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BUARONG PALASAK : THE SUCCESSION PROCESS OF PONG-LANG IN
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Pong-lang is a type of melodic percussion instrument that is characteristically used in Northern Isan. The objectives of this thesis are to study the succession process of Pong-lang tradition in Kalasin. This Thesis also studies the origin and history of the Pong-lang, the development of compositions for Pong-lang, and Pong-lang's role in Thai society. The thesis methodology is ethnomusicology, which is a qualitative method. Information was collected through documentary and field research, conducted between October 1996-February 1998.

The research shows that the Pong-lang tradition in Kalasin province has been transferred orally. Originally, Pong-lang was played as a solo instrument as people worked in the fields. The instrument gained public popularity with its use in entertainment for a variety of traditional ceremonies, especially, Heat-sib – song, Khong -sib –See (Twelve Traditions, Fourteen Custom). The instrument's use continued to adopt and it became part of mainstream performing arts, distributed through the mass media. It is now part of curricula at institutions of performing arts education. A notation system has been adopted. At present, academic study, use in society, and a competition sponsored by the Thai Royal Family account for the continuation of the Pong – lang tradition in Kalasin.

Study of Pong-lang history and origin shows that the Pong-lang was originally called Khaw-law or Gaw -law It was used in rural areas by field owners who hit it to frighten animals away from crops. In the past, the Pong-lang had only one bar, but now it has developed to have six, nine, twelve or thirteen bars. The instrument is usually played by two performers who each use two hard wooden sticks to strike the bars. Typically, a melody played on the Pong-lang, has a single section which has three parts; introduction, main melody, and conclusion. The melody of the Pong-lang is named Lai i.e. Lai Pong-lang, Lai Lompad-praow, Lai Maengpu-tomdok, Lai Nok-sai, and Lai Ka-tenkon. The traditional Pong-lang style has changed due to social, cultural and economic influences.

Government and private organizations should take a role in continuing the Pong-lang tradition through education, performance, competition and souvenirs.