

Improving musical skills for members of military band unit of Indonesian Army in administrative officer military area command IV Diponegoro Semarang

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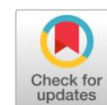
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ABSTRACT

Military music has a very significant role in every military event and government activity such as national ceremonies, important military ceremonies, and internal military activities. Military music also functions as a signal giver to high-ranking leaders such as the President and his staff, the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, Generals, and high commanders in the military. Since music is important within military units, a special unit called a military band unit was formed with the task of organizing military music activities and providing military music services to arouse a spirit of nationalism, professionalism, and patriotism for the personnel of the Indonesian National Armed Forces. The phenomenon that occurs in the military band unit is that not all personnel, especially the Army, have an academic background in music. Members from several units such as combat units can only play wind and percussion instruments but do not understand the basic techniques of music and playing musical instruments. This is because some members join the band unit due to the lack of personnel in the unit, and it is added to the high demands of members who are able to play music well. The solution to addressing this problem is to organize training to improve the musical skills of members of the military band unit, namely (1) reading and writing musical notation, (2) correct techniques in playing musical instruments, especially wind and percussion instruments, and (3) maintenance of musical instruments that are used daily.



KEYWORDS

Musical skills
Military music
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Military area command
Administration IV Diponegoro



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1. Introduction

The military is closely related to defense and security. It has several functions in maintaining state sovereignty, namely protecting and providing front-line defense if the nation is on the verge of problems [1]. The Indonesian military is divided into three units: the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. The military is a state security unit as a war and defense force for the country, which is formed and regulated by law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Armed Forces [2]. Law number 25 of 2014 explains the law on military discipline that military members are the strength of the armed forces, which is regulated in the law [3]. As the main duties and functions of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, each military member must possess a high attitude of discipline as the most significant requirement in carrying out the duties and obligations in maintaining national defense and security [4]. The Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang is the executing agency of the Military Area Command which is directly under the Military Area Commander. The main task of the Military Area Command Administration is organizing and implementing the management of personnel administration, general administration, and moral welfare in support of the Military Area Command. One of the units within the Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro is a military band unit that has the main task of organizing military music in ceremonial activities both inside and outside of the Military Area Command as well as any other military activities.

The functions and purposes of military music are to arouse the enthusiasm of the soldiers, maintain morale, and instill a spirit of patriotism and nationalism within every soldier during their duties. There are

several types of military band units for the Indonesian Army, namely type A with 106 personnel, type B with 80 personnel, and type C with 40 personnel. The military band unit at Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro falls under the type B category, namely 80 personnel consisting of 6 officers, 38 non-commissioned officers, and 36 recruits led by a major acting as the commander of the military band unit. The development of military music is in the form of marching bands, ensembles, brass bands, and orchestras adapted to their functions and uses [5]. The members of the military band unit must be able to organize military music in any format. The members of the military band unit must be able to organize military music in any format. Both military band units and Moral Welfare must be able to organize entertainment in the form of music, gamelan, and dance when there is an event that requires entertainment. As stated by Herbert, military music, aside from being a ceremonial accompaniment by playing brass and percussion instruments to arouse the spirit of patriotism, military music can also be used to provide entertainment and express sympathy as well as expression in art [6]. In this case, the military band unit at the Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang needs to be creative in developing music either in the form of marching bands, brass bands, gamelan, or orchestras.

The daily routine that becomes the task of the members of the military band unit is practicing military music. Military music practices are divided based on the mapping of military band unit type B, namely individual practice according to their own musical instrument specialty and group practice led by the lead of the brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. After doing the group practice, a joint practice is carried out by combining all musical instruments. The commander or the deputy commander of the military band unit is in charge of leading the joint practices and also becomes the conductor of military music. The members of the military band unit must practice maximally for the sake of optimum performance of music in accompanying ceremonial and military events. In addition to practicing music, the members of the military band unit also conduct musical marching training and musical formations to professionally support the implementation of military music. The commander or the deputy commander of the military band unit is responsible for leading the military music as a whole. The commander must be equipped with good music knowledge and leadership, which is shown in serving as a conductor in military music activities. The conductor in military music must also be able to lead the musical performance by mastering the conducting techniques and understanding the commands of the commander of the ceremony and the MC in ceremonial activities. Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro is located on Perintis Kemerdekaan Street, Banyumanik, Semarang City, Jawa Tengah, and it is inside the environment of the Military Area Command IV Diponegoro Semarang.

