

**Thesis** Khong Wong : Its Cultural Making And  
Effects on Music

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## Abstract

The culture of gong creation is an ancient Thai craftsmanship of "beating craftsmen" which is one of the traditional Ten Group Craftsmanships. These craftsmen are an essential part of Thai classical music culture, acting as the creators of rounded gongs for musicians to use in performance.

The study found that, theoretically and practically, the rounded gong plays an essential role in Thai classical music. Originally in the creation of rounded gongs, ancient craftsmen mainly practiced the "manual beaten" style, which is different from the "molded" one practiced today. Accordingly, the creation of music had to correspond to the beaten gongs. At present, the culture of rounded gong creation has severely been threatened by its production processes. The number of skilled craftsmen are minimal, natural production resources and materials are scarce and there is an ever increasing competition from mass-produced molded gongs. These and other factors have caused drastic changes in this ancient craft and, inevitably, greatly affected modern Thai classical music.