

TEACHING AND LEARNING EUPHONIUM ACTIVITIES IN RAJABHAT UNIVERSITIES IN BANGKOK

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ABSTRACT

Abstract— this research is qualitative research whose population for this study is “Euphonium” music instructors in 4 Rajabhat universities in Bangkok and is done by conducting in-depth interviews with the “Euphonium” music instructors in 4 Rajabhat universities as well as national Euphonium specialists. Data Analysis and data summary are based on the interview for The Learning Results of the Standards of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which have an effect on Teaching of Music in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok. According to the results of the “Euphonium” teaching activity analysis as for music education in Rajabhat universities in Bangkok, they are consistent with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:HED by focusing on Learning Outcome in order to assure students of quality. The directions for control and development to standardize the learning evaluation of desired characteristics are Virtue and Ethics, Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility, Numerical Analysis, Communication, and Information Technology Skills, Psychomotor Domain.

Keyword— 1, Euphonium 2, Rajabhat Universities 3, teaching 4, learning

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, teaching activities in Thailand have been provided so as to answer the needs of learners and professions. With this condition, educational institutes offer courses for the graduates. Some courses are so interesting that the entrance examination is difficult. Others are moderately interesting and least interesting respectively.

Music study has been incorporated into the curriculum of university education more than a decade and it is still into students’ attention continuously. There are many universities in Bangkok and upcountry offering music study of which courses are sub-categorized to be options for those interested.

Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) is the tool for defining policies and directions for development and standards of education as in the National Education Act B.E. 2542 (1999) and Amendments (Second National Education Act B.E. 2545 (2002) on the National Education Standards and the higher education standards for concrete practice with a focus on curriculum development, teaching processes , and evaluation to set clear objectives for graduates by specifying the expected standard of learning outcomes (by graduates, degrees, and disciplines) to improve the development of education including teaching methods and assessment processes and to comparably provide standards with other institutions both locally and internationally (Office of the Higher Education Commission, 2009).

The course of Fine and Applied Arts program in Music focuses on producing graduates who finish the planned course by holding the qualifications according to the desired characteristics in possessing 1) Virtue and Ethics: Honesty, Discipline, and Responsibility to oneself and society, Good Leadership and Followership, Consciousness to Codes of Ethics, Open-mindedness to opinion of others 2) Knowledge: knowledge and the understanding of music study both theory and practice, ability to bring music theories and practices into use to solve problems, develop, and present Fine and Applied Arts systematically, ability to bring knowledge and experience on music show or any activities into use, ability to analyze problems, understand and explain needs, and apply the knowledge into reality, knowledge in art relating to contexts of wisdom society and culture and ability to integrate music knowledge into another related subject, knowledge relating to standards and practices in Fine and Applied Arts profession 3) Cognitive Skills: ability to collect and evaluate sources of information, ability to analyze, synthesize, and summarize rationally, ability to find the truth and solve problems creatively, ability to integrate knowledge into another study in order to present

academic and professional works, ability to be creative and witty in creating works 4) Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility: ability to plan and be responsible for assigned tasks both individuals and others, good interpersonal skills and work with others efficiently, ability to communicate with people or organizations efficiently, ability to plan the development of ones' professional learning, ability to express opinions logically and straightforwardly and to pay respect to different opinions 5) Numerical Analysis, Communication, and Information Technology Skills: skills of using information technology in order to catch up with current information, skills of using computers for a piece of music and profession efficiently, ability to communicate by speaking, listening, reading, and writing and presenting efficiently, ability to use information technology in searching for information for presenting efficiently 6) Psychomotor Domain: ability to perform music in bands which are various kinds of performances efficiently, ability to creatively utilize practical skills in public, good and proper personality to present a piece of music in public, skills of apply music theories into developing creatively and presenting a piece of music variously.

