

# *Italian Violin Music Culture in Baroque Period*

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**Abstract:** Violin is known as the most vocal instrument in Western instruments, and plays a very important role in Western instruments. Violin plays a major role in Western symphony orchestras and is also competent in solos. Because of its beautiful timbre, wide range and gorgeous craftsmanship, as well as its strong artistic expression and portability, violin has been widely spread all over the world. During Baroque period, humanism thought and music culture aesthetics thought laid the ideological foundation of Italian violin music culture production. The development of science and technology and the progress of musical instrument production technology provided material preparation. During this period, composers, theorists and performers developed Italian violin music culture. It played a key role. During this period, the development of Italian violin music broke away from instrumental music from accompaniment of vocal music and dance, and eventually became independent. It played a catalytic role of the same importance as vocal music. This paper attempts to study the development of Baroque violin music and violin music culture from the perspectives of culture, music history, music aesthetics and music psychology, and concludes that Italian violin music culture in Baroque period has a great influence in the West and even in the world.

## 1. Introduction

Since the emergence of modern violin [1, 2] in the sixteenth century, it has undergone many changes. Famous piano makers and schools have emerged in endlessly. However, only two schools of piano, Stradivari and Guaneri, have been widely imitated and used. Stradivarius Violin and Guaneri violin have become the most widely spread and used violin type nowadays, which has its inevitability with the development of history and meet the requirements of the times. There are slight differences in the production structure between the two schools, which makes them have their own characteristics. Violinists also have different opinions about their use and preferences. For the

violins of these two schools, people pay more attention to the collection of violins from the above masters, or how to make them better imitation, but ignore their impact on the performers.

Among violin performers and learners, there is usually only one violin for performance. The factors of choice are such as timbre, appearance, price, luthier and so on. There are few selective performances based on the differences of different musical styles between the two genres, which provides the value of in-depth study for this paper.

In Europe, the Baroque period [3-5] was in the transitional period from the embryonic stage of Renaissance civilization. During this period, Britain completed the bourgeois revolution, Germany entered the post-war recovery period, Italy was invaded, the church was oppressed, and the political, economic and cultural development of various countries was very unbalanced. As a period of Ideological and cultural transition from Renaissance to Enlightenment, influenced by humanism and rationalism, all art categories are actively seeking their own direction of development in the field of art and exploring ways to further improve artistic expression. This makes the whole field of art full of vitality. On the other hand, with the form of war at the end of the sixteenth century, a large number of new theological and philosophical theories came into being. These theories have further promoted social progress. In this era, the national consciousness and ideas of the bourgeoisie began to take shape, and the emergence of such great thinkers, scientists and writers as Bacon, Galileo, Newton, Shakespeare and Moliere. Under the influence of humanism, the aesthetics of emotional music developed rapidly in Baroque period, and music art [6] gained new vitality. It is mainly reflected in the birth of Italian opera art [7, 8], and gradually spread to the size system of European countries, which has an important impact on the development of European music. With the consolidation of modern harmony theory and the preliminary establishment of modern harmony theory, instrumental music began to be independent of vocal music and dance accompaniment.

In the field of art and culture, musical instruments are the main material form to enhance people's emotional sublimation. It is a static expression of music concept and consciousness in a specific era. Practice has proved that the research on the evolution of tool noumenon and the development of instrumental music culture in a specific era is more conducive to the scientific and dialectical orientation of the development of music culture in this period. Throughout the research status of Baroque music at home and abroad, there is no end to the pure technical analysis and Research on the life and creation of music masters Bach and Handel. In this regard, we have achieved fruitful research results. As for instrumental music, further development is needed if we study the cultural phenomenon of the independent development of Italian violin music culture [9, 10]. And for the current instrumental music teaching, most of the students or parents are eager to prove their performance level through the examination. Most of the teaching modes unilaterally emphasize the professional performance skills and the difficulty of the repertoire, often ignoring the players'ability to understand the music, the ability to feel and the cultivation of the spirit of collective cooperation. One-sided pursuit of simple skill training is not conducive to the cultivation of students'musical perception, understanding and teaching ability. Boring skill training often makes students lose enthusiasm, but also restricts the development of students' humanistic quality, artistic accomplishment and comprehensive ability. Therefore, in the process of teaching, we should strengthen the cultivation of students'music appreciation ability, improve students' music appreciation ability and feeling ability through the study of musical instrument playing, and improve their art accomplishment in an all-round way.

