

Thesis Title                    Biography and Works of Kru Praya Prasanduriyasap (Plaek Prasansap)  
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Degree                            Master of Art (Cultural Studies)

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ABSTRACT

Phraya Prasanduriyasap (1860-1924), former name, Mr. Pleak Prasansap or Khru Plaek, was one of the great musical artist of the Thai Ensembles and master in Thai Music, during the reign of King Rama the 5th and 6th of the Ratanagosin period and the first man among the Thai musical artists who received the most honorable title of "Praya" from the Royal House of Chakri Dynasty.

This thesis is written into 2 major parts, first are the collection in details of his life story, family members, disciples, musical compositions, record discs as well as his conduct and mind. The second part is an analysis of his musical compositions and his outstanding duties as a teacher, instructor and conductor of Thai music.

Among his compositions there are 24 Pleng Sam Chans which he composed in both the instrumental and singing melody. Three songs were written only in the melodic form and atleast 6 pieces for solo of the instruments.

From searching of his old time works on recording discs which Praya Prasan performed within the ensemble and as a master of the ensemble between the year 1900-24, his details of collection list was shown in this resarch for the first time. Despite of some limitation on non electronic and early electronic recording techniques, these discs sounded good enough for an analysis of his excellent artistic skills, wisdom, knowledge and promptness of his musical experiences. Without these recording discs the possibility to complete the annalysis part of this thesis will not succeed.

As teacher of Thai music, Praya Prasanduriyasap has been very well recognized and respected as one of the best music teacher till the present time. Among the well known Thai music artists of the nation, 21 Pipat specialists, 7 strings experts and 3 outstanding singers were his students who spent long time learning and working with him. Collection of data in this research showed list of these musicians and their works which bought into the great success and reputation in theit careers. All of the owned fine records in the history of thai music. Of these 31, more than 2/3 of them were granted with honorable positions by HM King Rama The 6th. Later they became music masteres to the rest of their life.

Analysis of Praya Prasanduriyasap's compositions, his works and especially his teacher conduct, were

described in the second part of this thesis, Three of his compositions namely: Pleng thon Samor, Pleng Phama-hathon and Pleng Banthomprai (all are pleng sam chan) were analysed in details. Beside, five more of his works including Pleng Bulun, Pleng Cherdjeen, Pleng Kaek-Mon, Pleng Tayoinork and Pleng Kamen Pakthao were also brought up into discussion.

In the details analysis using the Thai and Western Theories, called "Musical Analysis" with his 3 compositions mentioned above, it is quite clear that Praya Prasaduriyasap compositions, his songs with his own special characteristic of "Thang Pleng" and "Look Kong". This made his songs showed much different from others, beautiful styles, and yet difficult to perform. This reflexed his great experiences, wisdom and skills. Aesthetics Music analysis was done with the adaptation of Hindu Theory "Nava Rasa", which explanide about the 9 emotional senses of beauty, it is found that his musical compositions are characterized and fit in with the Hidu Theory as well.

Form this Pipat Music old record discs which he played the wind pipe (Pee Nai), it showed that he is not only the best wind instrument player of the time, but also as a good leader of the Pipat ensemble, The vocal works (Thang Rong) on Pleng Sam Chan (Extended Songs), which is the most difficult part of vocal song to perform by the singer, Those "Thang rongs" he composed were excellently beautifru which created the complexity and compatability of the vocal techniques that is very well matched with the lyric meaning of the song.

As a music teacher and the director of the Thai Royal House Orchestra, Praya Prasanduriyasap had performed all the significant personalities of "The Seven Unique Teacher's Characters" (Knowledge and Wisdom, Experiences, Teaching Competency, Venture, Responsibility Accept & Give pride). This conduct is accepted in the Thai Culture, With his excellent conducts of both being a teacher and a master, Praya Prasanduriyasap was well loved and respected by his students with combination feelings of being both father and teacher in the same person.

Praya Prasanduriyasap is one of the most successful Thai Classical Music Artist in his professional life and career. He is the famous national scholar of the Thai Classical domain. Much of his musical compositions have never been studied, they are available and challenge for the up coming music researchers who like to follow this work.