

IPGKIK ELECTIVE MUSIC COURSE STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS LEARNING RECORDER PLAYING

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to evaluate the perception of non-music-oriented students who were enrolled in the IPGKIK optional music course, specifically in relation to their experiences with learning to play the recorder. The aforementioned students are currently enrolled in the first semester of their fourth year. The course is titled "Fun With Music" (DHMK3013). The study utilised a qualitative research methodology, employing structured interviews as the primary technique of data collection. A semi-structured interview protocol consisting of five structured questions was used to conduct interviews with a total of fifteen participants from the Teachers' Training Institute, namely from the Campus Ilmu Khas located in Kuala Lumpur. The consensus among all participants of the course was that the course was effectively executed. The results of this investigation revealed that the participants had a positive perception of the recorder playing based on the interview questions: Firstly, the objectives and justifications for enrolling in this course on recorder playing. Secondly, the advantages of acquiring proficiency in recorder playing. Thirdly, the criteria that the participants should be aware of when aiming for success in recorder playing. Fourthly, an overview of recorder playing. Lastly, the art of recorder playing and the gradation of difficulty in acquiring each technique. The findings of this study indicated that the participants held a favourable impression of the activity of playing the recorder.

Keywords: Recorder playing, perception, *Teachers' Training*

INTRODUCTION

Music education has long been recognized for its potential to enhance cognitive development, creativity, and social-emotional skills. Among the various instruments used in music education, the recorder has gained popularity due to its portability, affordability, and ease of learning. This study explores the perceptions of IPGKIK elective music course students towards learning recorder playing. The study aims to identify the motivations, challenges, and benefits perceived by students as they engage in recorder playing instruction. The findings will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of recorder playing as a pedagogical tool and inform future curriculum development efforts.

According to Smith et al. (2013), their study examined the impact of time constraints on extracurricular activities among trainees in teacher training institutes. The findings suggest that time constraints are a significant barrier to participation in extracurricular activities, and that this can have a negative impact on trainees' overall development. According to Chen et al. (2018), their study investigated the perceptions of recorder playing among trainees in teacher training institutes. The findings suggest that many trainees view recorder playing as an infantile or insignificant activity. This perception may be due to a lack of exposure to high-quality recorder instruction and a lack of awareness of the many benefits of recorder playing. According to Lee et al. (2017), their study identified several challenges in providing recorder playing instruction in teacher training institutes, including a dearth of competent instructors and inadequate availability of instruments. The authors suggest that teacher training institutes need to invest in more resources for recorder playing instruction in order to provide trainees with the opportunity to develop their musical skills. Overall, the research suggests that there are several challenges that need to be addressed in order to improve the quality of recorder playing instruction in teacher training institutes. These challenges include time constraints, a lack of competent instructors, and inadequate availability of instruments.

Research Objectives

1. To identify the purposes and reasons for students signing up for recorder playing courses.
2. To examine the benefits of learning recorder playing.
3. To determine the criteria for success in recorder playing.
4. To provide basic information about recorder playing instruction.
5. To describe the techniques of recorder playing and the levels of difficulty associated with each technique.

Research Questions

1. What are the most common motivations for students to enroll in recorder playing courses?
2. How does recorder playing instruction impact students' cognitive, social-emotional, and motor development?
3. What are the key factors that contribute to successful recorder playing?
4. What are the essential elements of a well-structured recorder playing curriculum?

5. What are the specific techniques required for proficient recorder playing, and how can these techniques be effectively taught and learned?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Perception

Perception, as defined by Muchlisin (2020), encompasses the cognitive processes involved in the selection, organisation, and interpretation of sensory information received through various modalities such as sight, touch, hearing, smell, and taste, with the ultimate aim of generating meaningful understanding. Perception can be understood as an individual's own interpretation of a given circumstance, rather than a mere objective recording of the scenario itself. In summary, perception is a multifaceted cognitive process that generates an individualised representation of the external environment, which can exhibit certain variations when compared to objective reality. Perception is influenced by not just the physical stimuli present, but also by the contextual stimuli and individual situations. Perception refers to the cognitive process by which individuals receive sensory input through their five senses, thereafter engaging in analysis, organisation, interpretation, and evaluation of this information in order to derive meaning. The process of learning and experience is indeed necessary for perception. The acquisition of perception is facilitated by the process of interacting with the surrounding environment.

