

## **MUSIC AND ART OF HÁT XẨM**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lê Văn Toàn

Vietnam National Academy of Music

The paper presents an overview of Hát Xẩm including its function, role, place in the social context as well as organizational social models of Hát Xẩm, from family groups to larger orders – Hội Xẩm (Xẩm guild), Làng Xẩm (Xẩm Village).

The essay analyzes the musical system in terms of material and style, the structure of the music and lyrics, the formal structure of the poetry-music relationship (tiếng đệm lời phụ (accompanied lyrics), adding lyrics to the music, accompaniment in Hát Xẩm and ensemble relations according to two models định hình (forming) and mở rộng (expanding) in Hát Xẩm; improvisation characteristics.

Practicing Hát Xẩm still faces many important tasks concerning research into its collection and documentation, opportunities for education, performance and training, and various models of Hát Xẩm organizations and publication. The paper offers suggestions for preserving Hát Xẩm in contemporary Vietnam and the lessons for the fields of preservation and promotion of intangible cultural heritage.

Keywords: Music, Characteristics, Hát Xẩm, Art.