

**THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER IN IMPROVING THE MASTERY OF
INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE AMONG STUDENTS**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of the teacher and their professional skills in enhancing students' instrumental performance abilities. It highlights the practical aspects of shaping students' artistic thinking and musical worldview based on the teacher's creative approach, personal example, and strategies aimed at developing technical proficiency in the educational process. Special attention is given to the use of innovative methods in teaching instrumental performance to students.

Keywords: instrumental performance, pedagogical skills, performance techniques, methodology, creativity, music education, national instrumental traditions, innovative approaches.

The national pride, traditions, and values of each nation are reflected in musical instruments, and the sound they emit is also adapted to this. The art of performing musical instruments is a means of glorifying the spirituality of humanity, that is, a product of folk creativity, and they are miraculous and expressive instruments that have been formed among the masses from time immemorial, made by skilled craftsmen, and are increasingly perfected. All of this serves as the basis for the form of the instruments to be created and the criterion of nationality. Throughout history, along with the great attention paid to musical instruments, their educational aspects have also been of particular importance. Folk instruments appeared in the distant past. According to the data, it is assumed that the first musical instruments were born in 13 thousand BC. Percussion instruments first appeared in music. Because the oldest labor songs were directly related to the rhythmic structure of work. Then came the noisy instruments, the performers emphasized the rhythm by clapping, and the noisy instruments enhanced the effect. The clapping of the female performers created a unique, inimitable beautiful state[1].

Musical art, as a powerful tool that affects the human soul, has not only aesthetic, but also educational value. In particular, playing a musical instrument is one of the most important ways of expressing the artistic essence of music, and the role of the pedagogue in this process is incomparable. The teacher not only teaches students technical skills and theoretical knowledge, but also helps them realize their creative potential. In modern musical education, the pedagogue is required to develop performance techniques, encourage students to innovative ideas, use modern methods in teaching national musical instrument culture, and form them as creative individuals. In the process of teaching instrumental performance, the teacher is required to develop unique approaches, artistic and technical competencies, and further improve the effectiveness of their practical training, to be scientifically and methodologically professional.

Regularly keeping abreast of the latest developments in the rapidly developing education system, and being able to effectively use new technologies of science and pedagogy in their work are among the main tasks of modern teachers. In our country, state policy regarding youth and reforms in the field of education are also focused on these issues. Currently, it is necessary to effectively use the capabilities of musical computer programs and music editors, which are widely

popular around the world, in the educational process. The issue of the teacher's activity is the most important issue in solving the problems of educational innovations. The creative potential of a teacher can be increased through the development of his creativity, that is, his creative personality, the manifestation of pedagogical etiquette, empathy, ability, stimulation of imagination, development of a sense of humor, teaching to ask interesting, unexpected, paradoxical questions, teaching to involve students in asking questions, etc.

Russian pedagogue Y.I. Ilin states: "Pedagogy is not an area where 'casting' can be applied. It cannot be copied and mass-produced. The method that works for one person may not work for another, and indeed, it often doesn't. It is not a 'key' that can be copied and placed into everyone's portfolio, but rather a 'tool' that requires individual work, and it only works when used by skilled hands" [2]. The teacher's creative approach to improving students' instrumental performance skills can be described through the following key aspects:

Individual Approach – Since each student has different performance abilities and interests, the teacher must take into account their personal needs and unique characteristics. This requires selecting methods and repertoire that suit the individual. Due to the mental and physical fatigue that comes with practicing instrumental performance, the student should be given some time to rest. Otherwise, the quality of performance may deteriorate, leading to mistakes and deficiencies. It is known that individuals differ in their unique characteristics. Just as there are no two people with exactly the same traits, each student's characteristics are also unique and unrepeatable. However, the requirements of education and training remain the same for all students. To achieve effective results, how should pedagogical tools be applied to students? In teaching, considering the individual characteristics of students and organizing the work based on these characteristics can provide a partial answer to this question. In the educational process, the issue of individual approach to students has a creative character. It is impossible to provide a clear instruction for every stage of this process in advance. The issue of individual approach in pedagogy encompasses all aspects of the educational and developmental work. The essence of individual approach lies in addressing the general educational goals set for the student, taking into account their unique characteristics, and influencing them through pedagogical methods accordingly.

