



## A Study of Porn Pirom's Compositions

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### Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to study the biography of Porn Pirom and his songs. The study was conducted by analyzing 6 songs comprising 4 Lookthung songs which are 1) Bua Toom Bua Barn, 2) Narm Tar Lar Srai, 3) Kratom Thong Kwao, 4) Jum Jai Jark and 2 Lae songs which are 1) Dao Look Kai Part 1 and Part 2, 2) Wung Mae Look Aorn Part 1 and Part 2

The result of the study showed that the original name of Porn Pirom was Mr. Boonsom Meesomwong. He had 11 brothers and sisters and he was the eldest. He married Mrs. Rabiab Parknam and had a son named Mr. Rangsun Meesomwong. Mr. Porn Pirom's great performance of many aspects of music included singing and composing which can be seen from his works. His songs, Bua Toom Bua Barn composed and sung by Porn Pirom himself and Dao Look Kai, were awarded The Gold Record Awards in 1966. He had been ordained in 1981 at Wat Rattanachai (Wat Jin), Ayutthaya province and passed away on 5th December 2010.

Before the ordination, he had composed many songs according to the styles following:

#### Lookthung Composition

1. The forms of Lookthung are sectional and binary
2. The composition of Lookthung is arranged in octameter
3. As for the rhythm, the song has major rhythm and is developed to new version.

#### Lae Composition

1. The lyrics are composed spontaneously and sung only one time

The composition comprises elegant and beautiful words. For example, Dao Look Kai was arranged in Ratchniklueng genre, having rhyming words at the end of its stanzas (the fourth line of each stanza)

Music is one of inborn gifts accompany humans unawaresly. It is both Science and Art which nourishes, pleases our lives, and relieves our tensions both directly and indirectly. It is also a tool for training and instructing our spirits to be happy, calm and relaxed. Music is unavoidably a part of our lives probably because it is also a part of entertainments in our customs, cultures and believes. It is in children lullabies, songs for working, songs for ceremony, songs for the memory of god, and more. Natural sounds like wind blowing, birds singing, water flowing and falling, are able to please us can be counted as a kind of songs as well. These sounds have also inspired humans in creating various types of music such as Jazz, Pop, Classic, Folk, and Country, by using techniques, creativity, principles, understanding, and elaboration.

Porn Pirom was multi-talented as he was a Likei leading actor, a movie narrator, a Chinese play actor, and a very distinguished composer since he composed more than 500 Lookthung and Lae songs,

and he had been very famous in the period of 1957 to 1972. In his compositions, he used both very beautiful and elegant words, and external and internal rhymes. He was excellent at using words accurately in his compositions, and also, was praised for being a great singer. He had been awarded The Royal Gold Record Awards for 3 times for “Bua Toom Bua Barn” (1966), “Dao Look Kai” (1966), and “Klab Therd Look Thai” (1971) respectively. He had had a chance working with Kru Boonyang Ketkhong and Kru Jamnian Srithaiphan and attending a Music and Dance Contest of Radio Broadcast of Thailand as per the policy of Prime Minister of Field Marshal Por. Piboonsongkharn on behalf of Ketkongdamrongsil Group in the story of “Golden Ax and Land” and finally he was given a winner award in B.E.2500 (1957).

Porn Pirom was famous and talented in various fields, and also his songs were very distinguished with beautiful lyrics consisted of moral lessons. Although, he was a successful singer and composer, no one has ever studied and collected data, information, and evidence regarding him before. Therefore, it is agreed to study and collect information concerning his personal life and careers with a purpose of being knowledge in the field of Singing Arts in the future.

### Aims

1. To study a biography of Porn Pirom
2. To study song compositions of Porn

Pirom

### Material and Method

#### 1. A Process of Information Collecting.

1.1 To collect information and a biography of Porn Pirom from the following sources:-

1.1.1 Information provided in printed materials, journals, articles, and analyses regarding Porn Pirom’s life.

1.1.2 Interviews of Porn Pirom

1.1.3 Thesis and research concerning this study.

1.2 To bring 2 songs which were awarded the Gold Record Award and 4 well-known songs (6 songs in total) from the record and from the interviews of Porn Pirom about the method of singing Lookthung songs.

#### 2. Collecting Information for Analysis

2.1. To collect and categorize the information from 1.1 for further analysis.

2.2 To study his lyric melody, musical melody, and words of the 6 songs which was to be written as an accidental Melody music score.

