

EXPRESSIONS OF VIETNAMESE TRADITIONAL CULTURE IN HÁT XẨM

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Vietnamese Folk Hát Xẩm club in Ho Chi Minh City

Formed around the 14th century Hát Xẩm came to be known up through the 20th century as hát rong (busking) and hát dạo (street singing). Throughout its history Hát Xẩm has been a unique professional folk music genre with a profound, clever, and attractive narrative style.

From its beginnings Hát Xẩm has been associated with the working life, production, and livelihood of the people. Studying the art of Hát Xẩm will help us gain insight into Vietnamese culture and history. The essay focuses on the folklore Vietnam as expressed in Hát Xẩm by way of its melodies, words, musical instruments, costumes, and different forms of performances. I will also offer suggestions to preserve and promote Hát Xẩm including enriching and theatricalizing the art of Hát Xẩm and ways to coordinate the art of Hát Xẩm with tourism promotion and visibility in the media.

Keywords: expression, Vietnamese folklore, Hát Xẩm, preservation and promotion.