During the Baroque period, Italy's political, economic, cultural and historical background influenced the formation and development of violin music culture. For instrumental music, it is also very important to get rid of the dependency of vocal music and dance accompaniment. In view of

this, this paper attempts to study the formation of Italian violin music culture from the perspectives of culture, music history, music aesthetics and music psychology.

## **2. The Origin and Development of Violin**

### **2.1. Early Violin**

There are many different theories about the origin of violin instruments. As for the predecessor and evolution of violin, from Ravanstron, Rabab, Lili and Rebeck in ancient times to Vielle in early France, Viol in Spain and Lira braccio in soprano and so on. A similar bowstring instruments. Among them, Viole de braccio is the most similar to violin. But according to all kinds of evidence, although Viole and violin have many similarities, because of its light pronunciation, its timbre cannot satisfy people's growing thirst for emotional expression. It is gradually replaced by the bright and melodious sound of violin. It declined in the 17th century, which can only be said to be in the history of musical instruments. The result of "survival of the fittest". From the above, we can see that the birth of violin is the result of the long-term evolution of stringed instruments in history.

Violin, originally from the folk, is very popular among rural festivals and traveling artists for accompaniment of singing and dancing. Today we honor Andrea Amati as the father of the violin. Although it is well known that the violin was not invented by him, the violin would not be so famous without his series of research, transformation and innovation on the violin.

According to the records we can now inquire about, the earliest proof of the appearance of violin is the murals of the Italian painter Benedetto Garofalo 1476/1481-1559 from 1505 to 1508, and the two murals of the painter Gaudenzio Ferrari 1480-1546 from 1529 to 1535. A. Amati's two violins, made in 1542 and 1546, are the earliest violins available in the world. At that time, the violin had only three strings, but because the bass sheep intestinal strings were not sensitive enough, in order to meet the needs of music, the violin added a treble e-string, which became basically the same shape as now, and had four strings.

### **2.2. The Origin and Development of Violin Manufacturing Industry**

The earliest violin performance was very simple and primitive as an accompaniment instrument for singing and dancing. It was later loved by the court nobles and was only used as vocal accompaniment for repeating human voices in religious music. From the 16th century to the 18th century, with the unprecedented prosperity of music and art, Italian violin manufacturing industry developed rapidly.

In the early seventeenth century, the violin began to be used as a solo instrument. After the eighteenth century, the leading position of violin manufacturing industry shifted from Italy to France. Due to the influence of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, nobles and royalty gradually declined and violin came out of court and church. Entering the new opera house and concert hall, the performances which can be appreciated by more people have been carried out. Music forms have gradually become diverse, and the violin has undergone a series of improvements through the joint efforts of performers and producers under the influence of many factors, such as the change and improvement of performance venues and skills needs. In order to achieve greater volume and better sound quality and performance. If the length of the neck and fingerboard of the violin is lengthened, the angle of the neck is adjusted, the height of the piano code is raised, the bass beam is lengthened and thicker, the sound column is thicker, and the strings made of nylon and

metal wire are used instead of the sheep intestinal strings, the bow is also reformed in a series to obtain greater tension.

By the end of the eighteenth century, music academies specializing in training musical talents began to emerge one after another in Europe. Their emergence has greatly increased the demand for violin, which has also promoted the development of machine-made piano industry. Violin has undergone a series of changes, and finally finalized. Because it is widely spread all over the world, people mostly make violins based on the prototype of Italian masters. In modern piano making, because some materials and techniques have been lost, many violin makers have developed good new types to meet the needs of different groups of people, besides those who completely follow the ancient methods and styles of piano making. But most of them are on the basis of the Style and Gua-style piano, and they are refined with their own characteristics. In order to show that their works are based on the prototype of a famous artist and piano, many producers not only imitate their appearance, but also affix corresponding labels to the belly of the piano.

