

## **The Ideal of Harmony: Exploring the Influence of Music Philosophy on Music Performance**

Junda Wu

Hanyang University College of Music, 222, Wangsimni-ro, Seongdong-gu, Seoul,  
Republic of Korea  
wujundaviolino2@163.com

**Abstract:** With the continuous improvement of China's economic level, more and more people begin to pay attention to the improvement of the spiritual level, which also provides a good foundation for the development of music. Among them, music philosophy can greatly enrich the content and connotation of music performance. Therefore, it is of great significance to explore the influence of music philosophy on music performance. In this paper, through searching and reading a large number of monographs and literature, we collate, analyse and study the data of Chinese and foreign researches on music philosophy, listeners' scores on music performance and the influence of music performance on listeners' emotions, so as to understand and grasp the research problems more comprehensively and correctly, and further explore these problems on the basis of the existing research results, and then analyse the influence of music philosophy on music performance in combination with the importance of music philosophy in piano performance, and finally summarise the influence of music philosophy on music performance in the hope of promoting the high-quality development of China's philosophy and music performance. piano performance, analyse the influence of music philosophy on music performance, and finally summarize the influence of music philosophy on music performance in the hope of promoting the high-quality development of music philosophy and music performance in China.

**Keywords:** Philosophy of Music; Music Performance; Art; Innovation; Philosophy

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

With the continuous development of modern music philosophy, the system of music philosophy has become more and more perfect and sound, which has an extremely important influence on the development of contemporary music performance art (Reimer, 2022). The art of music performance, including piano, vocal, and dance performances, is a highly creative and reproducible art with a strong aesthetic effect. Exploring the development of music philosophy has a positive effect on the positioning and reconstruction of music performance art, and the full integration of music performance and music philosophy can further improve the overall spirit and image of music performance art (Greer, 2023). Philosophy of music first originated in ancient Greece. The concept of aesthetics did not

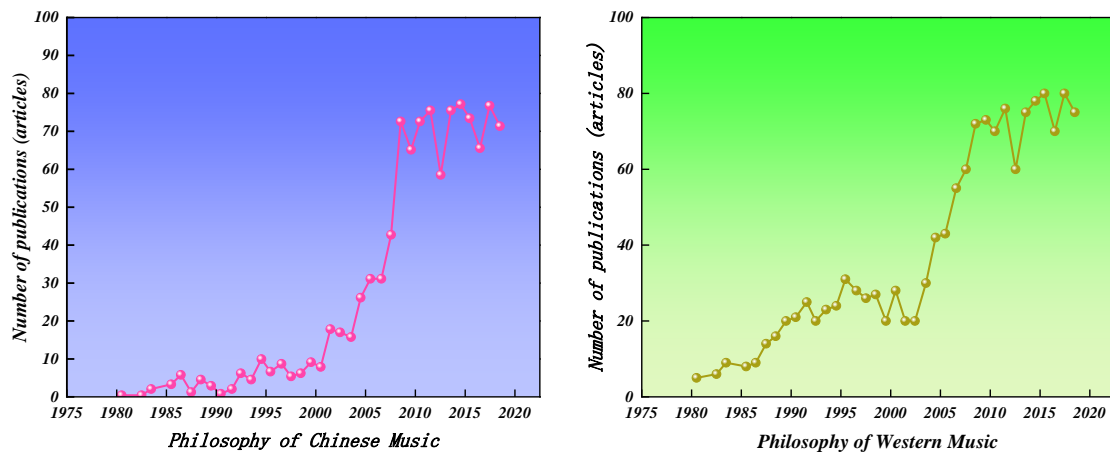
appear in this period, there is only sensory cognitive understanding. With the development of music aesthetics in the direction of philosophical concepts, it began to be expressed as the degree of people's knowledge of certain things. However, from the perspective of music philosophy, music philosophy is just to elevate the knowledge and understanding of music to a higher level, giving the listener a kind of perceptual knowledge and understanding. Nowadays, the study of music philosophy has gradually matured, emphasizing more and more the wholeness of music art. Combining the experiences or feelings of different senses brings the listener a more harmonious and vivid musical work. In the process of music philosophy research, the content of research gradually tends to be diversified. All in all, every in-depth study of music philosophy is a perfecting of its system and will have a corresponding promotion and significance for the field of music (Scarborough, 2022; Young, 2024). Philosophy of music is an important branch of social sciences. As a theory of music art, it plays an important role in music performance, which can help musicians to better understand the music works, express their unique performance styles, as well as incorporate aesthetic elements thoughts, and emotions that match the times into their performances, to give the audience a better visual and emotional experience. With the rapid change in music art, music philosophy is also evolving and deepening, thus injecting new theoretical vitality and practical guidance into music performing art (Dushniy, Boichuk, et al., 2022). As a core component of music art, the performing form and technique of music performance are naturally influenced by music philosophy. In the traditional concept, sound is only a carrier of music, but music philosophy gives sound a richer connotation. It believes that sound is not only the medium of music but also the carrier and conveyor of emotion; and vocal performance is not only the performance of art but also the mapping of social culture. This point of view puts forward higher requirements for music performing artists, who should not only focus on the beauty of sound, but also pay attention to the social and cultural background behind the music so that they can better understand the social information and emotion conveyed by the music, and ultimately convey the connotation of the music more accurately (Dushniy, Sali, et al., 2022; Kravchenko, 2022). Therefore, the study of music philosophy is of great significance in improving the level of music performance art and promoting the development of music art. As music performers, they should have a precise understanding and knowledge of the relevant theories of music philosophy, and at the same

