

39336604 MSMS/M : MAJOR : MUSIC; M.A. (MUSIC)

KEY WORDS : ANALYSIS / THAI TRADITIONAL DRAMATIC / PLENG OH / SPECIFIC
MUSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

UMAPORN KLAHAN : PLENG OH : THAI TRADITIONAL DRAMATIC MUSIC. THESIS
ADVISORS: SA-NGAD POOKHAOTHONG, B.Ed., NARONGCHAI PIDOKRAJT, B.Ed., M.Ed.,
M.A., LEUN SOONTHORNWATIN, SPECIALIST IN THAI VOCAL MUSIC, 234 p.
ISBN 974-662-670-1

The purposes of the study are to study background of Pleng Oh in Thai Traditional Drama, the role of Pleng Oh and its influence on drama, and to analysis the specific musical characteristics of Pleng Oh.

The result of the study shows that Pleng Oh is a type of vocal music which is used to accompany Thai traditional drama, an ancient Thai performing art. There is no evidence that indicates when Pleng Oh originated. Some Pleng Oh songs were recomposed but are still used for accompanying with Thai traditional drama. Originally, Pleng Oh was only vocal no instrumental accompaniment, performed by vocal group but later accompaniment by tone (a Thai music instrument), was adopted. Hence, the instrumental part is independent from the vocal, allowing improvisation. Vocal and instrumental parts are different. This difference has become the distinguishing characteristic of Pleng Oh.

Pleng Oh accompanys the actions of a story's main characters. The music is used to present two emotion: love and melancholy. Actors express emotions according to the music sentiment, using vocal "Thuan" repetition, and physical "Ram-Rai" dance like movements.

Specific musical characteristics of Pleng Oh are characterized by its formal structure, rhythmic components, and five-tone scale melodic progression. Vocal section is the most important part of Pleng Oh. Melodic movement uses repetition and narrow range. Sadness of songs is shown by Eun which is an extension of the last syllable of a phrase, following the melody; long duration of Eun indicates extreme sadness. Instrument section constructs independent from melodic line. Melodic movement the instrumental accompaniment, though wider in tonal range, is not important as the vocal melody.