### 2.3. Progress in Instrument Manufacturing Technology

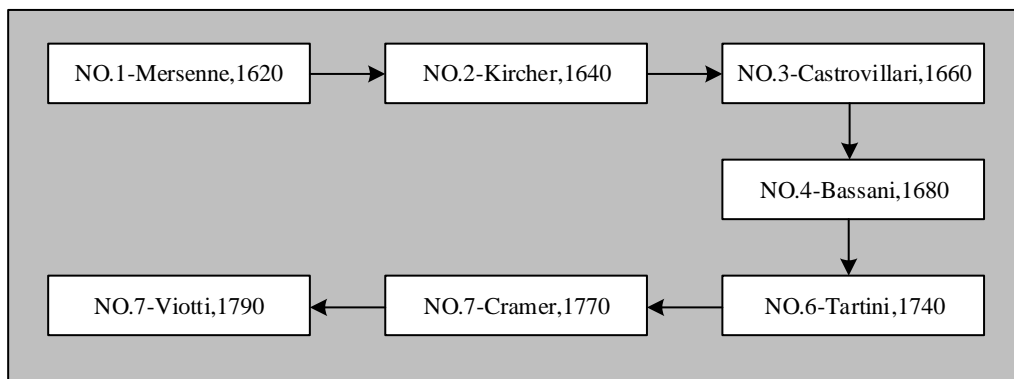
Italian violin production process is world famous. At the beginning of the 17th century, violin music culture became a mainstream entertainment. This phenomenon has further stimulated the development of the piano industry, and the production process of musical instruments has gradually matured and improved. In the production of the bow, "the bow in Baroque period is not as curved as it is now, showing a trend of linear increase; at this time, the bow has a tailstock, but it does not have the function of adjusting the bow shape; the bow hairs are wider and wider". During this period, there are no clear criteria for the weight and length of the bow, but it depends on the archer's own unique criteria. Generally speaking, the bow length is relatively short, as shown in Figure 1.



Baroque bow

*Figure 1. Samples of bows from the Baroque period*

In 1660, Castrovillari bowed upward and bent his bow. In 1680, Bassani tried to raise it. Beginning with the Basani bow, we also saw the tendency of the bow to be straightened. In 1730, the bow became longer and straighter, thus increasing the intensity of the performance and making the timbre more durable. At this point, the shape of the bow has begun to take shape. In the 1980s, Savio changed the shape of the bow. The concave bow he made was heated and bent into the desired arc. It becomes more flexible and does not deform easily. The number of bows and bows has its own criteria, usually between 150 and 200. The bow is shaped like an axe or goose head. This flexible bow is more convenient in slingshots, jumping bows and bows and arrows. The evolution of the bow is shown in detail in Figure 2.



*Figure 2. Evolution of the bow*

The fingerboard of violin in the late 18th century was not long, so the scope of performance was obviously limited. The requirement of piano timbre and scope is also higher and higher. Therefore, the violin system must be modified. Marshall and Bagtra were representatives of many piano mechanics in the second half of the eighteenth century. The idea of adapting these old violins to solo music undoubtedly attracted a steady stream of harps and carnivals. During this period, the performance tones were brighter and crisper, and broader sound was played. As a result, the production process improved the previous production of high neck, very low bridge and short fingerboard, using pure intestine. With the innovation of performance techniques, solo Concertos and Concertos require strong violin volume to complete the solo part. Moreover, it can compete with the tone of the symphony orchestra, and the ever-changing violin sound standard also puts forward a new violin making violin. At this point, the body is no longer long, and the panel is made of lighter pine. The beautiful maple used on the backplane is 6mm thick, the neck begins to tilt towards the backboard, and the bridge increases... These changes make the violin sound brighter, more resonant, and a perfect combination of sound quality and sound. Most of the most popular Violins in the 19th and 20th centuries came from the masters of the 17th and 18th centuries, especially the violin of Cremona's famous piano maker. It's still a treasure in the main auction, and it's a classic. The progress of the violin production process has created objective conditions for the technical innovation of violin. The value of excellent piano to performers is incalculable. It can express the voice of musicians' hearts and play with their families to achieve perfect performance, so they not only become musicians' hearts, but also the crystallization of human wisdom and labor.

### 3. The Development of Italian Violin Music Culture in Baroque Period

Culture is created by human beings. The development and progress of society makes people choose to create culture independently, which meets the requirements of social development. Cultural heritage has always been a choice, but the choice can not be based on inheritance. During the Baroque period, instrumental music was re-focused by the world because of its unique artistic charm, and developed into an equally important position with vocal music at that time. Especially the development of Italian violin music culture has greatly promoted the development of people's spiritual civilization, improved people's literacy, and made the type of musical instruments develop. In addition, it has a far-reaching impact on the development of strings in European countries in the same period.

