

# The important of Teaching Henan Opera in School, China

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## Abstracts

Henan Opera singing music is developed with the development of vocal music singing art. The two complement each other and depend on each other. In the development process, it has inherited the traditional skills and theories of Traditional Chinese singing. It has been nourished by the language, tone, local customs, and customs of the Henan people for a long time, forming its unique style and charm. With the rapid development of the economy, the extensive use of electronic products, the wide popularity of pop music, and the mutual penetration of various types of music culture, Henan Opera has entered the era of drama shortage. As the representative of Henan Province, Henan Opera culture plays an important role in developing Chinese civilization. The energy contained in its long history is a rare spiritual asset in life today. However, in the face of the influence of various musical elements under today's powerful cultural background, the expression form of Henan opera was gradually forgotten by people, and people's love and addiction to her gradually shifted to pop music and other music categories.

**Keywords:** Teaching; Henan Opera; School; China

## Introduction

Henan Opera has gradually lost its former glory and residual heat in the development of history. With the continuous development of The Times, people's values, life interests, aesthetic qualities, behavior mode, and thinking state will inevitably move forward accordingly. Survival of the fittest and survival of the fittest is the inevitable development of history. Combining culture and economy is the top task of inheritance and development to maintain fresh vitality and strong competitiveness. In order to protect the traditional folk-art forms and make Henan Opera continue to shine in Henan and even the motherland, the social practice team of Henan Province Henan Opera Publicity Team actively responded to the call of the Party and the government, carried out various publicity activities, and launched a series of discussions on the development and inheritance of Henan Opera culture. The Henan provincial government has taken a series of actions to promote the campus of Henan Opera and has set up six pilot schools to study the learning results (Cheng, 2022 : 4)

## **The origin and development of Henan Opera in Traditional Culture**

Henan Opera, based on Henan Bangzi, continuous inheritance, reform, and innovation development. After founding the People's Republic of China because of the Henan abbreviation "Yu," the so-called Henan Opera. Henan Opera is called Wooden Clappers Opera in northern Anhui province, and some parts of Shandong and Jiangsu provinces are still called Wooden Clappers Opera. The popular area of Henan Opera is mainly in the Yellow River and Huaihe River basins. In addition to Henan Province, Hubei, Anhui, Jiangsu, Shandong, Hebei, Beijing, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Gansu, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Taiwan, and other provinces and municipalities have the distribution of professional Henan opera troupe, is the largest local opera in China.

Henan Opera is the largest local opera in China, ranking first among all local operas in China. In 2006, the number of state-owned professional Henan opera groups counted by the national cultural department was 167, which is the opera with the largest number of professional opera groups and practitioners in China! Henan Opera used to be called "Henan Wooden Clappers" and "Henan High Profile," but the "Acura," which was also called "Henan Acura." The name "Henan Opera" first referred to various operas of Henan province until the autumn of 1947, when the Kaifeng, Lanzhou, and Xi'an newspapers referred to Henan Wooden Clappers.

After the founding of new China, based on Henan Bangzi, after the continuous reform and innovation of several generations of old artists, it was officially renamed "Henan Opera." It marks the qualitative leap of Henan opera art and the full prosperity of mature opera art! Therefore, Henan Wooden Clappers is the predecessor of Henan Opera, and the two concepts are not the same! Henan Opera is popular in over a dozen provinces and regions, such as Henan, Hebei, Shandong, Shanxi, Hubei, Shaanxi, Gansu, Xinjiang, and Taiwan. It is one of the most influential operas in China. Under Yang Lanchun, after the country's founding, the four operas' local opera is introduced comprehensively, with scientific pronunciation, into the opera elements. On May 20, 2006, with the approval of The State Council, Henan Opera was included in the first batch of the national intangible cultural heritage list (Henan Daily, 2016:7).

## **The current situation and development of Henan Opera**

Henan Opera is a blooming flower in the big family of Chinese opera and plays an important role in Chinese traditional culture. Henan Opera has its unique form of artistic expression. Its singing is beautiful, the design of the plot is more elegant and popular, it easy to arouse people's resonance, and more importantly, its performance and reaction are the life of the public. In a sense, Henan Opera is the expression of their own emotions. Henan Opera has a long history, extensive and profound, but under the background of the new period, its healthy development has encountered a bottleneck. (Malone, 2014:6).

