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THIDA KERDPHOL : KHAM KAWAI , A NATIONAL ARTIST : BIOGRAPHY  
AND WORKS OF LOCAL PERFORMING ARTS. THESIS ADVISOR : WACHIRAPORN  
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Kru Kham Kawai was a Lanna local artist who was honoured as a national artist in 1992. His skill in Lanna local performing arts identified him as an important local artist who conserved and popularized Lanna local performing arts. The purpose of this qualitative method study is to research Kru Kham's biography, his popular personal work of performing arts and his roles in Lanna society. Field study was conducted between October, 1996 and August, 1998 to analyze and synthesize Kru Kham's biography and works.

The research shows that Kru Kham Kawai struggled through his early life and overcame its difficulties with his perseverance. As he adored Lanna local performing arts and had a gift for them, he was eventually appointed as a drummer in E-Ranthawan Temple his village temple. His life became more involved in the performing arts and he had several opportunities for performing. He was supported in this and became a popular performer. Afterwards, he created and developed many Lanna local performing arts including a well-known dance called Klong Sabad Chai(Victory Drum Dance). He improved and made Klong Sabad Chai more violent and attractive and in so doing showed his own uniqueness. He invented drums and other Lanna local performing arts, such as Fon Wee and Fon Komphad dances. His work showed that Lanna identity was appropriate to conserve and support.

This study of Kru Kham Kawai and his contributions to Lanna local performing arts should be included in local music and drama curriculums in order to conserve, support and continue the cultural heritage of Lanna.