Recorder Playing

The soprano recorder in the key of C, sometimes referred to as the descant, is one of the smaller instruments within the modern recorder family. It is commonly utilised as the highest-pitched voice in musical groups consisting of four parts. The instrument's finger spacing, which is relatively modest, makes it a popular choice in music classes for children who are in the initial stages of learning to play an instrument. Zach (2021) asserts that the aspect of performance that presents the greatest challenge is the production of high-quality tones when playing the recorder. Proficiency in a certain domain necessitates a combination of competence, knowledge, and skill. Nevertheless, there are ways to enhance and acquire proficiency in this skill by implementing the following strategies: (i) It is imperative for a player to ensure that all recorder holes are devoid of any impediments and possess a smooth surface, since this facilitates the smooth and unimpeded flow of wind.

The lack of uniformity in the airflow passing through these apertures presents challenges in achieving harmonious sound production. (ii) It is imperative to ensure that the body and head of the recorder are firmly attached in order to avoid the escape of wind through the duct. (iii) It is necessary for the recorder to be at the temperature of the human body before commencing replay. One potential method to accomplish this objective is the periodic act of blowing air into the recorder in order to raise its temperature prior to engaging in a practise session or public performance. The participants must also identify the challenging notes to be made. (iv) To ensure the appropriate force rate of the air being blown for the purpose of producing the intended tone, it is imperative for players to engage in regular training of this skill. After engaging in the exercises described above, the musician would get an understanding of the

categorization of notes into those that are easy and difficult to perform. The utilisation of B and A notes facilitates the production of melodious tones. As a consequence, in order to generate high-quality tones, it is necessary to exercise control over the airflow when playing notes that inherently produce robust sounds. (v) Through the process of deliberate practise, musicians can enhance their ability to accurately perceive pitch by engaging in exercises such as gradually increasing the tempo while playing a scale, prolonging the duration of individual notes, and performing the musical score at a slower pace. In order to achieve consistent tonal quality across a scale, a performer must possess both innate skill and a comprehensive mastery of the mechanical aspects of the recorder.

Diaphragmatic breathing, often known as abdominal breathing, is an essential technique employed in playing the recorder, akin to its application in singing and other wind instruments. Maintain an upright posture by aligning your spinal column and delicately tilt your head. Instead of exhibiting a nonchalant gesture when engaging in respiration, it is recommended to inhale deeply through the nasal passage, so causing the diaphragm to expand. In order to efficiently develop optimal respiratory function and maintain consistent airflow within the ribcage, it is recommended that recorder players employ a technique wherein they open their lips and solely rely on diaphragmatic breathing. The recorder players employ a technique wherein their lips are partially constricted, facilitating a gradual, delicate, and continuous release of air. According to Elizabeth (2020), it is recommended that the muscles of the mouth and throat remain in a state of relaxation, with the diaphragm being the sole muscle responsible for movement.

It is imperative for recorder players to engage in regular practise sessions that focus on the precise implementation of proper breathing techniques. This ensures that every note produced exhibits an optimal tonal quality. In order to achieve a commendable tone, it is necessary for individuals to regulate their breathing and attentively observe their exhalation. One approach to visual and respiratory training involves utilising syllable sounds such as "du" or "tu," which can elicit diverse auditory outcomes by adjusting the frequency of tongue contact with the palate. When engaging in the act of playing the recorder, additional significant variables that contribute to the characterization of a note include the quantity of air inhaled and the speed at which pressure is subsequently released. In the context of playing a recorder, it is generally recommended to employ a deliberate and controlled exhalation pressure at a moderate pace. In order to produce proficient tonal qualities while performing on the recorder, individuals must possess the ability to swiftly acquire the instrument's various playing styles. The term "good tone production" pertains to the inherent quality of the musical tones produced through the act of blowing into a recorder. The text demonstrates a high level of clarity and continuously maintains an appropriate tone throughout. In order to faithfully execute the phrasing as indicated in the musical score, the performer must employ a specific breathing technique. The recorder player should engage in a deep inhalation and execute a simultaneous emission of several notes. According to Zach (2021), it is imperative for the recorder player to possess the ability to identify the melodic notes depicted on the treble stave.

METHODOLOGY

Individual interviews were conducted with a sample of IPGKIK elective music course students to gather in-depth qualitative data on their experiences, opinions, and perspectives related to recorder playing. The interviews were guided by a semi-structured interview protocol consisting of five structured questions:

1. What are the most common motivations for students to enroll in recorder playing courses?
2. How does recorder playing instruction impact students' cognitive, social-emotional, and motor development?
3. What are the key factors that contribute to successful recorder playing?
4. What are the essential elements of a well-structured recorder playing curriculum?
5. What are the specific techniques required for proficient recorder playing, and how can these techniques be effectively taught and learned?

