

Wararat Warirak 2010: Musical Culture of the Hmong Ethnic Group at Tambon Kheknoi, Amphoe Khao Kho, Changwat Phetchabun in the Midst of the Urban Social Stream of the Year 2008-2009. Master of Arts (Ethnomusicology), Major Field: Ethnomusicology, Department of Music. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Supoj Yukoltrawong, Ph.D. 308 pages.

The propose of this research was to study 1) Existing musical culture 2) Function of Music 3) Urban stream in the way of life and music culture 4) Factors of urban social stream and others which affect the community's music culture faded away or disappeared. The research is approached with qualitative ethnomusicology by field notes, interview and ethnography methodologies.

The research outcome shows that the music culture of Hmong ethnic group of Tambon Kheknoi features two categories: the ritual music (4 types) and the entertaining music (2 types). Each of music and song piece has is own strict pattern of composition. Most use 4 – 6 melody mode regularly within one octave. The major concept of creating music and song pieces are “speaking through music” and “pronouncing the left words”.

The major role of music in community is for ritual and entertaining sake, but its hidden role is for conveying individual identity. Moreover, it also helps to mould the identity of community members with the same tribal blood. Meanwhile, it has been a medium for promoting the inheritance of belief in ancestral spiritual power for generations, resulting both family and community-scale governance.

The urban social stream which affects the existence as well as the decline of music culture of Hmong ethnic group of Tambon Kheknoi relate to geographical landscapes, architecture, language, religions, education, governance, marriage, occupation, technology use, entertainment consumption and the changing value of people within the community. The significant factor which can help the music culture of Hmong ethnic group of Tambon Kheknoi to continue is the religion institute in the form of animistic practice. The group of ritual works is the largest extant music and song storage of this Hmong ethnic group.

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