The problem faced by the members of the military band unit is that not all of them have an academic background in music. There are only a few members that have attended music school, either in vocational school or higher education level, before entering the military. Since the needs and demands of the military band unit type B of having 80 members must be met, several military members from various units, such as the combat unit, who have musical skills, are recruited to join the military band unit. It makes the task of the military band unit more difficult, which is to train the newly recruited members to be able to play military music. Some members have to adapt to new tasks as a band unit that is no less important than other units. The military band unit is obliged to organize music optimally and play musical instruments correctly according to the standards that have been determined in the regulations of the Manuscript of the Army's Military Music Department. The Members of the military band unit are provided with musical instrument facilities as support in conducting daily practices. The military musical instruments used are trumpets, trombones, sousaphones, saxophones, clarinets, drums, snare drums, and timpanis [7]. The members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces with a high spirit of esprit de corps must be ready to take on assignments and responsibilities in any form related to military and state interests [8]. This becomes the basis for the enthusiasm of the members of the military band unit to practice music every day in order to organize military music and be ready to perform music at any time if there is a command [9]. As a basis for the enthusiasm of the members of the band unit, the Head of Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro and the commander of the military band unit in Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro want to collaborate and cooperate with academics, especially music academics, to be able to provide military music training starting from basic music theory, reading musical notation, playing brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments, up to maintenance of musical instruments in accordance with military music standards that have been determined and became the main tasks of military music for the Indonesian Army. The community service team will contribute by providing training in basic music theory and techniques for playing wind and percussion instruments as well as playing ensemble music. In this regard, it will have a direct impact and implication on military music soldiers, who will have better mastery of music theory in reading musical notation and possess the skills

to play military musical instruments correctly. During the training period, military music soldiers will truly begin to master and understand music theory, enabling them to carry out their duties in military music performance more professionally.

2. Method

This community service utilized demonstration and participatory methods with the aim that the members of the band unit become more active in participating in the training. The demonstration method is a teaching method that shows how something works. The teacher practiced the theory from the material distributed to students one by one [10]. One thing that needs to be noticed in carrying out the demonstrations is that all students must be able to pay attention (observe) to the object being demonstrated [11]. A participatory approach was used in this community service with the aim of increasing community direct participation in various processes and implementations [12], [13]. The activities carried out were focused on empowering all members of the band unit, including coaches and musicians. By being more empowered, members of the Army's military band unit can improve their skills, abilities, and productivity.

On the contrary, the fostered partners actively participate in all activities so that they not only know and understand but are also skilled in carrying out the main functions and duties of organizing military music in the future. This community service was implemented using several methods, namely community education, science and technology diffusion, consultation, assistance, and dissemination of results [14]. Community education (counseling) was conducted with the aim of increasing the knowledge and insights of partners in organizing military music for the Indonesian Army. Science and technology diffusion was carried out through training to impart musical skills to partners in organizing military music. Consultations and assistance are done periodically to foster and accompany partners until they are successful in understanding music theory, reading musical notation, playing wind and percussion instruments, and being skilled in playing military music as a team within the music unit.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Training in Basic Music Theory

Members who serve in the Military Band Unit have to prepare their musical skills, such as mastering basic music theory, reading musical notation, and playing military musical instruments, see Fig. 1. Basic music theory is important because military music has standardization that has been predetermined in the Manuscript of the Military Music Department. Knowledge of music theory not only explores music theory, harmony, orchestration, the science of musical analysis, acoustics and organology, and musical aesthetics, but also various singing mastery and experience of playing instruments both individually and in ensembles [15], [16]. Several music aspects become important as a provision of knowledge that is mandatory for soldiers serving in the military band unit. Music soldiers possess a great responsibility in organizing military music wherever they are assigned. In this community service, members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces in the military band unit at Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang receive basic music theory training.

Music theory includes an understanding of reading and writing musical notation which includes the note values in each beat applied in rhythmic patterns of military songs. There are several stages in this basic music theory training. First is providing material about major and minor scales. The material is written in musical notation because it follows the standardization of military music, namely mastering musical notation. After understanding the major and minor scales, members of the Indonesian military practice reading and writing them into the staves that have been prepared. This training requires high concentration so that every member of the Indonesian National Armed Forces in the military band unit can understand basic music theory as well as possible. Mastery of basic music theory is a must for all soldiers serving in the Military Band Unit. Similar to members who were previously assigned to combat units and any other units, they are required to study and practice seriously so that the main duties of the Military Band Unit can be carried out properly. In this training, there are many obstacles, especially the members who just recently learned about basic music theory. However, with high enthusiasm, the soldiers can take part in this basic music theory training very well and enthusiastically.



