



# Studying Thai Music Band of Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang Sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province

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## Abstract

The purposes of this study were:

1. to study the background of Thai Music Band of Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province.
2. to study the management of Thai Music Band of Somkliang Temple.

The findings of the research were:

1. The name of the band "Somkliang" came from the place where the band located which was Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province. Teacher Kham Changsri was the band establisher and propellor on song rehearsing and adjusting the band. Teacher Kham was a Thai orchestra musician and a disciple of Teacher Pan Buathang (Teacher Chalerm Buathang's older brother). The Somkliang band had been regarded as a Thai orchestra which had long inheritable traditional cultures by inheriting from generation to generation in a form of relatives. The Somkliang band is now a Thai band which is popular and very famous in such a level because many skillful teachers has helped with the training which makes many Thai musicians now get certificates and several prizes.
2. There is still a management of usual learning and teaching process and the band still produces a lot of musicians. The reason why we have a lot of musicians because we don't have fee paid education but always give for free to make Somkliang community stronger. So, it is not surprised that there are a lot of Thai musicians here because we still hold to former time's principles and the songs training nowadays are still in the traditional style beginning with evening prelude song, morning prelude song, story song, slow song, series of traditional Thai song, prelude Thai verse, solo song, etc.

**Key words:** Thai music band of Somkliang Temple, background, management

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## Introduction

Going back to thousands of years ago, being a culture that indicated nationality couldn't avoid the science called "Art". Art was the best indicator to imply civilization in any eras although it was divided into many fields. One of the fields that should men-

tion was music because every country had their identity showing their own race. Each country had their own various ways of life depending on geography, climate or even economy which made daily life different in each country. As well as cultures in each country which also had some similar identities to oth-

ers. So there were some affects from music which came out in the same styles, might be how to play, the melody or type of music because they always exchanged cultures by communication, trading or colonization.

Our country, Thailand, also has a culture of music which is Thai music. Our Thai music indicates important roles of our ways of life both the rituals and traditions in Thailand. Thai music is teaching at home or residence. The Thai verbal music was passed on for a long time from the late Ayuthaya period to early Rattanakosin period that passed on music knowledge from houses to temples and palaces which had closely related background. Especially, during the reign of King Rama 5 to King Rama 7, before changing the administration, which was the glory of Thai music. The court had set the palace band (Tipwatee Thai art composer, 2003: 54-55), which taught Thai music continuously from generations to generations. In former time, although there were only small groups such as families or even musical teachers' houses but we still can keep its identity and types to the present time. This is because the strictness of the strong knowledge of both the givers and the takers (Renoo Kosananon, 2002: 58). Somkliang, the Thai band, regards as an important part of Thai music conservation which is probably useful for young generation to use in their studying the background of Somkliang Thai orchestra band and to maintain the Thai culture. The researcher is interested in doing a research of the Thai Music Band of Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province in order to conserve Thai music forever.

### Objectives

1. To know background of the Thai music band and the existing role in the society.
2. To know the evolution of the techniques in passing on knowledge from generations to generations.

3. To know how to administrate the Thai music band of Somkliang Temple.

### Methodology

To study the research of conserving the Somkliang band, the researcher studied and collected data from various resources, documents, researches including related textbooks and field practice. The data collection was studying the generality of Thai music band of Somkliang Temple and brought the data to analyze, arrange and report the research by setting methods of the research study as follows:

#### 1. Document Data Collection

- The Central Library of Srinakharinwirot University

- The Library of Mahidol University
- Glorious biography
- Programs of music works

#### 2. Field Data Collection

- Interviewing musicians of Somkliang band
- Interviewing Thai musicians working on Thai music in Somkliang band at present
  - Interviewing seniors, related to Somkliang band, who might not musicians
  - Interviewing, photographing, recording etc. in field data collection

#### 3. Data Analysis

The researcher studied and researched data from documents, related researches to Thai orchestra of Somkliang band, studied the strength of the band, competitive performance, the band on stages, performing in parties and so on, and collected field data to compile and categorize the text according to importance and main points as followed.

