

Maturin Rermudjana 2007: The Thai Contemporary Music: A Case Study of Korphai Band. Master of Arts (Ethnomusicology), Major Field: Ethnomusicology, Department of Communication Art. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Panya Roongruang, Ph.D. 250 pages.

This was a qualitative research based on ethnomusicological technique that studied Thai contemporary music between 1983 to 2007; a case study of Korphai ensemble.

The study aimed to; 1) to know the history, perspective and method of composing Thai contemporary music; 2) to study the traits of Thai contemporary music.

The major findings were:

1. The Korphai ensemble was founded by Anan Nakhong and Saharat Janchalaem under the title "Nakhaleam" in 1983. It became Korphai right after increasing its members and its musical development and continuing to create its work until the present time.

2. Korphai was well known among Thai and abroad with its uniqueness which was inspired by Tonkla and Fongnam. Korphai had three types of work; 1) Idea of resemble, Preserving standard Thai ensemble as well as creating a new kind of contemporary type; 2) Idea of composing by rearranging preexisting Thai tunes as well as performing original melodies. 3) Idea of presentation, Korphai always educated the audience by adding some musical knowledge along with music performance in both of announcement and program note. They also concerned with sound balance to suit the listener and music.

3. For music analysis; three types of tune were selected, 1) a standard classical music performed by standard Thai ensemble in Thai tuning system with conjunctive melodic contour, idiomatic heterophony texture, 2) a preexisting Thai contemporary style performed by synthesizer in diatonic minor scale and the anklung in Thai scale and manifested itself in an conjunctive melodic contour, 3) a contemporary Thai music in western 12 temperament tuning system, diatonic scale and performed in polyphony texture.

*Maturin Rermudjana*

Student's signature

*Panya Roongruang*

Thesis Advisor's signature

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