Fig 1. Training in Reading Musical Notation

The purpose of this training process is to make the trainers and members of the military band unit able to read musical notation and apply it to the musical instruments being played. This material enrichment also includes appreciation activities in the form of listening to rhythmic patterns of military songs to broaden the knowledge of the members of the military band unit in reading and writing musical notation [17]. This appreciation activity can be a provision for carrying out military music training in the form of marching bands, brass bands, ensembles, and other types of music as entertainment music in the military. This musical notation reading training is specifically intended for members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces in the military band unit who have just joined or been assigned to the Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Military Band Unit. This training certainly contributes a lot to the members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces who are just learning the musical instruments, which has become their task. During the training process, the members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces also learn to read and memorize every note in both major and minor scales. After the military music soldiers are able to master basic music theory, they apply it to the musical instruments. Before the members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces play the musical instruments, the members are asked to sing because a musician is obligated to master songs by singing them. The members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces sing the Indonesian National Armed Forces march song together so that each individual understands the song well that will be played using a musical instrument, see Fig. 2. In this training, the community service team provides an active learning model for military music soldiers to carry out their daily duties. The daily duties performed by the personnel in the Military Band Unit include music rehearsals and music training with new song materials prepared for each activity agenda. In this regard, eventually, the community service team provides input related to the learning activities, specifically focusing on the use of media that can enhance the effectiveness of music training. Learning media are crucial for the trainees participating in the learning process. It is designed to make it easier for participants to engage in learning activities [18]. Learning media that can be used in the Military Band Unit include notation music books with stave lines and keyboard, which can assist military music soldiers in ear training or solfeggio exercises.



Fig 2. Members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces Singing the Indonesian National Armed Forces March Song Together

3.2. Training in Playing Brass and Woodwind Instruments

In simple terms, a wind band unit in military music is a type of band consisting of members from woodwind instruments, metal wind (brass) instruments, and percussion [18], [19]. Military music is often associated with marching bands that perform while standing and marching in formation, unlike orchestras, which use string instruments in their performances. Woodwind and brass instruments have different characteristics, ranging from the way they are blown, played, and sound. Woodwind instruments can be both transposing and non-transposing. Transposing instruments are those that do not have a starting pitch of C major, like the piano, but have a fundamental pitch that is higher or lower than C major [20]. Given the variety of wind instruments, specific training is required to play woodwind and brass instruments for military music soldiers after they have completed basic music theory and notation reading training. After understanding music theory and musical notation, the members of the military band unit who have been assigned to play wind instruments receive special training in basic wind instrument techniques, which must be mastered by the members. The music format that is widely used in military music is an instrumental form without a singer, so the musical instruments, especially melodic instruments, must be mastered really well [21], [22]. During the wind instrument training process, the groups are divided into two, namely woodwind instrument training and brass instrument training. The community service team provides training in basic wind instrument techniques, playing scales, playing several etudes works for basic practice, and playing military songs. Etude is a work of musical composition created specifically to train music-playing skills with various forms of playing techniques [23].

Individual practice is a practice that must be carried out by each member to master a musical instrument, which must be truly mastered [24]. In the process of individual training, the members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces are guided by the community service team, starting from how to correctly blow into the instruments, breathing exercises, mastering scales on wind instruments, and practicing blowing into the instruments by reading musical notation sheet quickly or also known as sight reading. Sight-reading, sometimes also referred to as sight playing, is the activity of playing a piece of music at first sight (a prima vista) without looking at the score first [25], [26]. After mastering individual musical instruments, the training is continued by practicing wind instruments in small groups, which are divided into woodwind instruments and brass instruments, and then followed by a large group practice when the personnel play all wind instruments together according to the scores. Sectional training based on the same musical instruments within small groups assists military musicians in practicing according to their respective instruments. Initially, the division is made based on similar instruments, such as trumpets with trumpets, trombones with trombones, and saxophones with saxophones. Once musicians playing the same instruments have mastered their instruments, the next practice is sectional training with instruments of the same type, where brass wind instruments practice together and woodwind instruments practice together, see Fig 3. This small-group sectional training is a training model commonly used in orchestral music.



Fig 2. Training in Playing Brass and Woodwind Instruments

3.3. Training in Playing Percussion Instruments

Military music has a march-like musical form where wind instruments typically dominate over percussion instruments. In all military activities, whether ceremonies or military ceremonies, the music is very distinct, featuring wind instruments and percussion [27]. Percussion instruments play a crucial role in maintaining rhythmic patterns in every military song. The soldiers' precise marching movements are

synchronized with each rhythmic beat and the pronounced dynamics. Recognizing the importance of percussion instruments in the military context, the community service team provides fundamental training in playing the percussion instruments used in the military band units. The percussion instruments used by the military band unit type B are glockenspiels, timpanis (kettledrums), bass drums, cymbals, tenor drums, and parade drums. Each member will be given training in stages, namely individual training techniques which include rhythmic exercises, and beating techniques. Training in percussion instruments is conducted in several stages, namely understanding the beats correctly in the forms of rhythmic patterns starting from the full tone length of 4 beats, $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 beats, $\frac{1}{4}$ 1 beat, $\frac{1}{8}$ half beat, $\frac{1}{16}$ beat, and $\frac{1}{32}$ beat. This basic technique must be mastered by the members of the military band unit whose job is to play percussion instruments. If one of the members does not understand the beat, it will be fatal to the performance of the music and will be dishonorable in military activities. After understanding the tone length, the members are trained to play by reading the musical notation in military music scores in accordance with the standardization of Indonesian Army military music.

