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# Competency Needs and Shaping of Dance Piano Accompanying Teachers

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**Abstract:** The article takes dance piano accompaniment teachers as the object of study and explores their core competency needs and the ways to shape their competency. It discusses the importance of educational and teaching ability, self-learning and enhancement, participation in practice and performance, and acceptance of professional training and guidance to the competence of dance piano accompaniment teachers. Examples are analyzed to highlight the critical role of practice in enhancing the competence of dance music teachers, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning, reflection and practice.

Keywords: Dance; piano accompaniment; needs and shaping

# 1. The Close Relationship between Dance and Piano Accompaniment

There is an inextricable relationship between dance and piano accompaniment, and the melody and rhythm of the piano play a vital role in dance performance. The piano's tone plays a guiding and controlling role in the rhythm of the dance, providing a stable musical support for the dancers, enabling them to better grasp the rhythm and emotion of the dance. At the same time, the piano as a musical instrument, the variability and expressiveness of its tone can echo with the dancers' movements, adding layers and expressiveness to the dance performance. The tacit cooperation between the dancers and the piano accompaniment makes the whole dance performance more vivid and infectious. The close relationship between dance and piano accompaniment has become an indispensable tacit understanding and coordination on the stage.

# 2. The Importance of Dance Piano Accompaniment Teachers in Dance Teaching

Dance piano accompaniment teachers play an extremely crucial role in dance teaching. They are not only the provider of music, but also the instructor and source of inspiration in dance teaching. First, dance piano accompaniment teachers can provide dancers with appropriate music rhythm and melody to help them better grasp the speed and rhythm of dance movements. Through the cooperation of piano accompaniment, the dancers can understand the emotion and expression of the dance works more deeply, so as to better convey to the audience. Secondly, the dance piano accompaniment teacher can also provide the dancers with musical guidance and inspiration to help them better understand the connotation and emotional expression of the music, so as to make the dance works more infectious and expressive<sup>[1]</sup>. Thirdly, dance piano accompaniment

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teachers can also work closely with dance teachers to create a more perfect dance performance, so that the dancers show the best state on the stage. The importance of dance piano accompaniment teachers in dance teaching cannot be underestimated. They provide dancers with musical support and guidance through the performance and guidance of piano music, which promotes the understanding and expression of dancers in the performance, and deepens dancers' comprehension and performance of dance works.

# 3. Core Competency Requirements for Teachers of Dance Piano Accompaniment

#### 3.1 Musical Literacy and Performance Skills

It is crucial for dance piano accompaniment teachers to have certain core competencies as important supporters of dance teaching. They need to have solid musical literacy, including familiarity with music theory and musical expression. Only with an in-depth understanding and perception of music can they better match the dance movements and integrate music and dance. Dance piano accompaniment teachers need to have excellent playing skills, including proficiency in piano and expressiveness. Excellent playing skills can provide more accurate and melodious music accompaniment for dance performances, and make the dancers more comfortable and focused on the stage. Dance piano accompaniment teachers also need to have good collaborative ability and communication skills, able to work closely with dance teachers to develop teaching programs and reach consensus to promote the perfect presentation of dance teaching.

#### 3.2 Dance Understanding and Expression

As an important part of dance teaching, dance piano accompaniment teachers need to have not only music literacy and playing skills, but also a deep understanding of dance and excellent expressiveness. Dance piano accompaniment teachers should have a deep understanding and knowledge of different types of dance, understand the characteristics and requirements of various dance styles, and be able to play different music according to the requirements of the dance works, to help the dancers better express the connotation of the dance. Dance piano accompaniment teachers need to have excellent expressive ability, can convey the emotion and meaning of the dance works through the music performance, so that the audience

can feel the power and charm of the dance through the music. Excellent expressiveness can not only stimulate the potential of the dancers, but also enhance the artistic value and ornamental of the dance performance<sup>[2]</sup>. In addition, dance piano accompaniment teachers also need to have a keen sense of dance rhythm and movement, can accurately grasp the rhythm and mood of the dancers, and work closely with them to help them better express and interpret the dance works. Dance piano accompaniment teachers also need to communicate and collaborate effectively with the dancers, to discuss the way of playing and emotional expression, to maintain a good teamwork atmosphere, so that the music and dance are perfectly integrated, and jointly create a wonderful stage performance.