### 3.1. The Germination of Italian Violin Music Culture

In Europe, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment were two great ideological liberation movements, and the emerging bourgeoisie challenged the old order. As a city with a history of 100 years, a high degree of "urban autonomy" has created conditions for the emergence of the new bourgeoisie. With the rise of the Renaissance, Italy experienced an unexpected upsurge of art with its profound cultural connotation, which had a profound impact on European art. With the development of music art, the birth of highly integrated musical types in Florence, Italy, has a direct impact on the development of violin culture.

During this period, the separation and imitation of vocal and instrumental music in music practice, the violin characteristics of the voice near the violin, and the incomparable broad advantages of the voice, the role of the violin in the creation of tunes is growing, making the Italian violin culture develop greatly. With the enhancement of violin in opera, the progress of violin production and the influence of emotional music, the emergence of Koleri and Vivaldi and other excellent violinists has created conditions for the independent development of violin music.

### 3.2. Teaching and Musical Documentation

Violin teaching is an important way to inherit and develop the art of violin playing. At the end of this century, a guide to the study of violin playing skills began to appear. But during this period, the level of violin teaching is still in its infancy. As this year, the author of the book "Basic Violin Course" and the German novel in this book will leave the piano and bow to the imagination of students. Violin research in this period was mostly created by amateurs. Strangely, Italy, the most influential violinist of the time, had few articles on the development of Italian technology. I wrote a book about Lurie, a professional performance of French violinists in this era, and its introduction was limited to dance music. There is no doubt that it had a certain impact on the development of Italian violin art at that time and later. The publication of this paper, on the one hand, has made the violin more valuable and more important. It has shifted technology from closed development to public development, and began to pay attention to professional performance.

Although the music literature of violin teaching and performance art is relatively poor, precious literature still promotes the inheritance and development of violin playing technology and the dissemination of violin art. On the other hand, it plays a guiding role in the systematic learning of other instruments.

### 3.3. Music Cultural Exchange

As early as the 1960s, the style of violin composition has been widely spread in Italy. As northern Italy was invaded repeatedly by the French army, there was little reliable documentation because of the lack of a stable environment for creating and preserving documents. According to Jabbard Fair, "Except for those who depend on it, people are rarely known."

In France, according to the records of that year, the French at that time had some knowledge of bowstring. During the year, several Italian bands performed in Paris. In the same year, the violin Orchestra led by Biojoks came to France from Milan. According to a large number of historical facts, due to the influence of Italy, in the middle of this century, France established a band: 9 in 1547, 8 in 1551 and 11 in 1552. After 1580, the violin family began to unravel the combination. About 1600, town waiters, theatre bands and junior musicians began to play these instruments. The

Roppe family in England made violins for the courts from 1540 to 1642. In the 1960s, some violin enthusiasts went directly to get the development of violin culture. For example, members of the Aldes family from Cremona, initially employed by the Duke of Vienna in the Vienna Court of Justice, arrived in Weimar in 1569 and moved to Innsbruck from 1570 to 1580. It has been active in the black forest of Hechingen since 1581.

We examine violin music culture from a historical and cultural perspective. Its development is closely related to the development of the times, the change of people's ideas and aesthetic tastes. In every stage of social development, it plays a very important role in people's real life. It not only greatly enriched the social and cultural life of the people at that time, but also made great contributions to promoting the autonomous development of instrumental music and the exchange and dissemination of music culture in European countries. For the healthy development of music culture in later Europe, the richness of social culture played a prelude.

