

# The Aesthetics Of College Chorus Singing: From Theory To Practice

Wenjun Niu<sup>1</sup>, Sakon Phu-ngamdee<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Candidate, Arts Performance Communication, School of Liberal Arts, Shinawatra University, Pathum Thani, Thailand, Email: 371860541@qq.com

<sup>2</sup>Advisor, Assoc.Prof.Dr, School of Liberal Arts, Shinawatra University  
Email: Sakon.p@siu.ac.th

## Abstract

As an art form, chorus is popular, collective and comprehensive. Due to the large number of participants, large scale and strong participation, choral art enables students to get more sense of participation, experience the cohesion of the team, and win more collective honors than other activities. Therefore, more and more colleges and universities begin to organize and cultivate their own chorus, and students' sense of participation is also stronger and stronger. In recent years, with the support of the state for art education, college chorus education has made some progress. However, in the absence of widespread arts management, some universities in China can only manage their choral singing through personal experience. They fail to combine management practice with art management theory. Due to the particularity of art education, more requirements are put forward for management, so there is a lot of room for college chorus in educational concept, organization, system, development planning and other aspects. The lack of theoretical guidance of art management leads to the lack of a good platform for students, uneven performance ability and low enthusiasm. There are some problems in chorus management in some colleges and universities, such as unreasonable management system, unclear teaching plan, mismatching of professional teachers and low enthusiasm for chorus rehearsal. Therefore, this study will compare the relationship between the management modes of different colleges and the development status of different university choral singing, compare and analyze different management modes, and conclude that a set of management modes of college students choir is more conducive to the development of chorus activities. This paper analyzes the problems existing in chorus teaching management from the perspectives of team management, education management and chorus teaching, puts forward feasible strategies and predicts the future trend of chorus teaching management.

**Keywords:** Chorus ; Choir conducting teaching ; The university choir.

## Introduction

In the current stage of China's education system construction, the requirements of music education level in colleges and universities are constantly improving. Among them, the development of choral courses in public music education has been paid more and more attention by all aspects. However,

the professional level of chorus teaching itself is relatively high and the content is relatively lack of interest, which makes the overall quality of chorus teaching in colleges and universities stay in a basic level. Although at the current stage, China is constantly increasing efforts to improve its influence from the perspective of quality education and

other macro environment, and chorus and efficient public music teaching and education development have achieved stage results, and the actual effect has been significantly improved, there are still considerable limitations. The use of teaching modes and continuous innovation of teaching methods can further improve the level of choral teaching, and can provide the society with comprehensive quality of excellent talents. This paper introduces the importance of music literacy to the comprehensive development of college students by analyzing the current situation of Chinese chorus popularization. The point of view that singing originates from the heart is put forward, and the origin and aesthetic appreciation of choral beauty are deeply analyzed. The true chorus should be from the heart of love and pleasure, rather than the accumulation of simple skills and accumulation. To learn choral aesthetics, we must deeply understand the essence of choral works in order to sing the heartfelt music. For college students who are not music majors, skills are second. The most important thing is to have a heart in awe of nature, a heart of gratitude for the perfect vocal cords of human beings, and a heart of comfort that choral singing brings people physical and mental pleasure. Only the voice from the heart, can play a unique and beautiful chorus voice.

### **Problem Statements**

Liu Yuan (2004) once mentioned that today, chorus art is getting more and more attention in the article "on the reform of chorus education management in Colleges and universities" published in "education and occupation". Combined with the relevant requirements of the Department of higher education of the Ministry of education, what we should pursue is to cultivate applied talents who can engage in chorus art related teaching in professional artistic performance groups, cultural stations and museums and

various schools. Focusing on this goal, the development and construction of chorus groups are particularly important. For the cultivation of artistic talents, we should not only focus on mastering the technology and skills of various styles of works, but also pay more attention to the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities such as perceptual ability, aesthetic ability, teaching ability, and theoretical research ability. At present, chorus teaching in China is mainly divided into two directions, namely, vocal performance and stage performance. This paper mainly analyzes and studies the school running idea, training objectives, curriculum structure, teaching methods and other aspects of the art major chorus in Colleges and universities in China.

### **Research Objectives**

This paper intends to select some music art colleges in China that have established chorus as samples to conduct sampling research on the current situation of various chorus groups in Colleges and universities and the stage performance of students in various performances such as competitions and concerts, so as to study the impact of chorus training and performance on students' stage performance ability, and provide reference for how to improve students' stage performance ability.

The main research objectives of this paper are as follows:

- 1.To evaluate the stage performance ability of College chorus through research.
- 2.To summarize the main factors affecting the stage performance of College chorus students.
- 3.To improve the stage performance ability of

chorus students by improving the methods and means of aesthetic education teaching.