In practice, it is common to encounter students with different behaviors, personalities, and abilities. Some students' talents become apparent from an early age, while for others, identifying their potential may take considerable time. Some students are lively, playful, and interested in many things, while others are more serious and reserved. Regardless of the nature and behavior of the students, the teacher's attention is essential. The individual approach to students is primarily aimed at strengthening their positive qualities and eliminating negative ones. It is crucial for the teacher to identify and address the negative traits of students in a timely manner, as this helps prevent more challenging issues, such as the need for re-education in the future. It has long been recognized that relying on the positive traits of a student's character to enhance the effectiveness of individual approach in education is beneficial[3].

Supporting Artistic Interpretation and Creativity – One of the main tasks of the teacher is to develop students' musical thinking and artistic imagination. The teacher should guide students in understanding musical works deeply and interpreting them artistically during the performance process. **Use of Innovative Technologies** – The application of modern teaching technologies and digital platforms in the performance process plays a crucial role in motivating students and developing their technical skills. For example, incorporating virtual instruments or programs that

analyze performance into the teaching process enhances effectiveness. Harmony of National and Contemporary Instrumental Performance – The teacher must integrate the unique characteristics of national instruments with modern performance techniques. This strengthens students' respect for national culture and fosters creativity.

Opening the Path to Creative Freedom – Encouraging students to express their ideas and supporting creativity during the performance process is essential. This expands their musical imagination and brings innovation into the performance process. Motivational Approach – The teacher must inspire students, encouraging them to strive for success in the performance process. To achieve this, praise, participation in competitions, and recognition of musical achievements are essential. Harmonizing Technical Skills with Artistic Goals – The technical skills of students should be aligned with their ability to express themselves artistically. The teacher should focus on musical expressiveness rather than just technical execution, as the emotional impact of music is directly related to this factor.

Analysis and Feedback – The teacher should analyze the performance process and provide clear and constructive feedback to the student. This helps the student understand their mistakes and work on correcting them. A student should not blindly follow the instructions and opinions of their teacher but should be able to express their personal stance on a particular issue through their performance. While the guidance provided by the teacher during the lessons is important, this does not negate the significance of the student's independent work. It is essential to ensure that the time spent on independent study is not wasted. To achieve this, the teacher must explain how to organize independent practice, what aspects to focus on, and how to use time efficiently. Rational and effective use of time should be one of the core principles of independent work. Another key principle is the regularity of practice. From the early stages of learning to play an instrument, the student must develop the habit of regular independent practice. Although achieving regularity can be challenging, such practices should gradually become habitual over time.

Currently, the increasing volume of information in educational institutions requires students to achieve more results with less time spent. Developing a musician who can think critically and work independently is a fundamental task of the teacher. The teacher must realize that they are working not only with students studying the art of instrumental performance but also with individuals who are being nurtured and shaped in a broader sense. The approach to teaching should align with this mindset. Modern science has studied education and development from a scientific perspective, deeply and comprehensively. The process of education and development is closely interconnected. Development occurs within the educational process. The individual characteristics of students in acquiring specific knowledge and skills, as well as the level of their cognitive development, influence the educational process. Those with more developed minds and intellectual abilities are able to absorb knowledge and skills more easily and quickly[4].

Emphasizing the connection between music listening and musical literacy highlights the importance and role of music in society. Music is recognized not only for enriching the spiritual world of a person but also as a powerful force in shaping their artistic culture. From this perspective, musical literacy is crucial not only for professional musicians or art enthusiasts but for every conscious individual. Indeed, musical literacy enhances one's ability to understand music and has a positive influence on their inner world and upbringing. The art of musical performance is an ever-evolving, creative process that continues to develop with the use of modern technologies. Although there are specific goals and objectives in working with young

musicians at all levels of the education system, there are also challenges related to the field of performance. Even after being admitted to higher education institutions, several shortcomings can still be observed in students, including:

- The lack of artistic expression in young performers' interpretations;
- Inability to analyze the structure and performance of a piece;
- Incorrect finger placement on the instrument's neck;
- Improper handling of performance tools or instruments;
- Inadequate mastery of theoretical knowledge, etc.