1. Studied data from documents of the research, textbooks and books.
2. Studied the background of Somkliang band, the competitive performance, the band on stages, performing in parties and so on.
3. Brought data from documents and the collected field data to check, edit, adjust and categorize

the text by rearranging the relation.

#### 4. Data Analysis

4.1 Background of the Somkliang Thai orchestra band

4.1.1 Studied the community's condition from past to present

4.1.2 Forming the Somkliang Band

4.1.3 Teaching and inheriting

4.1.4 Past honor and success

- Composing songs

- Band Competition

- Received Prizes

4.2 Managing of Somkliang Temple Band

4.2.1 Getting a hire

4.2.2 Students reception

4.2.3 Rehearsing

4.2.4 Music instruments

4.2.5 Type of the band

4.2.6 Kind of Songs

4.2.7 Musicians

4.2.7.1 Professional Musicians

4.2.7.2 Supplemental professional

Musicians

## Results and Discussion

### Part 1 Studying background of Somkliang Thai orchestra Band

1. Studying the condition of Somkliang Temple community from past to present

In former time, most of Somkliang Temple community were relatives because finding husbands and wives then would be in the same local area or nearby sub-districts. People around there were traditional ones who have lived there from their birth. Most of them were gardeners and they usually sent their children to study Thai music because they can earn incomes to lighten their parents' load. In former time, Somkliang temple had a pavilion using for performances only e.g., Thai drama, Thai traditional dramatic performance; etc. but now the pavilion has collapsed as time passed by. Then, Thai drama and Thai

traditional dramatic performance would seek for only a Thai drama or Thai traditional dramatic performance group or band and would find a Thai orchestra band later or use a band in the temple. So, Somkliang temple community was a community being supported in Thai music for a long time.

#### 2. Forming Somkliang Band

Thai music School of Somkliang Temple is a Thai music school located at Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province was formed in 1981 by Teacher Kham Changsri who was by birth a Nonthaburi resident. He had studied Thai music from Teacher Pan Buathang who was Teacher Chalerm Buathang's father and a musician under the Lord Penpak Pathanapong, Krom Muen Pichaimahintarodom's palace. There were a lot of students in Teacher Kham Changsri's period, e.g. Teacher Chod, Teacher Dee, Teacher Wat, Teacher Chiak, Teacher Ploo, Teacher Sri, Teacher Pong, Teacher Chamlong (Bang) Daengwisut, Teacher Sanga Panboon, Teacher Siri Chomsuda. Some of them passed away. Most of the musicians in Thai music School of Somkliang Temple were village people and their occupation were gardeners. When they were free from working in their gardens, they gathered and rehearsed. In former time, the local area also had several well known Thai orchestra bands e.g., Teacher Sakon Kaewpenkart's and Teacher Yod Sriyoo's bands which located in former Bang Yai, Teacher Chalerm Buathang's band in Klong Om, Bang Yai District, and a small band as Thai orchestra band of Somkliang Temple which was also in Bangkhuwiang district.

#### 3. Teaching and inheriting

The music school of Somkliang Temple is a music school which is glorious at music continuously and endlessly famous. There are a lot of skillful and respectful Thai musical teachers in several fields who drop in and teach musical knowledge to the students in The music school of Somkliang Temple from the past to the present time, including Teacher Chalerm

Buathang, Teacher Pat Buathang, Teacher Prasong Pinpart, Teacher Tasanai Pinpart, Teacher Nikorn Chanthasorn, Teacher Chalerm Thonglamoon, Assist. Prof. Kee Chanthasorn, Teacher Choocheep Petkhlai, CPO1. Anucha Pungcharoen, Teacher Thirapon Noinid.

