Understanding Cultural; Understanding History: Chinese Music Appreciation as General Education Course in Tertiary Education

Dr. Martin Lee, Music Theorist
Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Caritas Bianchi College of Careers
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Setting up “Chinese Music Appreciation” course for non-music students

Problems encountered:
- Limited resources
- Limited library support
- Limited financial budget
- What approaches should be taken in the delivery
Syllabus/Curriculum

Course intended learning outcomes:

- (a) to recognize and analyze musical elements: basic rhythmic and melodic patterns, modes, and genres
- (b) to appreciate the importance of music in the contemporary Chinese culture
- (c) to understand deeply Chinese music in various developmental stages
Syllabus/Curriculum

Course intended learning outcomes:

- (d) identify various composers and musicians from their composition and styles accordingly
- (e) critically analyze and evaluate Chinese musical writings.
Textbook
Textbook Content

- development of Chinese orchestra and its music
- music for popular solo instruments
- music for the traditional ensemble
- music for guqin
- various types of Chinese operas and cultures
- speech-singing and folk songs
- the development of Chinese music since the ancient time of China.
Implement

- initiate their interests and concern
- try to corporate the current Chinese music content with the current trend among the musicians and orchestras in Hong Kong
- Students would find them more close to the sources and develop a sense that music is a part of their daily life
- Becomes a part of culture—musical culture—of the society
Implement

- initiate their interests and discussions around the immediate peripherals
- text behaves as a framework
- provide extra and additional readings, videos, and real music, as well as real-time musicians demonstration on top of it as supplementary materials
## Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Approach</th>
<th>Creative Approach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concert report (quite academic tone)</td>
<td>Concert report (quite free style using concept learned in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (information based)</td>
<td>Final exam (still have information based questions but more varieties, which need not memorize too much)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project (with scholarly references)</td>
<td>“Research” project (fieldwork recommended)</td>
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Research Projects

- Representative fieldwork research projects include:
  - The development of Quqin’s music and the making of the instrument in Hong Kong
  - The pedagogy of Cantonese opera for students in Hong Kong/Mainland China’s social/cultural settings
  - The trend and the style of Chinese Orchestra, fusion and development
Conclusion

At the end of the course, students would be able to:

- apply knowledge of other related disciplines
- view Chinese music from various angles
- know how music contributes to the understanding of others
- understand the aesthetics principles over time and space
- Students would enjoy and understand the music as they enter into daily life
Conclusion

At the end of the course, students would be able to:

- they would able to show how music contributes to the understanding of others
- demonstrate the value of musical culture in the society
- develop their aesthetic value in Chinese music
- In other words, both cultural and historical aspects of Chinese music would be known at the end of the course
Thank You!