

The Role of Music Education for Social Morality and Teaching Method

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Publications:

- 消防童謡指導論(2001)
- 消防童謡教室(2003)
- A Prospect of Intercultural Music Education at Elementary School in Korea(2003)
- A Study on the Teaching Integrated Arts in Music Class of Elementary School(2006)



Summary

The Ministry of Administration supports “Children's Song Contest for Fire Fighting” which has been opening every year since 1999 in Korea. Through this contest, CSSM (Children's Songs for Social Morality) has continuously spread out nationwide. These children's songs mainly contain safety, morals, environment protection, regularity, preventing fire and so on. Kindergarten and elementary students are able to participate in this contest. Students in this contest dance and wear proper attires for the songs they selected. In order to develop a beautiful society, Korean government and the Fire Department support this contest aggressively.

The crucial task of CSSM is not only to realize the problems of the society, but to embody justice at the same time. In rapidly changing society, the moral value of CSSM is especially very important. CSSM as a part of social movements intends to provide an ideal society and a comfortable environment. In addition, CSSM helps children be aware of ethics and rules that are required to survive in their community. Teaching CSSM makes society peaceful and systematic, as well as prevents fires and unnecessary accidents.

Music education at school should focus on aesthetic experiences and appreciate the value of human beings. CSSM is necessary for both protecting every individual and maintaining our society. The role of CSSM is crucial in modern society which is filled with violence, anxiety, accidents, and human isolation. CSSM can include various subjects: for instance, children's songs for fire fighting, order, and car accidents, and songs for preserving environments and nature.

When we teach CSSM, it is not desirable to teach only the meaning of songs. First, in the point that CSSM are songs, new CSSM should be literally, and musical created to express children's lives and emotions. Second, those songs should be used as educational teaching methods to be able to enlighten children morally. Unlike previous CSSM, new CSSM should carefully consider children's habits, minds and emotions, and musical elements. After composers and somebody who writes lyrics mainly analyze if CSSM deals with proper children's lives and minds, they should create these music in this regard. So, children can happily sing these songs. The most important thing is even if CSSM are composed to educate children, we are trying to touch our children's pure minds and spirits rather than emphasize too much on educational aspects.

To spread new CSSM effectively, I suggest the following conditions.

- 1) CSSM should contain morals and ethics that a modern society is requiring.
- 2) CSSM should include general ideas that everybody understands and agrees.

- 3) Composers should employ a sophisticated avant-garde style or various chords by considering children's musical tastes and preferences.
- 4) Because CSSM are usually created to advocate people, it can be boring and simple. However, in order for everybody to be easily familiar with CSSM, it is suggested to use the mass media which have excellent sound systems.
- 5) Composers try to create CSSM which reflects public tastes.