

Received: January 12, 2018

Revision received: July 24, 2018

Accepted: August 1, 2018

Copyright © 2018 ESTP

[www.estp.com.tr](http://www.estp.com.tr)

DOI 10.12738/estp.2018.6.234 • December 2018 • 18(6) • 3304-3311

*Research Article*

# Study and Practice on Teaching Model Reform of Popular Singing Major Based on Local Comprehensive Colleges and Universities\*

Li Sun<sup>1</sup>

*Yangtze University*

## Abstract

With the promotion of the popular singing cause by the media platform, popular singing has become a hot topic in all walks of life. At the same time, popular singing has become more and more diversified in its development. In order to better promote that local comprehensive colleges and universities in China to further adapt to this new situation in the teaching model, this study starts from the definition and extension of the popular singing concept in China. Then this study takes representative colleges and universities as an example to analyze the present teaching situation of popular singing major in local comprehensive colleges and universities, and makes an investigation from the perspective of teachers and students, as well as puts forward some suggestions on the teaching model of popular singing major. This study can reform the current teaching model of popular singing in comprehensive colleges and universities from an innovative point of view so as to improve ways of the teaching curriculum system of popular singing.

## Keywords

Popular Singing • Comprehensive Colleges and Universities • Teaching Model • Reform

\*Fund Project: Research and Practice on Teaching Mode Reform of Popular Singing Specialty in Local Comprehensive Universities. Subject Approval No.: JY2017027

<sup>1</sup>Correspondence to: Li Sun, Yangtze University, Jingzhou 434023, China. Email: 44422083@qq.com

As one of the most popular forms of music, popular singing has begun to enter the life and entertainment of social groups (Borch & Sundberg, 2010; Chang, 2018). In recent years, with the continuous penetration of popular music culture in all sectors of society, the media platform to promote the cause of popular singing further provides a wider stage for the spread and development of popular singing. As an important place of popular singing art teaching and inheritance, colleges and universities play an incomparable role in the development of popular singing major. Their more diversified popular singing teaching model will directly affect the teaching effect of students majoring in popular singing (Li & Chen, 2012). At the same time, as the most popular music mode for students and social groups, popular singing teaching content is well integrated with modern resources and applied in social practice, which will play a very significant role (Scheid, 2014; Chen, 2017). By the reform of the teaching model of popular singing in colleges and universities, the teaching effect of popular singing in colleges and universities will be greatly improved, and the quality and comprehensive quality of college students will be improved as a whole. This study can reform the current teaching model of popular singing in comprehensive colleges and universities from an innovative point of view so as to improve the ways of teaching curriculum system of popular singing.

### **Definition and Extension of the Concept of Popular Singing in China**

From the literal meaning, the concept of popular singing refers to a musical singing model that is widely spread and universally loved by the general public within a certain period of time (Zhang, 2010). In this concept, we can clearly see that it has three characteristics. First, it has the characteristics of popularity. Second, it is widely accepted and loved by the general public. Third, it has a kind of effectiveness in communication. That is to say, in a broad sense, as long as these three characteristics are satisfied, any singing in any era can be called popular singing.

In the current society, according to the aesthetic taste of the young generation in China, the popular singing model mainly refers to the singing of some more popular music, including some contents of the aesthetic tendency of music that are very popular with the broad masses and easy to understand (Yu & Wang, 2014). Under this music mode, it mainly refers to the commodity music that is rapidly spread and widely accepted by the public (Liu, 2014). Among them, popular singing types that people can accept mainly include popular song singing, rock and roll music, rap mode, cross-boundary popular music singing and so on. Of course, in foreign countries, there is a wider definition of popular singing types, including country music and new age in addition to the above.

### **Analysis on teaching situation of popular singing major in local comprehensive colleges and universities in China**

In this investigation, we take H University, a provincial comprehensive university, as the research object. This study makes an investigation on the setting of popular singing courses in the university. The music major

of the university has a history of more than ten years, which is relatively representative. Professional courses in the training of popular singing major in H University are divided into two kinds: professional theory course and professional trunk course. Professional theoretical course is basically the same as other music majors, including music theory, harmony, analysis of popular music. In addition to the main major in the trunk course, a number of additional courses, such as physical training, orchestration and music production are added.

Therefore, combined with the above contents, this investigation activity selects 4 teachers and 98 students of popular singing major randomly, and carries out student questionnaire survey and teacher interview respectively. Among them, 98 questionnaires are issued and 98 are collected, of which 98 are effective, and the recovery rate and efficiency rate are 100%. This study selects the representative question result for analysis and summary as follows.