## **Government policy to support teaching opera in school**

The Propaganda Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Culture recently jointly issued the Opinions on the Implementation of Opera in Campus (from now on referred to as the "Opinions"), The national primary and secondary schools should combine the reality of school education and the physical and mental characteristics of students of different ages, Select excellent, classic, traditional opera artworks suitable for students to watch, We will take multiple measures simultaneously,

In principle, to organize opera art performance groups into the campus performance and organize students into the theater scene to watch, At the same time, combined with various public welfare performances, opera into villages and other cultural activities to benefit the people and opera culture lectures, As well as through the Internet and multimedia to watch the classic plays, opera animation and other forms. Opera performances should be combined with explanations and demonstrations to strengthen universal education (Henan Opera Broadcasting, 2017:1).

The Opinions require local propaganda, education, and cultural departments to carry out various school opera education activities extensively. Schools at all levels should be close to the campus life, enrich the art education classroom according to the student's cognitive level and psychological characteristics, and actively explore innovation with era characteristics, campus characteristics, and characteristics of drama education forms, such as opera masters into the campus, opera performance, opera appreciation (lecture) and other mass activities, form the local characteristics of the school and traditional. At all levels, opera art performance groups and cultural (art) museums should hold student opera activities and carry out activities such as opera rehearsal and observation, role and trade experience, and interaction to stimulate students' interest in opera art.

《Opinion " regulation, the central propaganda department, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture guidance and support for opera into the campus work, the provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) establish propaganda department, education, finance, culture, and other departments to participate in the drama into the campus work organization and coordination mechanism, various departments, coordinate the concrete implementation of the work. Among them, the local publicity departments and the education and culture departments will identify the catalog of the dramas (festivals) on the campus every three years, which will be published to the society through the website before November 30 of the last year (Ministry of Education, 2022:1).

The guideline stressed that the qualifications of opera art performance groups and related social groups should be approved by local cultural departments every three years according to relevant measures. The cultural department will issue a review announcement through the website before December 10 of the previous year. According to the announcement requirements, all the groups that meet the application requirements participate in the unified qualification evaluation of opera on campus. The cultural department will employ art and education experts to evaluate the qualification of the group, determine the list of groups that have obtained the qualification of opera on campus, and publish it to the public through the website before December 30 of the previous year. Publicity departments at all levels, together with the education, finance, and cultural departments, formulate and organize the implementation of the drama of the year) Moreover, the qualification list of the performance groups, combined with the financial situation and the school's needs. Cultural departments should guide all kinds of opera art performance groups at all levels and related social resources to implement the tasks undertaken, ensure quality, listen to most schools' and students' opinions and suggestions, and constantly improve their level.

"Opinions" finally pointed out that the enthusiasm of the government, schools, society, individuals and other parties should be fully mobilized to gather resources from various parties to jointly support opera into the campus. We should firmly establish the guiding ideology of "safety first", strengthen the safety education and management work, and establish and perfect the safety management system. Education departments at all levels should include opera into

the campus in the annual work content of the school art education, and take students' participation in opera practice activities as an important part of the school aesthetic education practice activities.

### **The drama and film in the art course content is increased**

The learning task of grade 12 is mainly based on singing and swimming music. The task is "simulation performance," simulating familiar people, animals, and plants in daily life to cultivate students' ability to observe and summarize the characteristics of the objects and encourage students to use their expression, body, and language to perform.

The learning task of grade 37 mainly relies on music, Chinese, and foreign language implementation. The task is "textbook drama performance," that is, select teaching materials in music, Chinese, foreign language, and other textbooks to make textbook drama compilation and performance, watch traditional opera performances, and cultivate students' awareness of stage performance and the ability to evaluate performance activities.

The study tasks of grade 89 include "performing the stage plays," "editing and performing the story script," "recording the drama-watching experience," and "planning the dramatic activities."



**Figure 1.** performing stage plays in school

The 2022 Art Education Curriculum standard issued by the Ministry of Education stipulates that the compulsory education art curriculum includes five disciplines: music, art, dance, drama (including opera), film, and television (including digital media art).