### **Literature Review**

This paper believes that the current chorus art education in Chinese colleges and universities pays attention to technology, daily practice and sound, but ignores theory, emotion, culture, practice, language, nationality and other aspects: in college art teaching, theoretical teaching is often not paid enough attention to, and teachers' empirical teaching method still occupies a dominant position. At the Fudan Education Forum, Liu Chunbo (2009) discussed the review and Prospect of China's higher education management system since the reform and opening up. Especially in the professional classes of chorus, teachers often focus on the training of sound skills, while ignoring the systematic teaching of the regular knowledge in vocal music training. As a result, although some students have mastered certain singing skills, they know little about the theoretical knowledge of vocal music, and there is a phenomenon that they can only sing, but can't tell why. Because there is no correct theoretical guidance. When students look at some problems, they often have great one sidedness, which also affects how to master singing skills with scientific methods. In fact, the learning process of singing skills is not isolated. Its mastery is directly related to people's physiological and psychological states, cultural literacy and teaching methods. The chorus is dominated by the singing of all members. Singing is not only a vocal art combining literature and music, but also a performing art that can best express human emotions. Learning and mastering singing skills is ultimately to express the ideological connotation of the works with both voice and emotion. However, in the daily rehearsal of the College Choir, most of the teachers and students ignore the input and performance of singing emotion. Teachers often devote most of their energy to

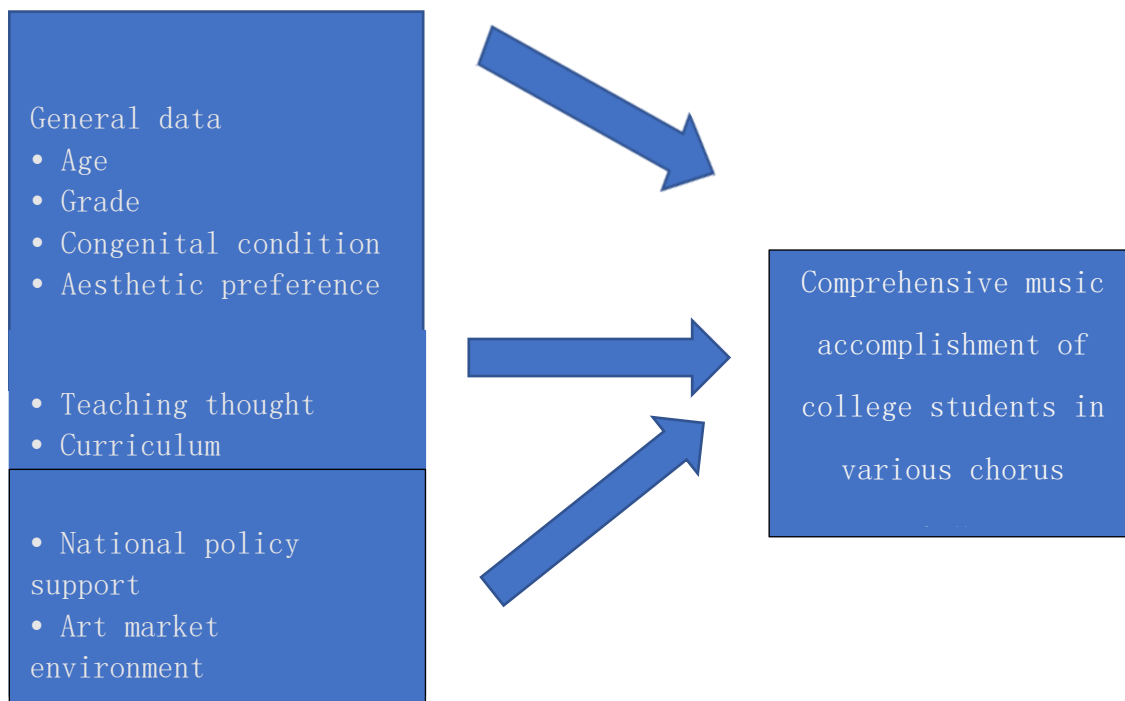
the training of students' singing methods and the mastery of skills, so when the chorus rehearses its works, they do not pay attention to cultivating and stimulating students' singing passion and aesthetic emotion.

