

# Strategies for Music Teaching Using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in China Universities During the 'Internet+' Era

Liu Fang

City University Malaysia & Shangrao Normal University

Corresponding Author Email: 406527153@qq.com

Loy Chee Luen

Sultan Idris Education University & City University Malaysia

Email: loy.cl@fpm.upsi.edu.my

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARPED/v13-i3/21445>

DOI:10.6007/IJARPED/v13-i3/21445

*Published Online:* 31 May 2024

## Abstract

The arrival of the "Internet +" era has catalyzed significant changes in music education in China's universities. Traditional teaching methods in university music education struggle to engage students effectively and fail to capitalize on the opportunities presented by contemporary technological advancements. In response to this challenge, this study aims to explore the strategies for music teaching using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for university music education in the era of "Internet +." Utilizing a methodological framework of library research, this paper examines current literature and educational practices to identify strategies for enhancing music teaching through the integration of (MOOCs). The study proposes eight key strategies including (i) transformation of teaching concepts, (ii) adaptation of music teaching content, (iii) reform of teaching modes, (iv) evolution of teaching methods, (v) enrichment of teaching content, (vi) innovation in teaching modes, (vii) strengthening of information system construction, and (viii) reinforcement of compound talent training. Through these strategies, educators can foster a more dynamic and engaging learning environment, thereby promoting the advancement of university music education in the contemporary digital age. The implications of these strategies are discussed in terms of their potential to enhance student interest, motivation, and learning outcomes. Additionally, suggestions are offered for educators to adapt and implement these strategies effectively within their teaching practices, ultimately contributing to the vibrant development of music education in higher education institutions.

**Keywords:** Strategies, Music Teaching, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), 'Internet+' Era

## Introduction

Music teaching utilizing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has become increasingly prevalent in the 'Internet+' era, facilitated by advancements in digital technologies. Research

by Abid et al (2022) highlights the pivotal role of digital technologies in education, setting the stage for the integration of MOOCs in music pedagogy. Studies such as those by Aikins and Akuffo (2022) as well as Eddison et al (2020) delve into the practical applications of ICT in music education, particularly in addressing challenges posed by situations like the pandemic. Additionally, research by Judit et al (2023) investigates music teachers' ICT skills and technical possibilities in online music education, shedding light on the evolving landscape of music pedagogy. Further insights into pedagogical strategies for online music learning are provided by Lee (2021), while Li Jia (2022) evaluates the integration of ICT using music software in education. The significance of digital tools in music education is underscored by Parkita (2021) and Song (2021), who explore the application of computer multimedia systems in college music teaching. Xu (2022); Yang (2022); Zhang (2023) contribute to the discourse by examining the challenges and opportunities presented by the new media environment and the internet and big data environment in music education. Collectively, these studies illuminate the evolving landscape of music teaching using MOOCs in the 'Internet+' era, highlighting the transformative potential of digital technologies in enhancing accessibility, engagement, and effectiveness in music pedagogy.

The integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with music teaching in China universities represents a pivotal advancement, particularly within the framework of the "Internet+". As technological innovations continue to reshape traditional educational paradigms, MOOCs have emerged as a disruptive force, offering a dynamic platform for democratizing education and extending access to high-quality learning resources on an unprecedented scale. In China, where the government has placed a strong emphasis on educational reform and innovation, the adoption of MOOCs in higher education has gained momentum, reflecting a concerted effort to meet the evolving needs of learners in the digital age. Within this context, music education stands at the forefront of innovation, harnessing the potential of MOOCs to revolutionize traditional teaching methodologies and expand the boundaries of musical learning. The integration of MOOCs in music education opens up a wealth of opportunities for students and educators alike, offering a diverse array of courses, resources, and interactive learning experiences that transcend the limitations of traditional classroom settings ( ).