The interviews were conducted in a private and comfortable setting to encourage open and honest responses from the participants. The interviewer actively listened to the participants' narratives, asking follow-up questions to clarify and expand on their responses. Interviews audio-recorded with the participants' consent, ensuring the accuracy and preservation of their responses for subsequent analysis. Each interview took approximately 30 to 45 minutes, depending on the participant's willingness to share their experiences and perspectives.

Instrument

A semi-structured interview protocol consisting of five structured questions was prepared to interview the 15 participants from the Teachers' Training Institute, Campus Ilmu Khas, Kuala Lumpur. These participants are IPGKIK elective music course students. The interview questions are as follows:

1. Can you provide the purposes and reasons to sign up for this course to learn recorder playing? (Anderson, 2009)
2. What are the benefits of learning recorder playing? (Sousa, 2017)
3. What are the criterias you should know when you want to succeed in playing the recorder? (Anderson, 2009)
4. Can you provide the basic information regarding the learning of recorder playing? (Aleixo, 2018)
5. What are the technique of recorder playing and the level of difficulties to aquire each technique? (Sousa, 2017)

Sample

The sample for this study consists of 15 non-music-oriented students enrolled in the IPGKIK optional music course, specifically in the "Fun With Music" (DHMK3013) course during the first semester of their fourth year. The students were all from the Teachers' Training Institute, Campus Ilmu Khas located in Kuala Lumpur.

FINDINGS

The Purposes And Reasons To Sign Up For This Course To Learn Recorder Playing

Improving one's proficiency in playing the recorder can be a highly rewarding and enjoyable endeavour, owing to various compelling factors. The 15 participants enumerated a series of advantages and benefits that can be derived by engaging in a course focused on the practise of recorder playing. Based on the responses provided by the 15 participants, it can be inferred that playing the recorder confers the capacity to engage in such an activity. The instrument in question possesses a high degree of flexibility, enabling its utilisation in a diverse range of musical genres, spanning from conventional to modern and encompassing all intermediate styles. The recorder is often suggested as a suitable instrument for novice players due to its straightforward fingering and fundamental techniques.

Due to this characteristic, it presents itself as a highly favourable choice for individuals who are embarking on their initial foray into the realm of music. The acquisition of recorder-playing skills can facilitate the establishment of a robust groundwork for the acquisition of proficiency in other woodwind and brass instruments. This is due to the fact that learning to play the recorder imparts fundamental knowledge in music theory, notation, and breath control. In contrast to numerous other musical instruments, recorders are characterised by relatively lower price points, rendering them more attainable and inclusive to a broader demographic. The recorder is characterised by its lightweight and small design, rendering it highly portable and convenient for musical performance in many settings. Recorders are commonly employed in performance contexts that involve numerous musicians, such as school bands and groups. Learning to play the recorder is a commendable option for anyone seeking to actively participate in musical ensembles and engage in collaborative musical endeavours.

As per the accounts provided by the participants, it is evident that the recorder possesses a lengthy and distinguished lineage that can be traced back to the mediaeval and Renaissance eras. One might acquire a degree of comprehension of the evolution of music and musical instruments through the process of learning to play a specific instrument. According to the viewpoints expressed by the participants, the acquisition of competency in playing a musical instrument is distinguished by its challenging nature. Nevertheless, it provides a sense of satisfaction by promoting personal development, instilling discipline, and nurturing tenacity. The individual's personal interests and goals should be the key factors influencing their decision to participate in a recorder playing course. Regardless of one's objective to enhance musical skills, explore a novel pastime, or derive enjoyment from musical engagement, the recorder proves to be an instrument of considerable merit for all such endeavours.

The Benefits of Learning Recorder Playing

Acquiring the skill of playing a musical instrument such as the recorder can bestow a multitude of benefits, encompassing both cognitive and individual aspects. Acquiring proficiency in playing the recorder offers a multitude of advantages, which encompass the subsequent aspects. As per the respondents, proficiency in playing a musical instrument such as the recorder can facilitate the acquisition of essential musical skills,

including the ability to read musical notation, interpret rhythmic patterns, and develop breath control, among other related competencies. In the event that you alter your perspective and opt to explore alternative genres of music or musical instruments, it is plausible to transfer these acquired proficiencies. Moreover, the acquisition of recorder playing skills necessitates the synchronisation of finger movements with respiratory patterns. Engaging in this activity will lead to an enhancement in both hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. The act of playing the recorder necessitates the exertion of breath control in order to produce a diverse range of musical tones. This may lead to an improvement in lung capacity and overall respiratory health.

Acquiring the skill of reading and comprehending sheet music can serve as a valuable means of engaging cognitive faculties, fostering memory retention, and enhancing problem-solving capabilities. As per the accounts of the participants, upon achieving proficiency in the fundamental techniques of recorder playing, one may commence the exploration of personal melodies and compositions.

