

# **Learning Chinese Culture through Chinese Drum in the International Student, Institute of International Education, Liaoning University, China**

**Liu Lei and Nicha Pattananon**

Bangkokthonburi University, Thailand

Corresponding Author, Email: nicha.pat@bkkthon.ac.th

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Abstracts**

Studying in China is an integral part of China's foreign work and an important part of international cooperation and educational exchanges. It is of great significance in building a world-renowned and high-level university, promoting friendly exchanges between China and foreign youth, and enhancing friendship among the people. In recent years, with the continuous expansion of the number of international students in China, learning difficulties and social barriers have become increasingly prominent due to language barriers, teaching methods differences, value contrast, and other problems. More and more scholars and experts have begun to pay attention to this problem in the Chinese education circle. This article aims to reveal the spreading of Chinese drum culture internationally.

This paper found that In the current teaching management system of international students, Chinese and international students jointly carry out extracurricular activities, which most help overseas students adapt to Chinese culture, and consolidate and extend classroom teaching means.

**Keywords:** Learning Chinese Culture; Chinese Drum; Institute of International Education; Liaoning University

## **Introduction**

China has accepted international students since 1950. Over the past 70 years, China has trained many talents in science and technology, education, diplomacy, management, and other fields for many countries and regions worldwide, especially the vast developing countries and regions. This has positively contributed to China's strengthening and development of relations with the political, diplomatic, economic, and trade countries worldwide and carrying out educational, cultural, and personnel exchanges (Dai & Cha, 2013 : 134-138).

With the continuous improvement and enhancement of China's international status and comprehensive national strength, more and more countries recognize China's education level, and the number of international students in China also shows an increasing trend every year. According to relevant data, China Education Online released the "2020 High Recruitment Survey Report". According to the report, Chinese universities have an increasing influence on international students, becoming the third in the world and the first destination in Asia.

For overseas students, studying abroad, on the one hand, means broadening their horizons and understanding the foreign culture, and on the other hand, it also means cross-cultural adaptation problems. How to effectively solve the adaptation problems in language, environment, eating habits, study, and other aspects will have a huge impact on the final study

---

\* Received: July 14, 2022; Revised: August 8, 2022; Accepted: August 10, 2022

of overseas students. Further, suppose overseas students have certain side effects on their mental health in adapting to cross-culture. In that case, overseas students cannot adapt to the life of the host country, which to some extent means the failure of family and national investment. This will affect the students' evaluation of the host country after their return and straightforwardly affect the host country's international image. Therefore, for overseas students, host governments, and educational institutions, the problem of cross-cultural adaptation needs to attract attention. Especially in China, the number of students in China is increasing every year, and relevant departments and institutions need to pay attention to the cultural adaptation of students in China (Jia, 2017 : 45-47.).



**Figure 1.** International students from the School of International Education of Liaoning University are practicing Chinese drums

## Learning Chinese Culture

Current academic research on cross-cultural issues, mainly from cross-cultural psychology and cross-cultural communication, has made a lot of exploration and detailed analysis. In addition to individual internal psychological factors, social culture, and economical external environmental factors on the influence of cross-cultural adaptation and put forward the corresponding suggestions for this problem. International interest in cross-cultural exchanges occurs for two reasons. First, in our era, technological changes, travel, economic and political systems, population migration patterns, and population density all led to increasingly frequent communication among different cultures. Whether you like them or not, these exchanges will be before Unprecedented depth and breadth. Huston Smith (Houston) once said: " When historians look back on our century, the most exciting thing is not space travel or nuclear energy, but that people in the world can compare sincerely." Second, growing learn that culture influences how we communicate in subtle and far-reaching ways. A person's cultural background and life experience determine how he sees the world and the way he interacts with the world (Yu, 2012 : 6)



**Figure 2.** Students and students from the School of International Education of Liaoning University play Chinese drums on the traditional Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, 2019