### Questionnaire survey on students

(1) Which one of the following is dominant in the future development direction of popular singing in China?

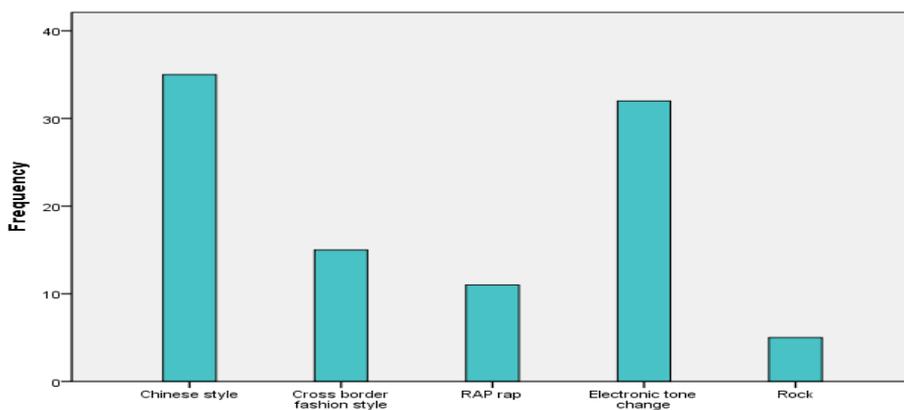


Figure 1. Future development direction of popular singing.

It can be seen from the above figure that the students believe that the Chinese style singing style and the electronic singing style are the main developing directions in the future, and more than 30 people choose both of them, and most people choose the Chinese style type. This conclusion is exactly the same as the trend of the existing media platform, that is, Chinese national culture and scientific and technological means are integrated into the teaching of popular singing major in the future, which has a very good prospect.

(2) Whether the learning and training contents of this major can effectively reflect the main trend of the development of popular singing music under the current environment of China?

From Figure 2, we can clearly see that about half of the students think that the current learning content of this major cannot reflect the main trend of the development of popular singing music in China under the current

social environment. That is to say, from the investigation of this problem, we can draw a conclusion that there is not enough for the innovation of teaching content under the new situation in the current professional teaching model setting. Therefore, we must actively explore in the later stage and broaden the existing thinking to find a better entry point.

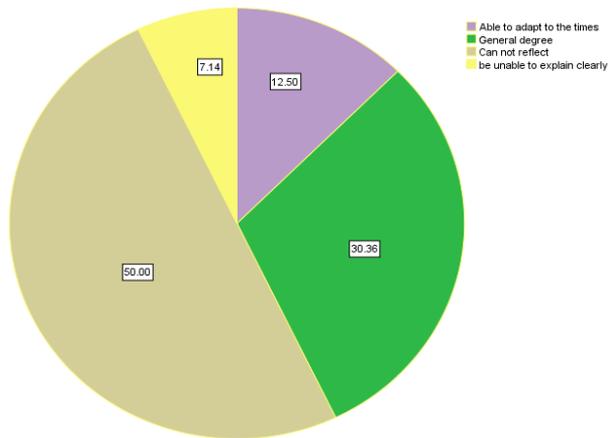


Figure 2. The effective embodiment of the main trend of popular singing music development under the current environment in China.

(3) In the daily teaching and the practical training of current popular singing major, how the relationship between music theory, music form and work analysis are set up?

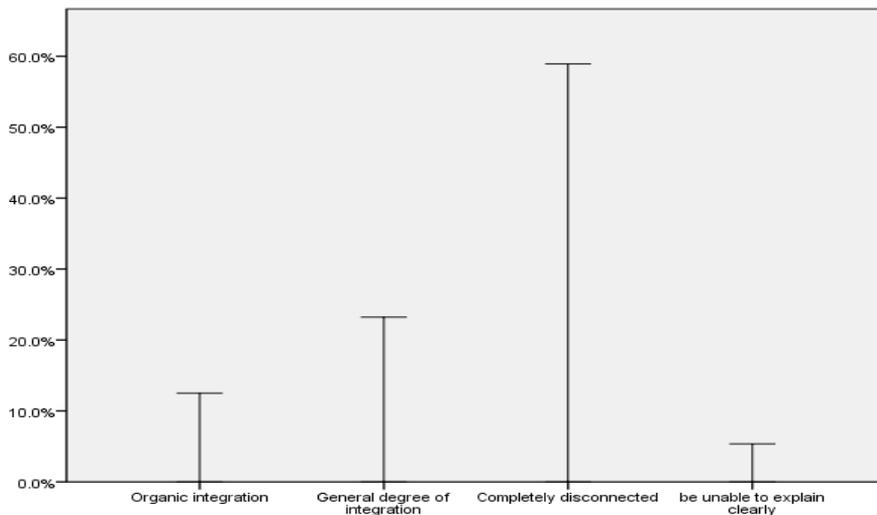


Figure 3. The relationship between music theory, music form and work analysis.

