

Music

It has been said that China, "great nation of the good-breeding and music-loving people", was a switch of music-enjoying habit to the people of the Southeast Asia. So far as we know, music was brought about in ancient China during the reign of Fu Shi Emperor, about 2852 B. C. Later, Huang Ti, the emperor, ordered the music officials to cut bamboos and make them into flutes. He also approved five musical tones and twelve meters and made twelve bells, in order that they can be in harmony with each other. Attempts had been made until the system was perfect. During the Chou dynasty, music was made a requirement to the gentleman. The music officials of the government were graded into nineteen grades to handle the music training and facilities. It has been four thousand years that music plays an important role in the ceremony required. Its brilliancy has been recorded in the history.

Our contemporary music is derived from the music of the Sui Dynasty and Tang Dynasty, but has been consolidated with foreign music. It is known that our ancient musical instruments are now only played when the solemn ceremony is to be held. In our modern schools, the Western music has been taught. But the folks are still playing their local musical instruments either in the ceremony and for enjoying purpose.

The Music Department of the National Taiwan Arts Academy is to train musicians, while the Music Department of the Provincial Normal University and the Music Department of the Provincial Taipei Normal School are to train music teachers for the middle schools and primary schools respectively. Besides, the Music Section of the Political Cadres' School is to train brass bands for the armed forces.

The Brass Band of the Ministry of National Defence and the Taiwan Provincial Government Education Department Orchestra, supported by the official authorities, are two bands in comparatively large scale. The China Youth Orchestra, the China String Orchestra and San Yu Orchestra, all of which are privately financed, are also widely known.

The Chinese Classical Music Association was founded in April, 1953; Chinese Music Council was formed in April, 1957; Chung Hua Harmonica Association was set up in 1950. The three associations are privately owned organizations but nation-wide in nature. In 1944 the Chinese Government approved that the Fifth of April be the Music Festival. Since 1960, the provincial music contest has been held in the provincial capital on the Music Festival every year. The contestants coming from various districts are in big crowds.

So far as the music organization of the school is concerned, there are 513 choruses, 343 brass bands, 990 harmonica-drum-flute teams and Chinese National Music Orchestras in the whole province, totalling 1,775 units. There are about 85,000 students engaging in music activities conducted by 2,000 trainers. About 90 Nan Kuan Music Orchestras and 35 Chinese Classical Orchestras, which are scattered all over the island of Taiwan, engage in national music-playing.

In 1960, the Arts Center sponsored 49 concerts. During the Music festival, a 7-day concert was held with 416 persons participating in it. At the same time, a 12-day National Music Instruments Pictures Exhibition took place, and the copies of the pictures have been produced. The Chung Hua String Orchestra, Chung Hua Experimental National Music Orchestra and Chung Hua Youth Chorus, all of which were amalgamated into the Arts Center in July 1960, now and then perform and broadcast at the request of any organization.

