

Integration and Optimization of Folk Culture and Art Resources, Inheritance of Intangible Culture and Art

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Abstract: Ningxia “Huaer” and “Ningxia Zuochang” as Chinese excellent intangible cultural heritages need scientific research of the whole society. Especially, science researchers in colleges provide powerful support and help. Art education of Chinese nation also undertakes heavy responsibilities for mining, sorting, protecting, studying and inheriting folk culture and art. In the process of protecting national intangible cultural heritages, we clearly realize that development and research of folk culture and art in minority areas have similarities and bright individualities with development and research of musical culture and art in other areas. The study on peculiar and diversified folk culture and art elements in minority area will undoubtedly provide a wide platform for our art education.

“National character and practicability” are the principles of Music and Dance College of Beifang University of Nationalities. The college pays special attention to mining and sorting excellent culture and art and has gained some achievements in inheriting and studying national intangible cultural heritages.

Our university is located in the minority area. How to manifest characteristics in art education field is a question we have thinking all the time. The aim of Music and Dance College is to “based on Beifang University of Nationalities, oriented to the society, enhance multi-abilities and run the college characteristically”. According to the aim, based on traditional art teaching, the college depends on local folk culture resource superiority and focuses on how to inherit excellent national culture and art to actively explore, study, mine and sort Chinese intangible culture and art.

I. To integrate and optimize existing teaching resources, and enhance characteristic specialty teaching

Northwest “Huaer” is a beautiful and wonderful flower in Chinese traditional music. “Huaer” of Ningxia Hui Nationality is fused in this beautiful “flower bed” by virtue of its very characteristic art form. “Huaer” of Ningxia Hui Nationality has formed its own characteristics in the theme and form in accordance with the regional and cultural features. Although Ningxia “Huaer” owns bright character features, through horizontal comparison in the region or vertical comparison with surrounding provinces, the theme and type still have many similarities. Indeed, Ningxia “Huaer” and “Huaer” in surrounding provinces come down in one continuous line. But, Ningxia “Huaer” still stands upright in national beautiful “flower bed” by virtue of its bright regionalism and national character.

In allusion to characteristics of minority area, the reform of our university mainly starts from the teaching materials. Except universal international teaching materials, “national character and practicability” should be owned. The detailed practice is to integrate and optimize existing teaching resources, and enhance characteristic specialty teaching, such as employing famous “Huaer” experts to give lessons and introducing “Huaer” singing in actual teaching, and actively preparing characteristic teaching materials “Huaer” Singing Course, Northwest “Huaer” – Treasury of Ningxia “Huaer” and Choral Collections of Beifang University of Nationalities. Classroom teaching should transform from single technology learning to practicability learning, pay attention to combining basic knowledge and basic skills of vocal music and excellent folk culture and art and enhance combination of “national character and practicability”.

Through reforming teaching methods, students get rid of single technology learning mode and transit to national character and practicability. Thus, students not just simply accept professional

knowledge, but also closely combine inheritance of essence of national excellent folk culture and art with professional skill learning. This greatly mobilizes students' learning enthusiasm, cultivates their sense of national pride, enhances learning initiative, boosts their creativity and improves their professional skills.

Through reforming teaching mode of vocal music course, traditional teaching mode is dominated, supplemented by viewing course and practice course. Besides, "art guide" enters the classroom to cooperate with subject's teaching so as to enhance teaching effect. Students are required to evaluate and learn by themselves through watching videos and listening to classroom recording in order to boost their vocal music appreciation ability, singing ability and performance ability. through strengthening theory study and reforming examination system, overall quality cultivation is achieved for students. In particularly, "Huaer" singing is introduced in classroom so that this ancient folk culture and art officially enters college classroom. This plays certain role in inheriting and developing intangible cultural heritages. Distinct expression of its "national character and practicability" has guiding significance.

II. To improve teaching through scientific research by depending on local folk culture and art resource superiority

Our university is located in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Local rich excellent national culture heritage resources bring great opportunities for our teaching and scientific research. Ningxia "Huaer", "Ningxia Zuochang" and other national culture and art essence with bright regional characteristics are good research topics. How to deeply study effects of these national cultures and arts on society based on local folk culture resource superiority and do the work such as exploration, research, inheritance and development is pressing. In particular, universities for nationalities have heavy duties. This is the mission given to us by the history.