Music study is taught in 4 Rajabhat universities in Bangkok which are Ban Somdejchaopraya Rajabhat University, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, and Phranakhorn Rajabhat University. These Rajabhat universities are supervised by the Office of the Higher Education Commission. To have the same practices, Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF: HEd is established to bring the National Education Act on the National Education Standards and the higher education standards into concrete practice by focusing on Learning Outcome management to be the guarantee for graduates through specifying directions for control and develop the standards of education as a benchmark for evaluating the desired characteristics: Virtue and Ethics, Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility, Numerical Analysis, Communication, and Information Technology Skills, and Psychomotor Domain to create confidence in learning outcomes of graduates as well as to comparably provide standards with other institutions both locally and internationally.

Euphonium is a type of brasses winds instrument which is in Low brasses. Physically, it is similar to Tuba (but smaller). It has a soft sound and has a higher pitch range than Tuba, but is not piercing like Trombone. This musical instrument is blown through the lips into the mouthpiece by vibrating the lips to make a sound and controlling the volume by valve. Some have 3 or 4-valves. Each valve is holed so that the wind can blow to control the volume. Euphonium is mostly played in military band, band, or orchestra and so forth.

According to this study, the researcher is interested in the importance of music education in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok to standardize, develop learners' potentiality, broaden knowledge, and improve skills in music study both theoretically and practically under Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) to put the National Education Act on the National Education Standards and the higher education standards into concrete use by focusing on Learning Outcome management to be the guarantee for graduates through specifying directions for control and develop the standards of education.

LITERATURE AND THEORY

1. Study the guidelines of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) 2009 as follows:

All people have to learn to develop themselves for their career advancement. It is therefore necessary to develop educational system so that it can comparably provide standards with other institutions both locally and internationally.

According to the statement of the Higher Education Commission, the Guidelines for the practices of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education 2009 are as follows: Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) means the framework of Higher Education in the country composed of qualification levels and learning outcome standards. Learning outcomes which shall be consistent with time have to be comparably transferred. Also, it promotes life-long learning so as to achieve effective performance in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education and have a result to qualify graduates.

The principles of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) in accordance with the National Education Act B.E. 2542 (1999) and Amendments (Second National Education Act B.E. 2545 (2002) is the tool for defining policies and directions for development and standards of education

concretely, for learning outcome of graduates, for promoting the teaching of graduates consistently and systematically and for applying to the curriculum respectively.

2. Study the music education of Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok

According to the current situation, the development of the curriculum must be proactively capable and adaptable to changes at all times. Moreover, it shall be competitive by reinforcing music professions who are apt for the job and have a high potentiality for self-development to work both academically and professionally by being professional, ethical and able to be sustainably- developed (Music Course 2016).

Up to the present time, Western music and Thai music have related to the way of life of Thai people. Due to dynamics in the society, improvement, development, and changes happen all the time, particularly in electronic and convenient communication society. Therefore, music professions play the important role in developing music and maintain Thai and Western cultures. For this reason, the reinforcement of music profession is so hugely important that preservation and development of music can be carried on. Without these activities, music may be deformed until its originality disappears.

Music education in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok is offered at 1. Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University 2. Ban Somdejchaopraya Rajabhat University 3. Chandrakasem Rajabhat University, and 4. Phranakhorn Rajabhat University. These Rajabhat universities are under the supervision of the Office of the Higher Education Commission. The Office of the Higher Education Commission supervises and promotes the operation of university education. The division enables Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF: HEd. as a tool to put national education standards into use by focusing on Learning Outcome management to be the guarantee for graduates.

Music instruction in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok is mostly provided theoretically and practically. Some courses may be sub-categorized into Thai music and Western music based on capability of each institute. In this research, the researcher would like to mention the teaching activities of Western music. According to the researcher's experience, Western music education is mainly taught by theory and practice (including musical performances). Theoretically, learners shall conceptualize thinking and analysis with consistency in Western musical theory and relation documents.

