

## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT XẨM ANH KHÓA (xẩm song about Mr. Khóa)

Nguyễn Thị Hồng Lan

Vietnam Institute for Musicology

Xẩm is a professional Vietnamese folk music art, sung by travelling artists and formed around the 15th-16th centuries. The content of Hát Xẩm is rich, taken from folk songs and verses, or from contemporary poems. There are "topical" songs reflecting contemporary social life, as well as "narrative" songs expressing people's thoughts and aspirations. The melodies commonly used in Hát Xẩm are: Xẩm chợ, Thập Ân, Huê Tình, Hà Liễu... ..

"*Tiền chân anh Khoá xuống tàu*" (Farewell, Mr. Khóa) is a poem in the collection "*Duyên nợ phù sinh*" (Fate and Destiny) by Á Nam Trần Tuấn Khải. The author expresses his feeling by using poetry to incite patriotism and self-reliance among the people against the French colonialists. The song is sung on the *Sa Mạc* tune - a familiar folk tune of the Northern Delta. This melody was transformed into the song "Xẩm Anh Khóa" and became a unique and well-received Xẩm song.

The song "Xẩm Anh Khóa" has been performed by three artists: Nguyễn Văn Nguyên (Hà Nội), Thân Đức Chinh (Bắc Giang), Merited Artist of Việt Nam Hà Thị Cầu (Ninh Bình) in their own styles. Based on the material of the Institute of Music (1978), using the song Xẩm "Anh Khóa", the article compares the singing style of each artist and finds out the transformation of Hát Xẩm (performance space, performance style). ...). In this way, this article contributes to the research, dissemination and preservation of Xẩm singing in the current period.

Keywords: transformation, style, comparison, performance, Xẩm Anh Khóa.