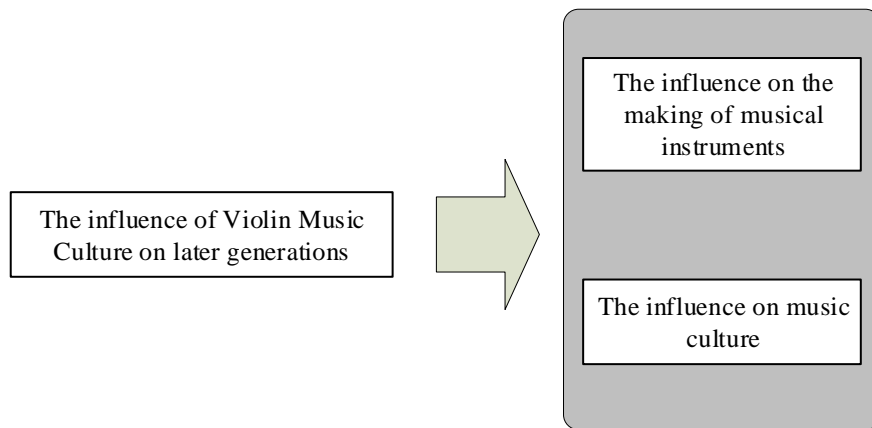
#### **4. The Impact of Italian Violin Music Culture on the Development of European Music**

Italian violin music occupies a very important position in the history of European music. Its formation and development not only affected the development trend of European instrumental music, people's aesthetic taste, but also affected the development of music schools. In addition, it has a positive impact on professional music education mode, teaching philosophy, teaching system and the development of European violin music.

##### **4.1. The Influence of Italian Violin Music Culture in Baroque Period on Later Generations**

During the Baroque period, Italian music culture showed extraordinary prosperity, which had a decisive impact on the development of contemporary and late European music. Since the Middle Ages, instrumental music, which has been in a dependency position, began to break away from the accompaniment of vocal music and dance in this period. Italian violin music gave birth to the emergence of special musical and cultural phenomena in this period. In practice, it may take a long time to explore the true independence of instrumental music. The reason is directly related to the development of opera, the level of scientific and Technological Development and the advantages of violin itself. For example, the development of opera art must rely on abundant instrumental sound and timbre to meet the emotional needs of the world, which has a certain impact on the rise of instrumental music. In the creation of opera, the mutual imitation of vocal and instrumental music and the characteristics of close vocal make violin more concerned. With the demand of the new middle class for secular music, the social background of secularization of Violin and its small size and portability are to a certain extent, which also help it stand out from musical instruments, and ultimately its development has a profound impact on the development trend of European music culture. The main impact is shown in Figure 3.

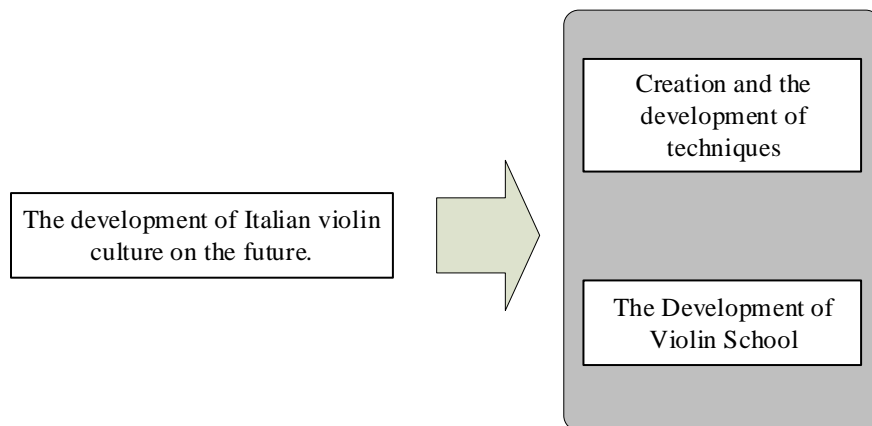




*Figure 3. The influence of violin music culture on future generations*

#### 4.2. The Development of Italian Violin Culture in Baroque Period

Violin has been developing for about 500 years, from baroque, classical and romantic music to modern music. You can see that the violin occupies an important position that cannot be replaced by any other instrument. For example, the perception of polyphonic thinking in Bach's violin music, the innocent and pure "voice of angels" in Mozart music, Beethoven's logic and enthusiasm, Delong's "beauty", Tchaikovsky's "sadness" and "freedom" in jazz music. With the evolution of Italian violin art, along with the development of sacred poetry, simulated voice, independent singing and high charm, it has effectively promoted the progress of musical instrument production, the development of music creation and technology, and the formation of violin school, which has produced a far-reaching impact on stringed art in Europe and the world. Ring. The main impact is shown in Figure 4.



