

The Violin Teaching Materials in China

Wang Yang and Nicha Pattananon

Bangkokthonburi University, Thailand

Corresponding Author, E-mail : nicha.musiced@gmail.com

Abstract

This article presented the violin teaching materials in China. Violin group teaching is an indispensable teaching mode in art education. In the process of teaching practice, in order to explore a more rigorous, scientific, popular and disseminated violin teaching method, more learners can understand the teaching method and understand the playing principle of this instrument through learning. The researchers studied the teaching materials and teaching methods of violin group lessons in three schools in Zhengzhou in various aspects, and summarized these methods and applied them to violin group lessons to improve learners' interest.

Keywords: The Violin Teaching; The Violin Teaching Materials; China

Introduction

The teaching material is a nutritious meal formulated according to the nutritional requirements, and the rice, dishes and soup should be complete. The purpose is to comprehensively combine the violin technology and music culture education. The music of instrumental music textbook is the most basic element of the textbook, and the presentation content of the textbook is closely related to the selection of the genre of the music. Education is not a water without a source, a tree without roots, all teaching should be built on the basis of textbooks. As one of the three elements of teaching activities, the quality of teaching materials has a direct impact on the quality of teaching. As the main basis and basis for carrying out teaching activities, teaching materials directly affect the effect of education from writing to concrete practice, and the educational results also play a key role in the development of violin course education in China.

Different teaching materials reflect different teaching methods and also affect all aspects of violin learning. (Liu, 2019). Violin has been introduced into China for more than 100 years. With the development of society, people pay more and more attention to the cultivation of children's music, and the violin has received more and more attention and learning. Enlightenment teaching is the first step of violin learning, and basic introductory materials play a vital role. It is very necessary to compile elementary violin teaching materials that meet the needs of Chinese children. Early childhood education is like the foundation of a high-rise building, and violin early childhood education is the cornerstone of violin education, and the selection of introductory materials has become the starting point for laying a good foundation.

As a teaching material for children, it not only needs a rigorous knowledge system, but also needs to adapt to children's psychology, cultivate children's interests, and improve children's artistic literacy. If a good violinist wants to grow, in addition to endowment and social, economic and cultural conditions, the most important thing is to get scientific and

¹Received: November 13, 2023; Revised: November 29, 2023; Accepted: November 30, 2023

comprehensive training as soon as possible. This is also inseparable from improving the musical literacy of the whole nation and laying a deep and solid foundation for the popularization of violin education.

Violin teaching materials in China

Teacher Zhang Shixiang's teaching materials

The violin is considered one of the most difficult instruments to learn. How to build a good violin textbook between teachers and students has become an important link in violin teaching. Professor Zhang Shixiang, born in 1934 in Beijing, China, is a famous violinist and educator. He graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 1956 and taught violin there until 1995. Professor Zhang has been invited to give lectures in the United States, Germany, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Britain and other places. He is a famous violin educator in China and a judge of international violin competitions. In addition to serving as a judge for many national violin competitions sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of China, Professor Zhang has also been invited to participate in the Bach International Competition held in Leipzig, Germany, the Lublin International Violin Competition held in Poland, the International Violin Competition held in Schoenthal, Germany, the famous Menuhin International Violin Competition held in the United Kingdom, and the International Violin Competition held in Germany. Jury of the International Violin Competition in Novosibirsk, Russia and the International Violin Competition in Krakow, Poland. Professor Zhang Shixiang, a famous violin educator, devoted himself to violin teaching all his life and made outstanding contributions to violin education. He absorbed the excellent teaching methods of foreign violin schools, studied and compared their teaching materials, and compiled a set of scientific and systematic violin teaching materials according to his experience in teaching for decades. Zhang's series of textbooks have also become one of the most widely used and best-selling textbooks in China.