### **Background**

The advent of the "Internet+" era has brought about profound changes across various industries, including education. MOOCs, characterized by their open access, scalability, and interactive learning features, have gained traction as a valuable tool for delivering educational content to a diverse audience (Eddison et al., 2020; Aikins & Akuffo, 2022; Judit et al., 2023). In China, the adoption of MOOCs in higher education has accelerated, driven by the government's push for educational reform and innovation. Consequently, universities are increasingly integrating MOOCs into their curricula to enhance teaching effectiveness and reach a wider student base. This shift towards digital learning environments has not only expanded access to education but has also transformed traditional teaching methods, offering new opportunities for personalized learning, collaboration, and skill development in the digital age (Wang, 2021; Cui & Bai, 2022; Zhang, 2023). As navigate this evolving landscape, it is essential to critically examine the implications of MOOC integration in music education and explore strategies for maximizing its potential to revolutionize teaching and learning practices.

**Problem Statement**

Despite the potential benefits of MOOC integration, several challenges persist in leveraging these platforms effectively for music teaching in Chinese universities. Firstly, there is a lack of tailored content and resources specifically designed for music education within existing MOOC offerings. This gap hinders the ability of music educators to deliver comprehensive and engaging learning experiences to students. Secondly, the traditional pedagogical approaches may not fully align with the interactive and self-paced nature of MOOCs, leading to potential disengagement and passive learning among students. Additionally, issues related to access and digital literacy may pose barriers to participation, particularly among students from disadvantaged backgrounds or remote areas (Hafiza et al., 2019; Xu, 2022).

Therefore, it is imperative to address these challenges and develop strategic interventions to optimize the use of MOOCs for music teaching in Chinese universities within the "Internet+" era.

**Music Pedagogy with MOOCs During the 'Internet+' Era**

In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the 'Internet+' era has ushered in transformative changes, particularly in the realm of music education within Chinese universities (Cai, 2023; Cui & Bai, 2022; Li, 2020; Wang, 2020; Wang, 2021). With the integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), traditional paradigms are being redefined, offering unprecedented opportunities for both educators and learners. This dynamic shift reflects a growing recognition of the need to adapt pedagogical approaches to align with contemporary technological advancements.

Cai analysis (2023) delves into the reform path of music education, highlighting the need for adaptation to the digital age. This is echoed by Cui and Bai (2022), who explore the exploration of university music education in the "Internet+" era, emphasizing the importance of leveraging digital technologies for enhanced learning experiences. Li (2020) focuses on the transformation of teaching modes in university music major courses, showcasing the evolution towards more interactive and digitally integrated approaches. Wang (2020) discusses the role of College Music MOOCs in the context of the "Internet+", underscoring their potential to democratize access to music education. Wang (2021) also offers a thoughtful analysis of the concept transformation of university music education in the "Internet+" era, emphasizing the need for innovative pedagogical strategies to meet the demands of contemporary learners.

Chen and Zhu (2022) delve into the specific impact of the MOOC teaching model on college music education, shedding light on both its benefits and challenges. Their research likely explores how MOOCs can enhance accessibility to music education, allowing students to engage with high-quality content and resources from anywhere with an internet connection. However, it also likely addresses challenges such as maintaining student engagement and ensuring the quality of instruction in an online format. This study likely offers valuable insights into the potential of MOOCs to democratize access to music education while also highlighting the need for careful implementation and support structures to address associated challenges. Similarly, Hafiza et al (2019) contributes to the discourse on MOOCs by examining the issues and challenges associated with these online courses. While not specifically focused on music education, their findings likely have relevance to the broader discussion on the impact of MOOCs on college education, including music education. Their

research likely identifies challenges such as low completion rates, concerns about course quality, and issues related to accreditation and recognition

China's higher education sector has embraced MOOCs as a means to democratize access to quality music education. By leveraging online platforms, universities can reach a broader audience beyond their physical campuses, catering to diverse learners with varying backgrounds and interests. This inclusive approach not only enhances accessibility but also fosters a vibrant learning community that transcends geographical boundaries. Alongside the promising prospects, challenges persist in effectively harnessing MOOCs for music education in Chinese universities. One such challenge is ensuring the quality and relevance of course content. Given the vast array of resources available online, educators must curate and design MOOCs that meet rigorous academic standards while remaining engaging and accessible to learners. Moreover, adapting traditional teaching methodologies to the online environment requires careful consideration to maintain pedagogical effectiveness and student engagement (Chen, 2022).