METHODOLOGY

This research is qualitative research whose objective is to study Euphonium teaching technique activities in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok and is done by

1. Selecting a Topic and an Objective
2. Sampling
3. Collecting Data
4. Analyzing Data

1. Selecting a Topic and an Objective

Based on the researcher's experience in university education in teaching music study relating to brass instrument, the researcher is interested in the study of teaching methods and techniques of brass instrument in higher education to conceptualize guidelines and practices of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd) by focusing on Learning Outcome management to be the guarantee for graduates through specifying directions for control and develop the standards of education. For this reason, the researcher has chosen the topic "Teaching Technique Activities of Euphonium in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok."

2. Reviewing Literature

2.1 Study the guidelines of Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: Hed) 2009 as follows:

2.2 Study the music education of Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok and relating documents

3. Sampling

The population of this research is experts and music instructors of Euphonium in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok as follow:

- 3.1 Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University
- 3.2 Ban Somdejchaopraya Rajabhat University
- 3.3 Chandrakasem Rajabhat University
- 3.4 Phranakhorn Rajabhat University

4. Collecting Data

The data are collected by

- 4.1 having an in-depth interview with experts and music instructors of Euphonium in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok
- 4.2 completing the questionnaire by experts and music instructors of Euphonium
- 4.3 studying music education in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok

5. Analyzing Data

This research is done based on qualitative research as follows:

- 5.1 The interviewed data are analyzed and synthesized for learning outcome in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which has an impact on music instruction in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok.
- 5.2 The collected questionnaires are analyzed for learning outcome in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which has an impact on music instruction in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok.
- 5.3 The collected data from observation and note-taking are summarized for learning outcome in accordance with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which has an impact on music instruction in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok.

RESULTS

The results of "Euphonium" teaching activities in music education in Rajabhat universities in Bangkok comparing to the standards of Trinity College of London are found that

1. Euphonium performance skills appropriate for undergraduates of music education according to the course description of Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok are as follows:

1.1) Theory

From Euphonium teaching's point of view, learners shall have knowledge of Western music, together with practice to apply to Euphonium practice as follows:

- Able to read note and specify staff in Key and differentiate Western music such as Treble Clef, Bass Clef, and so on.
- Able to have a good understanding of the rhythm, a composition of the rhythm, and distinguish the ratio of the rhythm by assigned notes.
- Able to have a good understanding of the structure of Major-Minor such as Bb Major, F major or A minor, C minor etc.
- Able to have a good understanding of Interval, Triad, and Chords

1.2) Practice

For Euphonium instruction in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok, most learners have basic performance; for example,

- Learners shall have a basic understanding of components (as Picture No. 1) of Euphonium musical instrument.

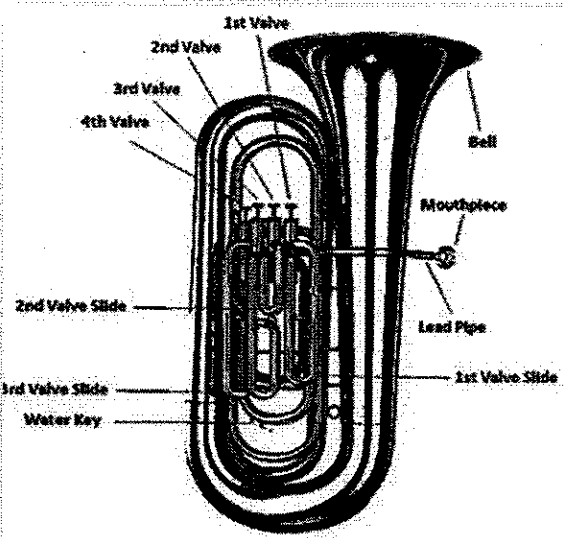


Figure 1 Euphonium feature

- holding Euphonium in sitting position and standing position should be comfortable, not be wriggled, by holding both hands on the instrument, index finger, middle finger, and ring finger of the right hand placing on Euphonium keypad and left hand handle as in the pictures

