THE USE OF ANGKLUNG IN TEACHING MUSIC

by:

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It is best for the students to learn while applying the skills taught by the teacher. In the past years of teaching music, I found out that it is not enough to teach the students the basic elements of music through lectures and video viewing. It is quite good to make them watch the teacher as the teacher plays the musical instrument during the class session but this will only make them a fan not a learner. Hands on activities are the best ways of teaching the learners how musical elements are applied in the musical piece or composition. The use of musical instruments challenges them and motivates them to extend their knowledge through application of what they have learned. Lecture is not bad at all but it will be more effective if the students can experience playing the musical instrument as they apply the skill required in playing the musical instrument. Lecture must be combined with actual playing of musical instrument and all the learners must experience it before they move to a more advance lessons. One student-one instrument can make the class livelier than listening to the teacher while playing the instrument. This experience will challenge the learners and can arouse their interest. Hands on activities double the fun while learning new things about music.

A musical instrument called “angklung” is the perfect musical instrument for the students. It is a kind of idiophone played by means of shaking or hitting. This instrument is made of bamboo originated in Indonesia. This instrument is commonly used in Banda Kawayan or a group or ensemble using instruments made of bamboo. The angklung is usually used as harmony in other musical ensemble but it could be used as an instrument that can play the melody. This learning process will make them remember the details through execution of skills.
Using these musical instruments makes a more efficient lesson delivery for students that will definitely make them enjoy the lesson through playing the musical instruments with others. Basic elements of music are not easy to teach in a lecture-type mode of delivery. They will understand it but it surely will not last long. For example, they will know that a whole note has a corresponding four beats but the question is, did they know how to apply it. In using angklung, the students can execute the beats correspond in each note. This will make the teacher deliver the content about duration very easy. In teaching pitch, the teacher may use the angklung by letting the students arrange it according to its pitch. It is fun discovering the pitch of each angklung by shaking it and discovering the how the sound is produced and how its pitch differs. In time, the students will surely discover it by means of distinguishing the sound of each instrument. At first, it may sound weird but as they play it with others, it will start to enhance their skills in identifying the difference between each angklung and it will result in an obtained goal or objective. To teach intensity easy, the teacher will only ask the learners to play it hard or soft depending on its dynamics. If they prefer loud tone, they only have to shake it hard and shake it gently if they want to produce soft sound. The teacher think of a way on how they interpret the dynamics as the activities goes on. In teaching timbre, the teacher can simply ask the learners to arrange the angklung according to its size. As the instruments are arranged based on its size, the students will discover how the sound is differ as they play it using different size of angling. The questions will surely rise and that is the perfect time for the teacher to challenge their reasoning. It will surely challenge them and can make them analyze how the sound differs. The teacher now can go back to the drawing board showing the students the different quality of sounds. The lecture about the voices and musical instruments can now be introduced.

The angklung is not only effective in teaching the elements of music, this musical instrument could be used in all music lessons. As the learners advance in their lessons, they can use angklung in interpreting the composition. They can incorporate
other skills like dancing while the others are playing the angklung. This type of activity will catch their attention and challenge them to be more competitive. Having fun while learning increases the rate of retention of what they have learned. As the lesson goes on, the highest order thinking skills could also be enhanced through allowing the learners make their own composition using the angklung. This activity will make them analyze how the sequence of notes should be arranged. It is not an easy task but it is a challenge that can make them exert their effort until they got the right combination. This activity will also make them evaluate their performance based on how it sounds as they play the instruments. In that manner, they can easily change their arrangement and make a better one. This will make the learners create their own musical piece that will prove that they do not only learn the ideas but they can apply it through the use of simple musical instruments like the angklung.

It is quite expensive but creating these musical instruments or improvising it could be another challenge to the learners. This task could be fun and incorporates collaborative effort for the learners until they got the right sound of the instrument. With the use of this learning approach, the learners will enhance their skills in creating and modifying musical instruments in order to produce materials which they could use in all their music activities. It is not necessary to make a perfect copy, the most essential part of that is how they apply their understanding on how the sound is produced based on the elements of music which they have learned in their previous lessons.

References:

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