

# ĐÀN BẦU (MONOCHORD) AND TRỐNG MẠNH (TWIN ONE-FACE DRUMS) IN HÁT XẨM

Nguyễn Xuân Diện

Institute of Sino-Nom Studies

Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

Central to the folk art of Hát Xẩm are two important musical instruments: the Đàn Bầu and the Trống Mảnh. The Đàn Bầu, or monochord, is a Vietnamese one-stringed bamboo instrument whose sound is produced using a stick or a plectrum that has traditionally served as an accompaniment to Hát Xẩm singing. The origin of this instrument and the correct way to render the name in the Vietnamese language are ongoing questions in musicological scholarship. The Trống Mảnh (twin one-face drums), also known as the Đạn diện cổ, is a Vietnamese percussion instrument indispensable to Xẩm singers.

This paper presents a survey of Hán Nôm (Vietnamese Chinese) bibliographic materials, archaeological materials, and photographic sources by French scholars, describing the use and cultural transmission of these two important musical instruments.

Keywords: đàn bầu, hát xẩm, Trống Mảnh, tradition.