Another critical consideration is the issue of digital literacy and access. While the 'Internet+' era has facilitated widespread connectivity, disparities in technological infrastructure and digital literacy levels persist across different regions and demographics in China. Addressing these disparities requires concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to MOOCs for all students. The role of educators in facilitating meaningful learning experiences in online environments cannot be overstated. Effective pedagogy in MOOCs entails more than just delivering content; it involves fostering interactive and collaborative learning environments, providing timely feedback, and supporting students' self-directed learning journeys (Cai, 2023).

Music education using MOOCs in Chinese universities during the 'Internet+' era represents a paradigm shift with immense potential to revolutionize learning. By embracing innovative strategies and addressing inherent challenges, educators can harness the power of technology to enrich music education and cultivate a new generation of passionate and skilled musicians.

### **Proposed Eight Strategies Music Pedagogy with MOOCs**

In the era of digital transformation, the integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has revolutionized music pedagogy. This study explores innovative strategies leveraging MOOCs in music education, addressing challenges and opportunities in adapting traditional teaching methods to the dynamic 'Internet+' era including (i) transformation of teaching concepts, (ii) adaptation of music teaching content, (iii) reform of teaching modes, (iv) evolution of teaching methods, (v) enrichment of teaching content, (vi) innovation in teaching modes, (vii) strengthening of information system construction, and (viii) reinforcement of compound talent training.

### **Transformation of Teaching Concepts**

In the 'Internet+' era, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have revolutionized music education by democratizing access, shifting towards student-centered learning, integrating technology, and fostering collaboration. MOOC platforms offer a diverse array of courses covering music theory, composition, performance, and history, making music education more

inclusive and equitable. Interactive multimedia elements and personalized learning experiences cater to individual preferences, enhancing understanding and retention of musical concepts. Technology such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and AI-powered software expands creative possibilities and facilitates immersive learning environments. Moreover, MOOCs facilitate global networking and collaborative opportunities, fostering a sense of community among students and professionals. As teaching concepts continue to evolve, MOOCs are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of music education, empowering learners to pursue their musical aspirations on a global scale.

### **Adaptation of Music Teaching Content**

The adaptation of music teaching content for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in the 'Internet+' era involves several essential strategies to ensure effectiveness and engagement. This includes localizing content to resonate with the cultural context of learners, offering diverse and interactive learning materials, organizing content into modular units for flexibility, integrating multimedia elements for enriched learning experiences, fostering peer interaction and collaboration, implementing diverse assessment strategies, ensuring flexibility and accessibility, and continuously refining content based on feedback and data analytics. By incorporating these strategies, educators can create dynamic and engaging music courses that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of learners while leveraging the opportunities offered by online platforms.

### **Reform of Teaching Modes**

The reform of teaching modes in music education during the 'Internet+' era has been marked by significant transformation driven by technological advancements and evolving pedagogical approaches, including the integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Key reforms encompass the adoption of blended learning, implementation of the flipped classroom model, emphasis on personalized learning paths, promotion of project-based learning, encouragement of peer learning and collaboration, and adoption of assessment for learning strategies. These reforms aim to leverage technology, promote student-centered learning, foster creativity and collaboration, and support the development of lifelong learning skills essential for success in the digital age.

### **Evolution of Teaching Methods**

The evolution of teaching methods in music education, related to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), highlights the transformative impact of technology on learning approaches. MOOCs offer a platform for integrating multimedia resources and online platforms into music education, facilitating personalized and interactive learning experiences. Through MOOCs, educators can implement student-centered approaches such as inquiry-based learning and project-based learning, fostering creativity and innovation in musical exploration. Blended learning models, including the flipped classroom, can be effectively implemented through MOOCs, combining online resources with face-to-face instruction to cater to diverse learning styles. MOOCs provide opportunities for fostering cultural competence by exposing students to diverse musical traditions and perspectives from around the world. The integration of MOOCs in music education reflects a commitment to engaging students, promoting critical thinking, and preparing them for active participation in a rapidly changing world.