Zhang Shixiang's Violin Enlightenment Textbook

This is a textbook designed for kindergarten children who have just come into contact with the violin. Its content is simple and short, which is in line with the characteristics of young children's learning and makes it easier for children to understand and accept. Advantages of the textbook: 1. The book is accompanied by a large number of clear and intuitive, multi-angle pictures, teachers and parents can use the pictures to guide children's playing postures 2. The schedule of the teaching material is scientific and reasonable. In each new lesson, Mr. Zhang first uses scales or basic exercises to train them, and then enriches them with etudes. Finally, he uses and consolidates them with several short melodious compositions. In order to improve the practicability of the textbook, Professor Zhang also recorded a demonstration CD of all the contents according to the speed of the child's piano, and the child can not only see the music and specific performance movements at the same time on the TV screen, but also hear the correct sound. Students practice with the DVD accompanying the book, and parents have a basis to help their children practice. It can be said that this textbook is the ideal textbook for Chinese children to learn the violin. (Ding, 2012).

Newly Compiled 100 Days of Beginner Violin Learning

For older children, such as primary and second grade students, the main selection of the newly compiled violin 100 days. This further clarifies the age range of the two textbooks. The book contains a large number of scales and etudes, as well as a collection of short melodious pieces, and is technically sound. From the perspective of the characteristics of the textbook compilation, the demonstration picture of Zhang Shixiang Violin Enlightenment Textbook is also more detailed and more specific and detailed in teaching suggestions. For example, in the separate practice part of learning the left hand, both textbooks allow students to first "play the guitar" and find the specific position of the sound on the fingerboard while learning the note singing name. Compared with the new compilation of the First 100 days to learn the violin, Zhang Shixiang Violin Enlightenment Textbook also inserted a picture description (Figure 2-7). Secondly, from the aspect of the specific content of the textbook, teacher Zhang Shixiang also clearly put forward the requirement that teachers should follow the principle of teaching students according to their aptitude in teaching activities. After learning the two kinds of hand patterns, which are semitone relationship between 2 fingers and 3 fingers and 1 fingers and 2 fingers, the textbook inserted the interval exercise about the second degree to the eighth degree. Teacher Zhang proposed to the teacher from the guidance of the exercise method, and proposed to look at the learning progress of children at this stage. If the grasp of intonation is not very good at this time, they should be allowed to use a bow one tone to slow to practice; If the intonation and the control of the bow have been mastered well, let the student use different bow segments to perform the practice of connecting the bow. "Apply this individualized principle when teaching students to play all the scales and exercises in this tutorial (Liu, 2019)

Revision of Selected Primary Violin Etudes

This set of teaching materials is designed for children who want to become violin professionals in the future. This set of teaching materials is based on the scientific concept of training violin playing skills, selecting the most effective materials from a large number of etudes and arranging them systematically, with stronger purpose, more reasonable steps and better results. The first and second volumes of this set of textbooks basically cover the contents of the two etudes of Woerfahrt and Kaisai, while the third volume extends to the two etudes of Mazas and Dante Op. 37. Wang Xiaodong, who won the first prize in the Menuhin International Violin Competition twice, has used this etude in the past, and his academic performance has proved the value of this textbook.

Revision of Selected Primary Violin Etudes

"Zhang Shixiang Violin Teaching Collection" 1-8 volumes, this set of music is a scale and etude textbook supporting the use of teaching materials. The selected pieces are not general musical music, but have a clear practice purpose. These pieces were written by famous violin professors to teach their students how to play the violin. The audio textbooks published before 2004 include "Newly compiled 100 Days of Learning the Violin for Beginners" and "Elementary Violin Etudes", and the first three volumes of "Zhang Shixiang Violin Teaching Collection" published in 2004 are also accompanied by a VCD. In Mr. Zhang's view, the CD, as a tool for the dissemination of human information at that time, should also be used as a new teaching method in the teaching of violin, which is suitable for the current rapid development

of science and technology era. In recent years, with the rapid development of digital technology, Mr. Zhang is committed to a new teaching method of violin - multimedia teaching method (electronic violin teacher), especially for the children who are beginning to learn, Mr. Zhang seized their good imitation learning characteristics, the traditional violin teaching - learning mode on the silent spectrum. The development of audio-visual combination of teaching model - with sound to teach sound, to teach movement, and corresponding to the spectrum. (Liuwenyu,2019). The following is a screenshot of the teaching video on the website of Zhang Shixiang's violin teaching method.

