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**WANG SIJIE**

China – Republic of Belarus, Vitebsk, VSU named after P.M. Masherov

### **THE SYSTEM OF TEACHING VIOLIN PLAYING AT A CHINESE UNIVERSITY**

The formation of violin art in Northeast Asia played a key role in the formation of musical traditions and the development of national culture. The evolution of the violin in this region reflects a combination of cultural influences and innovative musical practices. Violin, a classic instrument from the West, has won wide popularity for its unique timbre and rich expressiveness since it was introduced to China. In Chinese universities, the professional teaching and practice of violin has developed into an important discipline, which has not only cultivated a large number of excellent violin players, but also promoted the localization of violin art.

The professional teaching of violin in Chinese universities has formed a relatively complete teaching system. In terms of curriculum setting, the violin major in universities usually includes basic music theory, violin playing skills, music history and music appreciation, music composition and arrangement, etc., aiming to comprehensively improve students' music literacy and playing ability. At the same time, universities also pay attention to international integration, introduce advanced foreign teaching concepts and methods, and continuously improve teaching quality.

**The main part.** In terms of teaching faculty, the violin major in Chinese universities has a high-level teaching team. These teachers not only have solid playing skills and profound music theory, but also have rich stage performance and teaching experience. They are committed to imparting their artistic attainments and teaching experience to students and cultivating a new generation of violin performers.

Institutions of Higher Musical Education in China are Central Conservatory of Music, China Conservatory of Music, Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Nanjing University of the Arts.

The Central Conservatory of Music is located in Beijing and is a prestigious educational institution in the field of higher music education. With its rich history and commitment to excellence, the Central Conservatory of Music plays an important role in educating talented musicians, especially in the field of violin performance and pedagogy. The training plan for violin students is comprehensive, encompassing technical proficiency, musical interpretation, and artistic expression. It is designed to cultivate well-rounded musicians who not only excel in performance but also possess a deep understanding of music theory, history, and culture.

The China Conservatory of Music stands as a prestigious institution renowned for its excellence in music education. Among the various courses offered, the violin course holds a special place, attracting students from across the globe who aspire to hone their skills under the guidance of seasoned professionals. The violin course is meticulously designed to cater to students with varying

levels of proficiency, from beginners to advanced performers. The curriculum is divided into several key components: technical training, musical interpretation, ensemble playing, and performance practice. The conservatory boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including well-equipped practice rooms, performance halls, and recording studios. Students have access to a vast library of music scores, digital resources, and recording equipment to enhance their learning experience.

Shanghai Conservatory of Music is another prestigious institution for higher musical education in China. Founded in 1927 by Cai Yuanpei and Xiao Youmei, Shanghai Conservatory of Music is the first independent national higher music institution in China. It has been a pioneer in China's professional music education, adhering to the principle of "assimilating Western music into Chinese culture". The violin course at Shanghai Conservatory of Music is structured around a well-rounded curriculum that balances theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The curriculum is divided into several key components: technique and repertoire, music theory and history, ensemble and chamber music, performance practice.

The School of Music at Nanjing Arts Institute is one of China's oldest higher music education institutions. Its predecessor, Shanghai College of Fine Arts, initiated music education in 1921 with a six-week summer music training class for art teachers. In 1925, the Department of Music was established, marking the independent development of music subjects. Over the decades, the institution has evolved, merging with other music departments and renaming several times, ultimately becoming the School of Music of Nanjing Arts Institute in 1999. Nanjing Arts Institute's School of Music offers comprehensive training in violin performance. The curriculum includes courses on music theory, composition, music history, and musicology, alongside practical violin performance classes. Students benefit from the expertise of seasoned professors and have access to state-of-the-art facilities. The school emphasizes both traditional Chinese music and Western classical music, fostering a holistic understanding of diverse musical traditions.

In addition to professional teaching, Chinese universities also attach great importance to the practical teaching of violin. On the one hand, universities regularly organize concerts, competitions, and performances to provide students with a stage to showcase their talents. These activities not only exercise students' playing ability and stage performance, but also enhance their confidence and teamwork spirit.

On the other hand, universities also encourage students to participate in social practice and volunteer service activities, bring violin art into communities, schools, nursing homes and other places, and bring more people a wonderful music enjoyment. Through these activities, students can not only improve their sense of social responsibility and public welfare awareness, but also promote violin art to a wider audience (Figure 1).

In the teaching and practice of violin majors in Chinese universities, localization development and innovation is an important direction. On the one hand, universities focus on integrating Chinese traditional cultural elements into violin teaching, and promote the localization development of violin art by adapting Chinese traditional repertoires and creating new works with Chinese characteristics. These works not only have a strong Chinese style, but also show the perfect combination of violin and Chinese traditional culture.

On the other hand, colleges and universities also encourage students to innovate and explore, and try to cross-border integrate violin with other musical instruments or art forms. For example, combining violin with national musical instruments, dance, drama and other art forms to create novel and unique musical works. These innovative attempts not only broaden the performance field of violin art, but also inject new vitality and inspiration into violin teaching.

**Concert activities.** For example, the violin concerto "Butterfly Lovers" was co composed by Chen Gang and He Zhanhao. This work perfectly integrates the violin with Yue opera singing style and traditional Chinese ethnic instruments such as erhu, flute, pipa and so on. It tells the love story of Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai and has become a classic in the history of Chinese music [1] (Figure 2).

Lu Siqing, a celebrated Chinese violinist, has garnered significant accomplishments in the musical world. At a young age, he became the youngest student admitted to the Central Conservatory of Music and later won the gold medal at the 34th Paganini International Violin Competition, a first for an Easterner.

His talent has taken him to prestigious schools such as the Juilliard School in New York, where he honed his skills under renowned educators. Lu Siqing has performed extensively across the globe, earning praise for his passionate and captivating performances.



*Figure 1 – National center for the performing arts music festival (2021)*



*Figure 2 – Violin player Lu Siqing*

He currently holds positions as a soloist with the Beijing Symphony Orchestra and Kunming Symphony Orchestra, and directs the Violin Department at the Naxos Music Center in Hong Kong [2].

With the continuous development of violin majors in Chinese colleges and universities, international exchanges and cooperation are becoming more frequent. Colleges and universities regularly invite famous foreign violinists and educators to give lectures, hold concerts or perform cooperative performances. These activities not only provide students with the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with international masters, but also promote the exchange and integration of Chinese and foreign violin art and culture.

At the same time, Chinese colleges and universities also actively send students and teachers to study and exchange abroad, absorb international advanced teaching concepts and methods, and improve their performance level and teaching ability. These international exchange and cooperation activities not only broaden students' international vision and cross-cultural communication ability, but also make positive contributions to the international development of Chinese violin art.

**Conclusion.** In summary, the professional teaching and practice of violin in Chinese universities have achieved remarkable results. Through a sound teaching system, rich practical teaching links, local development and innovation, and international exchanges and cooperation, the violin major in Chinese universities is constantly cultivating more outstanding violin performance talents and making greater contributions to the inheritance and development of violin art.

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