### 3. Information Analysis

3.1 To analyze the information from 2.1 :

1. Biography of Porn Pirom shall be collected, composed and categorized as follow:

1.1 His life before becoming a singer.

1.2 Education.

1.3 His life during the period of being a singer.

1.4 His singing performance.

1.5 His present life.

2. Analysis on the songs of Porn Pirom

To study 4 Lookthung songs and 2 Lae songs selected and based on information from the interview of Porn Pirom by analyzing the melody music score together with words of the songs and the records of 6 songs as follow :-

### Songs Analysis

1. General Features

1.1 The stories of the songs

1.2 The meanings of the songs in summary.

1.3 The forms of the songs

2. Lyrics

2.1 Types of lyric compositions

2.1.1 External-rhyme

2.1.2 Internal-rhyme

### 3. Melodies

- 3.1 Interval
- 3.2 Melody variation
- 3.3 Melodic motion
- 3.4 Analysis on the relationships between

Lookthung voice and tonal voice.

### 4. Summary

- 4.1 To summarize the result of the study and research.
- 4.2 To present performance of the narrative research.
- 4.3 Proposals

## Results

### 1. A biography and performance of Porn Pirom

#### 1.1 His life before becoming a singer

Porn Pirom was born Boonsom Meesomwong on 24th November, 1928 at Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province. He was the first child among 11 children of Mr. Prasert Meesomwong and Mrs. Samlith Meesomwong. He married Mrs. Rabiab Pharknarm and had a son together named Mr. Rangsarn Meesomwong. Mr. Boonsom Meesomwong used to be in Likei as a leading actor and used the name "Boonsom Ayutthaya".

#### 1.2 Education

Mr. Boonsom Meesomwong finished primary school level 4 from Wat Rattanachai (Wat Jin) in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province and later he continued studying at Borphit Phimuk temple school in Bangkok until finished a junior high school (Mathayom 3).

#### 1.3 His life during the period of being a singer

Mr. Boonsom Ayutthaya was brought into music industry by Kru Mongkhol Amatayakul, a leader of Chularat band, and he used the name "Porn Pirom" since then. His first 3 songs were "Lomjar", "Kratom Thong Kwao" and "Larnrak Larnthei" which were not so well-known, then he

sung "Dorkpha Lablae" composed by Paitoon Kaikaew, but still was not that famous. He was discouraged and was about to return singing Likei as previous. However, His 5th song, "Bua Toom Bua Barn" composed and sung by himself and intended to be the last one if it was not work, gave him a first success in 1960, and made him publicly well-known throughout the country. He became one of the 4 musketeers of Chularat band at that time. Since then, Boonsom Meesomwong has been known as a famous Lookthung singer under the name "Porn Pirom".

Porn Pirom had been singing with Chularat band for many years and had sung around 260 songs mostly composed and sung by him, and he used the name Boonsom Ayutthaya as a composer's name.

**1.4 His Singing Performance :** His famous song, "Bua Toom Bua Barn", "Wang Mae Look Aorn", "Dao Jarakhea", "Lae Tamnam Roy Phra Buddha Bath", "Hay Chim Plee", etc.

## 2. Porn Pirom's songs Analysis

### 1. General Features

**1.1 Stories of his songs can be categorized as follow :-**

1.1.1 Songs composed from his real life experiences like his love experience in "Bua Toom Bua Barn" and traveling experience in "Kratom Thong Kwao", etc.

1.1.2 Songs composed from the tales he had been told like "Dao Look Kai" which was composed from one of the tales he was told when following his father to Likei house, and "Jam Jai Jark" composed from the story he was told by Sompoj Selakul concerning a mother-in-law of Sompoj himself.

### The meaning of the songs in summary

1. "Bua Toom Bua Barn" was a story of a man falling in love with 2 girls, who were at different ages, at the same time. Porn Pirom used a comparison method by using ways of life of

villagers at that time when both channel had been generally applied and by comparing 2 girls at different ages to lotuses born before (Bua Barn) and later (Bua Toom). This metaphor showed a sympathy feeling toward beauty of both “Bua Toom” and “Bua Barn” since “Bua Barn” will get older first and “Bua Toom” will bloom. The man did not know what to do; finally he walked away without choosing any of the girls.

2. “Nam Tar Lar Srjai” reflected ways of lovers, a man and a woman promised to love each other and later the man came back but did not see his beloved girl. He reproached her by his one-sided thought, and thought that she forgot the promise. He also thought that the woman left him lonely and complained why she was still silent and did not help him. Then he asked the Holy Spirit, a deva, to bring back his beloved girlfriend. He just wished for a chance to meet her only for a night even he had to trade his life for this. He had been waiting for her under the Srjai tree for a long time, but he did not see her at all, so he cried and bemoaned her under the Srjai tree.

