

# **SUONA TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN MUSIC UNIVERSITY**

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## **Abstract**

This article examines the curriculum, instructional methods, and cultural significance of Suona education in Chinese music universities, with a focus on Shenyang institutions. Suona instruction is structured to develop students' performance skills, teaching abilities, and cultural awareness, thereby preserving and promoting traditional Chinese music. This wind instrument, integral to China's cultural, spiritual, and religious heritage, is historically associated with community rituals, celebrations, and religious ceremonies. The article explores how Suona education intertwines with these traditions, fostering cultural confidence and reinforcing the social and spiritual values embedded in Chinese music. By integrating traditional teacher-apprentice approaches with modern multimedia and virtual methods, universities create a well-rounded educational experience. This approach not only equips students for professional roles in music but also strengthens Suona's role as a cultural symbol and artistic legacy in modern China, emphasizing its continuing importance in cultural preservation and identity. This article presented (1) Suona teaching in music university, (2) research in Suona teaching.

**Keywords:** Suona; Teaching; Research; Music University

## Introduction

As a traditional Chinese musical instrument, Suona has a long history and rich cultural connotation. The origin of Suona can be traced back to ancient times. It first appeared in the north of China and gradually spread throughout the country, and formed unique playing styles and techniques in different regions. The status of Suona in Chinese traditional music: Folk music: Suona plays an important role in Chinese folk music, especially in folk bands and village temple fairs in the north, where it is an indispensable instrument. Suona is often used in weddings, funerals, festivals, folk activities and other occasions. Because of its loud and clear tone, it can create a lively, festive or solemn atmosphere.

Opera music: Suona is also one of the main accompaniment instruments in Beijing Opera, Henan Opera, Jin Opera and other local operas. It can imitate the human voice and show all kinds of emotions, greatly enriching the expression of opera music.

Modern music: With the development of The Times, Suona has been gradually introduced into modern music creation, not only playing an important role in folk music works, but also integrating with western instruments to explore new musical forms and styles.

Suona is not only a musical instrument, but also an important symbol of Chinese culture. It embodies the aesthetic taste and artistic creativity of the Chinese nation, and is an important part of the intangible cultural heritage. Protecting and inheriting Suona culture is not only to respect and promote traditional music, but also to reflect the self-confidence of national culture.

Inheritance and innovation: Universities are important bases for inheritance and innovation culture. Music education not only teaches students performance skills, but more importantly, cultivates their understanding and love of music and stimulates their creativity and imagination. Through systematic study, students can deeply understand the history, techniques and artistic value of Suona, and become the inheritors and disseminators of Suona culture.

Comprehensive quality education: Music education plays an important role in the cultivation of students' comprehensive quality. Learning music can improve students' aesthetic ability, artistic accomplishment and cultural accomplishment, and promote their all-round development in emotional, intellectual and moral aspects. In addition, music education can also cultivate students' teamwork spirit and organizational skills, which will contribute to their future career development.

The Suona, as one of the traditional Musical Instruments, has also received some attention in colleges and universities in Shenyang. Some universities have set up special Suona courses and hired experienced Suona players and teachers to teach them. However, compared with western instruments such as piano and violin, Suona teaching resources are relatively few, and teaching methods and textbooks need to be further improved and innovated.

## **Suona Teaching Music University**

The main goal of Suona education in Shenyang colleges and universities is to cultivate students' performance skills, musical expression and comprehensive quality, so that they can have the ability of independent performance, teaching and research. At the same time, Suona education also aims to inherit and carry forward traditional Chinese music culture and enhance students' cultural self-confidence.

**Curriculum:** In the article "Suhu Teaching Methods and Its Realistic Significance" pointed that Hu Yuan's "Suhu Teaching Methods" are creative and effective in cultivating talents, advocating the educational goal of "Mingti Dayong" and implementing different teaching systems and principles.