Furthermore, grades one to seven, with music and art as the main line, are required into dance, drama, film, television, and other content, and grades eight to nine choose to open. Moreover, the course duration should reach 9% -11% of the total nine-year class period. This proportion even exceeds the course content of English, history, geography, and other major subjects.

The content and scope of art education have been significantly increased and expanded in the new curriculum standard. In addition to traditional music, art, and dance, the weight of drama (opera) and film and television education has been especially increased.

### **The significance and necessity of introducing opera on campus**

Opera into the campus as part of the national cultural Renaissance strategy. By creating the intersection of opera and young people, the revitalization of opera and youth spirit cultivation of two profound influences at the same time let teenagers become elegant and close to opera, continuously making traditional opera a Chinese cultural treasure.

#### **1. The important significance of traditional Chinese opera on the campus**

First of all, any school is based on educating people. Remember, a school has two propaganda languages: "thousands of people teach people to seek truth, thousands of people learn to do real," and "the weight of morality, the footprints of life is how deep." This fully explains the importance of students' moral education! In the opera repertoire, they all carry forward the true, the good, and the beautiful, promote the good and suppress the evil, and teach people "benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, and faith."

Through watching and learning the repertoire, the spiritual tradition is carried forward. Xie Xizhang, a historian and literary critic, said, "Moral sense is the value concept of Chinese opera. "Secondly, music education is an important component of quality education in primary and secondary schools. In the process of opera performance, they will sing beautiful and euphemistic songs and accompany ethnic Musical Instruments live. By watching the traditional opera performance, students will not only stimulate the perception ability of music and the discrimination ability of various ethnic instruments and Musical Instruments but also gather national integrity, guide students to be positive and cultivate students' sentiments. Opera covers many artistic elements, such as costume, stage design, makeup, dance, singing, acrobatics, etc., comprehensive art in one, with high aesthetic value; primary and middle school students can improve their artistic appreciation ability, which is also an important part of the quality education of primary and middle school students.



Figure 2. The students attending school event

To realize the living inheritance of local opera, the successor is the key. If the opera into the campus, set up courses, let the children from primary school sing home opera, understand the charm of opera art, and cultivate their interest and interest in opera. As more children know opera, the problem of aging audiences will no longer exist; if more children like opera, high-quality talents will flow, and students will have more choices.

## 2. The necessity of opera art to enter the campus

As an art form reflecting traditional Chinese culture, opera integrates the essence of poetry, music, dance, art, clothing, martial arts, and other arts, which can well show the Chinese aesthetic style. The vivid opera tells the story of Chinese morality, praising the feelings of family and country, excellent character, good humanity, and outstanding beauty can inherit the Chinese spirit well. Therefore, the introduction of opera on campus will build a cultural bridge between the past and the future so that children can consciously draw strength from the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, obtain ideological conservation and value support from the excellent traditional culture, and then drive the whole society to be good. The introduction of opera into the campus provides infinite possibilities for improving the quality of campus cultural education and shaping students' spiritual world (Sun, 2018:1).

## Conclusion

In the background of the severe impact of Western culture, there is also a phenomenon when we think about the existence and development of opera. We are used to instinctively maintaining the value of inheritance in discussing the relationship between inheritance and innovation. It is good to emphasize the adherence to the essence of opera, etc. It is this value that tends to ensure the survival of opera. However, for the opera that has been seeking better development, another relationship is also equally important: the relationship between the inheritance and transmission of the opera. Inheritance ensures that the opera does not deviate in the development process, maintains its internal stipulation, ensures that the gene of this cultural seed does not change, and maintains its special aesthetic quality and spirit. Communication is the sunshine and rain that inheritance can exist. In the initial stage of the revival of the opera industry, we need to pay special attention to the value of communication, capture the opportunities of communication, select the right way of communication, and target the priority communication group.

The opera industry should conform to the change, efforts to accumulate the achievements of heritage into the value of the resources of the whole society, active will spread as a key stage, popularize opera in primary and secondary schools, opera bearing story of China, guide the children opera, opera, singing opera, opera, cultivate a younger audience, more opera population, fundamentally solve the opera career development successor lack the bottleneck problem. The policy of introducing opera on campus provides infinite possibilities for the inheritance and dissemination of opera.

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