### 3.3 Educational and Pedagogical Capacities

As educators, dance piano accompaniment teachers must have good educational and teaching abilities. First of all, they need to have strong teaching organization and management ability, can reasonably arrange the teaching content and rhythm, and effectively manage the students' learning situation and teaching progress. Secondly, dance piano accompaniment teachers need to have personalized teaching methods and means, according to the characteristics and needs of different students to adjust the teaching method, stimulate students' interest in learning, and improve the learning effect. They also need to have good communication skills and interpersonal relationship skills, and be able to effectively communicate and cooperate with students, parents and other teachers to establish a harmonious teaching atmosphere and promote the improvement of teaching quality. Teachers of dance piano accompaniment should also have good assessment and reflection skills, be able to objectively assess students' learning and performance, and give timely feedback and guidance to help students continuously improve their skills and performance level. Education and teaching ability is not only to help students improve their skills, but also to cultivate students' music literacy, dance literacy and comprehensive quality. Dance piano accompaniment teachers should continue to improve their own education and teaching level, constantly explore innovative teaching methods, to provide students with more quality and professional music education and dance training. Only with these core educational and teaching abilities, dance piano 21 of 48 Vol 2 Issue 2 2024

accompaniment teachers can better play their role in guiding and counseling in the teaching process, and make positive contributions to the growth and success of students.

# 4. Ways to Shape the Competency Needs of Dance Piano Accompaniment Teachers

#### 4.1 Self-learning and Upgrading

Dance Piano Accompaniment Teachers, as practitioners in their field of specialization, need to constantly improve their level of competence. Self-learning and enhancement is one of the most important ways to shape the abilities of dance piano accompaniment teachers. They can master the characteristics and trends of dance music, as well as the related performance techniques and expression methods through continuous learning of new musical knowledge and skills. By attending various music training courses, seminars and lectures, they can expand their musical horizons and continuously improve their professional level<sup>[3]</sup>. Teachers of dance piano accompaniment can improve their performance skills and expressive ability through continuous practice and performance exercises. Teachers of dance piano accompaniment can improve their performance skills and expressive ability by practicing and playing regularly, honing their playing skills, and cultivating excellent expressive power and musical infectiousness. Dance piano accompaniment teachers can also enrich their performance experience and improve their dance understanding and expressiveness by participating in dance performances and competitions and cooperating with other dance artists. At the same time, they regularly reflect on and summarize their teaching experience and shortcomings, and constantly explore ways and means of improvement in order to better meet the needs of dance teaching and achieve self-improvement and growth. Self-learning and improvement is an indispensable way to shape the ability of dance piano accompaniment teachers. Only through continuous learning, practicing and reflecting, and continuously improving their own musical literacy, dance understanding and expressiveness, dance piano accompaniment teachers can better adapt to the needs of dance teaching, and provide students with more professional and high-quality music support and dance training.

### 4.2 Participation in Practices and Performances

As a key role in dance teaching, participation in

practice and performance is one of the most important ways for dance piano accompaniment teachers to improve their abilities. Participating in practice and performance allows dance piano accompaniment teachers to practice actual playing skills and better grasp the emotional expression and rhythmic grasp of music. Through practice, in the continuous trying and summarizing, they can communicate deeply with the dancers and work well together, so as to improve their understanding and expression of the dance works. Through participating in various performances, dance piano accompaniment teachers can practice their playing skills and stage performance ability, enhance their self-confidence, achieve a higher quality of musical performance, and integrate dance and music to bring more impactful performances to the audience. Participating in practices and performances also expands dance piano accompanists' knowledge and experience in the field of dance music. Through handson practice, they can gain a deeper understanding of different dance genres and requirements, and through performance experience, they can accumulate a wealth of stage experience to better cope with various challenges and demands. In addition, performances not only improve the professionalism and dance music ability of dance piano accompaniment teachers, but also help them to improve themselves and explore and expand their personal potential<sup>[4]</sup>. Participating in practice and performance is an important way for dance piano accompaniment teachers to shape their abilities. Through practicing and performing on stage, they can continuously improve their expressiveness, playing skills and dance understanding, provide more innovative and vivid music support for dance teaching, and make dance performances more outstanding and wonderful.