In addition to compiling and publishing many violin scores, teaching materials and recordings, Professor Zhang has also published many translated works on the art of violin performance by Beijing People's Music Publishing House, Shanghai Literature and Art Publishing House and Taiwan World Heritage Publishing House. "Principles of Violin Performance and Teaching" by American Garamian; The Science of Violin Performance by Rafael Bronstein; "A New Way of Playing the Violin" by Kato Hawass, Hungary, "Menuhin Talks"; The Immortal Violinist; "The Immortal Cellist," "How to Practice the Violin." Zhang Shixiang violin teaching material is under the centralized guidance of Professor Zhang Shixiang, under the dialectical analysis of Marx, according to the characteristics of students' psychological and physiological structure, in addition to the use of traditional music, but also to easy to understand graphic instructions and intuitive image of the DVD disc as an auxiliary teaching, paving the way for more violin lovers to the peak of the violin. Scientific, artistic and innovative support this set of textbooks always exude the light of The Times.

Suzuki Violin Lessons

Suzuki Violin Course is a famous violin textbook. This set consists of eight books: Volume 1 to 3 is the first piece of music mainly composed of French, American and German children's songs, interspersed with simple etudes with only four phrases. To volume 3, there are minuets and Gavotte songs of excellent composers such as Bach. From volume 4, we start to change the practice, until volume 6 changes to seven positions, and end the learning of transposing the positions. The seventh and eighth volumes add to the training of the technique, before beginning the practice of Veracini's sonatas he wrote a detailed procedure for the new practice of "tremolo", supplemented by detailed written explanations (Shi, 2017).

This book is written by Japanese violinist Zhenichi Suzuki. Starting from the psychological and physiological characteristics of children, the textbook uses a large number of transplant pieces of piano and band suites with bright rhythm and beautiful melody as beginner works, and learns various violin playing skills through the music. This way is interesting but not boring, easy to learn for children at the beginning of the enlightenment stage. "Suzuki Violin Textbook" volume 1 to Volume 3 in the first position, A total of six pronunciation training lessons: A, D, G three major scales and arpeggios and g melody minor scales and arpeggios. In the content of these three volumes, emphasis is placed on developing musical sense and correct posture, and there is no rush to read music training. The notation is very detailed, each piece of music in the first three books is marked with a large number of fingerings, especially in the first and second books, each note is written with fingerings. The score has strong and weak marks and reserved finger marks from the first book. The repertoire consists mainly of minuets, Gavotte, boulettes and other musical works. Books 4 to 8 in the first to seventh position, a total of five lessons of pronunciation training: second to third

position learning, kneading, changing, strong and weak handling and singing practice. In addition, there are fourth to seventh position exercises, crossing strings, changing strings, and trills. From book 4 onwards, the score has no detailed fingering markings. The repertoire selected in the last five volumes is mostly composed by Seitz, Vivaldi, Handel, Bach and other composers, with the exception of some dance music, and students begin to contact concertos and sonatas. For the basic skills of the violin involved more, the fourth book after the change, trill are described in text, but in the first three books more emphasis on the importance of pronunciation, the basic skills of the enlightenment stage is not specifically explained, but directly reflected through the music, such as: dotted rhythm, repeated marks, triplets.

The Suzuki Violin Textbook has strict requirements on playing posture. The textbook uses many demonstration photos and text diagrams. Students can learn playing posture more intuitively by watching the pictures, which is more in line with the learning psychology of children in the stage of enlightenment. It is difficult for students to intuitively understand and practice instructions such as "no shrug, lower jaw". In combination with Figure 2-9, the standing posture of the students in the photo clearly and accurately demonstrated the standard standing posture of playing the violin, including the orientation of the violin head and the placement of the left and

right feet, etc. By imitating the photo, the students quickly understood the meaning of "a straight line". The whole body should be relaxed, the feet shoulder-width apart, the tip of the nose should be in line with the strings and elbows, and the height of the head should be aligned with the mouth. The right hand bow holding posture is also clearly and accurately demonstrated in the photo (Zhang, 2022).