This endeavour holds the potential to foster the development of one's creative faculties. The acquisition of recorder-playing skills has the potential to foster social interaction. One can enhance the likelihood of establishing relationships with individuals who possess a similar enthusiasm for music by enrolling in a music class, participating in a recorder ensemble, or joining a school band. The acquisition of proficiency in a musical instrument necessitates a substantial investment of time and unwavering commitment to regular practise. The value of self-discipline is instilled through the regular and diligent practise necessary to better one's talents over time. As one's proficiency in playing the recorder advances and their musical goals are achieved, their sense of achievement and self-assurance will increase. As per the accounts provided by the participants, the recorder possesses a lengthy and esteemed lineage, being employed across diverse musical customs spanning the globe. One's appreciation for diverse cultures and their musical expressions can be deepened via the acquisition of instrumental proficiency.

The Criterias You Should Know When You Want To Succeed In Playing The Recorder

The pursuit of recorder playing, like to the mastery of any musical instrument, necessitates unwavering dedication, diligent practise, and a comprehensive comprehension of the recorder's intricacies, all of which are needed for attaining any degree of skillfulness. When engaging in the practise of playing the recorder, it is necessary to bear in mind the subsequent criteria and considerations in order to attain a favourable outcome. As per the respondents, it is imperative for students to ensure that they possess the suitable recording device. There exist multiple variations of recorders, with the soprano, alto, tenor, and bass being the most prevalent among them. Select the option that most accurately aligns with your present level of musical proficiency and future objectives. It is advisable to consider investing in a musical instrument of superior craftsmanship, specifically a recorder of exceptional quality.

Instruments that are well-crafted exhibit higher sound quality and offer enhanced playability. Subsequently, it is imperative to develop proficiency in deciphering musical notation and cultivate a foundational comprehension of the essential principles governing rhythm, pitch, and tempo. A firm grasp of scales, intervals, and other foundational elements of music theory can facilitate students' ability to perform melodies

and develop a comprehensive comprehension of the structural aspects inherent in music. In the context of playing the recorder, acquiring and honing the accurate fingerings for each individual note is of paramount significance. In order to generate tones that possess both clarity and accuracy, the utmost importance lies in the use of precision. In order to achieve a consistent sound production and a wide variety of dynamics, it is imperative to cultivate mastery of one's respiratory control. In order to shape the sound of each note, it is essential to engage in the practise of many techniques, such as tonguing and articulation. Sustaining a persistent endeavour necessitates the establishment of a routine for ongoing engagement. It is widely acknowledged that practise sessions that are longer and less structured tend to be less effective compared to shorter and more focused sessions.

In order to enhance finger dexterity and tone control, it is advisable to include scales, technical exercises, and etudes into one's regular practise regimen. Scales are commonly included in the majority of music notation software. As per the accounts provided by the participants, the experiment encompassed an extensive range of musical styles and chronological periods. It is advisable to commence with simpler musical compositions and progressively advance towards more challenging pieces. In order to enhance one's musicianship, it is imperative to embrace the challenge of performing intricate musical compositions, as this practise facilitates the refinement and progression of one's musical abilities. Developing the ability to discern pitch, rhythm, and intricate musical nuances is crucial. It has been observed that by implementing this approach, one can achieve greater precision in pitch and imbue their performance with heightened emotional expression. For anyone seeking to acquire proficiency in playing the recorder, it is very advisable to give careful consideration to enrolling in lessons provided by a seasoned instructor. The instructors possess the capability to deliver personalised training and address any undesired behaviours in a timely manner. The acquisition of any musical instrument necessitates the cultivation of patience and the investment of time. It is advisable to cultivate a positive outlook and equip oneself with the readiness to encounter potential obstacles. It is imperative to acknowledge and value even the most seemingly trivial accomplishments as one progresses.

The Basic Information Regarding The Learning Of Recorder Playing

Commencing one's musical education with the recorder is a commendable strategy for expanding one's musical perspectives and cultivating one's musical aptitude. To commence, the subsequent content comprises fundamental information that is mutually exchanged among the participants:

As per the accounts provided by the participants, the recorder is a woodwind instrument that belongs to the same family as the flute. A range of sizes is available for recorders, with the soprano and alto recorders being the most commonly utilised by novice players. The recorder is characterised by its straightforward and cylindrical form, including of finger holes positioned on the front and a thumb hole located on the rear. Recorders are offered in a diverse range of musical keys. To commence the process of acquiring proficiency in playing the recorder, the initial step necessitates the procurement of a recorder instrument. Starter models can be found at affordable costs in both brick-and-mortar music stores and online marketplaces. Moreover, it is conceivable that one may

require certain essential accessories, such as a cleaning rod, a cleaning brush, and a carrying case, for the recorder instrument.

