important way for colleges and universities to cultivate applied talents. When cultivating applied talents, colleges and universities must increase school-enterprise cooperation and continuously strengthen students' practice ability. Colleges and universities should let students go out of school, exercise in production, fully integrate theoretical knowledge and practice, discover, analyze, and solve problems in the production process, to continuously improve students' application ability.

## **2.3. Importance of Developing Applied Talents of College Piano Teaching**

The first is to strengthen students' professional skills. In college piano teaching, strengthening the cultivation of applied talents can not only increase students' interest in performance, but also improve students' professional skills. Both students of piano major and students in normal school, their learning of piano skills is for displaying works in the stage and class in the future, infer the selection and training of piano skills from the perspective of applied talent cultivation, and twice as much can be accomplished with half the effort.

The second is to cultivate the overall quality of students. Nowadays, inter-disciplinary talents have become the "hotspots" of various units, and the society has a high evaluation and response to high-quality inter-disciplinary talents. Piano teaching in colleges and universities is not just for playing two tunes, nor just for becoming a pianist, instead, students need set their life goals with good ideological and moral qualities, understand why to learn, learn for who, and how to learn, it is necessary to integrate theory, vocal music, piano, composition and other related disciplines into piano learning, and conduct targeted training to improve students' overall quality.

The third is to increase the employment rate of students. With the country's large demand for applied talents, in the civil service exam, examiners and units are very interested in the

application ability of candidates, just playing a piece of music is not very competent for the work of the unit, the employers will focus on the candidates' practical experience, All-round level, and application ability, its goal is too competent, use it, and do a good job.

### **3. Shortcoming of Applied Talent Cultivation in College Piano Teaching**

#### **3.1. Lack of Applied Textbooks**

The shortcoming of applied talent cultivation in college piano teaching is first reflected in the lack of textbooks. The selection of piano textbooks is particularly important in the cultivation applied talent, at present, piano textbooks mainly include the "Basic Piano Course" published by the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the "Piano" textbook published by Southwest Normal University, the "Piano Grading Course of Higher Music (Normal) Colleges" published by the Central Conservatory of Music, the "University Textbook Network • Piano" published by Shanghai Jiaotong University, etc., they are mainly composed from four sections: etude, music, polyphony, and sonata, etc., very few textbooks adds some basic training, piano work analysis, small song creation, etc., but the piano textbooks for the cultivation of applied talents are still thin and inadequate. During the learning process, students basically concentrate on the piano room, they start from the simple etudes in the textbooks, and then gradually adds music, polyphony, sonatas and other works. Many students from freshman to senior year can only practice based on the contents of the textbook, in the end, they only play a few tunes, and their application skills have not been trained and cultivated. This requires a set of high-efficiency textbooks that can cultivate students' application ability, which can not only train students' professional level, but also improve students' application ability.

#### **3.2. Single Teaching Mode**

The single teaching mode also directly affects the cultivation of applied talents. College piano teaching mainly relies on teaching methods, observation methods, and demonstration methods, the teaching of masters and apprentices is still the mainstream. The advantage of this traditional teaching mode is that it can cultivate students' skills pointedly, and can solve certain practical problems. However, due to the lack of information utilization, the efficiency is relatively low, and the hands-on teaching is not conducive to the expansion of students' thinking and initiative. It does not make students accept more information knowledge, and the teaching ideas with students as main body are not implemented, resulting in poor teaching effects, and in cannot cultivate students' application ability.

#### **3.3. Lack of Accompaniment and Singing Integration**

Accompaniment and singing training are often neglected in college piano teaching, as a result, students' application ability not being well cultivated; in particular, the piano teaching of students in normal schools should pay more attention to the integration of accompaniment and singing. Traditional piano teaching separates accompaniment and singing, roll your own, this makes the cross-discipline not reflected, and the All-round ability and application ability cannot be trained. Many students play tune well, but they can't even play basic scales and arpeggios when playing the accompaniment, similarly, some vocal students can sing well on stage, but they can't sing when playing, this phenomenon of separating accompaniment from singing has become the norm, which greatly affects the cultivation of students' application ability.

