

# **THE CURRENT CONDITION OF HÁT XẨM IN OUR COUNTRY, SOLUTIONS FOR PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Hát Xẩm is a type of Vietnamese folk song popular in the Northern delta and the Midlands. According to recorded archives, Hát Xẩm appeared at the end of the 13th century. However, over time Hát Xẩm has virtually disappeared, only occasionally heard on radio and on stages for entertainment. At the same time, Hát Xẩm does retain some popularity among clubs or small groups of people. There also exist a number of Hát Xẩm training centers providing certifications such as Trung tâm Phát Triển Nghệ Thuật Việt Nam (Vietnam Art Development Center) and Trung tâm âm Nhạc Truyền Thống Thăng Long (Thăng Long Traditional Music Center).

In this essay the author discusses the current status of Hát Xẩm today, including professional training of Xẩm; free performances of Xẩm on stage; and the young people who are living and working with Xẩm. The question arises, is Hát Xẩm a professional musical art form. After an analysis of the current situation, the author will offer solutions to preserve and promote the values of Hát Xẩm and development strategies for Hát Xẩm clubs in the country.

Keywords: conservation, solutions, Hát Xẩm, professional art, promotion.