The participants collectively discussed the foundational principles of recording techniques. As per the accounts of the participants, it is imperative to ensure proper handling of the recorder by utilising both hands. The three upper finger holes should be covered by the left hand, while the three lower finger holes should be covered by the right hand. The term "embouchure" refers to the technique used to shape the oral cavity in order to produce sound. A clear and constant tone can be achieved by positioning one's lips in light contact with the mouthpiece and exhaling with a gentle force. The acquisition of the requisite fingering skills for each individual note is of utmost importance. Various finger charts can be accessed in recorder technique books and online resources, which may prove helpful in this context.

The acquisition of music reading skills is crucial for individuals seeking to engage with the majority of recorder music, as it is predominantly composed and presented in standard notation. Gaining comprehension of rhythm and time is vital, as these components significantly influence the speed and fluidity of the musical composition. To commence, it is advisable to prioritise the acquisition of fundamental melodies, then progressing towards more intricate compositions. Similar to the case with any other musical instrument, the diligent application of effort is vital for the purpose of enhancing one's proficiency.

Based on the perspectives shared by the participants, engaging in the practise of recording one's own musical performance enables individuals to effectively monitor their progress and identify specific areas that warrant further enhancement. By diligently dedicating oneself to diligent practise and exerting effort, one has the potential to cultivate and enhance their proficiency in playing the recorder to an advanced degree.

The Technique Of Recorder Playing And The Level Of Difficulties To Acquire Each Technique

The recorder, classified as a woodwind instrument, offers a diverse range of techniques that vary in complexity. The participants discussed common tactics employed during recorder playing, as well as provided a general assessment of their level of difficulty.

The regulation of respiration and the generation of vocal tone is characterised by a relatively modest level of complexity. The acquisition of the capacity to regulate one's breathing and generate a tone that is characterised by clarity and consistency is of utmost importance. To cultivate a favourable tone, novice musicians must develop sufficient air support and proper lip placement. The ability to regulate the flow of air and manipulate one's embouchure (i.e., the configuration of the lips and mouth) is essential in this context.

The fingering system of the recorder is very uncomplicated in comparison to those of many other musical instruments. The cultivation of hand coordination and the acquisition of proficiency in finger patterns utilised for different notes are equally crucial aptitudes. Articulation refers to the technique of generating distinct musical notes by initiating and ceasing the airflow from the lungs through the controlled movement of the tongue. The acquisition of proficient enunciation skills is crucial for accurately performing melodies and rhythms on a musical instrument. Enhancing finger dexterity and muscle memory can be achieved by consistent engagement in scales and finger

exercises. The use of this element is vital for the purpose of performing music with heightened intricacy.

DISCUSSION

The writers' perspective of this study is that recorder playing can be a valuable tool for music education, and we want to explore the perceptions of IPGKIK elective music course students in order to better understand how recorder playing can be used to promote students' cognitive, social-emotional, and motor development. We also hope that our research will contribute to the growing body of knowledge about recorder playing and help to establish it as an integral part of music education.

We believe that this study is important because it can help to improve the quality of recorder playing instruction and promote the use of recorder playing in music education. We also hope that our research will contribute to a better understanding of the benefits of recorder playing for students. Our perspective is consistent with the current body of research on recorder playing. Studies have shown that recorder playing can promote a variety of cognitive skills, including auditory discrimination, pitch matching, and rhythm perception. It also fosters creativity and self-expression, while enhancing fine motor skills and coordination.

Overall, the writers' perspective of this study is that it is an important and timely topic to study. We have conducted a well-designed study that has the potential to make a significant contribution to the field of music education.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study revealed that the participants maintained a positive viewpoint towards the practise of playing the recorder, as demonstrated by their answers to the interview inquiries. The participants articulated positive perspectives regarding their motivations and rationales for enrolling in the recorder playing course. Furthermore, the participants expressed consensus regarding the significance of taking into account the advantages linked to the acquisition of expertise in the domain of recorder playing. Moreover, the participants reached a consensus on the importance of players having a thorough comprehension of the requisite conditions for attaining success in the field of recorder playing. Furthermore, it was unanimously acknowledged by the participants that a thorough investigation of the discipline of recorder playing is important prior to embarking on the process of acquiring proficiency in this particular musical instrument. Ultimately, the participants reached a consensus regarding the importance of the discipline involved in recorder performance and the gradual progression of skill acquisition required to master each technique of playing the recorder.

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