

Patraporn Chantanasut 2006: Pumpuang Duangchan: The Turning Point of Thai Luk-Thung.
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Objectives of the research were: 1) Examining background of Thai country songs and Pumpuang Duangchan's biography and works. 2) Studying the ideas of the composer - Mr. Wichian Kamchareon and the arranger - Mr. Anek Roongruang who work for Pumpuang Duangchan by analyzing the song texts, the melodies and their arrangements. 3) To investigate the change of the country songs that was influenced by Pumpuang Duangchan in three phases; 1972 - 1982 A.D., 1983 - 1991 A.D. and 1992 - 2002 A.D.

The results are as follows:

Thai country songs have been found for 68 years by Mr. Chamnong Rungsikul, the chief of program division TV4 (in 1964). The first Thai country song that was recorded evidently was '*Phleng Oh Chao Sao Chao Rai*' composed by Mr. Hem Wechakorn for accompanying with the radio drama in 1938.

Pumpuang Duangchan's real name was Rampung Chitharn, born in the agricultural family in Supanburi. She completed only Prathom Suksa 2 and began singing when she was 8 years old. She was illiterate, but talented. She memorized the lyrics and the tunes so well. Her highest success appeared when Wichien Kamchareon (Lop Buriratana) composed for her the songs as well as Anek Roongruang as her arranger. The noted songs that made her being called "*Queen of Luk-Thung*" were *Sao Na Sung Fan*, *Krasae Kkhao Ma Si* and *Nu Mai Roo*. She died of S.L.B or self-deficiency syndrome in 1992, at age 31.

The composer's idea of composing based on current economic, lifestyle of Thai society and knowledge of singer's characteristic. The composer focused on meaning of the songs text and the clear straightforward words. For the music arrangement, Anek Roongruang - the arranger created the new style of *Luk-Thung* for highest attention of audiences by using western style of arrangement and usually added the relative minor chord along with major scale melody.

As the change of Thai country songs influenced by Pumpuang Duangchan, it was found that Pumpuang Duangchan was long been popular right before 1982, many songs were composed after her in style, and the *Luk-Thung* music, increasingly, developed into new style influenced by Pumpuang Duangchan which was still obtain *Luk-Thung* music character.

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