

THE FIRST STEP IN FINDING THE VALUE OF HÁT XẨM IN THE OLD CHÈO

(Vietnamese Satirical Musical Theatre)

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Xẩm is an art of traditional Vietnamese singing whose content embodies unique cultural and musical values. Old Chèo is also a form of art that carries the rich cultural identity of Vietnam. It has selected and incorporated of the valuable characteristics of Hát Xẩm, most especially the Xẩm melodies which Hoàng Kiều called the Hệ Thống Xẩm (Xẩm scheme).

The article offers an in-depth analysis of the transformation of Xẩm into many unique old Chèo melodies (enriching Chèo melodies systems) to express the characters' personalities in some old Chèo plays. It is necessary to research old chèo artists' values and transformation methodologies (compositional techniques, choreographies, chèo characters, and so on) in order to pass them on to today's generations of chèo artists, so that the enrichment of both chèo art and Hát Xẩm may be promoted and preserved.

Keywords: Adaptation of Xẩm in Chèo, extracting, promoting, process, methods.