As can be seen from Figure 3, nearly 60% of students think that the relationship between the existing music theory, music form and work analysis is disjointed. That is to say, in the daily teaching and practical training, there is no good theoretical analysis and explanation to the students. Through this investigation, we can see that there is a disconnection of theory and practice in the major setup of colleges and universities, and it is difficult for the knowledge learned in the theory course to be reflected in some main courses as well as in the practice courses.

(4) Should the current popular singing major further strengthen the education and training of the “Chinese Style” singing mode in the daily teaching and practical training?

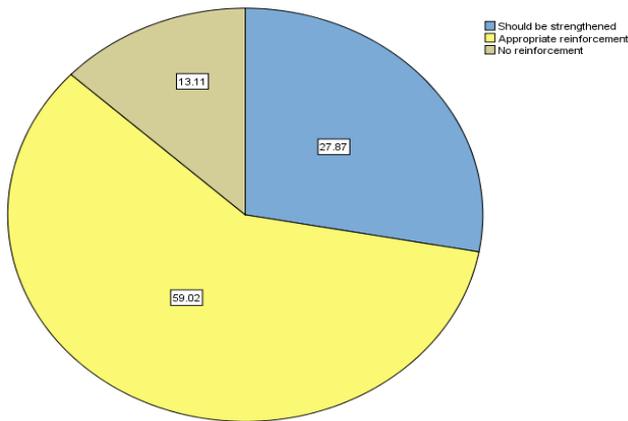


Figure 4. Strengthening the singing mode of "Chinese Style" in daily teaching and practical training.

According to the analysis results in Figure 4, we think that most of the students should strengthen the singing mode of “Chinese Style” in the daily teaching and practical training of the popular singing major. 27.87% of the students strongly advocate and the number of students considering to properly strengthen accounts for 59.02%. This is consistent with the current trend of mainstream media music promotion.

### Interview investigation on teachers

In view of the key problems that students pay attention to in this survey questionnaire, the study also invites some teachers of popular singing major to exchange interviews, which are summarized as follows:

(1) Most teachers of the popular singing major generally believe that if most of the students in the questionnaire survey hold a welcome attitude towards the implementation of the “Chinese Style” singing teaching model, it can be reformed in the later stage. However, they also think that school haven’t done enough in the grasp of curriculum content that still needs to be carried out detailed demonstration research in the later stage. When asked “whether the ‘Chinese Style’ popular music can be introduced into the music class, most teachers say that it is possible to introduce the appreciation teaching activities of “Chinese Style” singing songs with the permission of the teaching plan.

(2) In view of the problem of disjunction between theory and practice in the questionnaire, most teachers say that the problem is also being explored by the school at present and will be revised later. In addition, when asked “whether it is possible to train students accordingly and set up corresponding extracurricular activities”, most teachers think it is possible to organize some interest groups by counsellors in the class. Special training will be carried out for key talents, and students will be organized to carry out extracurricular activities related to popular music. However, at present, there is still no corresponding mechanism inside the school, especially the corresponding coordination and contact mechanism between professional teachers and counsellors.

### **Strategies for Improving Teaching Model of Popular Singing Major in China**

Along with the continuous development of the teaching of popular singing major in colleges and universities, the public and the media platform have also put forward higher requirements for the ability and quality of the current popular singing talents in all aspects (Ren, 2010; Chen, 2010). Therefore, colleges and universities, as the professional training base of the popular singing talents, must always be guided by the new era and the new situation, constantly innovate on the teaching model so as to train the music talents more suitable for the modern new forms.

(1) To carry out the teaching model of popular singing talents in colleges and universities, we must always hold on the innovative guiding ideology and integrate the modern popular trend with the educational reform so as to urge the colleges and universities to adopt more advanced teaching ideas. Through the continuous innovation of the educational model, we can always maintain new vitality in the learning process of popular singing major. At the same time, for teachers in colleges and universities, through continuously setting up new ideas of more innovative quality education, students of popular singing major can be fully given more thinking and development space, and their imagination can be widened.