The essential points of Huyuan's "Suhu Teaching Methods" are the following. He advocated the educational goal of "Mingti Dayong". He set up the teaching system of "Teaching in Different Rooms" and "Main and Secondary courses". In his teaching, he carried out the educational principle of "Teaching on the Basis of Different Students" and Huyuan also pursued many new educational methods, and so on. These thoughts and practice are creative and

they contributed to cultivate talents. They are worth studying and using for reference (Wu, 2001).

Therefore, Suona courses are usually set up in various colleges and universities, including basic courses, advanced courses and professional courses.

Basic course: covers basic Suona playing skills, music theory knowledge and basic music theory.

Advanced courses: including suona music appreciation, skills training, music performance, etc.

Major courses: Suona teaching method, Suona history and culture research, ensemble and ensemble training, etc.

**Teaching Methods and Strategies:** Combination of Traditional and Modern Teaching Methods. Zhong Donghe (1994) pointed out in his article "Persistently Exploring and Improving Suona Teaching" that Zhong Dong and Suona are typical folk instruments, which are widely spread and rooted in the folk. Therefore, Suona masters of all schools are almost all folk artists, and they do have high performance skills, but they lack the guidance of theoretical knowledge due to their low cultural level. To train successors, we can only use the teaching method of replacing merit with Qu and teaching by mouth.

The combination of traditional teaching method and modern teaching method is often adopted in Suona teaching in colleges and universities in Shenyang. Traditional teaching methods, such as teacher-apprentice teaching method and imitative teaching method, teach through teacher's demonstration and students' imitation. Modern teaching methods: including decomposition teaching methods, interactive teaching methods, multimedia teaching methods, etc., in order to enhance the systematic and interesting teaching.

**Multimedia and network teaching:** With the development of information technology, colleges and universities in Shenyang gradually introduce multimedia and network teaching methods, such as using audio, video

and online platforms for teaching, so as to facilitate students' after-class review and independent learning.

Zhou Yue (2021) pointed out in his article Design and Implementation of Virtual Suona Teaching Tools that with the development of multimedia computer technology, the emergence of facilities and equipment such as virtual Musical Instruments and virtual music software has provided solutions to this problem and brought new reforms to musical instrument teaching. The way people learn Musical Instruments has also become diversified, in addition to playing physical instruments, they can also simulate Musical Instruments through virtual instruments. Somatosensory interaction technology can use specialized interactive equipment to create a virtual teaching environment, so that users can intuitively see the three-dimensional scene of the virtual musical instrument built by us in this virtual environment, and can also observe the structure of the musical instrument at close range without touching the physical instrument, and use the unique physical interaction mode to use the number transmitted by the body in the environment The virtual hand in the virtual environment is directly in contact with and play the virtual instrument. The convenience brought by this interactive way of playing highly realistic virtual instruments directly can provide great help to the teaching of musical instruments.

## Teaching Resources and Conditions

**Professional teachers:** Shenyang University has a team of professional Suona teachers, most of whom have rich experience in playing and teaching. At the same time, the school also invited well-known Suona players and educators at home and abroad to give lectures and exchanges to expand students' horizons.

**Teaching facilities and venues:** Colleges and universities are equipped with professional suona teaching equipment and venues, including practice rooms, concert halls, multimedia classrooms, etc., to provide students with a good learning environment. At the same time, the school also purchased a large number of suona-related books, music and audio and video materials for students to consult and learn.

**Student activities and practices:** Coyle, G. (1945) pointed out in his article *Securing Student Participation in Practice Courses* that effective student participation in practice courses enhances interest, assimilation, and professional attitudes, while also providing valuable insights for instructors.

**Performances on and off campus:** Colleges and universities in Shenyang regularly organize Suona concerts, presentation performances and academic exchange activities to provide opportunities for students to display their talents and practice playing. These activities not only exercise the students' performance ability, but also enhance their stage performance and self-confidence.

**Participate in competitions and exchanges:** Students also actively participate in various music competitions and exchange activities at home and abroad, such as Chinese national instrumental Music competition, international music Festival, etc., through competitions and exchanges to improve their performance level and artistic accomplishment.