#### **3.4. Lack of Training of All-round Practical Ability**

The lack of practical ability training in college piano teaching will directly lead to the decline of students' All-round ability. Students have a lot of practice time in the piano room, except for exams, observations, and a small number of competitions, they rarely get other practical ability training, especially lack in piano practice and collection, piano art exchanges, piano

performances, piano salons, piano culture go to the countryside, etc., which cause students' playing level in the piano room cannot be displayed and applied in practice. These greatly restrict the training of students' application ability and the cultivation of college applied talents.

## **4. Cultivation Strategies of Applied Talents in College Piano Teaching**

### **4.1. Use of Applied Textbooks**

Applied textbooks are mainly scientific, systematic and practical textbooks compiled for the educational model of applied talent cultivation at present. It plays a guiding role in the cultivation of students' application ability, and is conducive to the smooth development of the teaching work of teachers and students. College piano applied textbooks should include: theory part, skill training part, works analysis, playing part, accompaniment part, stage performance part, artistic creation and practice part. Textbooks should be scientifically analyzed and used in teaching, put students' application abilities above anything else, theory as basis, skills as means, and works as ways, integrating knowledge and skills related to accompaniment, strengthen stage performance, enhancing artistic creation and practice, use textbooks to help students develop their application skills and continuously improve their piano level.

### **4.2. Construction of Scientific Teaching Models**

Constructing scientific teaching models in piano teaching can effectively improve the teaching effect. Change the traditional teaching methods: for example, teachers guide students, spoon-feeding, and indoctrination, strengthen students' independent learning ability, insist on taking students as the main body, problem as orientation, and application as goal, continuously improve the teaching quality through effective online and offline teaching methods such as micro-class, MOOC, and flipped classroom, and cultivate students' application ability. In the teaching mode, teamwork can be used to construct strength combination, cross-major combination, cross-school combination, etc., and form scientific superior project teaching models. In the division of classes, teaching modes such as grade division method, degree division method, and employment division method can be used. In the number of people, teachers and student's ratio adopts one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many. Set targeted teaching goals based on different students' conditions, and continuously improve students' application ability.

### **4.3. Integration of Accompaniment and Singing**

In order to further cultivate students' application ability, piano teaching should integrate accompaniment and singing reasonably, so that students can continuously strengthen keyboard harmony, keyboard proficiency, and singing skills in piano classroom. For example, when students are learning "North Wind Blows", based on the original D key, the teacher can let the students match different figures and harmony based on the melody of "North Wind Blows", test on different tunes (start from familiar simple keys and gradually expand), feel the different sound effects and music emotions, and make the music image more vivid and fuller. When you are proficient in playing, add the lyrics "the north wind blows, the snowflakes dance, the snowflakes dance, and the year comes...", and integrate singing into piano teaching. The piano works without lyrics and complicated melody can adopt fragmented accompaniment design to practice and sing. From here, piano performance, accompaniment, and singing are effectively integrated, and further strengthen the cultivation of students' application ability.

### **4.4. Cultivation of All-round Practical Ability**

The cultivation of students' All-round practical ability is an important training goal of colleges and universities at present. In piano teaching, the training of practical ability should be strengthened and continuously improve the All-round quality of students. Students should

apply what they have learned, combine practice and performance, go from the piano room to the stage, go from the school to the platform, increase piano practice, piano art exchanges, piano performances, piano salons, piano culture go to the countryside, and actively participate in all kinds of pianos competitions, piano academic seminars, pay attention to all kinds of piano-related activities in the probation and practice, and continuously improve students' All-round practical ability.

## 5. Conclusion

In the new era, how to cultivate practical talents in college piano teaching has become a topic that must be solved nowadays, just like other disciplines. Only by changing traditional teaching concepts, updating teaching thinking, optimizing applied textbooks, constructing scientific teaching models, integrating accompaniment and singing courses, and increasing students' All-round practical ability training, can students continuously improve their All-round quality, and further cultivate more and better applied talents for the country and society.

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