We can state that The Thai music school of Somkliang Temple is a school which is recognized from the Thai musician circle which is regarded as a Thai music school which is expert in playing, competing and contesting. The Thai music school of Somkliang Temple has produced a lot of music individuals. It is divided into three big ages according to teachers as follows:

- First Age. Teacher Kham Changsri with these students:

1. Teacher Chod
2. Teacher Dee
3. Teacher Wat
4. Teacher Chiak
5. Teacher Ploo
6. Teacher Sri
7. Teacher Pong
8. Teacher Bang Daengwisut
9. Teacher Sanga Panboon
10. Teacher Choy Panboon
11. Teacher Siri Chomsuda

- Second Age. Teacher Sanga Panboon with these students:

1. Mr. Sompit Pinyen
  2. V.H. Sompong Pinyen
  3. S.M.G. Paisan Panboon
  4. Mr. Anantachai Maera
  5. V.H. Boonsong Somchoo
  6. Mr. Panor Pinyen
  7. Mr. Somporn Pinyen
  8. Mr. Panomkorn Panboon
  9. Mr. Chaihan Panboon
- etc.

- Third Age to present. Teacher Ananchai Maera with the following students

1. Mr. Thakorn Wathanakoon
  2. Mr. Sitthi Panboon
  3. Mr. Thitipon Dongruangsri
  4. Mr. Somprasong Daengwisut
  5. Mr. Anusit Moonpramook
  6. S.M.G. Kritsada Chuancharoen
  7. Mr. Thanapon Sinthuchai
  8. Mr. Songpon Lertkobkul
  9. Mr. Chanon Nokworn
  10. Miss Thamonwan Udee
  11. Mr. Punyapat Udee
  12. Mr. Sa-ne Phetphimpha
  13. Mr. Thanapon Somchoo
- etc.

4. Honor and past success

#### 4.1 Composing Songs

Somkliang Band is influenced in Thai music from various places because it has a lot of students and the songs coming into the band are from many paths. The relative paths are: Teacher Kalong Pungthongkham, Teacher Sakon Kaewpenkart, Teacher Yod Sriyoo. The teachers and students paths are: Teacher Pan Buathang, Teacher Chalerm Buathang, Teacher Prasong Pinpart, Teacher Peerasit Buathang, Teacher Surin Songthong. There are probably not any songs which are composed only for the Somkliang Band but those composed songs are inherited until today by it. We can state that there is only one band which still inherits Teacher Chalerm Buathang's and Teacher Prasong Pinpart's songs.

#### 4.2 Band Competition

In former time, the Somkliang Bad had a lot of competition in many temple fairs because it is a village band. Mostly it met another band in temple fairs which were fixed for two bands or sometimes playing for different event but set the stages near each other. Some events were made only to compete with another band so it made the Somkliang musicians eager to rehearse more than usual.

#### 4.3 Received Prizes

The Somkliang Band has received a lot of

prizes in Thai music band contests from the past until now. So the Somkliang Band is a popular Thai music band including the solo of each Thai music instruments. The Somkliang Band gets a lot of prizes because there are a number of members here who are great at Thai music and always drop in to help.

## **Part 2 Managing of Somkliang Temple Band**

### **1. Getting a hire**

The Somkliang Band started getting shows from the beginning of the Thai music band. But in the first age, Thai musicians still believed that musicians are only additional occupations. Most local people around there were farmers and gardeners, so there were still not many musical jobs for them. When there was a job they would dedicate their time to rehearse Thai music for their additional job. Later, the Thai music jobs are more often that some people took it as their main occupations. Getting a hire in the Somkliang Band were various, e.g., Mon Orchestra, five instruments Thai Orchestra, pair instruments Thai Orchestra, Big machines Thai Orchestra, Thai Brass Band, performing a ceremony for chanting parents' loving kindness, etc. Each form of the bands cost differently and there was no need to have only one person to get a hire. It could be anyone getting hiring and the band owner would provide musicians for the show. Now, the band still gets hiring in the same form but adds the Agkalung instrumental band in the list because the Somkliang Band is regarded that the Agkalung instrumental band was taught by Teacher Chalerm Buathang who invented the Agkalung instrumental band from the beginning and Teacher Peerasit

Buathang was the heir which make the Somkliang Band has a lot of jobs continuously now.

