

# The Development Path of Higher Music Education in China in the New Era

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## ABSTRACT

China has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics in its development stage, which has drawn a new blueprint for the development of people of all ethnic groups in the country and clarified the direction for progress. This new historical stage is not only a new starting point for national development, but also a new journey for the common struggle of all the people. As a result, the development ideas of the people across the country have become clearer, their confidence in development has doubled, and their driving force for development has become more abundant. With the progress of the times, China's higher music education stands at a crossroads in history, facing unprecedented opportunities and challenges. In the context of globalization, competition for talent has become increasingly fierce, and the rapid development of information technology has provided new impetus and possibilities for educational reform. In this context, China's higher music education needs to seize opportunities and devote itself to several important development strategies. Therefore, this article will explore the development path of higher music education in China in the new era.

## KEYWORDS

New Era; Higher music education in China; Development path

## 1 Introduction

Each era has its own specific historical mission. Faced with the pressure of global talent competition and the challenges and opportunities brought by the information age, the development path of higher music education in China has been clearly demonstrated<sup>[1]</sup>. This not only means actively exploring and solving problems that arise in new educational environments, new learning methods, and new educational models, but also innovating teaching content and methods to cultivate music talents that meet the needs of the new era. By popularizing higher music education, improving the quality of education, accelerating the pace of education modernization, and comprehensively enhancing the level of opening up to the outside world, China's higher music education is sure to ride the tide of the new era and write its own brilliant chapter.

## 2 Taking the Development of the New Era as the Core and Expanding the Scope of Higher Music Education Popularization

In the context of the new era, higher music education is facing the necessity and urgency of transformation. The core of this transformation is not to abandon the advanced professional training

methods of some music colleges, but to emphasize that professional music education should play a leading and guiding role in transitioning to a more universal education model. With this transformation, the educational institutions, student composition, and learning modes of music education will undergo significant changes. These changes will become widespread, forcing the model of music education to undergo adaptive adjustments or even integration. The purpose is to transform music education from a professional activity that was limited to only a few music enthusiasts in the past to a more natural, normalized, and public oriented activity, so that more people have the opportunity to receive their desired music education.

In the era of informatization in the 21st century, China's higher music education industry should utilize various available platforms to develop and promote "China plans" for the popularization and development of higher music education, thereby contributing the wisdom of educators. In April 2019, the Ministry of Education issued the "Opinions on Effectively Strengthening the Aesthetic Education Work in Higher Education Institutions in the New Era", emphasizing the importance of beauty and the key role of aesthetic education in cultivating students' aesthetic and humanistic qualities, and pointing out that strengthening and improving aesthetic education is an important task in the current and future stages of higher education<sup>[2]</sup>. As one of the important means of practical aesthetic education, the field of higher music education should seize this opportunity, standardize and strengthen the construction of public music courses and textbooks, actively promote music practice activities, strengthen the development of university music clubs, contribute to the popularization of art education in universities, solve the challenges faced by current aesthetic education, and achieve the educational goal of "facing all, educating people with aesthetics, and educating people with culture".

### **3 Utilizing the Driving Force of Reform and Development to Continuously Improve the Quality of Higher Music Education**

China's higher music education is standing at a critical historical juncture, facing an important task of transformation and upgrading. One of the most important tasks is to promote universal sex education while focusing on improving the quality of education. Based on the current development status, improving the quality of higher music education in the new era can follow the following directions. Guided by the five development concepts of "innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing", we will continue to promote the reform of higher music education, focusing on the comprehensive improvement of students' professional skills, aesthetic appreciation ability, and humanistic cultivation<sup>[3]</sup>. This not only requires reforming the curriculum content and teaching methods, but also forging a team of teachers who are willing to innovate and good at innovation. By implementing the National Standards for Teaching Quality of Music and Dance (Music Majors), focusing on professional training objectives, designing and enriching the curriculum system according to the principles of educational ecology, and establishing a complete, systematic, and effective teaching quality evaluation system.

In addition, deepening the reform of curriculum and textbooks is also an important way to improve quality. Reform the music textbooks that are no longer suitable for development needs, starting from top-level design, updating curriculum standards, optimizing professional settings, and improving the quality and practicality of the textbooks. Moreover, strengthening the construction of the teaching staff is a fundamental work to improve the quality of higher music education. Based on the Opinion on Comprehensively Deepening the Reform of Teacher Team Construction in the New Era, higher music institutions need to focus on improving the professional level and teacher ethics of teachers, while improving their working conditions and enhancing their social status through

supporting measures. At the same time, it is necessary to optimize the education evaluation system, break away from the single evaluation model of evaluating heroes based on grades, focus on the management of student learning processes, and adopt diversified evaluation methods to comprehensively consider students' professional knowledge understanding, analysis, and application abilities. Especially for music major students, more emphasis is placed on formative evaluation, aiming to stimulate their initiative and creativity, and comprehensively improve their comprehensive quality.

