

# PORTRAIT OF HÁT XẨM IN MODERN VIỆT NAM

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The article analyzes the characteristics of Hát Xẩm, examining its elements of agricultural and cultural identity as expressed in its music and musical instruments. Thanks to social changes in society there have been many changes in the practice of Hát Xẩm since its origins in the old society through to the beginning of the 21st century. New generations have participated in the practice and the performers are no longer blind, as in the past. Many social classes participated in Hát Xẩm which has now influenced other genres.

On the other hand, although there are many clubs of Hát Xẩm in the Northern provinces and many measures to preserve Hát Xẩm (such as bringing Hát Xẩm to the stage, opening classes, and supporting artists) efforts to collect, systematize, and research Hát Xẩm are still limited and not yet extended to three regions of the country. As a result, Hát Xẩm is not as well-known as it should be and many inaccuracies about the practice abound.

Therefore, it is necessary to have a program dedicated to the preservation of Hát Xẩm, to preserve Xẩm's inherent characteristics and to honor this indigenous traditional art amid the contemporary Vietnamese music on the global stage today.

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