On the other hand, music is the common language of humankind. Mary McCarthy once said: " The same music world, the same music dream, and global music teachers hope to use their selfless dedication to perfect their children in their artistic life. "This article uses Chinese drums as the medium because drums are the earliest musical instrument of human beings. People beat the drum in front of the power of nature, and scenes violently shake in all directions. Exciting labor competition activities use the drum. With the development of society, national bands, folk art, drama, song and dance, festive assembly, and sports cheer have the sound of Chinese drum, and the modern Chinese drum is more widely used. It has a high artistic and ornamental nature. It fully embodies people's spirit of unity, cooperation, and enterprising in collective performance, enhancing self-confidence and pride, and inspiring and inspiring the human spirit. This is not only the core connotation of the Chinese drum in national culture but also a positive force to promote social progress (Gary, 1992 : 35)

This article discusses the cross-cultural adaptation of international students in China under their national conditions. By learning the Chinese drum after optimization and learning folk knowledge related to this during the performance, international students can understand their understanding of traditional Chinese symbols to understand the civilization of China as an ancient civilization. At the same time, it is easier and more convenient to enter modern Chinese society, which is conducive to them engaging in work related to the traditional Chinese culture and modern Chinese culture in the future.

## **The importance of Chines culture**

Traditional Chinese culture is a relatively stable cultural form formed and developed by the Chinese nation in ancient Chinese society, the crystallization of the wisdom of the Chinese nation, and the display of the historical heritage of the Chinese nation in real life. This ideological system contains a rich cultural and scientific spirit, Mainly reflected in three aspects: First, the study of cohesion, Traditional Chinese culture is the culture of internal cohesion, The basic spirit of this culture is to focus on harmony, Connect individuals with others, individuals and groups, man and nature, Forming a cultural relationship; The second is

compatible learning, Traditional Chinese culture is not a closed system, Despite restrictions in foreign exchanges in ancient China, Or with an open attitude to achieve the external Buddhist compatibility, Third, the study of worldwide use, The essential characteristic of culture is to promote the humanity of nature and society, Traditional Chinese culture presents the style of study of Confucian classics and world, It takes the investigation of heaven and man, The foothold is to cultivate morality, govern the country and smooth the world, Strive to realize its value in the real society, Universal use is the basic spirit of cultural science.

## Chinese drum culture

The drum is the earliest human musical instrument, with the drum having the drum culture. Chinese drum has a long history of thousands of years. In the long history of thousands of years, drum and drum culture has been changing with the social soil of cultural phenomena (including the development of productivity, the progress of science and technology, the increasingly frequent transportation between Chinese and foreign countries, and the continuous enrichment of people's material and cultural life).

Every ethnic group in the world has a legend of its nation about drum making. The invention of Chinese drum was first used in the hands of witches to imitate the sound of thunder, which also reflects the musical philosophy of "music and heaven" in ancient China. In addition to its artistic function as an instrument, the Chinese drum also has the purpose of transmitting information, serving as an artifact, instrument, heavyweight, and sacrifice.

**In China:** The broad and profound Chinese drum culture and its wide use are among the best in the world. The drum has its artistic functions as a musical instrument. It has various practical values in military, political, economic, and daily life, playing a unique role in many fields of ancient and modern social life. Drum culture contains esoteric philosophy, reflects people's belief consciousness and even aesthetic taste, embodies the wisdom and skills of the Chinese people, and even reflects the level of economic development of all ethnic groups and regions and the achievements of cultural exchanges. Secondly, drum culture is an important part of Chinese culture. From the perspective of traditional culture, the core "ritual and music" of Chinese Confucian culture cannot be separated from the drum. The important role of the drum in making rituals and music reflects the profound thought of traditional culture, and the extensive and profound ideological system of Zhouyi is also reflected in the drum culture. From the perspective of national culture, both the Han nation and all ethnic minorities have their own elegant drum culture, and the drum culture of the Chinese nation enjoys a reputation in the world for its long history and colorful characteristics. From the perspective of folk culture, drum culture permeates all fields of vulgar culture, and we can always see and hear the sound of drums and drums in the customs and daily life of the society (Yan & Pu, 1997 : 35).



