



# The Knowledge of National Artist: Mr. Chiras Ardnarong

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## **Abstract**

This research is about the knowledge of national artist, Mr. Chiras Ardnarong. This knowledge is stored by the Office of National Culture. The knowledge and Thai classical music works of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong are invaluable and are stored to contribute to and provide education about Thai culture in the Thai classical music society and also to propagate Thai culture to the public and to disseminate it internationally. The objectives of this research are as follows

1. To study the history and works of classical Thai musician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.
2. To synthesize the knowledge of classical Thai musician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.
3. To disseminate the knowledge of classical Thai musician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.

From the research it was found that Mr. Chiras Ardnarong was born on 16th November 1931 at the home of his father in Bang Chang Sub-district, Sam Phran, Nakhon Pathom Province, Thailand. Now, Mr. Chiras Ardnarong lives at 1056/6 Soi Sut Sakhon, Phran Nok Road, Ban Chang Lo, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok, Thailand. He was born into a Thai classical music family and spent time with their band, which is a reason for his musical talent. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong's knowledge of music extends to the knowledge of songs, the knowledge of practice, the knowledge of adoption and the knowledge of integration (Theory of knowledge). The researchers have published research work as a book to send to the Office of the National Cultural Commission that can be studied and used as a reference. They also held a seminar about the academic knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong in December 2009, which is another way to disseminate the knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.

Mr. Chiras Ardnarong is a knowledgeable person in Thai classical music and the many inner workings of Thai classical music such as in practice, in administration, and in composition (Music). He also transmits and continues the knowledge of Thai classical music to young people and those who are interested in Thailand. As well as this, he creates great works of Thai classical music.

**Keywords:** Chiras Ardnarong, National Artist in Performing art (Thai music) 2002

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## **Introduction**

The Office of the National Cultural Commission organizes the knowledge and the power of culture, lifestyle and wisdom of Thailand. The researcher found that many cultures do not collect this information systematically and are vulnerable to losing it. It

is beneficial to manage that knowledge systematically for research processes and to disseminate the knowledge to the target audience. Therefore, there needs to be defined cognitive research of national artists who have outstanding performance culture. In this research, "The Knowledge of National Artist: Mr. Chiras

Ardnarong”, the artist in question met the qualifications as determined by the Office of National Cultural Commission to store his knowledge of Thai classical music. That means the informant has the status of National Artist, is aged between 77-82 years, is a highly qualified professional with special expertise in Thai classical music or has the status of musical artist, is a music teacher, and is an expert of a unique Thai musical art. They must also be accepted in Thai music society and their performances in music of art must clearly show values and aesthetics.

Mr. Chiras Ardnarong is a knowledgeable person in Thai classical music in regards to performances, administration and musical composition. He also passes on and transmits the knowledge of Thai classical music to young people and continues to transmit the knowledge of Thai classical music to people who are interested. This includes the inner workings of Thai classical music such as the knowledge of songs, the knowledge of practice, the knowledge of application and integration (Theory of knowledge).

This research could be just part of the knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong that has been passed down and created throughout his life. However, the researchers sincerely hope that by publishing the research it benefits those who study music and people who are interested in music in the future.

### Objectives

1. To study the history and works of classical Thai musician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.
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### Methodology

The method used was qualitative research.

### Data Analysis

1. The History and Works of Classical Thai Mu-

sician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.

- 1.1. History.
- 1.2. Works of Thai classical music
  - 1.2.1. Practice Works
  - 1.2.2. Administration Works
  - 1.2.3. Composition (Music) Works

2. The Knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong in Thai classical music.

- 2.1. Knowledge of Songs
- 2.2. Knowledge of Practices
- 2.3. Knowledge of Application
- 2.4. Integration of Knowledge (Theory of knowledge)

3. The Dissemination of the Thai Classical Music Knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong to the Public.

### Tools

1. Interview Guide - used to gain general information from experts, and knowledge groups. Structured and unstructured interviews have been used.
2. Observation - used to gain knowledge of Thai music, the discourse about the practical aspects, how knowledge is adopted and the integration of knowledge
3. Survey - used to survey information about the knowledge of national artist Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.
4. Focus Group Discussion - used to discuss the history and knowledge of national artist Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.

### Results and Discussion

The results of the study of the knowledge of national artist, Mr. Chiras Ardnarong, are as follows.

1. The History and Works of Thai Classical Musician Mr. Chiras Ardnarong.

Mr. Chiras Ardnarong was born “Boonlard” Ardnarong on November 16, 1931 and later changed his name to “Chiras” in 1942. The original house of his father was in Bang Chang, Sam Phran in Nakhon Pathom province. He currently resides at 1056/6 Soi Sut Sakhorn, Phran Nok Road, Ban Chang Lo,