**Teaching achievements and influence:** Wu Yuhui (2007) in the article “The Source of Suona Art and Sociology of Music” pointed that by retrospection and researching of Suona 's historical source, researcher found the occurrence of Suona had historical association with the wind instruments in the Hart Dynasty. In the application of martial scission art at the beginning was the symbol of official consciousness of “collective authority”. Since the heyday of folk music in the Song Dynasty, Suona gradually melted into the colorful activities of folk music performances. To- day, owing to the two cultural security systems, professional music education and folk music activities, the high development of Suona art shows its inevitable trend.

**Teaching results:** The Suona education in colleges and universities in Shenyang has achieved remarkable results and cultivated a large number of outstanding Suona players and educational talents. They not only achieved excellent results in various competitions at home and abroad, but also engaged in Suona playing, teaching and research in various places, making positive contributions to the inheritance and development of Suona art.

**Social impact:** Through Suona education, colleges and universities in Shenyang have played an important role in inheriting and promoting Chinese traditional music culture. At the same time, Suona concerts and cultural activities also enhance the social understanding and love of Suona art, and promote the spread and popularization of Suona culture.

## Research in Suona Teaching

Ye Huasheng (2023) pointed out in the article "The Importance of excellent Suona works to promote the development of Suona art" that Suona art is China's traditional music art, is an important representative of China's excellent traditional culture, Suona is famous for its loud and loud sound, played an important role in the development of Chinese traditional music art. With the continuous development of national economy, people pay more and more attention to satisfying their spiritual life needs through music art. Under this background, Suona art receives more attention. In the development of Suona art, excellent Suona works play an important role in promoting it. In this regard, the author takes Suona techniques and the development of Suona art works as the starting point, discusses Suona performance forms and artistic functions, analyzes the characteristics of Suona art, discusses the importance of excellent Suona works in the development of Suona art, and then analyzes how to promote the further development of Suona art, providing an important reference for the development of Suona industry and Suona art.

Feng Qianrong (2019) pointed out in an article "on the inheritance and development of Suona playing technology" that with the development of economy and the continuous progress of society, the Suona in our country is also being reformed in the development, and is loved by more and more people, and has become one of the most popular national Musical Instruments in our country. Suona is one of China's famous folk instruments, a kind of wind instrument, widely spread in major regions of China, because of its bright silver color and high volume, popular among the people, often used in local Yangko dance, local opera, blowing song fair and other performances.

To sum up, the existing research provides a rich theoretical basis and methodological reference for this study. By combining the methods of literature review, questionnaire survey, interview and classroom observation, this study will further explore the current situation of Suona teaching in three universities in Shenyang and make suggestions for improvement, so as to provide a scientific basis for improving the quality of Suona teaching and promoting the inheritance and development of Suona culture.

## New Knowledges



**Figure 1:** Diagram Show the Role of Suona Education in Chinese Music Universities.

## Conclusions

In music colleges and universities, Suona education is designed to enhance students' performance abilities, musical expression, and overall quality, preparing them for independent performance, teaching, and research while preserving and promoting traditional Chinese music culture and fostering cultural confidence. The curriculum is structured into basic, advanced, and major courses, encompassing Suona techniques, music theory, history, and ensemble training. Teaching methods integrate traditional approaches, such as



teacher-apprentice and imitation techniques, with modern strategies like multimedia, interactive, and virtual teaching tools to create a comprehensive and engaging learning environment. Supported by professional instructors, specialized facilities, and extensive resources, students actively participate in performances, competitions, and exchanges, which bolster their skills and confidence. The program has achieved significant success in cultivating talented Suona players and educators, contributing to the inheritance and popularization of Suona art. Additionally, ongoing research highlights the importance of excellent Suona works and the continuous evolution of teaching methodologies, ensuring the sustained development and cultural significance of Suona education in the region.

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