These issues highlight the ongoing need for focused guidance and education in developing both the technical and artistic skills of aspiring musicians.

The system of education in higher education institutions fundamentally differs from earlier stages of education. Here, the student is required to engage seriously in a specific field of study related to their major. In this context, the age of the performer, the knowledge they have acquired, their concepts, and worldview play a significant role. That is, the student begins to understand their chosen field more deeply while also adapting to a new environment. Therefore, in order for the modern student to become a competent specialist, continuous practice and self-research in their performance are necessary to achieve a high level of expertise. Achieving advanced professional skills, profound knowledge, and refined taste requires an effort to understand the content and essence of works created by relying on ancient national traditions and the performing schools of great masters[5]. A person's musical activity is primarily carried out in three stages: composition, performance, and listening (perception). In each stage, the content and form of the work take on a distinct appearance. During the composition stage, the artistic idea and form emerge together in the mind of the composer. In the performance process, the form and content are altered by the performer in accordance with their worldview, aesthetic imagination, personal experience, and skill. Similarly, music enthusiasts receive the performed work based on their own personal taste, life experience, and artistic understanding[6]. Using innovative methods in teaching instrumental performance allows the educational process to become more effective, engaging, and creative. With the help of modern technologies and methodological approaches, the student's creative and technical skills are enhanced.

In the performance process, the clarity of the performer's intonation—meaning their ability to produce sound accurately in terms of pitch, timbre, and resonance—reflects their sufficient professional preparation. In particular, it is crucial for the performer to be able to precisely identify the relationships between pitch levels. It is known from practice that no matter how good the performer's qualities are, if they perform the piece out of tune (falsh) on an instrument, it disrupts the artistic impression[7]. Using innovative methods to teach instrumental performance not only improves the quality of education but also helps to shape students into creative, independent thinkers and skilled performers. This approach elevates music education to meet contemporary demands and contributes to the development of national culture.

In teaching instrumental performance, it is essential for educators to avoid common mistakes that can hinder their success. Each student has unique abilities, learning speeds, and interests. Applying the same approach to all students may impede the full development of their performance potential. It is necessary to develop teaching methods tailored to the individual needs of each student and create personalized learning programs. Focusing solely on technical skill can

lead to a lack of theoretical knowledge, which may result in the student failing to understand the philosophical and artistic content of musical works. Therefore, it is important to continuously improve students' theoretical knowledge alongside their technical abilities. A balanced approach between theoretical and practical education is crucial.

In every performance process, special attention should be given to the history and meaning of the work. Teaching based solely on explicit instructions can limit the student's creativity, leading to a dry, technical expression in their performance. Allowing the student to develop their own interpretation and offering them creative freedom in performance is essential in meeting the demands of the current educational landscape. Continuous criticism and pressure can cause the student to lose interest and distance themselves from their performance. Constructive and encouraging feedback, along with recognizing achievements alongside pointing out shortcomings, is an important part of a teacher's skill. Choosing a repertoire that is too complex for the student's level or fails to inspire interest can lead to fatigue or a decrease in motivation. It is essential to select a repertoire that matches the student's technical and artistic abilities and gradually increase its complexity. Additionally, not incorporating modern innovative technologies can make the teaching process outdated and less effective. Interactive textbooks, digital platforms, and analytical software should be integrated into the educational process. In teaching instrumental performance, every mistake made by the teacher can negatively affect the quality of education and the student's performance skills. Therefore, the teacher must combine creative, artistic, and modern approaches, maintain an individual approach, create a motivating environment, and support each student's development.

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