time, they should know the important influence of music philosophy on music performance, so that they can reasonably apply music philosophy in music performance, constantly improve their performance skills, enrich their performance styles, and promote the innovation and development of music performance (Thompson et al., 2023). However, the author found that the literature describing the philosophy of music for music performance is few and far between by counting a large number of literature, so this paper takes piano performance as an example from the concept of the philosophy of music, and discusses the influence of the philosophy of music on music performance in depth. Thus, it is concluded that music philosophy has four effects on music performance: firstly, music philosophy is conducive to improving the aesthetic level of music performers; secondly, music philosophy is conducive to the correct understanding of music performance art; thirdly, music philosophy promotes the creation of music performance art; and lastly, music philosophy promotes the development of music performance at a high level (Ramazanova & qizi Mustaqimova, 2022; Weiss, 2024).

## 2. PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC

### 2.1 Philosophical Meanings of Music

Philosophy is a social science based on the development of social material and spiritual life, which includes a large number of branches, and music philosophy is one of them. Philosophy of music plays a very important role in the process of music development and also has a theoretical and practical guidance value for music performance. The study of music philosophy mainly includes the ontology of music, the function of music, and so on. Moreover, the objective and scientific study of music function has a very positive significance in promoting the orderly and healthy development of music performance. Philosophy of music is more inclined to elevate people's knowledge of music to a higher level so that people can form a kind of sensual understanding and awareness. With the deepening of the study of music philosophy, the holistic nature of music art has received more and more attention (Young, 2023). The research content of music philosophy is constantly developing in a diversified direction. Overall, with the continuous advancement of music philosophy research, its system will also continue to develop and improve, thus further promoting the development of music art. Figure 1 analyses the general trend of research on the philosophy of music in recent years.