### **2. Students reception**

Students reception of the Somkliang Band is still the same as the ancient time. Anyone who wants to be student joins the Waikhru Day and place himself under our care or what Thai musicians called 'shaking hands'. In case of some students have passed

the shaking hands before coming here, their parents can take them to enter the school from now on. The thing is that they must have good basic knowledge before learning higher songs.

The Somkliang Band has got a form of learning songs which has been inherited from the ancient time. That is, every child must gain the morning prelude song, evening prelude song, various ceremony songs, slow story songs, etc.

### **3. Rehearsing**

Rehearsing songs of the Somkliang Thai music band is mostly for new students and some who still hasn't got all songs as in form of the band. The rehearsing is in the evenings on weekdays at 3.30 pm. - 7.30 pm. and on the weekends at 10.00 am. - 4.00 pm.

### **4. Music instruments**

There were Thai music instruments in the Somkliang Band from the age of Teacher Kham Changsri inheriting to Teacher Phat Panboon and they were continuously improved and added until today, having Aunt Srinuan Pinyen as the band administer: the music instruments, looking for musicians and getting hire.

### **5. Type of the band**

The type of the band that the Somkliang Band formed was the same normal type as ordinary Thai music bands which would have the Mon Orchestra, five instruments Thai Orchestra, pair instruments Thai Orchestra, Big machines Thai Orchestra, Thai Brass Band, performing a ceremony for chanting parents' loving kindness, etc. The special band was Angalung Band which made the Somkliang Band get more and more hires. Moreover, the band also received a job of recording tapes or general TV programs which were different from the traditional forms.

### **6. Kind of Songs**

The songs playing in the band depended on the tasks, events, e.g., ceremony would be given songs relating to that job or songs using to play would have different forms which separated by whom to play

for; general people or Thai musicians. Playing any songs mostly depended on kinds of jobs.

## 7. Musicians

### 1. Professional Musicians

Professional Musicians of Somkliang Band would get hiring as daily life type which was not only Somkliang Band's jobs but also other local band's jobs and also included other popular Thai music bands. So the professional musicians could earn money to support their families well and now not many musicians take professional musicians as their main jobs because they usually go to play with many different bands.

### 2. Supplemental professional Musicians

Now most of the musicians in Somkliang Band take music professional as their supplemental professional. It is not a stable career and it's very tired to travel when you are getting older. Nowadays the Somkliang musicians have their own jobs. Some are government officers, some work at private agencies, some work in state enterprises, etc. So the musicians can be formed only when there is a musical job.

## Conclusion

The Somkliang Band is a Thai music band inheriting for a long time. Before the Somkliang Band age, playing Thai music was only for earning their

living so Thai music bands weren't enough popular for all the people. But, after the competition and contest occurred which could get a lot of prize, the Somkliang Thai music band began popular to people. It was the band which always moves so Thai musicians here are continuously produced. There are also a lot of skillful Thai musicians drop around to teach Thai music theory or Thai music performance including new generation of Thai musicians who want to learn Thai music also wants to be in the Somkliang Band because there are a lot of good Thai musicians here.

## Recommendation

The recommendation in this research are as follows:

1. This research is a data collection in order to publicize as the data for further research. This research is done as a case study of the Thai music band of Somkliang Temple, Bangkhuwiang sub-district, Bangkruay District, Nonthaburi Province which the Thai music band of Somkliang Temple still have a form of band adjusting, line of playing and how to improve the band for various competitions. So, for the advantage of the readers, it would be better if someone study about administrating the band for contesting in the future.

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