#### **4 Actively Carrying out the Modernization Construction of Higher Music Education by Combining Artificial Intelligence Innovation Technology**

In this new era, actively promoting modernization in the field of education and building a strong education country has become an important part of national strategy. Especially for higher music education institutions, this is a valuable opportunity to leverage historical opportunities, integrate the latest scientific and technological advancements into music education, and continuously explore and improve the concept of collaborative education. With the deep integration of era keywords such as "big data", "Internet plus", "artificial intelligence (AI)", "5G technology" and "creative economy" with the field of education, higher music education is playing an increasingly important role in China's modernization process. In order to adapt to this vast wave of technological change, the higher music education community urgently needs to make efforts from the following two aspects:

With the rapid development of technology, higher music education must make rapid adjustments. Music, as a creative art form, its vitality stems from continuous innovation and change. In an era of rapid information development and rapid knowledge updates, the audience's demand for music is constantly increasing, and global music culture is also undergoing profound changes. Therefore, higher music education must keep up with the times and create new forms of music to adapt to this rapidly developing technological environment. Since artificial intelligence technology was first applied to keyboard programming in 1963, the form of music education has undergone significant changes<sup>[4]</sup>. Today, with the continuous advancement of technology, various AI music software and electronic instruments are reshaping educators' understanding of music teaching. From creation to performance, from music appreciation to music education, AI technology is driving higher music education towards a more open, personalized, and intelligent direction. For example, the use of virtual singer software and intelligent experimental software not only changes the way music is created, but also makes learning music easier and more enjoyable. The dual core drive of combining 5G and AI technology will further lower the threshold for the transformation and upgrading of higher music education, bringing more possibilities for reform and innovation to education.

#### **5 Expanding Innovative Channels Based on a Global Perspective and Achieving the Opening-up of Higher Music Education to the Outside World**

In the process of internationalization, Chinese higher music education needs to bravely respond to the profound changes and challenges caused by it, and actively promote the openness of Chinese higher music education. It is worth mentioning that the Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, and Shanghai Conservatory of Music have taken the lead in this field, setting a good example for international exchange and cooperation in higher music education in

China. This includes establishing a top-level music education alliance in collaboration with internationally renowned music schools, strengthening international cooperation in music education through such academic platforms, jointly researching and innovating music teaching, research and performance, and creating a high standard international music talent training system.

The establishment of the Global Music Education Alliance not only demonstrates China's strong country status and cultural confidence in the new era, but also marks a cultural consciousness in the Chinese music education industry, which is to establish a music education system with Chinese characteristics. Shanghai Conservatory of Music and other institutions have established cooperation with top international music schools and actively participated in the formulation of international music education standards, further enhancing the international influence of Chinese music education and contributing "Chinese wisdom" to the development of global music education. To achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, it is crucial to uphold and inherit cultural confidence. This means that educators must strengthen the cultivation of music talents, deepen their understanding and dissemination of traditional Chinese music culture, integrate the Chinese spirit into the growth of future musicians, and make it an important force in promoting the development of global music culture and the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. Through such efforts, China's higher music education can not only play a greater role on the international stage, but also promote the exchange and understanding of world music culture, and jointly build a better future for human destiny.

In the development trend of international music education, expanding and deepening the curriculum of international music education has become an urgent need for the development of higher music education in China. Currently, for higher music education in China, it is important to break the limitations of traditional courses and introduce more diverse and international teaching content. Observing higher music institutions in Europe and America, it can be seen that these institutions have already incorporated music culture content from multiple countries into their curriculum systems, with the aim of enabling students to deeply feel the connection between music cultures in different countries and independently explore and understand the connections between these cultures<sup>[5]</sup>. The Chinese higher music education community can enrich the existing curriculum system by participating in and understanding international music education exchanges and cooperation more widely, such as integrating international perspectives and content into basic courses such as "Basic Music Theory" and "Music History", and incorporating world music systems, music research, and historical and cultural knowledge into the curriculum. At the same time, encourage domestic music schools and research institutions to carry out more international project research, absorb and draw on advanced education methods and rich cultural resources from abroad. In terms of practical operation, domestic higher music education institutions should leverage their geographical advantages to conduct in-depth exploration and research on music education in their own regions and neighboring countries.

In the development process of higher music education in China, a voice has put forward a profound and insightful observation: we should not be limited to shaping all music schools into the same model, pursuing the same educational direction, or creating the same characteristics. Adopting this singular model in the fields of teaching and research would appear too narrow, not only leading to significant duplication and waste of human and financial resources in scientific research, but also making it difficult to promote the in-depth development of international research in the music field, and even more difficult to achieve a broad understanding of human music culture and effective application of music resources. Faced with such challenges and limitations, China's higher music education urgently needs to embark on a path of diversified development. This means that we must break away from traditional thinking patterns and place the development of higher music education in the context of globalization for in-depth thinking and strategic planning. In the

context of the new era, higher music education should not only focus on the improvement of domestic education, but also actively integrate into international exchanges and cooperation, absorb the essence of multiculturalism, and cultivate music talents with an international perspective.

## 6 Conclusion

As Chinese society enters a new era, the central government has higher expectations for higher education, especially its important role in promoting national economic construction and supporting the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The central government has attached great importance to this and emphasized the irreplaceable role of higher music education in enhancing the musical literacy of the entire nation, cultivating the aesthetic and cultural qualities of the people. Therefore, China's higher music industry should actively adapt to this trend of the times, solidly promote the popularization of music education, in order to continuously improve the quality of education. In this context, China's higher music education industry should keep up with the trend of the times, actively participate in improving the music quality of the whole nation, strive to improve teaching level and quality, and increase openness, actively participate in international music education exchanges and cooperation.

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