**Figure 3.** Hundred pictures of ancient Chinese customs

China is a vast territory and has a profound cultural heritage. Its long-term historical development has formed a colorful cultural style with its local characteristics. Drum music rooted in folk life is no exception. Under the influence of the local natural environment, political and economic, social culture, and other factors, a music culture gradually integrates local characteristics in the invisible process. It is presented through different Musical instrument collocation and performance styles. For example, Jingchu gongs and drum music is rough and lively based on Chu music's primitive and warm style. Chaozhou gongs and drum music focuses on the coordination between percussion and bamboo instruments and bamboo instruments and presents a magnificent, rigid, and soft effect; Shanxi Jiangzhou gong and drum music present the form of a "group drums together, drum music" performance paradigm. The above examples illustrate the drum music's personality stored in different cultural contexts (Jia, 2017 : 45-47.).

The drum dance makes its best: China's long history and original function. From the original dance of "hit stone, beast rate dance" to today hit the inspiration of all kinds across the country, depicting the long history of Chinese inspiration and the inspiring charm of drum dance. Chinese drum instruments have roughly experienced four stages of evolution: earth drum, tile drum, leather drum, and bronze drum. At the same time, it also knocked out the strong sound of Chinese civilization through the stumbling dance wind of the Chinese people, deducing the unique charm of China inspired

Ode to the Drum is the praise of our ancestors. From the drum's origin to the drum's function, it records the various images of the Chinese drum culture and lets us understand the various insights of the ancient people on the Chinese drum culture. The Sui and Tang Dynasties were the most active period of Chinese drum culture. With the large input of Hu Drum from the Western Regions, various drums competed for beauty and prominence in the music industry for a while, and the drums reached an unprecedented height in the history of art. Along the ancient Silk Road, the flying waist drum, bamboo drum music, etiquette, and so on benefited from the music and dance cultural exchanges between the Central Plains and the Western Regions. Traditional Chinese drums pursue the huge drum shape, colorful decoration, solemn sound, the soothing rhythm. Hu Drum, which spread to the Central Plains, played an important role in promoting the development of drum music in the Han and Tang Dynasties. However, the absorption of Chinese traditional drum culture to these foreign factors was also absorbed and

integrated based on the foundation of local culture (Gao & Liang, 2008 : 7)

**Outside China:** In the performance of the national orchestra in the Ramuze ceremony of Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, the relationship between drum and shaman depends on what circumstances, such as in the shaman sacrificial ritual ceremony, the drum is the instrument. If on stage, then the drum is the instrument. The deciding factor here is defined in context rather than in drum-based qualitative terms." Knowing people with the drum" is to understand the customs or religious beliefs of different ethnic groups and countries through different drum cultures

Drums are often considered a "noise" instrument. Behind this seemingly descriptive term is a strong exclusive —, namely the drum: "non-music," or at most just the secondary attribute after the melodic instrument. But that's just part of the ideas in the musical culture. Drum in many countries and nations are often given a very important status. They are either symbols of status or signs of identity. Or as the boundary of the distinction

A professor of psychiatry at the University of British Columbia has proved experimentally that drum sounds accelerate to extremely high frequencies (3.3 to 3.7 strikes per second) to help dancers find hallucinations. It is seen on computer graphs that at this frequency, stimulation of the human brain causes the emergence of a state of consciousness altered by some auditory modulation linked to other physiological states. Drumm playing is the preferred music therapy. Since ancient times, drumming has been a part of ritual medicine, often used to relieve pressure (Wolfgang & New, 1993 : 48-60 + 124).

## Cultural IQ

In ancient history, the earliest said "culture" refers to the traces of human activities. When such traces are concentrated, "culture" is the ecological community of human beings in a specific time and space. The traditional human concept believes that culture is a social phenomenon. It is the product of human beings' long-term creation and a historical phenomenon. It is the accumulation of human society and history. To be precise, culture is the way of thinking, values, lifestyle, norms of behavior, art, culture, science, and technology of the country and the nation, which can be inherited and spread, etc. It is a widely recognized ideology that human beings communicate with each other in the sublimation of the perceptual knowledge and experience of the objective world. Culture is the sum of the symbols (supplemented by words, images) and sound (language mainly, rhyme and notes supplemented by people created in the process of constantly understanding self and transformation, constantly understanding nature and transforming nature. It can be abbreviated in simpler and concise words as culture is the sum of language and words.

