

THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF REVITALIZING *KỂ VÈ* (a form of musical storytelling) IN THE SPACE OF CULTURAL – HISTORIC EVENTS: BATTLE OF THUẬN AN (1883), Battle of Huế (1885) IN RELATION WITH THE ART OF HÁT XẨM

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Kể vè/nói vè (storytelling rhyme) is a form of Hát Xẩm of the Central region, particularly in Huế. It combines existing folk melodies with narration to express stories or social events. *Kể vè* artists in Hue often use a pair of *sênh sứa* (clappers made from bamboo), a pair of *sênh tiền* (an instrument that is a combination of clapper, rasp, and jingle), and *đàn nhị* (two-string instrument) or *đàn bầu* (monochord/one-string zither).

Kể vè was quite popular in the late 19th century and early 20th century in Hue. With its inherent topicality, *kể vè* is a form of "oral communications" that records current events taking place in society. *Vè thất thủ Thuận An* (a song about the loss of the city of Thuận An) and *Vè thất thủ kinh đô* (a song about the loss of the old capital) reflect two important events associated with the fate of the country at the end of the 19th century with many tragic events.

While cultural and historical sites were restored and rituals related to these events were maintained in the community, the *kể vè* songs associated with the "street artists" of the time gradually fell into oblivion. The essay argues for the importance of recognizing the tradition of *kể vè* songs and proposes ways of preserving cultural and artistic heritages that mark important historical events of the country vital to the education of the younger generation. This article also contributes a comparative perspective on the artistic similarities and differences between the traditions of Northern Xẩm and the Central region.

Keywords: conservation, Hát Xẩm, *Kể vè* Huế, similarities - differences, promotion.