3. “Kratom Thong Kwao” narrated the atmosphere around the hut which located by a stream, and nearby was a Thong Kwao tree, so it was a metaphor of a dreamful heaven. The composer of this song compared the wind blowing to the sound of crying and bemoaning, and also the scents of the flowers reminded him of girls.

4. “Jam Jai Jark” was a story of a spouse whose mother-in-law did nothing, but drink liquors and waste his money. She cursed him in front of his relatives even though her son-in-law was diligent and frugal. The man, who had a strong love for his wife, persuaded her to run away, but she could not go with him because of her gratefulness for her mother even she loved him very much. Then she decided to stay with her mother in order to pay back gratefulness to her mother.

5. “Dao Look Kai” narrated that we were born without knowing who had destined our lives, but Buddhism principle teaches us that we are all born accompanied with retribution and were specified by results of good deed – bad deed since our birth by raising an example of a tale of our faiths that once upon a time, there was a couple of an old spouse, they were poor and built a small house at the foot of a mountain in a rural area. They had raised a hen with its 7 small chicks. Normally the old couple, the hen and its 7 chicks had made a living according to their means and one day there was a wandering monk came by and stayed in the back of their house. The lyric of “Dao Look Kai part 1” can be summarized to this some extent.

6. “Wang Mae Look Aorn” was one of Lae songs narrating a tale in narrative rhyme to tell a story which actually occurred at Wang Mae lookkai-orn. Once upon a time, there was a daughter of a millionaire who fell in love with a farmer and later they decided to run away together. The millionaire’s daughter got pregnant and lived with difficulty due to a little money they got from a charcoal burning. Giving birth to a son caused them a worse living, and they could not stand such a difficulty. Finally, they agreed to return to their homeland. On the way back home, they stopped to rest under the big tree and the millionaire’s daughter had a serious stomachache. This part finished to this some extent.

### **The Forms of the Songs**

1. Lookthung songs compose of binary forms like in “Bua Toom Bua Barn”, “Kratom Thong Kwao”, and “Jam Jai Jark”. It compose of unitary forms like in song “Jam Jai Jark”.

2. Lae songs are songs with a single round playing without a repetition, like those shown in “Dao Look Kai” and “Mae Look Aorn”.

## 2. Lyrics

2.1 The forms of lyric compositions can be categorized into 2 types :-

1. Lookthung songs  
- Composing of extemporaneous pieces of verse.

2. Lae songs  
- Composing of a single rhyme like in "Dao Look Kai".

- Composing of eight-syllable rhymes like in "Wang Mae Look Aorn".

3. Melodies

3.1 Interval consists of both Major interval and Minor interval which are shown in Lookthung songs.

3.2 Variation shown in Lookthung song.

3.3 Melodic Motion is different in each song; it the pitch is high and low and sometimes is on the same, constant level.

3.4 Analysis on the relationships between Lookthung voice and tonal voice. Comparing with two songs called 'Down Lookkai' and 'Wang Maelook-orn', in the 1st part of song Dow Lookkai Re Looktuk sound and normal tonal marks have been applied mostly and in the 1st. part of song Wang Maelook-orn T Looktuk sound and normal tonal marks have been applied mostly.

## Conclusion and Discussion

The study showed that Porn Pirom was a man with a great ability in various fields such as

Likei singing, movie narrating, and song composing (both Lookthung and Lae). Lookthung songs are one of the styles generally sung in the rural areas of Thailand. It uses simple, non-complex, direct and plain lyrics, so it is well-known to the public, especially people in the rural areas, who are normally into this kind of music. There are many Lookthung songs reflecting the image of traditional ways of lives and Thai cultures. Furthermore, there are many songs influencing ways of lives of Thai people. (Ekkawit Na Thalang. 2532 (1989) : Preface). Porn Pirom had innate character of reading love and had accuracy on many rhymes, verse forms and variety therefore he was able to compose songs beautifully and elegantly.

Musical education : Porn Pirom studied about music by using a self-study method which he had to take a look on teachers' lectures until he was able to compose many lyrics as mentioned above. In the composition of Porn Pirom, he applied various and different styles. In the form of rhythms reverse, the melodic variation were applied as well for a variety of the songs. The research found that a distinguished method of song compositions of Porn Pirom can be used as one of the best guidelines for new generation of composers and as the original research on Lookthung and Lae songs for other researchers to conduct more research and studies in the future.

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