*Figure 4. Violin Culture's Development to Future Generations*

#### 4.3. Old Piano and New Piano

French acoustics researcher Claudia Fritz has published a study on the sound of old and new pianos. The study used the original antiques of Stradivari and Guauri and the new violin made in modern times, blinding the professional violinist and testing whether the distinction between the old and the new piano can be distinguished. However, the test results show that these violinists cannot



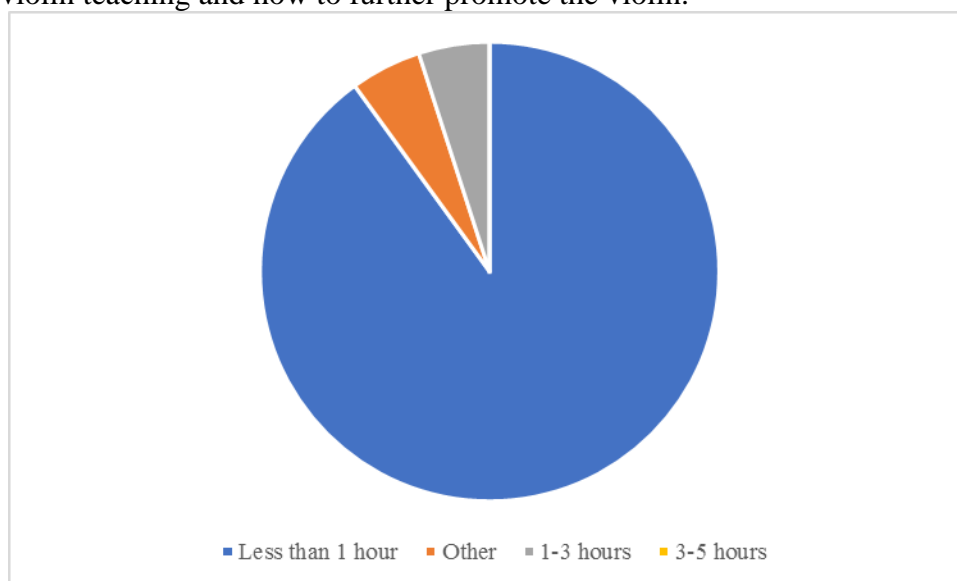
be clearly identified.

It is undeniable that the old piano is not only more collectible, but its tone is also more stable after a long period of accumulation, full of its unique charm and charm. Those who have played the old piano and the new piano know that the old piano is easier to use. However, the added value of the old piano is higher, and subsequent maintenance and maintenance is a small expense.

Violin players generally believe that the sound of the new violin is more penetrating and propagating than the old one, but the sound of the new piano will change more or less in the first few years, but as long as it is properly maintained, the sound is still Very malleable. The new piano with a strong and healthy sound has become more of a choice for today's violin lovers.

## 5. Experiments

Violin teaching is an important way to inherit and develop the violin performance art. Discuss some common problems, such as the collection of basic information (the reasons for learning piano, the time for practicing piano, etc.); the understanding of relevant knowledge of works; the comparison of learning difficulty between familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music by students; the rest habits of students during piano practice; the students' perception of works; whether they have their own understanding and understanding of them. Favorite musicians, kinds of music enjoyed in daily life, habits and concepts of violin practice were investigated to further understand the current situation of violin teaching and how to further promote the violin.



*Figure 5. Daily practice time*

Figure. 5 is a survey of middle school students' daily practice time. It can be seen that 90 respondents' practice time is less than one hour.