#### 4.3 Receive Professional Training and Guidance

Professional training and instruction is a crucial way for dance piano accompaniment teachers to improve their personal abilities. Participating in professional training can help dance piano accompaniment teachers systematically learn music theory knowledge, music performance skills and the unique requirements of dance music. Professional training can deepen the understanding and mastery of musical details, improve the level of performance skills, and provide a higher level of musical accompaniment for dance

performances. Receiving professional instruction can help dance piano accompaniment teachers to accurately grasp the rhythm and emotion of the dance, and improve the control and expressiveness of the dance music. With rich experience, instructors can point out the direction for dance piano accompaniment teachers to improve their skills, correct deficiencies, and help them make faster progress. In addition to traditional professional training and guidance, dance piano accompaniment teachers can also actively participate in music academic conferences, lectures and activities, and communicate with professionals in the industry to maintain a keen sense of the development of the music field. This will not only broaden their horizons and understand the latest research results and music teaching methods, but also encourage dance piano accompaniment teachers to expand their professional fields and improve their overall personal qualities. Receiving professional training and guidance is an important way to shape the ability of dance piano accompaniment teachers. Through professional training and guidance, dance piano accompaniment teachers can continuously improve their music literacy, playing skills and expressiveness, so as to better meet the needs of dance teaching, provide more professional and quality music support for dancers, and promote their own development and progress in the field of dance music.

# **5.** A Practical Case Study of Shaping the Competence of Dance Piano Accompaniment Teachers

As a dance piano accompaniment teacher, the shaping of competence requires continuous practice and experience. Take a certain dance piano accompaniment teacher, Ms. Zhang, as an example, she has shown remarkable growth and ability enhancement in her practice in recent years. First of all, Ms. Zhang realized that her understanding and expression of dance music still needed to be improved, so she actively participated in professional music training courses to systematically learn music theory knowledge and performance skills. During this training process, Ms. Zhang gradually improved her playing level and musical expression through the precise guidance and professional explanation of her instructor<sup>[5]</sup>. She learned how to play different kinds of music according

to the requirements of the dances, so that the music and the dances can be better integrated and provide excellent musical support for the dancers. Secondly, Ms. Zhang honed her stage performance and audience communication skills by actively participating in dance performances and competitions. During performances, she constantly adjusts her playing style, works closely with the dancers, and accurately grasps the rhythms and emotions of the dances, so that the music better reveals the connotations of the dance works. In this process, Ms. Zhang gradually improves her musical literacy and dance comprehension, adding more artistic infectiousness to her performances. Finally, Ms. Zhang regularly collaborates with other dance artists to expand her knowledge and experience in the field of dance music through practice and performance experience. She interacts and learns from each other, experimenting with different music performance styles and emotional expressions, from which she gains richer performance experience and stage interaction skills. Through these collaborations, Ms.Zhang's dance piano accompaniment skills have been enhanced in a more comprehensive and in-depth manner. Ms. Zhang continues to improve her dance piano accompaniment skills through practice and experience. She continues to explore and expand her abilities in the field of dance music through professional training and mentoring, participation in practices and performances, and collaboration with dancers, and has achieved remarkable results. This practical example shows us that continuous practice and experience accumulation are indispensable key factors in the process of shaping the competence of dance piano accompaniment teachers.

#### **Conclusion**

As a key role in music teaching, dance piano accompaniment teachers need to have rich musical expression and dance understanding. Through continuous improvement of teaching ability, self-study and training, and participation in practice and performance, dance piano accompaniment teachers are able to improve themselves in practice and provide more professional and high-quality music support for dance performances. This provides a strong guarantee for the improvement of teaching and performance quality in the field of dance, and also brings broader space for teachers' personal career development and

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growth.

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