Cultural IQ is the ability to engage in a range of behavioral patterns, using which one can rely on his skills (language or interpersonal skills) and qualitative (tolerance to uncertain situations) to accommodate the culture-based values and attitudes of those who communicate with. The skills here include language, spatial, inner, and interpersonal ability. A person's cultural IQ is not constant, increasing and decreasing with adaptation to cultural differences (Bruce, 2008 : 56).

**In China:** Culture is an ecological community containing spiritual values and a way of life. It creates a collective personality through accumulation and guidance. The ultimate goal of culture is to popularize love and kindness in the world. The three characteristics of Chinese culture are the "etiquette method" based on the social model, the "gentleman way" based on the personality model, and the "meaningful way" based on the behavior model. A major

advantage of culture is the macro level. From a macro point of view, everything in the world is only local, just temporary. Therefore, the macro level of culture has become philosophical. The world of culture is very large, and the "professional" as "culture" is a misunderstanding. In fact, "professional" is narrow, "culture" is broad as the industry, "professional" to the boundary, and "culture" to blend of the text. The two have different directions. Of course, some professional behaviors break through the limitations and get close to the culture (Yang & Lv, 2010 :65).

Culture is the spiritual motive force to promote the development of a country. It is also a national total of material wealth and spiritual wealth. Music is one of the closest to people's inner world abstractness. Perhaps the most can reflect the expression of spirituality. It showed both people's aesthetic behavior itself and reflected the idea of people of faith and aesthetic temperament and interest. A specific population in a long living area will create a cultural landscape and iconic symbol suitable for the environment (Zhang, Y. 2021 : 52-55.).

**Outside China:** IQ diversity is the concept that there are more forms of IQ than the logic, expression, and mathematical IQ measured by typical standard IQ tests. A musician may be a piano genius, but math or expression is not good. Just because of the low intelligence score, " the IQ test is incorrect. A dancer or karate master has high movement skills but may not understand how to play the piano, and an IQ test genius could not have any chance to beat him in front of a karate master. So, there are many ways to be smart.

Everyone has their cultural style, personal beliefs, world views, and unique hobbies. All of this was shown when communicating with others. Without these personal characteristics, everyone would look like a bunch of robots made as standardized. Human communication is mobile and unpredictable. Although some linguists have designed a flowchart of topics people like to cover during conversations, there is still a phenomenon. How everyone speaks and how it speaks is difficult to predict. People always organize their language when they speak. Different identities determine the content and way of speaking from the perspective of individuals and the perspective of culture. However, we still find it very important to understand the communication style. To get to know others, start by knowing yourself—intercultural communication skills. Face-to-face discussions, phone conversations, or communication — in writing, whether speaking or writing — has a wide range of appropriate sound or silent communication skills in various cultures, including the ability to write an email, such as when to write? What do you write? It also includes the ability to organize transnational negotiations successfully.

The world created by humankind is a cultural world that is fundamentally different from nature. Humans share a common cultural origin, but different ethnic groups have different cultures. Cultural relativism's interpretation and positioning of "culture" have influenced many representative theories in western social thought, such as cultural nationalism and multiculturalism.

The importance of music to culture and what results in its research may bring is the most important issue for scholars to discuss. This question is what is the defining feature of music and its cultural nature? Which type of music can directly reflect culture? What is the relationship between world music, tribal music, and folk music? Does the understanding of some music have any help in cultural understanding? Can it ever improve the cultural IQ? They are all questions worth a deep discussion (Gary, 1992 : 35)

## Learning Chinese Culture through Chinese Drum in the International Student

Today, the trend of world economic globalization is becoming increasingly obvious, and culture is becoming increasingly prosperous, culture without borders, and education without borders. With the development of world economic and cultural exchanges, the international student education industry has become an important part of the internationalization of higher education. In recent years, with the development of China's economy and culture and foreign education, the number of international students coming to China has increased rapidly. The rapid development of international students' education has also put forward higher update requirements for the curriculum of international students.