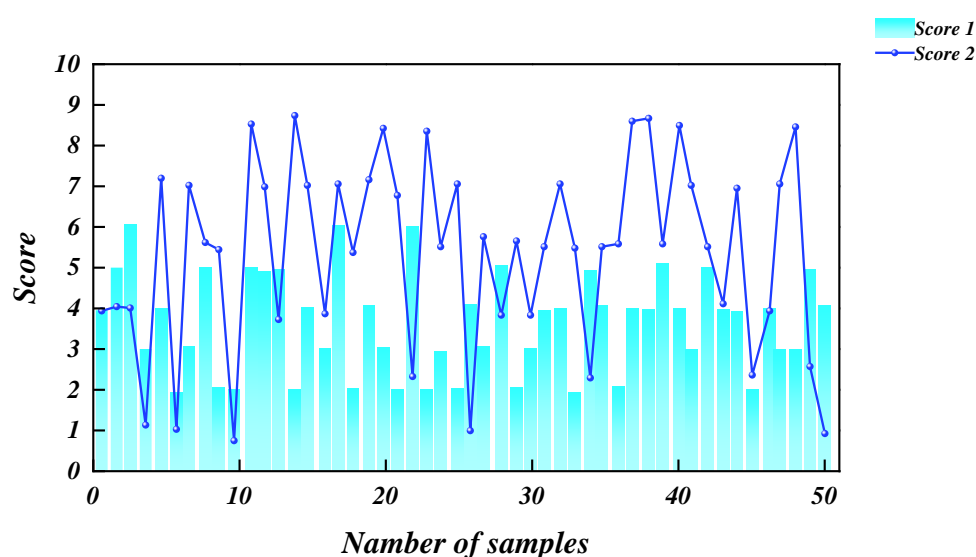


**Figure 1:** Analysis of General Trends

## 2.2 Characteristics of Philosophy of Music

The philosophy of music, as an interdisciplinary academic field, can be summarized as pluralistic, subjective, and innovative. These features together constitute the unique research perspective and academic style of modern music aesthetics. First of all, the pluralism of music philosophy is reflected in the diversity of its research methods and theoretical sources. Music philosophy has widely absorbed the theories and methods of philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and other disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach enables music philosophy to explore the essence and meaning of music from multiple angles and levels. For example, music philosophy can explore the value and aesthetic standard of music through philosophical thinking, reveal the influence and regulation mechanism of music on people's emotions through psychological research, and examine the status and role of music in society and culture through sociological analysis. This diversified research perspective not only broadens the research field of music philosophy but also enriches the theoretical connotation of music philosophy. Secondly, music philosophy emphasizes the subjective experience of music. In contrast to the traditional philosophy of music, which believes that the value and significance of music are determined by the perception and understanding of the listener, the philosophy of music emphasizes the subjective experience of music. In other words, music is not only an objective sound combination but also a subjective feeling and emotional expression. Modern music philosophy emphasizes the subjective position of the listener in music appreciation and believes that each listener has his or her own unique musical experience and aesthetic feeling. Therefore, when studying music, music philosophy pays more attention to the subjective feelings and needs of listeners and tries to explore the essence and meaning

of music from the perspective of listeners. Finally, music philosophy encourages creative thinking and promotes the innovation and development of music art. In modern society, the innovation and development of music art have become a trend and inevitable (Bowie, 2023). Modern music aesthetics, as the theoretical foundation and guiding ideology of music art, should encourage and support the innovative practice of music art. Through innovative thinking and cross-border cooperation, music philosophy can provide new ideas and methods for the development of music art, as well as a broader space and platform for the diversification and individualization of music art. Figure 2 is the experiment of music majors in positive emotion classical music.



**Figure 2:** Scores of Music Majors in Positive Emotion Classical Music Experiment

### 2.3 The Relationship between the Philosophy of Music and Music Performance

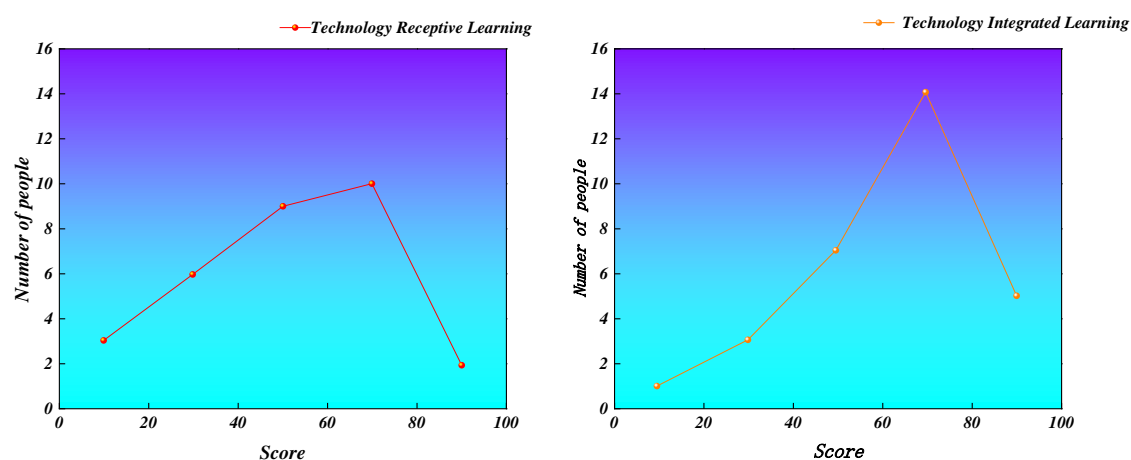
No matter what form of musical works, they are inseparable from practical performance. For a musical work to be perfectly presented to the audience, the performer must put his/her thoughts and feelings into singing or playing, so that the artistry and ideology of the musical work can be fully realized. The research of music philosophy in music performance involves many professional fields, including psychology, philosophy, sociology, etc. The main research contents include the relationship between reality and music, music content, music essence, etc. These studies are all related to epistemology. These studies are all related to epistemology, which is also the focus of music philosophy research. Psychology is mainly concerned with the research on the psychology of music appreciation, performance psychology, and creation psychology, which provides a rich