### **Enrichment of Teaching Content**

Enriching teaching content in music education through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) involves leveraging the platform's capabilities to integrate diverse multimedia resources, embrace cultural diversity, foster cross-disciplinary connections, facilitate experiential learning, and stay current with trends. MOOCs provide a global platform for exploring diverse musical traditions and perspectives, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation. They offer opportunities for students to develop critical listening skills, showcase their musical talents, and engage in collaborative projects. Ultimately, MOOCs inspire students to explore and appreciate the rich world of music while nurturing their creativity, critical thinking, and cultural understanding on a global scale.

### **Innovation in Teaching Modes**

Innovative teaching modes in music education, such as blended learning, flipped classrooms, interactive technologies, peer-to-peer learning, project-based learning, gamification, personalized learning paths, and global collaboration, align closely with the principles and capabilities of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). MOOCs provide a versatile platform for integrating technology, promoting active learning, fostering collaboration, and preparing students for success in a dynamic and interconnected world. Through MOOCs, educators can enhance engagement, motivation, and self-directed learning while providing students with diverse and immersive music experiences.

### **Strengthening of Information System Construction**

The strengthening of information system construction in music education involves developing robust systems and infrastructure to support efficient management, delivery, and assessment of teaching and learning activities. This includes implementing student information management systems, curriculum management tools, learning management systems (LMS), digital content repositories, assessment and feedback tools, communication and collaboration platforms, data analytics capabilities, and security measures. By enhancing these systems, institutions can improve operational efficiency, support personalized learning experiences, facilitate collaboration, and ensure the security and privacy of student data.

### **Reinforcement of Compound Talent Training**

The reinforcement of compound talent training in music education involves developing well-rounded musicians with diverse skills and knowledge. This includes integrating curriculum, providing performance opportunities, offering experiential learning, fostering entrepreneurship, promoting cross-cultural competence, facilitating collaboration, offering individualized instruction, supporting professional development, and implementing robust assessment mechanisms. When related to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), these strategies can be adapted to online learning environments to broaden access to high-quality music education, empower students, and prepare them for success in a digital world.

### **Discussion**

Amidst the digital transformation era, the integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has significantly transformed music pedagogy. This study delves into eight innovative strategies leveraging MOOCs in music education, aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the dynamic 'Internet+' era. These strategies encompass a comprehensive approach, including the transformation of teaching concepts,

adaptation of music teaching content, reform of teaching modes, evolution of teaching methods, enrichment of teaching content, innovation in teaching modes, strengthening of information system construction, and reinforcement of compound talent training. Research Cai (2023); Cui and Bai (2022); Li (2020); Wang (2020); Wang (2021) collectively underscore the transformative impact of the "Internet+" era on music education at higher education. Emphasizing the necessity for music educators to embrace digital technologies, these studies illuminate the importance of adapting teaching methods to effectively engage students in this evolving landscape. Additionally, contributions from Chen and Zhu (2022); Hafiza et al (2019) offer valuable insights into the implications of MOOCs on higher education music education, addressing both their benefits and challenges. By exploring these avenues, educators navigate the digital terrain, enhancing the accessibility, effectiveness, and relevance of music education in the modern age.

### **Conclusion, Implications, and Suggestions**

As this exploration of strategies for music education using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in China universities during the 'Internet+' era draws to a close, it's vital to reflect on the implications and offer suggestions for further advancements. This section delves into the conclusions drawn, implications, and actionable suggestions to enhance music education in the 'Internet+' Era.

#### **(i) Conclusion**

The integration of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) into music education within Chinese universities during the 'Internet+' era has brought about significant advancements and transformations in teaching strategies. The adoption of MOOCs has facilitated access to high-quality educational resources, promoted student-centered learning, and encouraged collaboration and creativity among students. Through MOOC platforms, students have been able to engage with diverse musical content, participate in interactive learning activities, and receive personalized feedback on their progress. This shift towards digital learning environments has not only expanded opportunities for music education but has also enhanced the overall learning experience for students.