To strongly ensure teaching and focus on teaching scientificity, systematicness, preciseness and completeness, our college is driven by strong sense of responsibility and sense of mission and is actively engaged in studying local excellent national cultural heritages. We organized a research group consisting of teachers in our college and local famous experts, carried out targeted topic researches by depending in local folk cultural resource superiority and successfully declared the following projects: 2008 teaching research program of Beifang University of Nationalities Expiration and practice of vocal music teaching mode in national colleges; 2009 scientific research project of Beifang University of Nationalities Exploration and study of "Huaer" music in Ningxia Hui Nationality in new period; 2009 social scientific planning program of Ningxia Art Study on mining, sorting, protection and inheritance of Ningxia Zuochang art; 2013 national social science fund cultivation program of Beifang University of Nationalities Study on inheritance and development of Chinese local folk art – "Ningxia Zuochang"; 2014 social scientific planning program of Ningxia Art Practice and study of innovative teaching of Ningxia "Huaer".

Successful declaration of these programs injects new vigor for our scientific researches and teaching and lays a solid foundation for professional construction and development. Research group members take active part in program research, actively publish papers and ensure smooth implementation of each project. At present, such new atmosphere of scientific research has been developed prosperously in our college and greatly facilitates our teaching. Besides, expected achievements have been gained in these projects and can be well applied in actual teaching.

Researches on these programs and phased achievements deepen connotation of our professional teaching and manifest our spirit of inheriting excellent national culture.

Theoretical researches specify our specialty construction development direction. This lays a foundation for our specialty teaching so that our teaching is more scientific, systematic, rigorous and complete.

III. To combine classroom teaching and national culture and art, and innovate teaching through practice

Combination of “classroom teaching and national culture and art” is a bright spot of our teaching reform, and is also a new exploration, new trial and new innovation.

We pay attention to teaching scientificity and systematicness while focusing on teaching basic knowledge and basic skills. Based on traditional teaching and learning modes, we aim to boost students’ ability to combine national music theory and practice, enhance their deepening and understanding of this course, make them know necessary connection between art of singing and national musical culture and art inheritance, and strengthen their learning interest as well as their sense of responsibility and sense of mission of inheriting and carrying forward national intangible cultural heritages.

To practically specify the position of “Huaer” singing in vocal music teaching is an inevitable requirement of combining “classroom teaching and inheritance of national music and art”. National music of Ningxia “Huaer” in specific teaching is especially important. Recommendation of “Ningxia Zuochang” is also an indispensable link. “Ningxia Zuochang” as the sole local folk art in Ningxia is also faced with the problem of inheritance, population and development. So, it is also worthy of researches. Exploration and research of Ningxia “Huaer” and “Ningxia Zuochang” are fundamental requirements of fundamental requirement of local culture and art and also the spirit of inheriting and carrying forward national excellent culture and art.

Through reforming and supplementing teaching contents, teaching force of northwest “Huaer” (especially Ningxia “Huaer”) and recommendation force of “Ningxia Zuochang” are enhanced. Thus, students fully know extensive and profound excellent national musical culture and art, enhance consciousness of inheriting essence of national music culture and cultivate their sense of national pride. Through reforming teaching mode, traditional teaching mode is dominated, supplemented by “Huaer” singing course teaching in order to improve students’ singing ability, performance ability and appreciation ability for “Huaer” as well as appreciation ability for “Ningxia Zuochang”. Meanwhile, we also strengthen theory learning of national music, and highlight teaching practice link of “Huaer” so that students can gain nutrition of national culture and art in detailed art practice, enhance their practice ability and achieve cultivation of multiple abilities.

Powerful combination of classroom teaching and folk culture and art inheritance makes our teaching more innovative and greatly drives the process of national folk art entering college classroom and gradually becoming our teaching characteristics.

Further exploration and deep research of Ningxia “Huaer” and “Ningxia Zuochang” are fundamental guarantee for us to inherit and carry forward intangible cultural heritages and also the preconditions of implementing our teaching guiding thought. This is a glorious mission given to us by the history and also our obligatory sacred duty. Indeed, we have gained certain results in exploration and research of excellent national culture and art, but there is still a gap with the requirements of inheriting and developing excellent national culture and art. It is necessary to fully mine connotation of musical culture and art of national minority, fuse them in modern music teaching, create musical culture and art works with characteristics of national minority, inherit and carry forward excellent musical culture and art of national minority. These are our guiding thoughts to run the college.

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