According to Cheng Lan (2012) in the education magazine, with a certain technical foundation and literary heritage, stage performance also covers the technical requirements of stage psychological control. Traditional teaching usually attaches great importance to the training of basic skills. However, the traditional basic skills training method usually ignores the cultivation and correction of students' psychological ability. Not every performer is born with the ability to adapt to the stage. Some students have poor self-confidence. On the premise of having a high theoretical level and practice results, they may still perform poorly in the stage performance. The traditional basic skills training is mostly practiced in the piano room alone. The students have no way to contact and feel the real performance, and their ability to control the stage is weak, which limits the development of students' performance ability to a certain extent. Therefore, it is very important to cultivate students' psychological quality under the stage environment.

Therefore, the training direction of music education in Colleges and universities, in addition to having certain artistic skills, must also have good cultural quality, because the lack of cultural knowledge will inevitably curb the development of art and education.

### **Conceptual Framework**

From literature review, analysis and induction, the conceptual framework is developed, and the research framework is formed by using the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables.

**Independent variable****dependent variable****Fig.1 Conceptual Framework****Research Methodology**

Since the purpose of this study is to obtain extensive and in-depth information from multiple information sources in order to achieve the research goal, mixed research method is necessary. Including quantitative research method and qualitative research method.

**Quantitative research mainly adopts:**

The population of this study are professional students, professional teachers and various performance audiences in some colleges and universities that set up chorus in China. Sampling is random. The sample size of quantitative study was calculated using taro Yamane formula (Yamane, 1970)

The comprehensive music accomplishment of the students of various chorus members in Colleges and Universitie.

$$n = N / 1 + N(e^2)$$

N= sample size

N= population size

E= error (0.05)

Through the scientific analysis of the data collected by the quantitative method, this paper analyzes the problems existing in the actual performance of various chorus groups, and provides suggestions for the relevant education and teaching of chorus groups in Chinese colleges and universities. A survey was conducted on the students, professional teachers, and audiences of various

performances in some university choirs in China.

## **Qualitative research mainly adopts:**

### **I. Interview**

The interviewees are choral conducting teachers in music art colleges. Qualitative data were collected through in-depth interviews. In the research of College chorus teaching, in-depth interview with professional teachers is an indispensable research method, which helps to deeply understand the training objectives, teaching ideas and teaching methods of the major. For example, does the chorus have corresponding art appreciation, performance and practice courses, and how much attention is paid? What is the proportion of school education funds used for artistic performance practice each year? What policies does the school have to encourage students to participate in art practice? What is the teacher's assessment of the current students' comprehensive ability? What are the teachers' opinions and suggestions on the current education and teaching mode of the school? All of these need the help of in-depth interviews to excavate and grasp the first-hand information.

### **2. Observation method**

Through the stage performance of professional students, analyze and evaluate the stage performance ability of students, and collect qualitative data.

### **3. Literature research**

In addition, qualitative data can be obtained by searching the relevant literature of the school and conducting literature research. The literature research method is a kind of research method to consult, analyze and sort out the literature, so as to understand the

problems and phenomena. The researchers can accurately grasp some qualitative data through the collection, collation and analysis of the rules, regulations, reports and relevant literature of the educational administrative departments and universities.

## **Findings and Discussion**

The rehearsal and performance practice of the chorus is a necessary all-round item in the comprehensive art. It is a practical process in which each member of the chorus expresses artistic works and conveys artistic emotions through stage behavior. In this process, each member of the chorus is the main body of the performance, and the stage is the platform space for the performers' performance. From the actual goal of the performing art, the definition of stage practice tends to be a broad concept, That is, the display process of the final stage performance ability. It is the embodiment of the comprehensive quality of all members of the choir.

This paper plans to select some music art colleges in China that set up choirs as samples, and conduct sampling research on the current situation of various choirs in Colleges and universities and the stage performance of students in various performances such as competitions and concerts, so as to study the impact of the training and performance of choirs on students' stage performance ability, and provide reference for how to improve students' comprehensive music literacy performance ability.

Through the questionnaire survey of music teachers, students and audience watching various performances in Chinese music art colleges with chorus, and the analysis of the questionnaire survey data, this paper finds that:

1. The students' comprehensive abilities of various chorus groups in Chinese universities are uneven, and there is high room for improvement.

2. The stage performance of the chorus is influenced by the personal factors of the chorus members (grade, congenital conditions, aesthetic preferences), as well as the school curriculum, teachers' teaching methods and other factors.

3. Perfecting and improving the educational teaching of various chorus groups in Chinese colleges and universities can improve the comprehensive artistic ability of professional students.

The results of this study have a certain positive impact on vocal music education, stage performance practice and social consciousness.