theoretical foundation for the essence of music; sociology is mainly concerned with the research on the significance of music in the era, social value, artistic function, and inheritance development, which determines the role and practical significance of music in the process of the development of the current society. Music performance mainly refers to the reproduction process and innovative activities of music works, which requires performers to interpret the works with their feelings and skills and convey the emotions and values of the works to the audience, triggering resonance (Li, 2022). It is not only a good medium for the public to watch the performance and the artists to create music, but also an essential step to carry out music activities. Therefore, in the process of theoretical investigation of music philosophy, the characteristics of music philosophy are identified, such as having a strong abstraction, theory, and so on. Music performance is the practical activity of real images. Music philosophy has a direct influence on the form and effect of the presentation of this activity, and music performance plays a decisive role in the scope and content of the study of music philosophy. In essence, music performance is the expression and transmission of the connotation of musical works, which requires performers to integrate their own emotions into the performance process and to have the correct aesthetic feeling and aesthetic understanding. Thus, it can be seen that music performance is the research focus of music philosophy, and its research results are closely related to the presentation level of music performance. In a way, music performance is the practice of music philosophy in real life and is closely related to the future development and research of music philosophy (Arom & Martin, 2022).

### 3. THE INFLUENCE OF MUSIC PHILOSOPHY ON MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Music is an elegant art, it is through the whole human feelings and sensibility evaluation of human feelings, voice, and experience. Therefore, the performance of musical works is not only the mechanical performance of the notes and melodies but also requires the performers to have a high-quality music philosophy. Only in this way, the performers can deeply understand the music performance works, and then incorporate their own emotions, and finally, with the unique interpretation of the music philosophy, they can offer to the audience a music art feast with true feelings and high artistic appreciation value. The Philosophy of Music is the theory of music performance practice. Music philosophy is the

theoretical foundation of music performance practice, and music performance is an individual performance process with independence and creativity, which integrates the musical connotation of the music work itself, such as the history of its creation, ideology, emotion, and creative style, and also integrates the music performer's unique personality and his or her mastery of the musical instrument. The process of music performance is a skillful integration and embodiment of the performer's aesthetic and creative consciousness. Therefore, music philosophy has a profound influence on music performance art. Figure 3 shows different people's scores in the theoretical knowledge test.



**Figure 3:** Distribution of Different Scores in the Theoretical Knowledge Topic Test of Music Performance

### 3.1 Philosophy of Music is Conducive to Improving the Aesthetic Level of Music Performers

Performers' aesthetic concepts have a direct influence on the process of music performance, which is related to whether performers can accurately grasp the emotional connotation of musical works, and the differences in aesthetic concepts promote the formation of a rich variety of performance styles. Music performers should choose the repertoire that suits their characteristics, personal aesthetic interests, and personal aesthetic values. If the repertoire is contrary to the performer's aesthetic concepts and aesthetic feelings, the music performance will be very hard and unable to show a sense of nature. A deep understanding of music philosophy not only guides music performance but also helps to reconstruct the performer's aesthetic concept and promote the formation of a new philosophical concept. With advanced aesthetic concepts as a guide, music performers can synthesize technical and emotional factors, conquer the audience with superior performance skills, infect the audience with rich

emotions, and display the infinite charm of musical works (Karamanolis, 2023).

