

Unofficial draft translation:

Full Name: **BÙI CÔNG SƠN**

Year of Birth: 2000

Place of Birth: Thái Bình Province

Biography re Hát Xẩm:

Got acquainted with Hát Xẩm in 2010, took lessons from artist Đào Bạch Linh (Hải Phòng) for around 3-4 months. After that, Bùi Công Sơn continued to learn from artists from Center for Development of Vietnamese Music such as: NSUT Văn Ty, Lê Hữu Vượng (Yên Mô), and Lê Cường (Sài Gòn). Sơn had practiced professional artist in different countryside markets and crowded places from 2016 until today. He had performed Xẩm Chợ genre in almost all cities and towns in the north and central Vietnam. Sơn had entered into many competitions, and Hát Xẩm festivals on village, district and city levels, and had won many high level awards and prizes. In 2018, Bùi Công Sơn founded Xẩm Chợ Lồng Club, Yên Mô District, Ninh Bình province and teaches hát Xẩm to many generations of Hát Xẩm enthusiasts here.

**Classical Xẩm:
THE LEGEND OF PHẠM CÔNG & CÚC HOA
(Huê tình “Romantic Genre”)**

by Bùi Công Sơn

Singing and playing 2 string fiddler

Lyrics:

Phạm Công accepted his provincial chief appointment in Cao Bằng, leaving two children behind with Ms Tào Thi

The Emperor Trịnh announced his order
Now that Emperor Trịnh had pronounced his appointment
Upon the Top Scholar named Phạm Công (σ)
The Emperor appointed him to the governorship of Cao Bằng (*instrumental*)
The Emperor ordered him to the governorship of Cao Bằng
Once the province was pacified, he could return
He just came back, the Emperor ordered him away again
to that far away place, very very far
The Emperor announced to him privately (*instrumental*)
The Emperor announced to him privately
He relied on just him, just this moment
For this, the Emperor told the urgency
One had to go, but just have pity
He rushed to the grave of Cúc Hoa (*instrumental*)
To the grave of Cúc Hoa
Tears rolled down his face in two streams
Deep down, he quietly swallowed bitterness
Let me, the father, gather the ashes of Cúc Hoa to go with along
Husband and wife have to be together in one place
Bring her ashes to Cao Bằng and build the altar for Cúc Hoa
Look, one kid, Vương Tiến Lực, came to plead
Saying don't move her, father, let her ashes in peace be
Have a heart, you just buried her, don't dig her up
The more we work at it, the more painful it was
If you go I will bid goodbye, let my Mother's grave be (*instrumental*)
If you go you say goodbye to the grave alone
My mother has not yet reached Hell, and yet to Heaven
Please Father, let the grave be in peace
Phạm Công, tears filled his eyes
Ms Tào Phi on her knees pled
Leave your two kids home for me to take care

You are travelling so far away (*instrumental*)

Far so far and rough where you are going

This top scholar then said a great word

It's not itchy but it's still the elephant foot yam

No matter how good you are, you still fall short

A step mother can never be as good as a birth mother (*instrumental*)

The birth mother is ten, how much can a step mother reach

Ms Tào Thi tried to convince him the best she could

My own children are still children of my husband

How can I harbor a heart of strangers

No matter how far you have to go to assume your job (*instrumental*)

No matter how far you have to go for your job

Let the children stay with me to watch them go to school

The Top Scholar then said at once

Is this good to set the altar and swear to me

To Heaven and Hell

I swear to take the Top Scholar as my husband, I be the wife

If in the future, I could not hold my oath (*instrumental*)

If I would ever forget my vow

Let Hell from under with Ten Squadrons, and Heaven on high

I would swear to the Three Gate Temple

There will be the King of the Middle Realm, and under with Court

If I even live with two hearts...