**In China:** Students in China have great differences in their way of thinking, moral concepts, customs, personal privacy, other aspects, etc. International students first face the problem of cultural adaptation in their learning and life in China. The problem of cultural adaptation may directly lead to the psychological adaptation of international students. It will affect the learning mood and lead to the low learning effect of international students, and even affect the overall education effect, affecting the overall development of international students and the one-sided cognition of Chinese culture (Dai & Cha, 2013 : 134-138).

## Discussion

At present, overseas students in China mainly study in major universities. In the current teaching management system of international students, Chinese and international students jointly carry out extracurricular activities, which most help overseas students adapt to Chinese culture, and consolidate and extend classroom teaching means. When organizing extracurricular activities for overseas students in China, they should find an internal meeting point for traditional Chinese and Western cultures. So that international students can have fewer cultural barriers and resulting cultural anxiety when they first encounter different cultures (Yang & Deng, 2015 : 149-151.)

International student education undertakes the task of spreading and exchanging Chinese culture and values and shares the responsibility of harmonious and friendly exchanges between China and people of all countries in political, economic, and other aspects. International student education not only enriches the object and scope of Chinese education but also promotes the development of China's social and economic economy, expanding the quantity and quality of Chinese talents, and improving China's international status and image. The Chinese government fully recognizes the importance of the education of overseas students in China to Chinese education, politics, economy, culture, and other fields. It puts forward the sixteen-word working principle of "expanding scale, improving level, improving management, and ensuring quality" to guide and promote the further rapid and healthy development of the cause of Chinese overseas students.

Students' education is a "systematic project," which combines practice and theory and needs us to master sociology, psychology, education, and other natural and social science knowledge. Introduce the "people-oriented" management idea, grasp the basic laws of international students' education, and use international students' internal and external relations. On the whole, integrate effective resources, carry out international students' education activities with more scientific, planned, and purposeful, and promote the reasonable, rapid, and sustainable development of overseas students' education (Wu, 2006 : 76-77.)

## Conclusion

At present, the trend of world economic globalization has driven the increasing prosperity of cultural exchanges, and international students' education has become an important part of the internationalization of higher education. Under the guidance of the national macro policies and the university, the School of International Education of Liaoning University in the new era has attempted to open Chinese drum culture courses and the stage practice of drum music clubs for overseas students. Chinese drum culture has extremely rich connotations, and rhythm, performance, and color changes have different representative meanings, even if there is no language. It can also be inferred in the performance what its music expresses, which is also the unique charm of Chinese drum culture.

## References

Bruce, P. (2008). *Cultural IQ*. The Public Law Publishing Bureau.

Dai, Y. & Cha, F. (2013). Build the cultural experience system in China. *Social Science* (03), 134-138. doi:10.16745/j.cnki.cn62-1110/c.2013.03. 043.

Gao, S., & Liang, Q. (2008). *waist drum*. China Federation of Literary and Art Publishing House.

Gary, M. (1992). *The Oxford Music Education Handbook*. Shanghai Music Publishing House.

Jia, H. (2017). Traditional Chinese music. *Art Review* (10), 45-47. DOI:CNKI:SUN:YSPN.0.2017-10-021.

Wolfgang, G. & New, N. (1993). Shaman dances in a revival among North American Indians. *Dieganni* (02), 48-60 + 124. DOI:CNKI:SUN:DOGN.0.1993-02-003.

Wu, Y. (2006). On the development of international student education. *Scientific public* (06), 76-77. doi:10.16728/j.cnki.kids. 2006.06.042.

Yang, Q., & Lv, Z. (2010). *Comparison of Chinese and foreign music education*. Central China Normal University Press.

Yan, C., & Pu, H. (1997). *Chinese Drum Culture Research*. Guangxi Education Publishing House.

Yu, Q. (2012). *What is culture?*. Changjiang Literature and Art Publishing House.

Zhang, Y. (2021). Theoretical orientation and practical significance of constructing the "intangible cultural heritage community". *The Folk Culture Forum* (01), 52-55. doi:10.16814/j.cnki.1008-7214.2021.01.013.

Yang, M., & Deng, J. (2015). takes Soochow University as an example. *Cultural and educational materials* (04), 149-151. DOI:CNKI:SUN: WJZZ.0.2015-04-066.