### 3.2 Philosophy of Music is Conducive to a Proper Understanding of Musical Performing Arts

A musical work consists of two parts, one is the creator's knowledge and understanding of the musical work, which mainly indicates the creator's intention and thoughts when creating music. It is produced in the creator's mind, without any concrete substance, but it is an indispensable part of the musical creation, and the success or failure of a musical work is also closely related to it. The other part is the score, which is used by the creator to record the musical inspiration during the creative process. The music form in the author's mind is recorded in the score and played by the performer. The existence of sheet music allows the creator to visualize his or her thoughts, and without sheet music, only the creator would be able to feel his or her music. However, sheet music is only a piece of paper, and its real form needs to be adapted and adjusted by the performer and the artist. Different people have different interpretations of the same piece of music, just like a thousand Hamlets in a thousand readers' minds (Liao, 2022). Therefore, music performers should have enough knowledge and understanding of the original works to better perform the real meaning of the works and show the beauty of music. The continuous development of music philosophy influences the development of music performance art, and people re-examine music performance art in the perception of music philosophy, and the two complement each other, not only in the form of artistic expression but also in the artistic creativity and connotation of music. The following table shows that education in the philosophy of music is taken very seriously in the UK from an early age.

Table 1(a): British Music Philosophy Classroom Flowchart

Step	Learning Stage	Description of Activities	Learning Goal
1	warm-up	(1)Introduce/reminder of classroom rules. (2)Develop a philosophical inquiry thinking mode of philosophical enquiry	Stimulating capacities
2	Stimulus introduction	Drawing on stimuli to provoke thinking	(1) Thinking about the information
3	Thinking time	Thinking deeply and gathering ideas	(2) Generate initial ideas
4	Ask a Question	Ask philosophical/open-ended questions (may form groups of 3-5 people)	(1) Deepen information and ideas (2) Developing an awareness of the problem



Table 1(b): British Music Philosophy Classroom Flowchart

Step	Learning Stage	Description of Activities	Learning Goal
5	Refine the Question	Record, reference and discuss each other's questions	(1) Identify assumptions in questions (2) Distinguish between differences and connections (3) Concretise vague questions (4) Collaborate to organise ideas
6	Initial Idea	The questioner launches the enquiry	(1) Explain and analyse the reason for the question (2) Responding to what was shown before
7	Final Thoughts	Each student will have at least one opportunity to speak and share their final final thoughts	(1) Thinking about unexpected ideas (2) Form opinions and make independent judgements
8	Overall Review	All participants collectively evaluated this cognitive progress in this inquiry	(1) Reflection and Evaluation (2) Sharing Harvest Experience

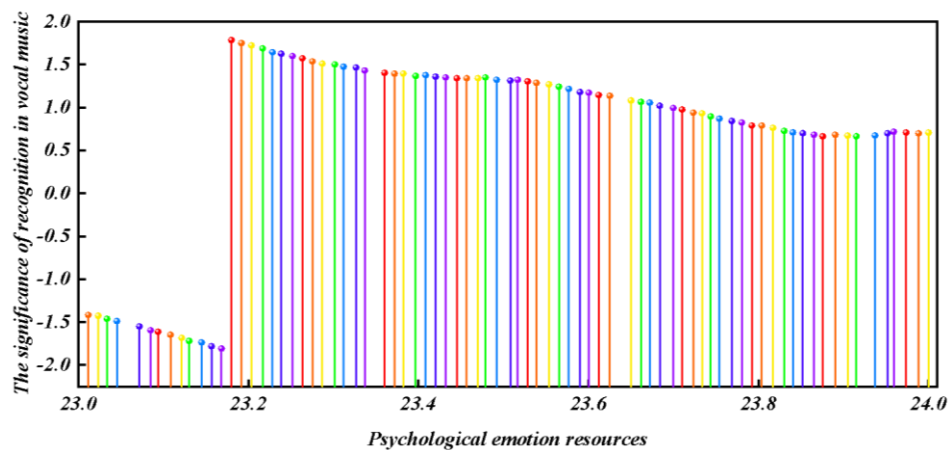
### 3.3 Philosophy of Music for Creative Music Performing Arts