Bangkok Noi, Bangkok. His father's name was Lim Ardnarong and his mother's name was Lgam Ardnarong. He has three siblings and he is the eldest child. His siblings' names are Sergeant Lob Ardnarong, Mr. Dired Ardnarong and Mrs. Arunee Phasongdee. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong is married to Mrs. Ubolwan Ardnarong (maiden name Hibosod), and they have three children together; Mrs. Porntip Arpanakapan, Ms. Mathurot Ardnarong and Ms. Ratiwan Ardnarong. Mr. Chiras was born into a musical family. His father had a Piphat khrueng yai ensemble and because Mr. Chiras Ardnarong was a child in a musician's house, he became acquainted with many musical melodies and he could recognize some songs that he had not learnt yet. When there was a job, his father always took Mr. Chiras with him to have a chance to hit the cymbals and percussion instruments and sometimes play a Gong Wong. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong graduated from pratom (primary level) 4 at Wat Bangchangtai School and finished high school at Nakphasid School in Sam Phran, Nakhon Pathom. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong graduated from the School of Drama in the Department of Fine Arts. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong entered the service in the Department of Fine Arts and continued until 1974. He held the position of Level 6 Music Artist, Chief of the Thai Musical Division, in the Department of Fine Arts and was given an honorary Bachelor's of Education Degree in Thai Music from the Rajamangala Institute of Technology. He has been honored as a National Artist in Performing arts (Thai music) since the year 2002.

Mr. Chiras Ardnarong has many works of Thai music because during the time he has served in Department of Fine Arts, he has been assigned to various functions and completed these with great execution including Thai music playing and conducting Thai music ensembles. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong also has some academic papers, is a lecturer and a music expert to both public and private agencies. In addition, Mr. Chiras Ardnarong also works in administration. When he was appointed Chief of the Thai

Musical Division, he operated and continued the projects of the department and the Department of Fine Arts. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong's portfolio includes the following compositions; Sri Suk Mahamongkol song, Sri Suk Mangkaranusorn song, Sri Suk Sangkhit song, Nakapan song, Rabam Sri Ayutaya song and Sangkhit Mahamongkol song.

## 2. The Knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong in Thai classical music.

Mr. Chiras Ardnarong is a master of Thai classical music with high ability. It is widely accepted among Thai musicians that "Archive Music" or "Thai Classical Music Bank" knowledge can be classified into several areas of the knowledge of music. The first is the knowledge of songs. He knows many types of songs and melodies, even songs that musicians do not know such as Tabnangnak Sam Chan song by Praya Prasanduriyasab. He can remember the songs quickly and accurately. The songs that he learns, he then studies to find out more about them, the synthesis and the principles of music theory. He also improves the melody of songs to make them more suitable for different occasions. The second is the knowledge in practice. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong can also explain the origins of and reasons for the variety of hand styles to hit the gong and can improvise melodies gracefully and appropriately in every type of song, band and occasion. He is also able to compose beautiful melodies for singing. The third is the knowledge to apply. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong has been given permission to perform the Wai Kru ceremony by Mr. Pak Towsanga which means Mr. Chiras Ardnarong can be the master of ceremonies at a Wai Kru ceremony for agencies such as the Musical Art Center of Bangkok Bank, the Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia of Mahidol Research University, etc. Moreover, he has played the alto xylophone (Ranatek) at important royal ceremonies and has also chosen which drama songs to perform in many theatrical adaptations of literature such as The Story of Phra Abhai Mani. The fourth is the knowledge of in-

tegration. Mr. Chiras Ardnarong can integrate his knowledge into the performing arts such as when choosing the songs for dramas, playing the music at royal ceremonies or in various other occasions. In addition, it is necessary to transmit and teach songs more accurately, and so the intelligence of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong can serve as an example to learners. Furthermore, he can classify the music by knowing the mood of the songs to use in an accompaniment and to know the organization of playing the songs.

3. The Dissemination of the Thai Classical Music Knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong to the Public.

The researchers have published research in book form and submitted it to the Office of the National Culture to be studied and referenced. The researcher held a seminar about the knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong in December 2009 and published the knowledge of Mr. Chiras Ardnarong in another way. In addition, the researcher has also provided research they have compiled in the form of academic papers that can be studied more easily than the research book report.

### Conclusions

The research shows that it can be utilized as follows: 1. The Office of National Culture can collect the knowledge gained from the research for the cultural database for conservation of cultural heritage, cultural development and dissemination of Thai mu-

sic culture. 2. History of music content, music composition etc. The research is valuable to the Thai music scene as it can help navigate students in a musical career, help provide information about management in Thai music education at all levels, help play music at Thai traditional festivals and help disseminate art and culture, both nationally and internationally. 3. The knowledge of Thailand's National Artists leads to the core knowledge for course content when teaching music education at all levels. 4. The knowledge of Thai music is beneficial to government agencies such as The Fine Arts Department of Thailand, The Thai classical music of Public Relations Department, The Thai Music Academy of Bangkok, musical artists and to those who are interested and perform music extensively.

### Recommendations

The knowledge of many national artists is not collected or analysed in to a single inherited system. Serving as visiting professors, National Artists in music lessons at the institutions can only give limited knowledge to the students because the students study music from different music professors and several diverse courses. Only the specific knowledge of those specialists that matches the course is integrated into course rather than the unique, specific knowledge the artists hold. This affects accuracy and is considered to make the knowledge at risk to loosening, moving and vulnerable to loss.

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