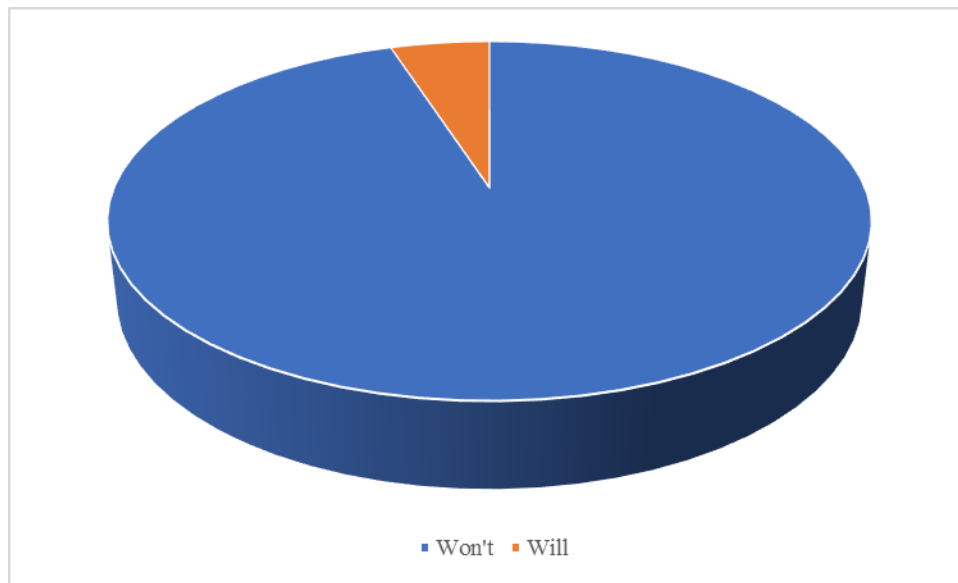


Figure 6. Whether to actively understand the background knowledge of the work

Students' active learning and understanding of Italian violin-related knowledge in Baroque period can be seen from Figure. 5 and 6 that for the study of new works, most of the students participating in the survey will not actively understand the background and related knowledge of the works before learning, only a small part will actively find and understand. After interviewing the teachers, we found out that the reason is that "the children in the Children's Palace are younger and shallower, mainly with teachers' lectures in class. Of course, the older and the better ones will take the initiative to understand, but less." It can be seen that nearly 90% of the students have not formed the habit of deeply understanding the works in the process of learning, and music knowledge is difficult to fully expand, which easily hinders the improvement of students' music literacy.

Figure 7 mainly investigates whether students find mistakes and correct them themselves in the course of playing, or whether teachers correct more mistakes in class.