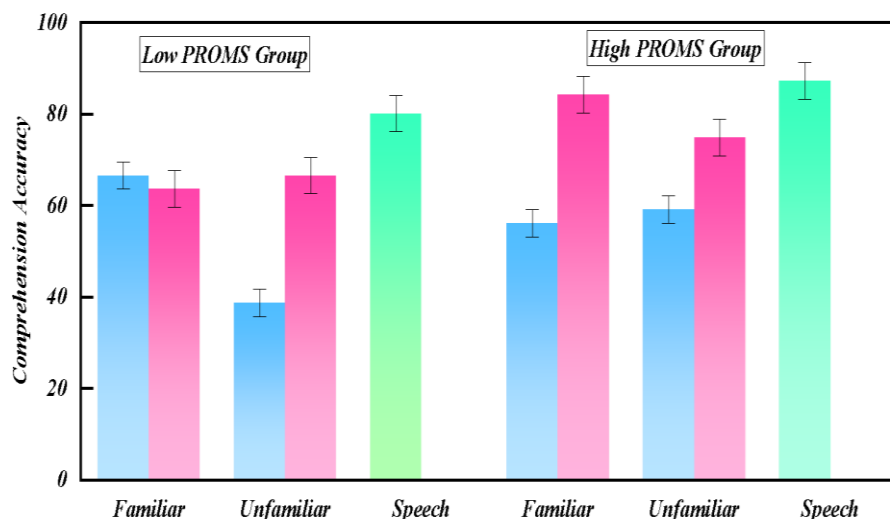
Philosophy of music is the cornerstone of the art of music performance and plays a good role in music performance. Philosophy of music is the foundation of the art of music performance, and it is difficult to grasp the art form of music performance without in-depth knowledge of the philosophy of music. Without in-depth knowledge of music philosophy, it is difficult to grasp the form of music performance art. Music performers can deepen their perception of beauty in the process of cognizing music philosophy, thus promoting the development of music performance art. The creation of music is an artistic manifestation of human thinking and imagination, and it is a human-centered will. In the course of the development of human society, music is a medium of emotional empathy in human society. Music performance itself has a certain degree of creativity and authenticity and is the product and reflection of the development and progress of the times. Music performers need to have a certain passion and enthusiasm for performing art creation, and at the same time, they also need to have enough self-expression and expression ability. The performer's understanding of the musical work directly affects the display of the performance emotion, at the same time, the development of music philosophy, also affects the music performance. For a good piece of music, on the one hand, through in-depth understanding and speculation,

discovering and using music philosophy to create a music performance that meets the music emotion, to a certain extent, deepens the display of the music work; on the other hand, promote the music performers to their music performance ability training and enhancement, and deeply understand the charm of the music and the value of the music (Wang, 2022).

### 3.4 Philosophy of Music Promotes High Levels of Musical Performance

Philosophy of music, as an important foundation and theoretical guidance for music performance, plays an important role in music performance, and if there is a lack of good philosophy of music literacy, it will inevitably affect the performer's grasp of the emotions of music. The process of music performers improving their music philosophy is also the process of improving their ability to perceive beauty. This process has a very positive significance in promoting the development of music performance. Philosophy of music has also had certain research results in the international arena. In this environment, music performance is constantly developing in the direction of internationalization, and more and more countries and regions have formed a unified understanding of the development trend of music performance. Music performance is a way to express thoughts and emotions, and under the background of vigorously researching music philosophy, music performance has been widely recognized. With the deepening of the integration of music philosophy and music performance, music performance continues to develop to a higher level (Mohseni et al., 2023). In this process, promoting the effective innovation of music performance based on the perspective of music philosophy is an important issue for the majority of music performers to think about and study. The following two graphs, analysed through a study of listeners' emotions and level of understanding of the music, respectively, suggest that listeners are very demanding of music performers.