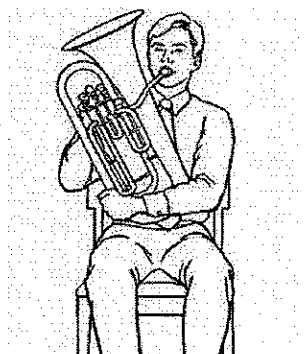


Figure2 Posture



Figure 3 Posture

- The position of both hands
 Both hands holding on the instrument, index finger, middle finger, and ring finger of the right hand placing on Euphonium keypad and left hand handle as in the pictures



Figure 4 Right Hand position

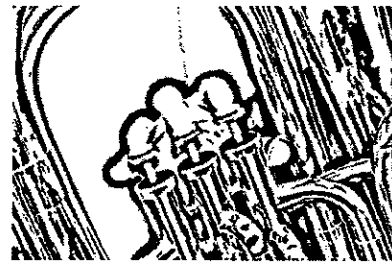


Figure 5 Right Hand position (on top valves)

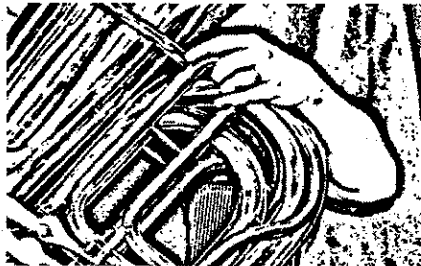


Figure 6 Left Hand position



Figure 7 Left Hand position

- Exercises and Techniques

Exercises and Techniques used for teaching Euphonium in Rajabhat Universities in Bangkok are mostly similar or slightly different starting from fundamental to difficult exercises or techniques. The textbooks and the drills are from Trinity College of London, Arban's Famous Method for Trombone and Euphonium, Rubank Advanced Method - Trombone or Baritone (Editors: H. Voxman, William Gower), Rubank Elementary Method for Trombone / Euphonium (Editor: Long, Newell H.), and other supplementary exercises.

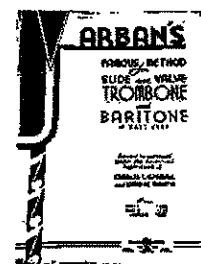
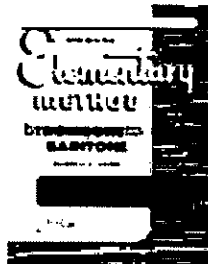


Figure 8 the results

However, exercises and techniques are dependent on the learners. Instructors can consider the possibility of the activity; for example, lip flexibility, major and minor (natural, harmonic, melodic), chromatic scale, arpeggios, tongued and slur, sight reading and so forth.

- Songs

Songs used in teaching are different according to instructors in Rajabhat Universities or perhaps learners can choose their own music under the consideration of instructors as well.

The criteria for selecting music depend on the skills of learners. Those who have limited skills can choose less difficult practice whereas those who are skillful can have more difficult lessons respectively. Practice will make Euphonium skills perfect. Here are the examples of practice songs: Prelude in Ab major (from Bach for Trombone) by J.S. Bach, March or Polonaise (Bach for Trombone) by J.S. Bach, Bourée

(Festive Baroque for Trombone) by Hasse, Sonata in F major, 1st movt: Largo and 2nd movt: Allegro by Marcello and so on.

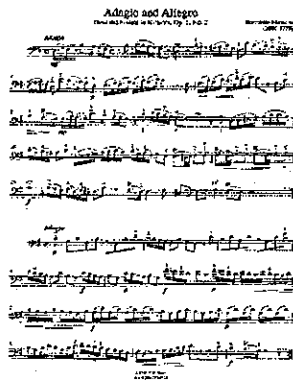


Figure 8 Notes Sample



Figure 9 Notes Sample

How to be a good music profession is when practice is done correctly, systematically, and ethically with others as usual.

According to the results of the “Euphonium” teaching activity analysis as for music education in Rajabhat universities in Bangkok, they are consistent with Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education; TQF:HEd by focusing on Learning Outcome in order to assure students of quality. The directions for control and development to standardize the learning evaluation of desired characteristics are Virtue and Ethics, Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Responsibility, Numerical Analysis, Communication, and Information Technology Skills, Psychomotor Domain.

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