

SPA-111

## **Scientific Piano Method for Adolescent Beginners: Challenges of Piano Education in Contemporary China**

*Qing Yang*

*Doctoral Candidate, Elisabeth University of Music, Japan*

*Chieko Mibu*

*Elisabeth University of Music, Japan*

### **Abstract**

In contemporary China, it is not only young people pursuing a tertiary musical education who study music. Many adolescents are confronted with studying music due to China's growing social-education culture, which encourages them to get knowledge and skills related to the arts, in hopes by their parents that they will be able to contribute meaningfully and survive on their own upon entering the society. Additionally, due to China's college entrance examination-supported score policy, many adolescents seek a spot in China's the best comprehensive universities and try to take their special examination as art specialty students. For the reasons above, the number of late piano beginners is increasing significantly. Such beginners seek specialized education, exceptional instructors, and effective pedagogies. The same problem also exists among Japanese late piano beginners who struggle to learn piano in nursery teaching training schools. Thus, a scientific and efficient pedagogy is in pressing demand.

This research focuses on exploring the effective piano methodology and the scientific teaching strategies in physiological aspects for late beginners who began their musical education in adolescence.

Regarding this research's methods, several dimensions have been included. 1. The contents of existing piano pedagogy or method books are carefully examined and re-organized chronologically to extract any practical proposals or references for adolescent beginners. The scientificity of piano performing postures from the references above, including hand position, has also been verified via contemporary physical and physiological theories. 2. In order to understand adolescent beginners better, questionnaires for both students and instructors are undertaken and analyzed. The problems arising from gender differences and the difficulties faced by late beginners playing the piano can be viewed.

In this presentation, the summary of the research on the historical piano pedagogies and method books, and the results of the questionnaire analysis will be reported. Besides, the physical analysis via mechanics, and the physiological analysis of the economical use of locomotive organs, will be discussed. Also, it will show the practical and scientific pedagogy for adolescent beginners, especially in performing posture. Regarding to the result of this research, which aim to help instructors teach late beginners using proven scientific concepts.