Research on the application of left-handed type training

"Suzuki Violin Textbook" also uses pictures to demonstrate the basic hand shape of the left hand. The pictures clearly show the posture of the arm, wrist and fingers of the left hand. Compared with the previous single text explanation, this design is more in line with children's "imitation function". The teacher requires students to keep their fingers in a straight line and their fingernails facing the face. It is difficult for the teacher to make students directly understand how to place their left hand through oral explanation, while the pictures in the textbook are good for the piano children to see the correct movements. The teacher should give in-depth and detailed explanation and correction while the students imitate and practice according to the photos, and formulate strict training for the left hand shape. At the beginning of the textbook is the training of "Little Star", students in the process of playing, the left hand is still facing a stiff and tense state, which will affect the timbre. Therefore, in practice, we must pay attention to the relaxation of the left hand, usually the teacher only pays attention to the basic hand shape and intonation, ignoring the relaxation of the whole palm, and learning the third book chord, the fourth book change, and even more left hand skills will be greatly affected. When practicing, the left hand should relax and practice no matter how difficult the piece is. (Zhang, 2022).

Research on the application of right-handed training

The correct bow holding of the right hand, the textbook has the step-by-step steps of holding the bow, and the final is the standard hand type. "Correct E string posture practice" in the Suzuki Violin Textbook is the basis, and you should practice changing strings more often and pay attention to clean sound. Due to the difficulty in the position of the bow and bow tip at the beginning of learning, students in the enlightenment stage will move their big arms back and forth in order to pursue the bow movement of the whole bow, so that the bow will slide freely on the string. The rhythm learning in the textbook will be fast to slow, starting from sixteenth notes to eighth notes and quarter notes, and they will master the movement direction of the right arm before further practice.

Intonation problem

Intonation is the "soul" and "life" of the violin, which is an eternal topic accompanying the whole process of violin learning, and it is also the most difficult problem to break through. In the process of violin playing, players, especially beginners, often find that the melody they play is not so pleasant, and the problem is in intonation. An important aspect to solve the intonation problem is to be able to judge whether the intonation is accurate. Mr. Suzuki mentioned in the learning and tutoring principles in the textbook that children should listen to relevant records at home every day to cultivate their musical sense, and reading music and singing while listening to the records will help students develop the concept of pitch, and the sensitivity of the ears to intonation will also be improved. Teachers should ensure at least five minutes of intonation practice in each class. Students should adopt the way that teachers play scales and students sing along, followed by singing music, so as to exercise students' mastery of pitch concepts, help students develop their sense of pitch as soon as possible, learn scientific and reasonable intonation practice methods, and effectively solve intonation problems.

In short, "Suzuki Violin Textbook" is the first choice of violin enlightenment teaching materials. This textbook includes many world famous songs and popular folk songs, and intersperses some basic training materials. Such pieces are more suitable for beginners. The melody is beautiful and familiar, so as not to weaken the touch of music to the soul through particularly boring basic skills. Since its introduction into China in the 1960s, Suzuki Violin Textbook has been deeply loved by violin teachers and is an excellent course for children's enlightenment teaching.

The Road to Learning the Violin

The textbook "The Road to Learning the Piano" written by teacher Zhao Wei was published by People's Music Publishing House in 1989. On the basis of this textbook, after more than ten years of practice, and constantly supplemented and revised, the textbook "The Road to Learning the Piano" was published in 2013. In the 30 years between the publication of these two sets of textbooks, due to the changes of The Times and the development of society, China's art education has also undergone earth-shaking changes. This requires the concept of art education to develop in a diversified, globalized and informationized way.