**Figure 4:** Speech Comprehension Performance Varies with the Listener's Musical Skill Level and Psychological Emotion Resources

#### 4. PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC IN PIANO PERFORMANCE

##### 4.1 Enhance Deeper Knowledge of Piano Works

The integration of music philosophy into the process of piano performance can directly improve the piano player's knowledge of the piano music itself. In the past, during the piano performance, many listeners had difficulty understanding the meaning of piano music through the piano performance, and the main reason for this problem is that the performer's music philosophy literacy was not enough, and it was difficult to convey the actual emotion of the music to the audience through the performance. As a piano player, you need to realize that any piano performance is not only a performance of the melody, rhythm, and timbre of the piano piece but also an aesthetic enjoyment. Piano performance is not simply copying the notes in the piano sheet music, but conveying to the listener the emotions of the piano piece and the different emotions contained in the piano pieces completed by the composer in different situations and under different backgrounds, which not only allows the listener to communicate emotionally with the composer, but also lets the listener feel the development of different music in different eras and the different impacts of the era on people's lives through the analysis of piano pieces. This is a kind of social and cultural inheritance, but also a kind of communication through the space.

In the process of playing, the performer will also incorporate his own emotions due to his music aesthetics. When the three emotions come

together, the piano music can play its aesthetic significance. To analyze the performance of piano music from the perspective of music aesthetics, it can be found that from the aesthetic point of view, the piano performance has more sensual factors, these sensual factors allow the performer to have different styles in the performance of a piano piece, even if it is the same piece of piano music by different players to bring the audience's feelings are different, which requires that all the players need to be in the performance of the piano piece of their understanding of the piano piece into the actual performance, utilizing their understanding of the piano piece, and then using the piano music to play the piano piece.

This requires all performers to integrate their understanding of the piano piece into the actual performance and utilize their own emotional needs to express and feel the meaning of the piano piece. Whether it is a simple expression of emotions in the piano piece, such as joy, sadness, anger, or relatively complex emotions, such as missing, adoration, waiting, etc., the performer needs to integrate them with the piano piece in the actual performance, so that the listener can achieve the enjoyment of the senses from the hearing to the feeling, and be able to resonate with the emotions in the piano piece. The piano piece is a very famous piece of music, and it is a very important piece of music.

Any famous piano piece, basically never lacks performers, but the need is to be able to express the feelings of the piano piece to the audience in a complete manner of the performer. This requires the player to constantly improve his or her musical philosophy and to integrate his or her own emotions with those of the piano piece. In the performance of any piece of piano music, a player must understand the meaning of the piano music, in the past, many players did not eat through the piano music to express the mood of the piano music, resulting in the actual performance of the piano music is difficult to express the feelings contained in the music, which is why as a player need to improve their philosophy of music literacy. Only by improving their philosophical literacy can they analyze the emotions of the piano piece in the performance process, and see clearly what the piano piece is trying to express to the people, whether it is a story or a past, which they need to understand well before the performance, which is also one of the philosophical literacy of music (Jin, 2024). From table 2 it can be seen that the most critical stages for the influence of music philosophy on piano performers are at primary and secondary school, so the influence of music philosophy on piano performers is very important at all ages.

