

PERFORMING HÁT XÂM IN HANOI'S OLD QUARTER AND ITS DIFFICULTY

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Xâm is a type of folk performing art with a long history in the northern provinces of our country. Xâm is often practiced by blind and poor people for a living in places such as by the roadside or at market corners, wharfs or on trams in cities. Over time, the art form has gone through changes in terms of its subject-matter, its performance space, its musical content, and its audience. In the past few years, many young artists have organized several performances of Hát Xâm in the walking streets on weekends. Their performances have attracted the attention and interest of city residents, tourists, especially international tourists coming to Hanoi's Old Quarter. The activity is one of the meaningful ways to contribute to protecting and promoting the value of Hát Xâm today.

However, there are issues that need to be discussed including artistic management, performance content, location and performances space, as well as implementation costs of a preservation program in the space of Hanoi's old quarter. This article analyzes and explains these problems and suggests appropriate measures to preserve and promote Hát Xâm.

Keywords: performance, Hát Xâm, performance space, old quarter, content