The process of training in percussion instruments is also assisted by the deputy commander of the military band unit, Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro, and several members of the band with a background in music education. Training in percussion instruments is carried out simultaneously by playing the bass drums, cymbals, and tenor drums. Rhythmic patterns are the basis for playing percussion instruments. When the members of the percussion section are able to master rhythmic patterns correctly, the military music being played will be stronger in terms of the tempo and dynamics of the song. The next stage is playing the song at the correct tempo. This training uses examples from the Indonesian National Armed Forces march song and the Indonesian Army march song. The percussionist plays the marching song at the right tempo, not too fast and not too slow, see Fig 4. Musical tempo is an important fundamental for a song because it regulates the speed of the song [28], [29]. It means that, in this case, the percussionist in military music controls the tempo of the song. The percussionist also needs to understand the dynamics of the songs. In this training, the members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces who play percussion instruments are trained to play military songs of the march genre using good dynamics. All songs are not necessarily always played hard but sometimes need to be played gently according to the song and the dynamics of the song in the score. Military music has a manly and masculine impression, so when all personnel have good musical skills, such as mastering the notation, tempo, and dynamics of the song, the marching song can be played with the right interpretation.



Fig. 4. Training in Playing Percussion Instruments

3.4. Joint Military Music Training

After conducting sectional training on musical instruments, and the members have understood the musical instruments individually, the next training is practicing together. Group music practice is conducted outdoors so that the sound produced can be measured dynamically. The joint music practice is led by the conductor of one of the military band officers, Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro. Several technical matters need to be noticed in the joint military music training, namely, playing music in an ensemble. All players must be able to listen to other music players, meaning that everyone can control the dynamics of each musical instrument being played so that the performance will be more harmonious and comfortable to listen to. The first song that is played in this military music training is the Indonesian National Armed Forces march song, which becomes the strength of the Indonesian National Armed Forces songs throughout Indonesia. This Indonesian National Armed Forces march song is one of the songs that must be played correctly by members of the military band unit in the

environment of both the military area command and military region command [30]. Each region has its own type of military music, namely, type A is the presidential security force military music, type B is military music in the military area command, and type C is military music in the military region command. All types of military music are differentiated based on the number of personnel serving in the military band unit.

The military band unit at Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang is type B military music. Members of the military band are required to be ready if assigned anywhere in organizing military music, such as ceremonies at the Governor's office and the government offices that are within the area of military area command IV Diponegoro. Due to the tough task as in other units, military music also has a very important function and role, which is to organize music at major ceremonial activities. Cohesiveness in a team is a big concern in playing musical instruments. The conductor has a very significant role in leading military music because it will be fatal if one or more players do not focus during the playing military music duty, see Fig 5. In this community service program, joint music training is focused on the readiness to play musical instruments and to carry their respective musical instruments, song tempo, and song dynamics. The conductor or military music leader has special instructions for getting the members' attention. It is different from the conductor or orchestral music leader in general. The members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces all stand up to play military musical instruments using small stand parts and small sheet music that has been designed to be used to play wind instruments. After the conductor gives the instruction, the military music begins to play a repertoire of songs according to the conductor's instruction. This training focuses on training members of the military band unit to play at the correct tempo. Military music soldiers are also trained to play with the dynamics, such as certain parts of wind instruments must be played loudly, certain parts of percussion instruments must be played loudly, and certain parts of songs must be played simultaneously with the same dynamics of the song. In this training, military music soldiers must focus not only on the musical instruments that are played individually but also on other musical instruments in the group.



Fig. 5. Military Music Training

4. Conclusion

Music in the military has a highly significant function and role. Music becomes part of the military with the existence of a special unit, namely the Military Band Unit. The Military Band Unit is on duty every day at the Administrative Officer Military Area Command. Each Military Area Command has a military band unit that is in charge of organizing military music in both the military and civilian environments. This music training involved the members of the military band unit in the Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang. This community service is a form of collaboration between the military with higher education academics. It received great support from Universitas Negeri Semarang and the Head of the Military Area Command Administration IV Diponegoro Semarang to conduct training that supports the military band unit to be more professional in playing musical instruments. The training in military music includes basic music theory training activities such as technique in reading musical notation, technical training in playing woodwind and brass instruments, training in playing percussion instruments, and joint military music training. As a result of this training, the military music soldiers gained a lot of music knowledge both in reading and writing musical notation and playing music by understanding tempo and dynamics. Military music soldiers at the Military Area Command

Administration IV Diponegoro can properly interpret the Indonesian National Armed Forces march song and Indonesian Army march song with good intonation, appropriate tempo, and dynamics in harmony with the music scores being played.

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