(2) The teaching model of popular singing major in colleges and universities needs to optimize the teaching content of popular singing while innovating constantly. We should change the traditional teaching idea, add more new educational means in the teaching practice, continuously optimize the current popular singing teaching curriculum model, and make the knowledge learned by students majoring in popular singing more practical after they enter the society combined with the popular, loved and more brand-new music contents.

(3) At the same time, it is necessary to enrich the existing music classroom with the help of more modern new teaching media on the basis of the traditional teaching content. We should not only make music teaching model more innovative, but make the existing teaching methods and tools more creative. Through the use of these tools, we can make the existing popular singing class livelier and more interesting to meet the needs of students. For example, on the basis of the existing equipment, we can use new teaching equipment of multimedia to open up more rich information resources for the existing teaching content with the help of mobile phones and computers. At the same time, combined with the modern media information, we can continuously introduce popular musical works that are more appropriate to times in the classroom to make the students understand the contemporary excellent musical works and the singing way through teaching videos.

(4) Along with the innovation of the teaching model of popular singing major in colleges and universities, the music workers must always optimize the training of music talents. For the teaching of popular singing major in colleges and universities, its first priority lies in the cultivation of talents. Both the renewal of ideas and the expansion of tools are created by people to use. Therefore, in the specific teaching reform practice, we must always hold the innovative talent training model to guide the further development of the teaching practice. In this respect, we can start from two aspects: teachers and students. On the one hand, we should encourage the teaching staff of popular singing to optimize them. For example, we can encourage teachers to further study or participate in the corresponding training. Departments can carry out evaluation work of outstanding educational personnel for the existing teaching methods. Through these ways, we can encourage the existing teachers to actively create a new teaching model. On the other hand, we can focus on the innovative cultivation of student talents. Small singing competitions can be held in departments to encourage and reward the winners. At the same time, for the students who want to continue their singing career in the future, as well as the students with a certain talent in singing, we need to set up corresponding material and financial support to help them grow up smoothly to the maximum extent.

## Conclusion

In the new era, people's ideas are constantly developing and changing. Popular singing major is also gradually liberated from the traditional pattern. It has the characteristics of modernization and its personality and style are more changeable. The popular singing mode begins to gradually find a way for every good singer instead of being as formal as in the past. As a base for training excellent music talents, colleges and universities must further widen their development channels in popular singing teaching, innovate on their teaching ideas, and reform their teaching modes so as to create a teaching model that is more suitable for the modern development, training versatile music talents more suitable for the development of the era. For the local colleges and universities and even colleges and universities around the whole country, the reform of popular singing teaching model is not a subject that can be accomplished in an action. It requires music educators to make continuous progress through long-term efforts, practice and continuous progress so as to find a better answer.

## References

- Borch, D. Z., & Sundberg, J. (2010). Some phonatory and resonatory characteristics of the rock, pop, soul, and swedish dance band styles of singing. *Journal of Voice*, 25(5), 532-537. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jvoice.2010.07.014>
- Chang, Y. X. (2018). The Application of the countertenor technique in Chinese pop songs training. *Art and Design Review*, 06(03), 133-140. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/adr.2018.63013>
- Chen, R. (2017). Research on the music education quality evaluation based on TFAHPGC. *Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience*, 14(1), 244-247. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1166/jctn.2017.6155>
- Chen, Y. B. (2010). The singing characteristics of the integration of Bel Canto and popular singing. *Journal of Guizhou University (Art Edition)*, 24(2), 48-51. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1671-444X.2010.02.010>

- Li, C. J., & Chen, Y. H. (2012). Exploring the influence of pop music singing teaching on teenagers' aesthetic experience through action research. *Journal of Teacher Professional Research*, 05(3), 15-46. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7054/JPT.201206.0015>
- Liu, J. Y. (2014). My Opinions on Improving singing skills in pop singing teaching. *Science and Technology Information*, 12(22), 252-252. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1672-3791.2014.22.212>
- Ren, H. L. (2010). An analysis and reflection on the current situation of popular singing teaching in colleges and universities. *Popular Literature and Art*, (1), 189-189. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1007-5828.2010.01.15>
- Scheid, M. (2014). Music education – privately, personally and professionally the school subject of Music, digital media and tools. *Education Inquiry*, 5(2), 54-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/edui.v5.23255>
- Yu, Z. Y., & Wang Li. (2014). Analysis of the causes of the current popular singing teaching mode and suggestions for improvement. *Huang Zhong (Journal of Wuhan Conservatory of Music)*, (3), 127-132. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3969/j.issn1003-7721.2014.03.017>
- Zhang, N. (2010). The singing characteristics and special skills of popular singing. *Popular literature and art*, (16), 1-1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1007-5828.2010.16.001>