Today, the chorus art is getting more and more attention. In combination with the relevant requirements of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of education, what we should pursue is to cultivate applied talents who can engage in chorus related undertakings in professional artistic performance groups, cultural stations and various schools. Focusing on this goal, the curriculum research of chorus art is particularly important. For the cultivation of artistic talents, we not only focus on mastering the technology and skills of various styles of works, but also pay more attention to the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities such as perception ability, aesthetic ability, teaching ability, and theoretical research ability. At present, chorus teaching in China is mainly divided into two directions, namely vocal art and vocal performance. This paper analyzes and studies the founding idea,

training objectives, curriculum structure, teaching methods and other aspects of chorus in Colleges and universities in China. What the author thinks coincides with what Li An (no date) discussed in the northern music issue.

Colleges and universities advocate quality education to improve students' quality and taste in all aspects. Therefore, to improve the music quality of college students is an important part of the overall quality education, and the use of chorus art to improve the music quality of college students is a very effective way. No matter what our major is, from rigorous and traditional engineering to theoretical science, from lively and new humanistic science to realistic and objective social science, we all need to be spiritually supplemented and nourished. Undoubtedly, music, as a treasure in the process of human development, provides us with a steady stream of inspiration in production and life and spiritual food for professional improvement. And the chorus is the use of human voice, the music to the limit gorgeous gorgeous. The popularization of chorus plays an auxiliary role in quality education in colleges and universities, which is very important in the author's opinion. How to popularize choral singing to various majors in colleges and universities will be the object of the author's research in this paper.

Zhong Jianming inspired the author in his article on the significance and development of College Choir, Because some universities neglect the professional characteristics of art management in the process of formulating the chorus management mode, the formulation of the chorus management mode does not accord with the characteristics of the chorus music activities. In recent years, although the research on public art education in colleges and universities involves the management of

choral singing, the research on the mode, organizational structure and management norms of choral singing is not deep enough. Plans have been by the Ministry of Education of art education at colleges and universities, but management practices from different colleges and universities are not aimed at their school choir in the university art society, and in the event of any problems occurred in the chorus of process management, failed to timely adjust the relevant system, which can lead to abnormal rehearsal chorus, and even lead to the development process of just an empty name of chorus. In the process of establishing the management mode of the choir, the school cannot make a unified regulation on the attributes of the choir. There are different definitions as to whether college choral teaching should be a public elective course or a practical teaching activity, which makes the choral rehearsal activities in the credit environment and teaching management loopholes, thus limiting the formulation of attendance system and affecting the efficiency of rehearsal choral.

The workload is large and temporary management of classes is not allowed. Therefore, in addition to planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating the classroom teaching content and stage presentation of artistic practice, conductors must also assume important responsibilities in various management tasks of daily rehearsals. However, some schools do not pay enough attention to the development of art education and do not want to expand the scope of setting up art teachers, and usually adopt the appointment system of chorus conductor. Since the external teachers are not on duty, the school conducts regular rehearsals once a week according to the curriculum standards, and the teaching time is limited. Therefore, for special periods such as performances or competitions, the intensity and frequency of such rehearsals are far from enough, which

requires students to cooperate more in teaching. At present, daily rehearsals and artistic practice are two of the most important teaching and learning methods in the management and operation of the choir. In the future, if the choir holds concerts alone or communicates with other schools to improve its professional ability, the publicity and management of the choir should also be considered. Considering many factors, an external choral conductor is insufficient to meet the intensity of rehearsal before the performance and the daily management needs of the choir. When college chorus has a full-time chorus conductor, it means that the management level of teachers will be more standardized and professional. However, most schools lack teachers specialized in chorus conducting, which is also an important factor restricting the construction and development of college students chorus.

## Conclusion

This paper mainly explains the research on the problems existing in various chorus groups in Colleges and Universities Based on the background of data analysis. At the same time, in view of the shortcomings of this research, this paper prospects the future research. This paper analyzes the contribution of the research results in chorus education, stage performance practice and social consciousness. The management model determines the direction and extent of the choir's future development. The professional skills, teaching ability and teaching plan of the choir conductor determine the learning effect of the choir and the overall level of the team. Factors such as student turnover and classroom feedback determine the implementation of the teaching schedule, the relationship with the commanding teacher and the completion of the work. The research structure of this paper has been improved, the research goal has been achieved, and the research significance has been realized.

## Recommendations

Due to time and budget constraints, the current research still has many deficiencies. Therefore, researchers hope that future research can focus on the following aspects:

Since this study is only aimed at various chorus groups set up in Chinese music and art colleges, but some comprehensive universities and normal colleges and departments in China have chorus groups of different sizes, it is suggested that later research and comparison can be conducted on the chorus groups of various colleges and universities, which can provide better and clearer research results for similar topics.

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