In the selection of music, "New Road to Learning the Piano" pays attention to the inheritance of national music culture, and has a certain proportion of national music in the whole series of books. In the arrangement of the repertoire, the music aesthetic is placed in the core position, and the original repertoire has a certain sense of The Times and nationality. In

the textbook "New Road to Learning the Piano", there are some familiar and rich national characteristics of children's music. For example: Shandong folk song "Yimeng Mountain minor", Jiangxi folk song "August osmanthus blossom everywhere", northern Shaanxi folk song "Xintian Travel" and so on. These folk songs are from different regions of China, reflecting the local customs and customs, so that children can understand the culture and music techniques of different regions of China in the process of learning the songs. The second category is the folk songs of Chinese culture and customs, such as: Northern Shaanxi folk song "Embroidered gold plaque", "Yao Nationality dance", Northeast Yangko "Full of red" and so on. This kind of dance music with a sense of substitution has local folk customs and folk customs, allowing children to "experience" different folk culture. The third category is for children's life experience songs, such as: "Selling newspaper songs", "Looking for friends", "I love Beijing Tian'anmen", "Lullaby" and so on. These songs are children's favorite songs, and rich in certain positive energy songs.

Zhao Wei is not only a famous violin educator, but also a composer. There are a large number of Zhao Wei's original pieces in the music arrangement of the New Way to Learn the Piano. In the whole series of textbooks, the number of original pieces is as much as 50 percent. These original songs can be roughly divided into two categories, one is the national music; The other type is technical etudes or preparatory exercises. The second is the original repertoire for technical practice, such as: "Slide" (hand, wrist, shoulder relaxation training), "Swing" (even bow practice), "Cutting window flowers" (Chinese national mode etude), "Flower Drum Zi" (rhythm etude), etc., these original compositions are created for learning a certain violin technique, with extreme skill. This kind of compilation and creation is more targeted for some children with weak skills, has a clear teaching goal, and can also help children transition before playing difficult pieces of music (Zhou, 2021).

In summary, "The Road to Learning the Piano" compiled by Ms. Zhao Wei has comprehensive content, step-by-step explanation, easy to understand, and high practicability. It is an excellent violin teaching material. It not only follows the psychological and physiological characteristics of children, but also "reasonable collocation" for the genre and elements of music, and the planning and arrangement of violin skills are also gradual. Each group of exercises in "New Way to Learn the Piano" is composed of basic exercises, etudes, and Chinese and foreign music. With the deepening of degree and learning, scales, sonatas, concertos, ensemble pieces and other types of music will be added. Through the interesting layout and the small amount of music and violin skills in each lesson, the textbook cultivates the children's violin playing ability and increases the students' interest in learning.

Conclusion

China's professional colleges and universities have also made certain breakthroughs and progress in theoretical research, such as Professor Han Li's "Theory and Practice of Basic Violin Skills Training", Ding Zhihuo's "Sixteen Basic Violin Skills" and Mr. Lin Yaoji's teaching theory, etc. These theoretical research results have brought great help to the development and improvement of early childhood violin education in our country in a certain sense. At the same time, international exchanges and interactions have also expanded the playing examples of violin textbooks in China, making the selection of music more targeted when teaching different stages of piano learning for children, and enriching the quantity and quality of etudes and music in textbooks.

In the 21st century, domestic violin educators began to pay attention to basic violin education, pay attention to scientific playing skills in the compilation of teaching materials, and carry out the study of traditional music throughout the basic education. Excellent teaching materials of traditional music culture can reduce the influence of globalization trend and avoid the loss of traditional music. With the violin as the carrier, let children learn to play in the interest, liberate the nature of children, cultivate their learning habits and methods, and gradually form the modern violin education concept with the overall development of children as the goal.

References

Ding, F. (2012). *Study on Zhang Shixiang's violin teaching*, [Master's thesis]. Shandong University.

Liu, W. (2019). *Study on Zhang Shixiang's violin enlightenment. Textbook*, [Master's thesis]. Jia ngsu Normal University.

Shi, M. (2017). *The Suzuki teaching method is to teach children violin in our country Applied research in science -- Taking Fenyang Children's Art Garden as an example*, [Master's thesis]. Xinyang Normal University.

Zhang, Q. (2022). *The Application of Suzuki Violin Teaching Material in children's Initiation Teaching -- A case study of Dongguan Eton House Foreign Language Primary School*, [Master's thesis]. North University of China.

Zhou, Y. (2021). *The Trinity of "People, Instruments and Music": A Study of Zhao Wei's Teaching Materials and Methodology for "The New Way of Learning the Violin"*, [Master's thesis]. Fujian Normal University.