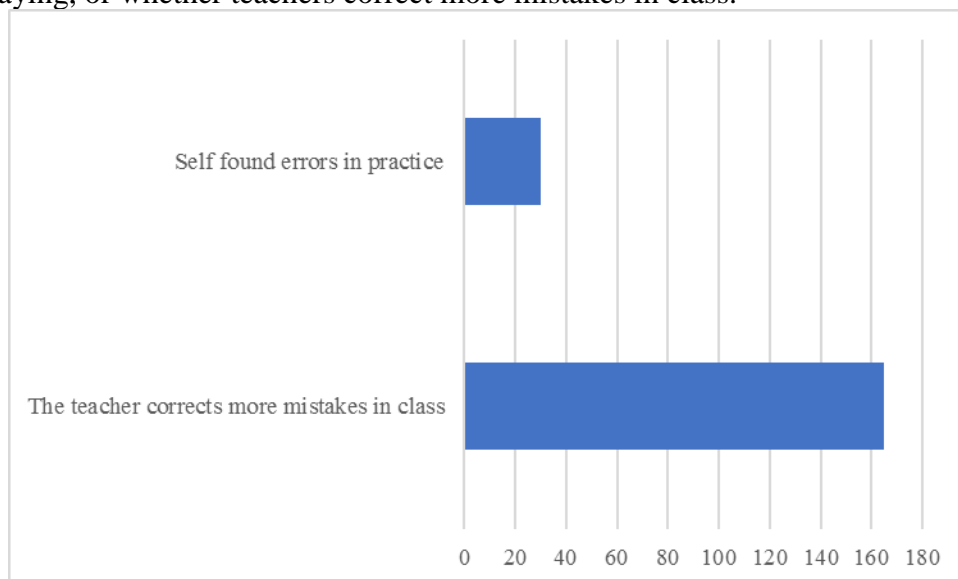


Figure 7. Error correction

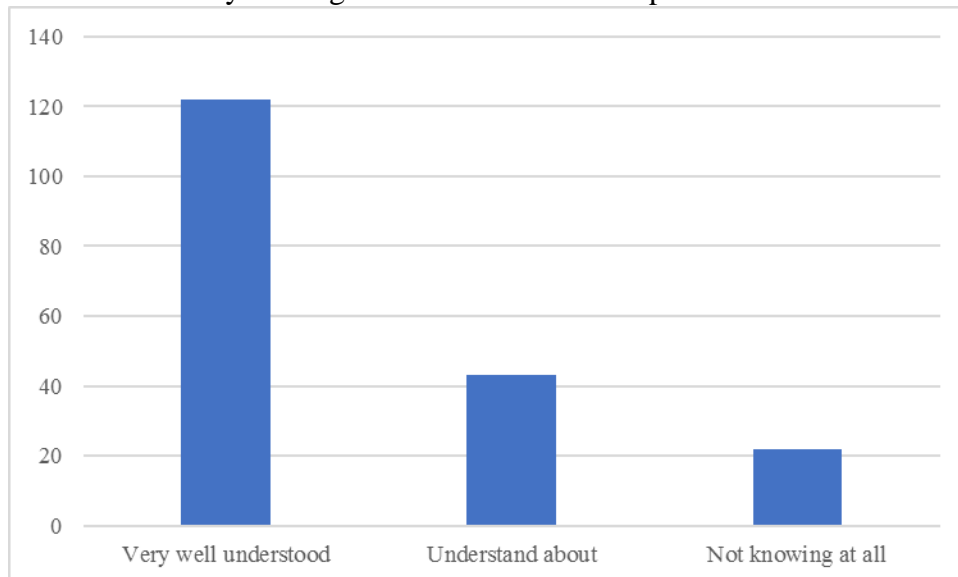
The survey results show that a small number of students think that they can find problems and correct them in the course of practice. Most students are corrected by teachers in class. In the course of interviews with teachers, we know that most of the time in the course of class is basically used to correct mistakes. This shows that students often neglect or fail to find their own playing errors in the course of practice. This situation is mainly caused by the lack of the habit of listening and imitating more and not familiar with the works. If after-class exercises make mistakes but do not know it, it will inevitably lead to waste of time in correcting mistakes in class, which will affect the teaching progress and at the same time is not conducive to the cultivation of students' musical sense ability.

Then, by investigating music education students, they can understand the Italian violin music culture in Baroque period.

*Table 1. A questionnaire survey on the understanding of Italian violin music culture in baroque period*

|                   | Total number | Know it very well. | Percentage | Understand about | Percentage | Not knowing at all | Percentage |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Music Education 1 | 39           | 25                 | 64.10      | 10               | 25.64      | 4                  | 10.26      |
| music education 2 | 50           | 35                 | 70         | 11               | 22         | 4                  | 8          |
| music education 3 | 49           | 32                 | 65.31      | 12               | 24.49      | 5                  | 10.2       |
| music education 4 | 49           | 30                 | 61.22      | 10               | 20.41      | 9                  | 18.38      |

Figure 8 can be obtained by making a statistic of the whole profession.



*Figure 8. Understanding of Italian violin music culture in baroque period*

As can be seen from Table 1 and Figure 8, most students majoring in music education are very familiar with the Italian violin music culture during the Baroque period. Only a few students do not understand it, but we have taught most of them to understand Italian violin music culture during the

Baroque period. To understand the development and influence of Italian violin music culture in Baroque period.

## 6. Conclusion

The Italian violin music culture in Baroque period was formed under the background of Renaissance and its development and perfection. It laid the foundation for the development of violin culture in Europe and had a great influence on the independent development of instrumental music. This paper mainly analyses the development of violin music culture in this period from the aspects of the evolution of violin form, the development of violin music and the characteristics of violin music culture. Then it explores the far-reaching influence of this "culture" on the development of European music. Baroque's Italian violin music occupies a very important position in the history of European music. It was not only an outstanding representative at the same time, but also played a decisive role in the development of violin music in European countries at that time. The research on it will not only help to understand the development of violin art more deeply, but also help to clarify the relationship between music development and social culture and aesthetic psychology. And a more comprehensive understanding of the development trend of European music culture at that time. Through the analysis of Italian violin music culture in this period, the paper reveals the problems of the development of specific social culture and music culture, and the relationship between Italian violin music culture and the independent development and prosperity of instrumental music. This proves that Italian violin music culture formed in Baroque period and influenced the history of European music. And it can also promote violin music culture through teaching.

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## Data Availability

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analysed in this study.

## Conflict of Interest

The author states that this article has no conflict of interest.

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