Table 2: Key Age Stages for the Influence of Music Philosophy on Piano Education

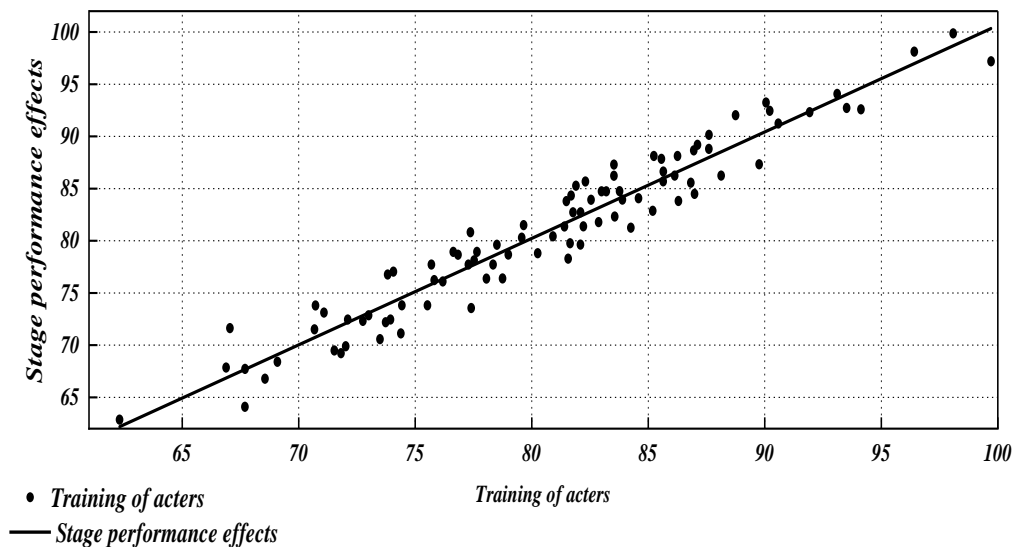
Stages	Grade	Age	Grade Level
KS1	1	5-6	Lower Primary
	2	6-7	
KS2 Low	3	7-8	Middle Primary
	4	8-9	
KS2 High	5	9-10	Upper Primary
	6	10-11	
KS3	7	11-12	Middle school
	8	12-13	
KS4	9	13-14	
	10	14-15	
	11	15-16	

#### 4.2 Helps Piano Players to Better Interpret Musical Works

A piece of music is created by the musician through the accumulation of experience, and it is full of the musician's own emotions. Therefore, when a piano player performs a piece of music, he or she must first strengthen the understanding of the piece of music, realize the emotions expressed in the piece of music, and at the same time, combine his or her playing skills to present the piece of music perfectly (Ansani et al., 2024). However, it is not a simple thing to grasp the connotation of the musical work and enter the inner world of the author, which puts forward higher requirements for the piano player. Piano players need to have a good knowledge of music philosophy, to be able to analyze the work from a philosophical point of view, to understand the creator's society, humanities, and psychology at that time, and to understand the melody, rhythm, and style of the music, so that they can effectively play out the work, perfectly present the musical style of the work, and trigger the audience's inner resonance.

#### 4.3 Enhancing the Piano Player's Integration with the Music

Piano players need to be fully integrated with the music when playing, and integrate their consciousness into the work, to present the beauty of the music. This also requires the performer to have good philosophical literacy, to integrate their own emotions with the melody of the music, and lead the audience into the mood of the music, to feel the emotions in the music, to produce the feeling of being in the realm. Figure 5 The Fitting effect of stage performance effect and actor training indicates that there is a strong correlation between staging and actor training.



**Figure 5:** Fitting Effect of Stage Performance Effect and Actor Training

## 5. CONCLUSION

To sum up, this paper starts from the development and characteristics of music philosophy, bases on the current research status of music philosophy on music performance, clarifies the importance of music philosophy on music performance, uses the literature research method, the research method combining theory and practice, and the comparative research method, etc., to explore the influence of music philosophy on music performance, through the research data of music philosophy in China and abroad, the effect of different listeners' performances on the performer's. Through the research data of Chinese and foreign music philosophy, different listeners' understanding and perception of music and the emotional impact of music on listeners, the author believes that as a performer, we need to understand the importance of music philosophy and actively study music philosophy. The role of music philosophy in music performance has many aspects: 1. music philosophy is conducive to improving the aesthetic level of music performers, so that the music performers integrated technical factors and emotional factors, by virtue of the rich emotion to infect the audience, to show the infinite charm of the musical works. 2. music philosophy is conducive to the correct understanding of the art of music performance. Music performers themselves should have enough knowledge and understanding of the original work, in order to better perform the true meaning of the work. 3. Music philosophy promotes the creation of music performance art for a good piece of music, through its in-depth understanding of the work and

speculation, discovery and the use of music philosophy to create a music performance in line with the music emotion, to a certain extent, to deepen the presentation of the work of music. 4. Philosophy can promote the development of music performance at a high level. The high-level development of music performance. Music performers to improve their own process of music philosophy, this process to promote the development of music performance has a very positive significance.

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