#### **(ii) Implications**

The incorporation of MOOCs in music education has several implications for various stakeholders. Firstly, for students, it provides greater flexibility and accessibility to educational resources, allowing them to pursue their musical interests at their own pace and convenience. Additionally, it fosters a more collaborative and interactive learning environment, enabling students to engage with peers and instructors from diverse backgrounds. For educators, MOOCs offer opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and the exploration of innovative teaching methods. However, there are also challenges such as ensuring the quality of online instruction and addressing issues of digital equity and access. For universities, the integration of MOOCs presents opportunities for expanding their reach, enhancing their reputation, and staying competitive in the digital age.

#### **(iii) Suggestions**

Moving forward, several strategies can be considered to further enhance music education using MOOCs in Chinese universities during the 'Internet+' era. Firstly, there is a need for continuous investment in the development of high-quality educational content and resources

specifically tailored to the needs of music students. This includes creating engaging multimedia materials, interactive learning activities, and virtual performance opportunities. Additionally, universities should prioritize training and support for faculty in effectively utilizing MOOC platforms and integrating digital technologies into their teaching practices. Moreover, efforts should be made to address issues of digital equity and accessibility, ensuring that all students have equal access to online resources and support. Finally, ongoing research and evaluation are essential to assess the impact of MOOCs on student learning outcomes and identify areas for improvement and refinement in music education delivery. By implementing these suggestions, Chinese universities can maximize the potential of MOOCs to enhance music education and prepare students for success in the digital age.

## References

- Aikins, M. V., & Akuffo, G. T. M. (2022). Using ICT in the Teaching and Learning of Music in the Colleges of Education during a Pandemic Situation in Ghana. *Malaysian Online Journal of Educational Technology*, 10(2), 151-165.
- Cai Siqiao. (2023). Analysis of the Reform Path of Music Education in Colleges and Universities in the Era of "Internet+". *Contemporary Education and Teaching Research*, 4(12), 644-648.
- Zixian, C., & Zhu Yinhua. (2022). Impact of the MOOC Teaching Model on College music education. *Contemporary Music*, 11, 60-62.
- Cui Jiayue & Bai Xin. (2022). The Exploration of University Music Education in the Era of "Internet +". *Heilongjiang Research on Higher Education*, 40 (4): 156-160.
- Eddison, F. M., Joseph, N. A., & Klutse, E. K. (2020). Technology in Music Education: A Survey of Computer Usage in Teaching Music in Selected Colleges of Education in Ghana. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 11(3), 126-151.
- Judit, V., Gabriella, J., Adrienne, S. F., Viktoria, M. T. & Timea S. (2023). Investigating Music Teachers' ICT Skills and Technical Possibilities in the Field of Online Music Education During the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Heliyon*, 9(6): e16463.
- Ying, L. K. (2021). The Pedagogical Strategies for Online Music Learning of Instrumental Lessons in Higher Education. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 554, 1356-1360.
- Li Jia. (2022). Evaluation and Integration of ICT Using Music Software in Music Education. *Journal of ICT in Education*, 9(1), 10-24.
- Li Zhen. (2020). Transformation of the Teaching Mode of University Music Major Courses Under the Background of "Internet +". *Art Review*, 2, 65-67.
- Parkita, E. (2021). Digital Tools of Music Education. *Central European Journal of Educational Research*, 3(1), 60–66.
- Song Rui. (2021). Research on the Application of Computer Multimedia Music System in College Music Teaching. *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.*, 1744, 1-5.
- Wei, W. (2020). College Music MOOC in the Context of "Internet +". *P Conf. Ser.: Mater. Sci. Eng.*, 750, 1-5.
- Zhixin, W. (2021). Thinking and Analysis of the Concept Transformation of University Music Education in the Era of "Internet +". *Zhonghua Manual*, 3, 177-178.
- Xu Yunzhang. (2022). The New Media Environment Presents Challenges and Opportunities for Music Education in Higher Education. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, 9261521, 1-11.



- Huiqing, Y. (2022). Research on National Music Teaching Mode Based on Computer Platform. *MATEC Web of Conferences*, 365, 1-5.
- Lanfang, Z. (2023). Analysis for Online Music Education Under Internet and Big Data Environment. *International Journal of Web-Based Learning and Teaching Technologies*, 18(2),1-12.